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## Leader calls on seminary council to establish center for strategic studies

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has highlighted the vitality of a "long-term planning" for the country's seminaries, urging the establishment

of a "center for strategic studies" for this purpose. The Leader made the comments during a meeting with members of the Supreme Council of Seminaries on Sunday morning. "In such a long-term planning, goals should be unambigu-

ously clear, attainable, and scheduled in such a way that the plan is quantitatively assessable and flexible as well," the Leader noted. The long-term blueprint should be transformative in nature, what the Leader called "seminary development plan." →2

### OPEC will not agree on quota level, business expert predicts

By Javad Heirannia

TEHRAN — A professor of international business and international affairs from the George Washington University is of the opinion that some OPEC members will not abide by their pledge to reduce their crude production.

"I don't think that they will agree to a quota level," Hossein Askari tells the Tehran Times.

On Wednesday, for the first time in eight years some OPEC's biggest oil producers agreed to cut production. Meeting in Algiers, OPEC agreed to reducing output to between 32.5m barrels a day and 33m b/d.

However Askari says, "The only way that they could agree to any freeze would be for Saudi Arabia to cut out dramatically."

Following is the text of the interview: →13



### Post-JCPOA tourist arrivals in Iran doubles global average

**TOURISM** TEHRAN — Foreign tourist arrivals in Iran has been more than double that of the global average since the implementation of the nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA, Iran's tourism chief announced here on Sunday.

The fact that attracting overseas investors [in tourism sector] is both an opportunity and a necessity for Iran, it lays the foundation for eager businesses to invest in the country, Masoud Soltanifar said.

He made the remarks in an address to the opening ceremony of International Tourism Investment Conference, which brought together a panel of top Iranian officials and businesses executives along with representatives of hotel builders, investors, and hoteliers from 17 countries, IRNA reported.



© Tehran Times/ Asghar Khamseh

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### Tehran, Paris stress expansion of trade, industrial ties

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — Iranian Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade Mohammadreza Nematzadeh and French Minister of Finance Michel Sapin in a meeting on Saturday emphasized expansion of trade and industrial relations between the two countries, Shata news reported.

In the meeting, which was held in the French capital following Iranian minister's visit to Paris Motor Show 2016, the two sides also put emphasis on the necessity of benefiting from both countries' potentials and capabilities for development of bilateral ties. →4

#### Congratulations

The managing director of Tehran Times and Mehr news agency would like to felicitate October 3 as the Day of German Unity to German people.

### "Hura" wins NETPAC Award at All Lights festival

**ART** TEHRAN — "Hura" by Gholamreza Sagharchian from Iran has won the NETPAC Award for the Best Asian Cinema at the 2nd All Lights India International Film Festival (ALIIF) that ran from September 24 to 27.

The film features the efforts made by the young rural boy Hadi in the small garden he has inherited from his mother to help alleviate drought.

The Best Feature Film Award was given to "Nise - The Heart of Madness" by Roberto Berliner from Brazil, and "The Great Transmission" by Pema Gellek from the United States won the Best Documentary Film Award.



Maryam Bubani acts in a scene from Gholamreza Sagharchian's drama "Hura".

"Road to Perdition" directed by Yaser Talebi and "Rice Cake" by Mahdi Hosseinvand were other Iranian films screened at the official section of the festival.

NETPAC (Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema) award aims at strengthening the competitive spirit fueling the creative urges of young filmmakers.

### Iran's first permanent handicrafts marketplace opens

**HERITAGE** TEHRAN — Iran's first permanent handicrafts marketplace was inaugurated on Saturday in Oud Lajan historic neighborhood in downtown Tehran, aiming to liven up the once thriving locale that was home to merchants and affluent individuals.

Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization (CHTHO) Director Masoud Soltanifar along

with several high-ranking officials with Tehran Municipality, Transport and Urban Development Ministry, and Tehran City Council attended the inauguration ceremony.

The successfully-implemented handicrafts market epitomizes the convergence of cultural heritage, tourism, and handicrafts in the country, Soltanifar asserted during a brief speech.

He also attached importance to

the bazaar establishment as to it embodies a three-dimensional arrangement involving the CHTHO, Tehran Municipality, and the public.

The market is composed of some 50 shops whose renovation started in 2012.

Over the past couple of years, dozens of Iranian handicrafts have gained the UNESCO Seal of Excellence. For instance, in 2010, a total of 65 handicrafts on various

themes including enamel, tile, metalwork, leatherwork, wood carving received the privilege.

Statistics compiled by the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran indicate that 2.8 million tons of handicrafts and handwoven carpets, worth \$92 million, were exported during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year, which began on March 20, 2016.

### Iran runner-up at AFC U-16 Championship

**SPORT** Iran finished in second place at the AFC U-16 Championship after losing to Iraq on penalty shootout on Sunday.

Iran was defeated against Iraq 4-3 on penalties following a 0-0 draw at Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Goa, India.

Iran started the campaign with a 3-2 victory over Saudi Arabia in Group A.

Abbas Chamanian's boys drew 1-1 with the UAE and defeated host India 3-0 to qualify for quarters as the first team.

Iran humiliated Vietnam 5-0 and booked a place in semis and the FIFA U-17 World Cup as well. Iran beat holder North Korea 6-5 on penalties in semi-final and lost to Iraq 4-3 in the final match.

#### Congratulations

The managing director of Tehran Times and Mehr news agency would like to felicitate October 3 as South Korea's National Foundation Day to the South Korean nation.



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MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Today's Iran safer than two years ago: commander

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Police Second-in-Command Eskandar Mo'meni has said Iran has had better security indexes over the past two years, so different that the people have felt it tangibly.

"Our security indexes have greatly promoted over the past two years and the Iranian people have strongly felt it," he said on Sunday during a seminar held on the occasion of Law Enforcement Forces Week.

There has been a sharp fall in armed robbery as well as in most other forms of crime, he added.



MP criticized over unconstructive remarks

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Members of parliament as well as Foreign Minister Mohammad-Javad Zarif have criticized MP Javad Karimi Ghodoosi for his unconstructive remarks during an open session of Majlis on Sunday, ISNA reported.

Karimi Ghodoosi, a parliamentarian representing Mashhad, commented on the nuclear deal and some other issues, severely attacking the Foreign Ministry for its policies.

Zarif, for his part, criticized the parliamentarian for his unconstructive remarks. A large number of MPs also sided with Zarif in his criticism of Karimi Ghodoosi.



Erdogan calls Iran one of the most important regional players

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Saturday that Iran is one of the most important players in the region, Tasnim reported.

Erdogan made the remarks during a ceremony marking the opening of the new judicial year in Turkey.

He further said that Ankara's relations with Tehran and Moscow are recovering.

Erdogan noted that Turkey and Iran have difference of opinion on regional issues, yet the two sides have been holding direct talks on the conflicts in Syria and Iraq.



Majlis receives motion on establishing environment ministry

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — The Iranian parliament received a proposal on Sunday to set up a ministry of environment and natural resources, Fars reported.

MP Gholamreza Kateb said the proposal was received at the end of an open session of Majlis on Sunday.

"A motion was proposed to the Majlis to merge Department of Land and Natural Resources with Environmental Protection Organization to set up a ministry of environment and natural resources," he explained.



'Western contribution to regional security is a big lie'

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Supreme National Security Council Secretary Ali Shamkhani said on Sunday that the claim that the West is helping to provide security in the Middle East is a "big lie".

During a meeting with Moustafa al-Kazemi, the head of the Iraqi intelligence service, in Tehran, Shamkhani also said, "Creating long lasting security in Iraq is one of Iran's unchangeable priorities."

For his part, the Iraqi official praised Iran's efforts in helping Iraq in fighting terrorism and called for continuation of such efforts.



Thailand, Turkey willing to expand scientific ties with Iran

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Thai and Turkish science ministers met with their Iranian counterpart Mohammad Farhadi on Sunday, announcing their willingness to expand scientific ties with Iran.

On the sidelines of the 13th International Conference Science and Technology in the city of Kyoto, Japan, the Thai and Turkish ministers announced that scientific centers of their countries are ready to carry out joint projects with Iran.

Farhadi, for his part, underlined Iran's eagerness for expansion of scientific ties with Turkey and Thailand.

# Larijani: Parliament backs inclusive ties with Belgium, economy a priority

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — The Iranian parliament speaker has said that Tehran welcomes all-encompassing ties with Belgium, particularly envisaging a healthier economic picture.

Ali Larijani made the comments on Sunday during a meeting with the Belgian Federal Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Dirk van der Maelen.

"The Islamic Consultative Assembly (the parliament) will support expansion of ties between the two countries in all favorite areas particularly in the economic sector," he said.

For the two countries to get to know each other better, Larijani added, stronger parliamentary relations is facilitative.

"More parliamentary relations between Iran and Belgium play an influential part in understanding each other and enhancing friendly cooperation."

Also, the Belgian official, for his part, said the parliamentary friendship between the two countries over a century and quarter testifies to the two sides' will to flourish relations.

The Belgium parliament and people do favor more political, cultural, economic, and parliamentary contacts with Iran, he stated.

Dirk van der Maelen further saw it important for the two countries to discuss first hand issues of mutual interest, particularly regional peace and security in the Middle East region.



Belgian Federal Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Dirk van der Maelen (left) meets Iranian parliament speaker Ali Larijani on Sunday in Tehran.

**"The Islamic Consultative Assembly (the parliament) will support expansion of ties between the two countries in all favorite areas particularly in the economic sector," the Iranian parliament speaker says.**

## Leader calls on seminary council to establish center for strategic studies

To realize the agenda, there is a need for a "center for strategic studies," Ayatollah Khamenei stressed.

"A center for strategic studies composed of bright seminary elites should be established where the development plan as well as other strategic seminary plans can be compiled."

Depicting a long-term roadmap should also pursue the goal of "feeding" the Islamic establishment, the Leader stated.

He added, "The seminary helps observe the Islamic ruling."

The Leader drew his comments to a conclusion by listing a number of priorities for seminaries.

"Avoiding quasi-state bureaucracies, holding sessions between seminary students and managers, creating a Qur'an-fostering atmosphere among seminary students, spotting top talents, promoting reading, particularly in the field of the history of seminary science and interpretation, nurturing eloquent and writer missionaries, and cyberspace missionaries."



**Leader says, "A center for strategic studies composed of bright seminary elites should be established where the development plan as well as other strategic seminary plans can be compiled."**

Following the Leader's comments, Ayatollah Ostadi, secretary of the Supreme Council of Seminaries, briefed the Leader on the body's programs and the challenges it is grappling with.

Also, Hojatoleslam E'rafi, head of the seminary council, reported on what the council has achieved over the past years.

## JCPOA has created international trust: Rafsanjani

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Ayatollah Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, chairman of the Expediency Council, said on Sunday that the spirit of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, has created an international trust and proved that Iran does not seek to harm international community.

The JCPOA, commonly called the nuclear deal, proved that all the propaganda campaigns against Iran's nuclear technology were wrong, the veteran politician noted.

He also said that the JCPOA is more beneficial to Iran compared to the 5+1 group (the five permanent members of



the UN Security Council plus Germany).

On the advantages of the nuclear deal, Rafsanjani said now Iran can sell enriched uranium and heavy water.

Iran and the six major powers finalized the text of the JCPOA in July 2015. The nuclear agreement went into effect in July 2016.

## Salehi: Overriding of Obama's veto of 9/11 bill may cost Riyadh \$700b



**POLITICS TEHRAN** — The Iranian vice president has speculated that the U.S. Congress overturning of Obama's veto on Wednesday of a bill that would allow families of the victims of 9/11 terrorist attacks sue Saudi Arabia may cost Riyadh \$700 billion.

The overturning of the bill comes after Obama had threatened to veto any measure against Saudi Arabia in connection with the terrorist attacks in 2001, which came as a blow to the U.S. security and prestige.

"This (the vetoing of the bill) has an important message. It happens while Saudi Arabia is the U.S.'s lackey and doesn't take even one step

without the U.S. permission. However, it is not unlikely that Riyadh loses all \$700 billion it has invested in the country," said Ali Akbar Salehi on Sunday.

The overwhelming bipartisan vote in both the Senate and House inflicted the first veto override of Obama's presidency, less than four months before he leaves office. The White House issued an unusually scathing response, according to the Guardian.

While Saudi Arabia has objected strongly to veto and has categorically rejected any role in the 9/11 attacks, fifteen of the 19 plane hijackers were Saudi nationals.

## Syria will never be disintegrated, Iran insists



**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Ali Akbar Velayati, the senior foreign policy advisor to the Leader, said on Sunday that Syria will never be disintegrated, insisting on the importance of maintaining the country's territorial integrity.

"An agreement which is based on three fundamental principles of maintaining Syria's territorial integrity, stopping foreign powers' interference and acknowledging legal government of Bashar al-Assad can help end the crisis in the country," Velayati said during a meeting with a Belgian parliamentary delegation heading by Dirk Van der Maelen, a Belgian lawmaker.

Velayati said, "Supporters of terrorism and the countries that through miscalculations backed the Takfiri and terrorist

groups in the region are now trapped in a situation and cannot find a way out."

"These governments did not imagine that the people and legal government of Syria could resist against the foreigners' invasion and interference for about six years," he added.

Elsewhere, Velayati said that Iran and Belgium enjoy "friendly relations". Iran's Foreign Ministry prioritizes expansion of relations with Belgium in various areas, added Velayati who was Iran's chief diplomat from 1981 to 1997.

On the Syrian crisis, the head the Belgian delegation highlighted the importance of forming a coalition under the leadership of the UN to resolve the conflict.

## Parliament committee approves 6th development plan bill

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — A member of the Iranian parliament's joint committee on the sixth development plan said the budget bill has been approved by the committee.

"The joint committee on the sixth development plan held a meeting Sunday afternoon to discuss the budget bill, and after considerations, the bill was approved with the majority of the committee members' votes", Nasser

Mousavi Laregani told Tasnim.

Head of the Management and Planning Organization Mohammad-Baqer Nobakht as well as some other top officials from the organization were also present at the meeting.

# U.S.-led coalition kills 9 civilians in Syria

Airstrikes by the United States-led coalition purportedly targeting the Takfiri terrorist group of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) in Syria have killed nine civilians in a countryside in the northwestern city of Aleppo.

The fatalities were caused on Sunday in the east of the town of Mare', located some 25 kilometers north of Aleppo, Syria's War Media reported.

The outlet, meanwhile, reported that the Syrian army had wrested control of al-Kandi Hospital in the south of the Handarat refugee camp — also located in Aleppo's northern suburbs — from foreign-backed terrorists, killing an unspecified number of them in the process.

According to the report, the army has also engaged armed militants in southern Aleppo by carrying out mortar and rocket offensives against them.

A U.S.-Russia-brokered ceasefire in Syria ended last month. It had ushered in several days of relative calm. However, later through the ceasefire, violence began to creep back when a U.S.-led air-



strike killed more than 80 Syrian soldiers, who had been fighting the Takfiri terrorists in the eastern parts of the country.

Damascus says Washington deliberately targeted the Syrian soldiers.

Recruiting the help of dozens of its allies, the U.S. has been leading an aerial bombardment campaign targeting al-

leged ISIL positions in Syria and Iraq since 2014, without achieving much.

Separately, ISIL terrorists were reported to have struck the positions of the so-called foreign-backed Free Syrian Army in the east of the mountainous Qalamoun region, located northeast of the Syrian capital.

(Source: agencies)

## ■ Syrian army advances

Meantime, Syrian forces and their allies are pushing forward in a major ground offensive to recapture Aleppo's rebel-held east.

Dozens of Russian and Syrian government air strikes continued pounding the militant held areas overnight.

Helped by their Moscow ally, the pro-government forces have gained ground in the area, but the rebels say they have been able to repel some assaults.

Since fighting first broke out there in 2012, Aleppo has been divided by a front line between rebel forces in the east and government troops in the west.

The United Nations is warning of a humanitarian catastrophe inside the besieged city, where food and medical supplies are running low and people are living in dire conditions.

ISIL unleashed its campaign of terror against Syria in 2014, three years after the country became plagued by foreign-backed militancy.

(Source: agencies)

## Aerial attacks kill 30 ISIL militants in Iraq's troubled Anbar

Over two dozen members of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group have been killed in airstrikes against their positions in Iraq's western province of Anbar.

Major General Ismail al-Mahlawi, commander of the Anbar operations, told al-Sumaria television on Saturday that the military aircraft conducted a string of aerial attacks against designated targets in the Abu Ali Jassim area of Jazirah Ramadi region, killing at least 30 ISIL terrorists.

An unnamed security source in the northern province of Kirkuk also said Iraqi fighter jets bombarded ISIL camps in the town of Hawjah, situated about 282 kilometers north of the capital Baghdad, leaving scores of the Takfiris dead and injured.

The source added that ISIL has beefed up its terror activities inside Hawjah in the wake of the strikes, and transferred a large number of its wounded members to local hospitals and clinics.

Additionally, Major General Najim Abdullah al-Ju-

bouri, commander of the Nineveh operations, stated that Iraqi army units have received sophisticated weapons and munitions in preparation for the military operation to liberate Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city and the main ISIL stronghold in the country.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Iraq says an estimated 700,000 people would need assistance once the offensive gets underway.

For months, Iraq has been preparing for the assault on ISIL in Mosul, which slipped into the hands of the terrorists in 2014.

Government forces have managed to recapture all the other places ISIL had seized, with the last major one being the city of Fallujah, which was liberated in late June.

The operation for Mosul is highly significant as estimates say about half of the city's pre-war population of two million still remains there.

ISIL, based on intelligence information, has reportedly between 4,000 and 5,000 terrorists in the city, making

the situation more complicated.

## ■ Violence claimed over 1,000 Iraqi lives in September: UN

Elsewhere, the United Nations says more than 1,000 people lost their lives and over 1,500 others suffered injuries as a result of acts of terrorism and violence across Iraq in September.

According to the latest figures released by the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) on Monday, terrorist attacks claimed the lives of 1,003 Iraqis and left 1,159 others wounded last month.

The UN mission added that the death toll included 609 civilian, while the number of the injured civilians stood at 951. A total of 394 members of the Iraqi security forces were also killed, and another 208 injured during the mentioned period.

The worst-affected area was the capital province of Baghdad, where violence took the lives of 289 civilians and left 838 others wounded.

(Source: Press TV)

## Palestinians living in Israel mark 16th anniversary of Second Intifada

### PA officer arrested after criticizing Abbas for Peres funeral

Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied territories have held a protest rally to mark the 16th anniversary of the Second Palestinian Intifada (uprising), also known as the al-Aqsa Intifada, which left more than 3,000 Palestinians dead.

The Second Intifada broke out in September 2000 following a visit by Israel's then leader Ariel Sharon to Haram al-Sharif or Temple Mount in al-Quds (Jerusalem), in a move that was denounced by Palestinians as highly provocative.

The uprising ended in February 2005 following a truce between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

At the beginning of the Second Intifada, 13 Palestinian protesters were killed in clashes with Israeli police forces in the Galilee, the Triangle and the Naqab.

On Saturday, people marched in Sakhnin in the occupied territories in remembrance of the victims.

The event was attended by all 13 members of The Joint List, a political alliance of four Arab-dominated parties in the occupied territories, as well as the local mayor and other senior Palestinian officials.

The occupied territories have been the scene of heightened tensions since August 2015, when the Tel Aviv regime imposed restrictions on the entry of Palestinian worshippers into the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in East al-Quds.

Almost 250 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces in what is regarded as the third Palestinian Intifada since October 2015.

### ■ Palestinian officer arrested after criticizing Abbas for Peres funeral

Meantime, Palestinian security forces have detained a military liaison officer a day after he took to his Facebook account to criticize President of the Palestinian Authority (PA) Mahmoud Abbas for attending the funeral of former Israeli President Shimon Peres.

An informed source, requesting anonymity, said Palestinian officers took Osama Mansour Abu Arab into custody after surrounding his house in the northern occupied West Bank city of Jenin on Saturday morning, Ma'an news agency reported.

The source added that Abu Arab had received a notification of dismissal from work as a major in the Palestinian Authority's military liaison office hours before his arrest.

The Military Liaison is a unit within the Palestinian National Security Forces (NSF) that coordinates affairs with Israel.

Abu Arab had in his post scoffed at Abbas for offering condolences on the death of Peres, describing the former Israeli president as "the founder of settlement expansion activities."

(Source: agencies)

## Trump: I don't think Hillary is loyal to Bill

United States Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump on Saturday night questioned his Democrat rival Hillary Clinton's loyalty to her husband, President Bill Clinton, a jab at the former president's infidelities.

"Hillary Clinton's only loyalty is to her financial contributors, I don't even think she's loyal to Bill, if you want to know the truth," he said during a Pennsylvania rally. "Really folks, why should she be?"

"The American people have had it with years and decades of Clinton corruption and scandal. Remember, he got impeached for lying, you remember what he lied about. He can't practice law, he was a lawyer, can't be a lawyer. Everyone forgets."

President Clinton's law license was suspended in Arkansas after he was impeached over lying about his affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky. While he could apply for reinstatement, he has not done so, according to the Arkansas Times.

Trump then listed off a variety of scandals from Clinton's past, including Whitewater—an investigation into the Clinton's role in a real estate deal—as well as a controversy over her investment in cattle futures that made her significant returns.

The GOP (Grand Old Party) nominee and his team emerged from Monday's debate praising his decision for not mentioning Clinton's infidelities.

But since then, he's begun to signal he's open to confronting Clinton on the issue during the next debate on Oct. 9.

(Source: The Hill)

## 'Leaked Kerry comments prove U.S. involvement in Syrian crisis from onset'

The New York Times acquired the taped conversation between the United States Secretary of State and two dozen Syrian civilians from education, rescue, and medical groups working in rebel-held areas, during a meeting on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

The leaked recording reveals how angry John Kerry really is about being unable to topple President Bashar Assad by military means.

"I've argued for use of force. I stood up. I'm the guy who stood up and announced we're going to attack Assad because of the weapons, and then you know things evolved into a different process," the Secretary of State said in the tape.

He told the civilians that "you have nobody more frustrated than we are (the U.S.)," that the Syrian issue is now being solved diplomatically.

Kerry also warned the Syrians, who sounded clearly unhappy with Washington's contribution, that attempts to intervene militarily or provide more support to the rebels by the U.S. may have a reverse effect.

"The problem is that, you know, you get, quote, 'enforcers' in there and then everybody ups the ante, right? Russia puts in more, Iran puts in more; Hezbollah is there more and Nusra is more; and Saudi Arabia and Turkey put all their surrogate money in, and you all are destroyed," the diplomat explained.

(Source: RT)

## Saudi Arabia holds military exercises in Persian Gulf, Sea of Oman

The House of Saud regime's military has held war games in the waters of Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz and the Sea of Oman.

The drills, which were conducted on Sunday, involved ships, planes, marines and special units of the Royal Saudi Navy, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported.

The report said that the maneuvers were aimed at "protecting the Saudi borders and international waters" as well as "preventing any possible terrorist attacks."

Royal Saudi Navy Commander Abdullah al-Sultan said that the drills were part of a series of exercises carried out in the area seeking to raise combat readiness, gain the necessary skills and improve ability to perform essential services.

The maneuvers are held at a time that the Riyadh regime is grappling with the costs of its deadly military campaign against its southern neighbor, Yemen.

With much of its wealth dependent on oil revenues, the kingdom has been hardly hit by plunging oil prices, from \$114 in June 2014 to currently around \$50 a barrel of benchmark Brent crude.

(Source: Press TV)

## Civilian targets hit in fresh Saudi airstrikes in Yemen

The House of Saud regime's warplanes have carried out a series of fresh airstrikes against residential areas across Yemen, leaving a number of people dead and causing more material damage in the impoverished country.

Two fishermen lost their lives and more than 10 others suffered injuries on Sunday morning, when Saudi fighter jets struck an area in the Red City of Mokha, situated 346 kilometers south of the capital, Sana'a, Arabic-language al-Masirah television network reported.

Saudi military aircraft also bombarded an area in the city of Sirwah, which lies about 120 kilometers east of the capital, as well as Niham district in the capital province of Sana'a, but there were no immediate reports on possible casualties and extent of damage.

Also on Sunday, Yemeni army soldiers launched several missiles at a gathering of Saudi-backed militants loyal to former President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi in Sirwah, leaving an unspecified number of them killed and injured. Hadi is a staunch Saudi ally.

(Source: Press TV)



## Vacancy Announcement

The Mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in IRAN is seeking to fill the following vacant position in Tehran:

### Project Manager

#### ▲ Main responsibilities

- Contributes to the formulation of project objectives and indicators upon which projects will be evaluated;
- Updates and drafts project agreements
- Ensures the implementation of project activities by implementing partner(s) according to Project Document(s)/agreements;
- Participates actively in the joint planning mechanism/steering committee meetings of partnership projects with the ICRC's partners
- Follows up and keeps records of the outcome of meetings with partners;
- Undertakes visits to the project site to monitor the implementation and advises on management aspects of the project;
- Monitors and approves budget table proposed by implementing partner(s) and project budget expenditure;
- Ensures the financial and administrative aspects of the project in accordance with the rules and regulations of the ICRC and the project agreements;
- In charge of institutional written reporting;
- Prepares and facilitates the support of the ICRC's external experts (technical support)
- Maintains close contact with the ICRC's partners as well as all relevant stakeholders

#### ▲ Minimum required knowledge & experience:

- University degree in a desired field (Health, Social Sciences)
- Public health diploma and/or relevant professional degrees, an asset
- Minimum 5 years' work experience in similar fields
- Fluent in spoken & written Farsi & English
- Excellent Computer Skills (Word, Excel, and Power Point)
- Excellent in professional writing; reports, letters, minutes, statistics and events' summaries
- Possess an experience in leadership and coaching teams
- Excellent interpersonal communication skills and possess stamina to work under pressure
- Strong organizational and time management skills

#### Desirable profile:

Person with experience in project management preferably in the field of Public Health  
Experience working in partnership with implementing organizations Ability to work effectively and harmoniously with colleagues from varied cultures and professional backgrounds.  
Strong negotiation and advocacy skills.  
Accredited courses in Humanitarian Project Cycle Management.

It should be noted that the position might require travelling (on mission) outside and inside the country.  
All interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and a résumé in English to the following email address:  
[teh\\_hr\\_services@icrc.org](mailto:teh_hr_services@icrc.org)

**ALL submissions MUST be received by the closing date of 16 October, 2016**

Please be informed that only shortlisted candidates will be notified for further process.

## Iran plans to double services exports to \$30b by 2021

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — Iran plans to double its income from export of services by the end of the Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan (2021), IRNA quoted Mojtaba Khosrotaj, the head of Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), as saying on Sunday.



According to Khosrotaj, the value of services provided to other countries is estimated to reach \$16 billion by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (which ends on March 20, 2017) and the figure is planned to exceed \$30 billion by 2021.

"Technical and engineering sectors, tourism, ICT and transit are four main areas for the exports of services," he said.

He also noted that the total value of non-oil exports is anticipated to reach \$50 billion by the end of the current year. "The figure is expected to exceed \$130 billion by the end of the Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan," he added.

According to Iran's Custom Administration, the country's non-oil exports reached \$21.706 billion in the first half of this year, registering a 5.99 percent rise compared to the same period last year.

During the said period, gas condensate was reported to be the main export product with a total value of \$3.496 billion.

## Iranian investors welcome Omani products

Omani Products Exhibition, which concluded recently in the Iranian capital, offered a unique platform to highlight opportunities to boost business relations between Iran and the Sultanate.

The event has succeeded in attracting businessmen and investors from various parts of Iran who flocked to the platform to get familiarized with a variety of Omani products. The meetings between Omani businessmen and their Iranian counterparts were organized in line with the event and a number of agreements and memoranda of understanding were signed between the two sides.



The exhibition presented Omani firms from various industries including natural resources, minerals, wood products, manufacturing products, furniture, food, medical and pharmaceuticals, fertilizers, plastic and metal equipment, perfume, leather, and logistics; in addition to a number of government bodies, and small and medium enterprises.

A number of companies specialized in the field of shipping and logistics also took part in the event. Saad bait Nasib, assistant commercial manager for VAS and Liquid Products at Port of Salalah, said, "Prior to this event, the port had a series of meetings with Iranian firms involved in the field of port services where cooperation agreements were signed to facilitate shipping and trade growth between the two countries. Our participation at the event allowed us to brief Iranian companies on our port, its facilities and incentives." (Source: Times of Oman)

## Asian imports of Iranian oil soar 81% yearly in August

Four major Asian importers of oil - China, India, South Korea, and Japan - saw their imports of Iranian crude surge 81.4 percent on the year in August, the highest level in at least five and a half years, Reuters reported on Friday, citing government and ship-tracking data.

The four Asian buyers imported 1.835 million barrels per day (bpd) last month, with China's imports jumping 48.4 percent to 746,029 bpd, India's buys soaring 189.6 percent to 575,900 bpd, the highest in at least 15 years, South Korea's imports more than doubling, up 112.3 percent to 277,613 bpd, and Japan's imports rising 31.4 percent to 235,612 bpd.

Year to date, the total Iranian oil imports of the four countries jumped 38.9 percent, with rises across the board, and Korea more than doubling imports between January and August.

Since western sanctions against Iran were lifted in January of this year, it has been trying to regain its market shares from Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

According to a Reuters source familiar with Iran's tanker loading schedule, Iran increased its oil exports to more than 2 million bpd last month, close to pre-sanction levels.

Iran has been steadily increasing exports to Asia, and in April its shipments stood at 1.7 million bpd.

In the battle for market shares, Iran introduced in May a discount on the June contract for its heavy crude going to Asia, just a few days after Saudi Arabia had announced a price increase for its own June contract for the continent. With the discount, Iranian oil was noticeably cheaper for Asian clients than both Saudi and Iraqi crude.

A couple of months later, Saudi Arabia decided to offer Asian customers the biggest discount in 10 months for its crude, as the kingdom's refineries struggled with an oversupply thanks to record-high output. (Source: oilprice.com)

# Post-JCPOA tourist arrivals in Iran doubles global average

Soltanifar, who is the director of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization (CHTHO), also noted that the income generated from foreign travels and tourism in 2015 accounts for 7.6 percent of Iran's gross domestic product (GDP) based on figures collected by the World Travel & Tourism Council.

He also expressed hope that the figure would jump to 9 percent for the current Iranian calendar year (March 2016-March 2017).

"[The promotion of] tourism industry is the best choice to realize the goal of resistance economy and to get rid of the one-product economy," he said.

Resistance economy, as outlined by the Supreme Leader, calls on the government to secure the utilization of the country's resources, struggle to promote a knowledge-based economy, take efforts to increase energy consumption efficiency and boost domestic production.

In this line, the CHTHO is planning to construct a total of 300 four- and five-star hotels over the course of five years, he noted.

Soltanifar added that the private sector has already started building 170 of the mentioned hotels.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the official



said that more than 1,750 tourism projects are currently underway in the country, requiring some \$5 billion to be completed.

Vinci Construction from France, Daelim Hotel from South Korea, and Steigenberger Hotel Group from Germany are among the attendees to the two-day event that revolves around the motto of

"100 Hotels, 100 Businesses," ISNA reported on Friday.

Other corporations and holding companies are coming from the Netherlands, Portugal, Singapore, Thailand, Turkey, Spain, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates and Azerbaijan.

Iran and the 5+1 group - the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia

plus Germany - finalized the text of the JCPOA in Vienna in July 2015. The nuclear deal went into effect in January 2016.

In September, Morteza Rahmani-Movahhed, the deputy director of the CHTHO, said over 16 million foreign tourists have visited Iran over the past three and a half years, in that regard some \$24 billion came into the country.

## Iran's oil exports around 2 mb/d in H1

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — Iran desk has exported averagely two million barrels of crude oil per day during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), IRNA quoted Mohsen Qamsari, the director for international affairs of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), as saying on Sunday.

"The country has also exported 500,000 barrels of gas condensate per day on average during the mentioned time," Qamsari said.

He noted that for the time being 2.2 million barrels of Iranian crude are being sent to the market on a



daily basis and NIOC plans to increase this figure to 2.35 million in the upcoming months.

"Presently, Iran is exporting some 600,000-650,000 barrels of crude per day to European market," the official added.

## 3 airlines negotiating to launch direct flights to Tehran

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — A member of board of directors of Tehran Imam Khomeini Airport City Company announced that his company is holding talks with Indian, South Korean and Canadian national airlines to inaugurate their direct flights to Tehran, Tasnim news agency reported on Sunday.

Kouroush Fattahi said that from the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 20), foreign national airlines including British Airways, Air France and Thai Airways have launched direct flights to Tehran and Imam Khomeini Airport is conducting negotiations with Air India, Korean Air,



and Air Canada about commencing direct flights to the Iranian capital.

The lifting of sanctions against Iran in January has turned Tehran into a new economic frontier and an emerging tourism market, thus catching the attention of international airlines.

PICTURE OF THE DAY © IRNA/Mehdi Qorbani



Thai Airways International (THAI) launched its Bangkok-Tehran service on Saturday.

## Tehran, Paris stress expansion of trade, industrial ties

They also discussed the ways for promotion of bilateral cooperation in the trade and industrial sectors.

During Nematzadeh's stay in Paris, Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO) and French multinational automobile manufacturer Renault signed a deal on making joint venture in Iran.

The deal was on the establishment of an engineering and sales office in Iran to support Iranian auto part manufacturers and also setting up a manufacturing plant in the country with the initial capacity of 150,000 cars per annum. The plant is scheduled to start production in 2018.



**Indonesian economy becomes a 'standout' among emerging markets**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Indonesia is slowly but surely cementing a reputation as a standout in the global economy, aided by a strong domestic economy and a government embracing pro-market reforms. With that in mind, the country recently saw its strongest growth in more than three years.

"Indonesia has been one of the stronger performing EM countries this year outside of countries like Brazil," Clayton Fresk, portfolio manager at Stadion Money Management, which is based in Watkinsville, Georgia, and manages nearly \$4 billion in assets, told CNBC recently.



**Moody's Turkey rating 'wrong'**

An international credit rankings agency's decision to downgrade Turkey's rating is unjustified, an expert said Saturday as Turkey continues to recover from the failed July 15 coup attempt.

Moody's downgraded Turkey's sovereign debt rating last Friday.

Huseyin Yücel, the vice president of Bahcesehir k12 schools, stressed that the "wrong" decision was not well-prepared.

Turkey is still worth investing in, he said at a panel discussion, pointing to Turkey's economic opportunities and strong record of investing in its youth through education.



**European customers boycotting British cars, says Jaguar Land Rover boss**

Europeans have been boycotting British cars since the Brexit vote, according to the boss of the nation's biggest auto firm, Jaguar Land Rover.

Ralf Speth, chief executive of JLR, also joined senior figures at rival firms in warning that a hard Brexit would damage the car industry, which supports around 800,000 jobs.

Speaking at the Paris Motor Show, Speth said JLR's European sales team have reported customers turning their noses up at British cars after the vote to leave the EU.

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## Why we should keep an eye on Saudi Arabia

By Douglas Ollivant

This fall's Congressional docket has featured two measures dealing with the U.S.-Saudi Arabia relationship. On September 21, the Congress approved a \$1.15B arms deal with Saudi Arabia, consisting primarily of M1 Abrams tanks. However, 27 Senators voted against the deal, indicating displeasure with either the U.S.-Saudi Arabia relationship, displeasure with Saudi conduct of its intervention in Yemen, or both.

Second, and more important, Congress first passed and then overrode the Presidential veto of the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA), with both houses overwhelmingly voting against the President and for the bill.

This law will now carve out an exception to sovereign immunity for domestic terrorism civil cases beginning with the 9/11 attacks. While the words "Saudi Arabia" appear nowhere in the bill (the bill applies to any "foreign state"), it is widely seen as being aimed primarily at claims against Saudi Arabia for their alleged support of some of the 9/11 hijackers.

In April, Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir is reported to have told U.S. legislators that Saudi Arabia would divest itself of \$750B in U.S. assets were JASTA to be passed. This response, though posed as a rational response to move Saudi assets from a country where they would be vulnerable to being frozen, was widely seen as a blackmail threat against the bill. Numerous firms linked to Saudi Arabia are, understandably, concerned.

This divestiture, however, is unlikely for at least three reasons. First, to achieve the desired effect of keeping assets "unfrozen," divestiture would have to take the nature of a fire sale. Liquidating U.S. assets would then be done at a substantial discount. With oil prices widely expected to remain in the current trading range for some time (though commodity prices are inherently volatile), the Saudis simply cannot afford to sell their assets at a discount, though they may need to slowly draw down U.S. assets to generate cash for expenses, especially social programs.

### ■ Vision 2030

Second, the Saudis have an ambitious plan, entitled Vision 2030 that seeks to transform Saudi Arabia's economy from one based solely on oil revenues to a more diverse one that has a knowledge economy and a defense industrial base. The Saudis will need considerable external capital to implement this plan, and not all of it can come from Asia — meaning that the Saudis will need capital from U.S. investment firms, making it difficult for them to simultaneously be divesting their assets in the U.S. Saudi relationships with the U.S. investors are more critical to the Kingdom than ever.

Finally, the Saudis know that they generate considerable goodwill in the United States from their participation in the U.S. economy. To be candid, many major U.S. investment firms with prominent former government officials on their boards take an extremely positive view of the importance of good U.S.-Saudi relations because of the investment of Saudi sovereign wealth, holding companies, and private money in their funds. For the Saudis to divest themselves of these funds, and lower the interest of prominent opinion shapers in the importance of the U.S.-Saudi relationship, would be self-destructive and irrational.

So, large-scale Saudi divestiture from the U.S. economy, despite the real risks of their assets being frozen, remains unlikely, though there may well be a prominent asset or two sold just to make the point and follow through on the threatened action, however nominally.

Nonetheless, it remains unclear that exposing the Saudis to the lower evidentiary standards required of civil cases in the interest of the United States. And having court cases go against the Saudis at critical diplomatic junctures could make a unified foreign policy difficult. When civil cases can throw a wild card into sensitive foreign relations, they should be significantly questioned.

### ■ Passage of JASTA

The passage of JASTA is now a fait accompli. But it is far from obvious that this means that passage is in the national interest of the United States. We must be candid and admit that the United States has serious differences with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, most notably on human rights and the status of women and alleged "softness" (or worse) on Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups. However, the Kingdom remains one of the major actors in Middle Eastern foreign policy. Maintaining close relations with this major power in a critical region is a U.S. national interest, both to be able to impact decision-making (however nominally) and to reinforce internal stability. If the truth of this statement is not self-evident, then conduct a thought experiment and imagine a Saudi Arabia without close ties to the United States, in which there was no U.S. input and which did not have implicit U.S. security guarantees to enhance internal stability.

The United States has a significant interest in stronger diplomatic and security ties with all major players in this volatile region. Implementation of JASTA will be at least a minor, and perhaps major, obstacle to better U.S.-Saudi relations (depending, of course, on the outcome of civil cases). To loop back to the first congressional action, the Saudis remain a major consumer of U.S. defense hardware. And while we may have issues with some usages, it is not as if we hope they find another supplier.

The relationship with Saudi Arabia remains deeply problematic — one cannot honestly say otherwise. However, the answer is not to isolate the Kingdom, but to embrace it and hope to help it through coming transitions. Their system of government and political values are not ours. But only by maintaining close ties can the United States hope to maintain a productive dialogue and exchange with Saudi society. This remains a key national interest.

(Source: Time)



# WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange: 'We believe in what we're doing'

By Michael Sontheimer

WikiLeaks is now 10 years old. SPIEGEL met with founder Julian Assange, 45, to discuss the whistleblower platform's achievements and whether recent criticism leveled at the site is justified.

■ **Mr. Assange, 10 years after the founding of WikiLeaks, the whistleblower platform is again being criticized. WikiLeaks is said to have put millions of Turkish voters in danger. What is your response?**

A: A few days after the publication of internal emails from the Democratic National Committee, an entirely false story was put out that we had published the names, addresses and phone numbers of all female voters in Turkey. It is completely false. And it was and is simple to check. Power factions fight back with lies. That's not surprising.

■ **Quite a few German journalists have long sympathized with WikiLeaks and also with Edward Snowden. But they aren't impressed with the publishing of the DNC emails. Are you campaigning on behalf of Donald Trump?**

A: Our publication of the DNC leaks has shown that the Democratic National Committee had effectively rigged the primaries in the United States on behalf of Hillary Clinton against Bernie Sanders. That led to the resignation of leading members of the DNC, including its president Debbie Wasserman Schultz.

■ **People within the Clinton campaign have suggested that the DNC emails were given to you by the Russian secret service.**

A: There have been many attempts to distract from the power of our publications. Hillary Clinton is the favorite to win. As always, most media aligns with the presumptive winner even though their claimed societal virtue is to investigate those in power.

■ **The fact is, WikiLeaks is damaging Clinton and bolstering Trump.**

A: We're not going to start censoring our publications because there is a U.S. election. Our role is to publish. Clinton has been in government so we have much more to publish on Clinton. There is a lot of naivety. The U.S. presidency will continue to represent the major power groups of the United States -- big business and the military -- regardless of who the talking head is.

■ **If someone submitted internal documents from the Trump campaign or the Republican Party, you would publish that as well?**

A: Yes, of course. That's what we do.

■ **The German newsmagazine Focus has even has accused WikiLeaks of publishing NSA documents and other documents that have been forged by the Russian secret service. What's your comment on that?**

A: The claims are not credible. Even



**We have a perfect record in detecting forgeries and, unlike the traditional press, we publish every document so everyone else can check too.**

the U.S. government had to come out and say that they have no evidence of a link to WikiLeaks. I exposed the same German magazine back in 2008 as having been extensively penetrated by the BND (Eds. note: Bundes nachrichten dienst, the German foreign intelligence agency). We listed the times and dates of 58 contacts that a Focus journalist had with the BND.

■ **Isn't WikiLeaks vulnerable because it isn't possible for you to check and verify every single document submitted and to find possibly forged documents?**

A: We have a perfect record in detecting forgeries and, unlike the traditional press, we publish every document so everyone else can check too. WikiLeaks is literally the worst place in the world to try and plant a false story.

■ **How can you prevent WikiLeaks from being taken advantage of in the global war of information?**

A: Our editorial criteria are public and they have been the same for about eight years. If a source gives us material that is of political, diplomatic, ethical or historical significance that has not been published before and is comprised of official documents or recordings, then we will publish it. Is the majority of our material in English? Yes. But that is a resource constraint. Most of our submissions are in English because most of our readers speak English.

■ **On Oct. 4, 2006, you registered the domain name www.wikileaks.org. What have you accomplished since then?**

A: WikiLeaks has published over 10 million documents in 10 years. Most have been published over the last six years,

during which time I have been illegally detained, without charge, in the United Kingdom.

■ **You have received political asylum from the government of Ecuador, but have been stuck in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London for the last four years. British authorities would like to arrest you and extradite you for interrogation to Sweden. Hasn't this situation handicapped WikiLeaks?**

A: While many of the established media make losses or go bankrupt, WikiLeaks has survived a major conflict with a superpower, including an unlawful economic blockade by its banks and credit card companies and the detention of its editor. We have no debts. We have not had to fire staff. We have never lost a court case related to our publishing. We have never been forced to censor. Adversity has hardened us. We're 10 now. Just wait until we're teenagers.

■ **What has been WikiLeaks' most important publication?**

A: The most important publication of WikiLeaks is that it has published more than 10 million documents. The most important single collection of material we have published is the U.S. diplomatic cable series. We started with 251,000 in 2011, but are up to 3 million now and have more coming.

■ **What have been the shortcomings of WikiLeaks? What would you like to improve?**

A: Resources. Has WikiLeaks been forced to do one thing rather than another in response to resource constraints? Yes. Constantly.

■ **Do you regret the fact that you no longer have a cooperation with estab-**

lished papers like the New York Times or the Guardian -- and that WikiLeaks is even criticized by liberal papers?

A: We have subsequently worked with journalists from both papers. Liberal papers are not necessarily liberal. We have excellent relations and contracts with more than 110 media organizations from all over the world. We aggressively enforce our agreements.

■ **Your source Chelsea Manning, a U.S. soldier, was sentenced to 35 years in prison. Edward Snowden is stuck in Moscow. And you are stuck here in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London. How can whistleblowers come to terms with such setbacks?**

A: Let us not compare Edward Snowden's situation with that of Chelsea Manning or Jeremy Hammond, who is also imprisoned in the United States. As a result of WikiLeaks' hard work, Edward Snowden has political asylum, has travel documents, goes to the ballet and earns substantial speaking fees. Edward Snowden is essentially free and happy. That is no coincidence. It was my strategy to undo the chilling effect of the 35 year Manning sentence and it has worked.

■ **Given all the pressure that you and those you work with are facing, how do you keep going?**

A: We believe in what we are doing. It's very satisfying. It's extremely interesting intellectually. Sometimes great moments of justice come out of it. In one case, a man falsely accused left prison thanks to a publication of ours. A lot of people who work for WikiLeaks have the same instinct as me: If you are pushed you push back.

(Source: Spiegel)

**WikiLeaks has published over 10 million documents in 10 years.**

**We have excellent relations and contracts with more than 110 media organizations from all over the world.**

## Why one Iraq war veteran can't vote for Trump



### ARTICAL

By Will Fischer

Do you want your children to live in a world where Trump has access to nuclear weapons?

"I love war."

This is a quote from Donald Trump, candidate for president of the United States.

I served my country in Iraq as a United States Marine. I served in combat. I have friends who drew their last breaths in Fallujah. I know, all too well, the life-changing (and sometimes life-ending) consequences of war.

War is not a first resort in response to a bruised ego or a snarky tweet. It is a life-altering, nation-defining action with consequences that extend far beyond the moment the smoke lifts from the battlefield and the rifles and guns go silent. War and its aftereffects last decades.

Donald Trump's hair-trigger temper and outbursts have given us no reason to believe that, if elected president, he'd be capable of protecting the safety of American families, of your family. His tantrums and incendiary rhetoric have proved time and time again that he is incapable of holding such a position of power responsibly.



**Trump, if elected, "would be the most reckless president in American history."**

Throughout this campaign, Trump has shown that he is capricious, impulsive and utterly unqualified to be president. On the use of nuclear weapons, he has said, "We need unpredictability." Speaking with a foreign policy expert about the U.S. nuclear arsenal, Trump reportedly asked in a very cavalier manner, "If we have them, why can't we use them?"

Do you want your children to live in a world where

Donald Trump has access to nuclear weapons?

These are just a few of the reasons that 50 Republican national security experts wrote an open letter warning that Trump, if elected, "would be the most reckless president in American history."

The letter states that Trump's "reckless" and "erratic" behavior would put national security at risk.

We are at a crossroads in our nation. The decisions we make this November will have a dramatic and profound impact on how our military might is viewed on the world's stage — as a defender of liberty and a foe of tyranny, or as the hired guns for an erratic charlatan.

The lives of those who serve, their families and all Americans are, quite literally, on the line.

That is why I am proudly voting for Hillary Clinton this November. She knows how to maintain her bearing. She has a plan to keep America safe. She's aptly prepared to serve as president of the United States and commander in chief.

I trust her to responsibly lead our military from the Situation Room. I trust her judgment with our nuclear codes. And, most important, I appreciate the respect she's always shown to the men and women who serve — during our service and long after our uniforms are hung up.

By Will Fischer is executive director of the Union Veterans Council, AFL-CIO. He's a Marine and a veteran of the war in Iraq.

(Source: Newsweek)

# 9/11 victims bill to bring down 'Judgment Day' on U.S.

By Marjohn Sheikhi

15 years has passed since a series of four coordinated terrorist attacks on the United States by al-Qaeda brought down the World Trade Center complex in New York City, causing the death of nearly 3,000 people, injury of over 6,000 others, in addition to 3 trillion of damage costs. So many aspects of the attacks, which came to be known as 9/11 attacks, are still shrouded in mystery, despite wide-scale investigations carried out immediately by FBI, CIA, and the U.S. Congress that came to constitute the largest criminal inquiry in the history of the United States under the War on Terror campaign. Once it was realized that 15 out of the 19 hijackers were Saudi nationals, Saudi Arabia became a high suspect on the investigation list. The Arab kingdom's potential complicity in the attacks was hinted at in classified U.S. documents which were opened to public scrutiny in the form of 28 pages this July. The declassified pages confirmed suspicions that the terrorists likely received support from high-ranking Saudi intelligence officers, and that "while in the United States, some of the September 11 hijackers were in contact with, and received

not to mention, deliver a hard blow to the U.S. decades-long relationship with Saudi Arabia.

To shed more light on the various dimensions of the JASTA and what the lawsuit would lead to in case of the United States and Saudi Arabia, Mehr News Agency reached out to Professor and Attorney Rahul Manchanda, who has worked for one of the largest law firms in Manhattan, Paris, and New York for more than 14 years. He believes that the JASTA was "an emotionally charged piece of legislation that no member of Congress dared to oppose" but which would bring down a kind of 'Judgment Day' for the U.S., and that Saudi Arabia will most likely implead and seek indemnification from any nations that may have had even the most cursory level of involvement in any capacity, to ultimately close out the litigation.

The following is the full text of MNA's interview with Mr. Rahul Manchanda:

We know that 15 of the 19 hijackers of the 9/11 attacks were Saudis. The 28 pages on Saudi involvement in the terrorist attack, which had been held up for years due to 'sensitive information', exposed links between some of the hijackers and officials in Saudi



vided that cognizable evidence can be shown to overcome the evidentiary hurdles involved in impleading/indemnification (for example, countries where the terrorist funding went through, telecommunications, mail or electronic mail or other "nexus" points. Conspiracy theorists and "truth-tellers" alike would have a field day in terms of adding third party countries to any type of litigation that could take place. And remember the legislation as it is currently written does not single out Saudi Arabia - any U.S. Citizen can sue any country in the world if they believe them to be responsible for terrorist attacks on U.S. Soil. What does the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA) exactly aim to achieve in case of Saudi Arabia, then, and do you think the lawsuit would be successful in achieving its goal?

Based on my reading of the statute, as it does not name Saudi Arabia in particular, I believe that this was an emotionally charged piece of legislation that no member of Congress dared to oppose because of the potential devastating effects it could have on

their ability to remain elected in office. Who wants to be that Congressman (or woman) that denied the right of Americans to sue those nations that both mainstream and alternative media (and the 28 pages) declare were responsible for the 9/11 attacks? This is why it passed 97-1. But I do not believe that these representatives thought this through - they may very well see other constituents of theirs (both foreign and domestic, such as Israel and Pakistan) be jammed right into the center of litigation. However, these types of lawsuits will certainly shed some much-needed light on the inner workings of 9/11, the Saudi-Israeli relationship, that have not been obfuscated or hidden yet - it has been 15 years, and therefore much or most of the evidence is either outdated or lost - and it could also implicate other nations/agencies/individuals through exhaustive discovery, interrogatories, and written/verbal testimony. What do you think the best response for Saudi Arabia could be, and what would the Kingdom more likely do in reaction to this lawsuit? Saudi Arabia will implead and seek indemnifi-

## The victims bill will likely lead the U.S. in effect to "sue itself" if Saudi Arabia blames elements within the U.S. for the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

support or assistance from, individuals who may have be connected to the Saudi Government, there is information, primarily from FBI sources, that at least two of those individuals were alleged by some to be Saudi intelligence officers."

The alleged connection was strongly rejected by Saudi Arabia, however, and in absence of any definite evidence, the case against the Arab country remained dormant until Wednesday, September 28, when the U.S. Congress voted overwhelmingly to override a veto by Barak Obama and pass into law a bill that would allow the families of the 9/11 victims to sue Saudi Arabia for compensations.

Obama had warned the Congress that the bill, the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA), would leave the United States vulnerable to an avalanche of lawsuits for their own state terrorism across the world,

Arabia. What else do we know about Saudi Arabia's involvement in the 9/11 attacks? And how strong a case can they build to deny any responsibility now that the U.S. Congress has passed into law a bill that allows family members of 9/11 victims to sue the Arab Kingdom?

As in any type of legal case, defendants are allowed to "implead" or "request indemnification" from anyone whom they deem to be either jointly responsible, or solely responsible for the damages/injuries. As I recently explained on CNN International, there is a very low threshold to implead or gain indemnification from third parties and so we are likely to see the U.S. in effect "suing itself" if Saudi Arabia, as they have previously threatened to do, blame elements within the U.S. for the terrorist attacks of 9/11. Furthermore, you may see other interesting third party countries being dragged into the litigation, pro-

## The JASTA will bring down 'Judgment Day' on the U.S. as the country has been involved either overtly or covertly in the vast majority of countries overseas.

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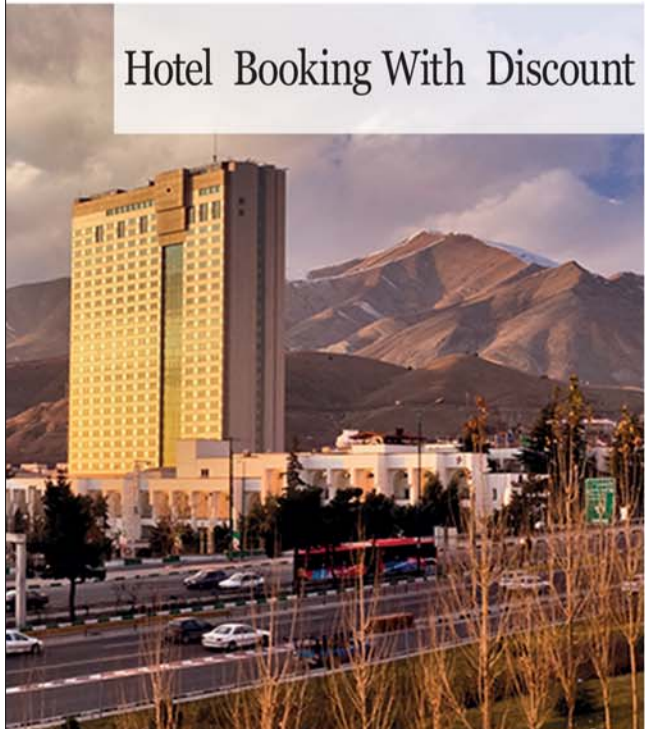
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- 4- EGP Co. facilitates different types of cars to rent with or without driver for long or short-term contracts.

10 hot titles of IT world

By Alireza Khorasani

Here are high rated IT titles in the world that reviewed by savvy tech users:

- 1** US Government finally transferred control of the technical management of the internet (ICANN) to UN. This decision will not affect internet users. ICANN as a self-regulating organization will be operated by the selection of stakeholders, engineers, academics, businesses, non-government and government groups.
- 2** New advertising system on Apple store starting October 5 that users searching for a particular app might see ads for related ones. App suggestions which are ads will have a distinctive blue badge.
- 3** Google has hired a financial adviser to buy Twitter. Google Plus has failed by Facebook and wants stand up at any cost. Walt Disney and Salesforce have been reported to be exploring a potential bid for Twitter, as well. It's not clear if a bid has been made by any company, as hiring an adviser doesn't signal definite intentions for a bid.
- 4** Former Yahoo exec estimated the number of accounts that could have potentially been stolen could be anywhere between 1 billion and 3 billion.
- 5** Duplicate story: EU intended again to fine Alphabet's Google for violating antitrust regulations.
- 6** According to new data out from WebpageFX, two-thirds of cell phone users have either an iPhone or a Samsung Galaxy, with 45% of users preferring iPhones over Galaxy phones. So, if you live in a higher-income state, it's likely you own an iPhone.
- 7** Xperia X Compact smartphone is special answer from Sony to the iPhone SE.
- 8** Samsung's 128 GB Evo microSD card is selling for \$32. This is lowest price for microSD card. <https://www.amazon.com/Samsung-128GB-Adapter-MB-MP128DA-AM/dp/B00P3NMVVU>
- 9** New feature coming soon from Facebook is similar to Snapchat's Stories. Messenger Day app is testing in Poland only and allows to users to share a page full of pictures and videos with friends for 24 hours and then will disappear.
- 10** Display of Galaxy S8 rumored to have 4K resolution and support VR. UHD resolution will set 2017 Samsung flagship. The resolution of Galaxy S7 is 1440 x 2560.

5G mobile network with 1,200 Mbps download speed tested

By Shataw Naseri

5G mobile network telecommunications that lets you access the speed of more than one gigabit per second (Gbps) was tested in Iran on October 1, 2016.



The testing process, successfully carried out by MTN Iran-cell, was attended by Iran's ICT Minister Mahmoud Vaezi, Mehr News Agency reported.

Here, the download speed of 5G mobile phone technology, tested for the first time in the Middle East, reached 1,200 Mbps and the upload speed reached 65 Mbps, as well.

During the testing process, a movie of 2 GB was downloaded within 15 seconds.

Testing 5G technology was one of 9 projects launched by Vaezi.

National Information Network project performance feature no ambiguity: Firouzabadi

By Shataw Naseri

Abolhassan Firouzabadi, the head of Iran's Supreme Council of Cyberspace, in an interview with the Mehr News Agency, stressed that the process of implementing National Information Network project features no ambiguity.

He, also, said, "Communications and Information Technology Ministry has complied with the Council's Directive and we hope that all targets are met."

Regarding the Council's some members complaining about its meetings being held irregularly, Firouzabadi noted, "President Hassan Rouhani regularly holds the Council's meetings about once a month."

Moreover, he maintained that at the Council's next meeting, due to be held within this week or next week, certain issues such as regulating messaging apps as well as National Information Network would be on the agenda.

Supreme Council of Cyberspace's latest session held on Saturday 27 August, one day prior to National Information Network project being launched, witnessed some controversies as the members protested that the Council's meetings were held irregularly.

This led to a conflict between Rouhani and a member of the Council, Mehr reported.

7 most important tech jobs needed for today's digital enterprise

What are the tech jobs currently most needed to help an organization move into the digital realm?

Many of the tried-and-true tech skill-sets that have been honed to help enterprises build out web services, SOA, cloud, microservices and containers are well-suited for the all-encompassing digital enterprise everyone is now striving to build.

But all these IT roles now require an additional twist -- there needs to be greater engagement with end users, and even more directly with customers themselves. There is a stronger thread that emphasizes achieving business value in today's enterprise IT roles.

**1-Full-stack architects.** This is a broad architectural role, encompassing every part of the infrastructure you can think of -- platform, OS, database, middleware, and interfaces. These professionals should have "at least eight to ten years of software engineering experience and deep expertise with one to two core programming languages," Bhens, Lau, and Sarrazin observe. A keen grasp of the business is also part of the equation.

**2-DevOps engineers.** With release cycles going into hyperdrive, enterprises need people who can keep developers and operations teams in sync. Requirements include "five to eight years of software-engineering experience and have



now ventured into infrastructure-automation technologies (e.g., Chef, Puppet, et cetera), cloud platforms (e.g., AWS, Azure, et cetera), and more advanced containerization technologies (e.g., Docker)," the McKinsey analysts write.

**3- Product owners.** Bhems, Lau, and Sarrazin equate this role to being a "mini-CEO of a digital product," which is a great way to put it. These are the people who tie the product directly to the business, and thoroughly understand the ROI it can deliver. Requirements include "three to five years of strong product-management experience and a good sense for

the intersection of business, user-experience design, and technology."

**4- Designers.** User experience (UX) and customer experience (CX) are the watchwords for succeeding in business today, and needed are professionals are IT-savvy, and can focus "on getting at the heart of the customer through ethnographic research, human-centered design, and rapid test-and-learn cycles with customers," the authors state. Requirements for designers include experience in conducting research, field testing, and "using design tools such as personas, empathy maps, and custom-

er journeys."

**5- Front-end and mobile engineers.** These professionals are charged with "building high-performing, scalable, and elegant web and mobile user interfaces," the authors explain. Requirements include "deep expertise in front-end web and mobile technologies that include browser-based HTML, CSS, and modern JavaScript frameworks (e.g., ReactJS, AngularJS, etc) and native mobile platforms on either iOS and/or Android."

**6- Scrum masters and agility coaches.** The fastest-moving IT shops these days typically engage in Agile development to rapidly and iteratively churn out software with user input every step of the way. Needed are "scrum masters to manage teams during the development process." These professionals need to have "great leadership and enabling skills," along with "a deep understanding of technology and an ability to rapidly solve problems" -- and keep the project on track and free from distractions.

**7- Next-gen machine-learning engineers.** Machine learning is a relatively new skillset on the scene, requiring more of a renaissance software engineer, the McKinsey team observes. Such an individual needs to know how to work with data, how to write algorithms, and how to make it all function within high-velocity environments.

(Source: mckinsey.com)

\$5.7 billion investment in ICT/equipping rural areas with high-speed Internet

By Shataw Naseri

Iran's Deputy ICT Minister Barat Ghanbari said that IT share in ICT budget would escalate to 30 percent and the maximum \$5.7 billion would be invested in this area.

In an interview with ISNA News Agency, he said that telecommunications growth as well as IT infrastructure flourishing has been included in Iran's sixth economic development plan (2016-21), adding, "currently, IT share

is less than 20 percent and telecommunications share is about 80 percent."

"We aim at increasing IT share to 30 percent and lessening telecommunications share to 70 percent," he maintained.

Therefore, of \$17.1 billion considered for investment in the sixth development plan, about \$4.2 billion to \$5.7 billion would be invested in IT, according to Ghanbari.

He added that today IT is considered as the pioneer

of development, thus how much the Internet connection speed as well as broadband escalate, GDP would grow, consequently.

Deputy Minister also stressed that in the past three years, nearly \$11.4 billion was invested in IT infrastructure by the government and about \$4.5 billion was invested by the operators, as well.

"ICT Ministry aims at equipping rural areas with the high-speed Internet to prevent rural-urban migration," he noted.

UK banking chief raises concerns over security of biometric authentication

Biometric data is increasingly playing a strategic role in end-user authentication, and banking regulators in the UK are concerned just how secure it might be in light of a recent report by Kaspersky Lab.

In an investigation into underground cyber-crime, Kaspersky found at least 12 sellers offering ATM skimmers capable of stealing fingerprints. Furthermore, Kaspersky identified three underground sellers researching devices that could obtain data from palm vein and iris recognition systems.

The report drew the attention of the UK's Treasury Select Committee, which oversees treasury, revenue and customs, and the Bank of England.

The committee's chief, Andrew Trye, is asking banking regulators to look into consequences surrounding stolen biometric data. In a letter to industry and government, he said, "Banks and regulators will need to plan for what they will do if biometric details are lost and/or illegally obtained by third parties." He asked regulators if they shared his concerns, and he went on to say plans would need to be developed to deal with customers who may be victims of biometric hacks.

The main concern with biometric identifiers is that they cannot be revoked and replaced by a new identifier like in the case of a stolen password.

The concern is real in the US where 5.6 million fingerprint records were stolen during the breach of the United States Office of Personnel Management in the summer of 2015. US agencies created a working group to see how cyber attackers could use fingerprint data. This group includes the FBI, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Defense, and other members of the intelligence community.

"The problem with biometrics is that unlike passwords or pin codes, which can be easily modified in the event of compromise, it is impossible to change your fingerprint or iris image," Olga Kochetova, security expert at Kaspersky Lab, said in a release surrounding the Kaspersky investigation. "Thus, if your data is compromised once, it won't be safe to use that authentication method again. That is why it is extremely important to keep such data secure and transmit it in a secure way."

Kaspersky Lab also reported discussions in underground communities regarding development of mobile applications that rely on placing masks over a human face. With such an app, attackers can take a person's photo posted on social media and use it to fool a facial recognition system, the report said.

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# Surprising spiral structure found around young star

For the first time, spiral arms much like those of the Milky Way galaxy have been found embracing a young star.

This finding may shed light on the mystery of how planets can form far away from their parent stars, the researchers behind the new study said.

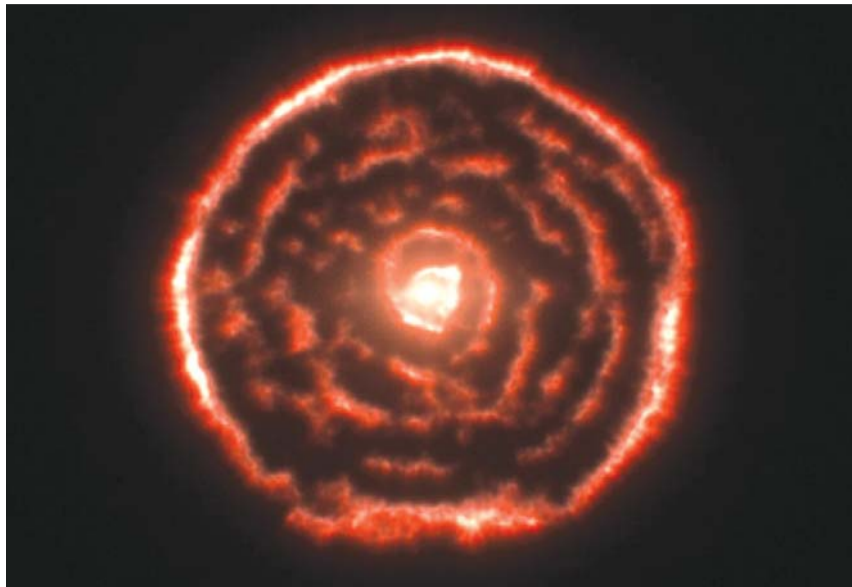
When new stars form, the clouds of gas and dust around them collapse to form disks. Previous research suggested that planets originate within these "protoplanetary disks" as gravity pulls clumps of matter together into larger masses. In this case, though, researchers have spotted unusual spiral arms forming in the debris.

Until now, astronomers usually detected spiral arms around stars only during the later stages of protoplanetary disks, such as when planets had already formed, and in hazy disks that were difficult to understand the structure of.

## Density waves

This new work is the first time researchers have detected such spiral arms around a very young star, caused by pile-ups of material researchers call density waves.

"These results are the first detection of spiral density waves in the reservoir of gas and dust that surrounds a newborn star," study lead author Laura Pérez, an astronomer at the Max Planck Institute



for Radio Astronomy in Bonn, Germany, told Space.com. "Density waves are what cause the spiral arms observed in spiral galaxies, and it is remarkable that we observe the same phenomena but in physical scales related to planet formation, (which are) much, much smaller than galaxy scales."

To understand how spiral arms might form in protoplanetary disks, imagine traffic jams occurring within these disks, with faster-moving chunks of matter

**The young star, named Elias 2-27, is located about 450 light-years from Earth, in the constellation Ophiuchus.**

caught behind slower-moving material. Prior work suggested that such congestion leads to alternating regions of greater and lesser density, the so-called "density waves," akin to how water can bunch up and spread apart to form ripples on a pond. Since protoplanetary disks spin, the previous research suggested that those waves of density curve, taking on the shape of spiral arms. Researchers think similar activity on a larger scale created the Milky Way's spiral arms.

This young star, named Elias 2-27, is located about 450 light-years from Earth, in the constellation Ophiuchus. The star is at least 1 million years old and about half the mass of the sun, and it possesses an unusually massive protoplanetary disk, up to about one-seventh the sun's mass, the astronomers said.

Using the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA), an enormous radio telescope in northern Chile, the researchers detected a flattened disk of dust around Elias 2-27 that reaches out to what would be about the orbit of Neptune in the Solar System.

Beyond that point, in a region analogous to the solar system's Kuiper Belt, the scientists found a narrow band with significantly less dust, which they said may be evidence of a planet in the process of forming.

(Source: space.com)

## Toxic algal bloom tied to Pacific's warm 'blob'

The unprecedented West Coast toxic algal bloom of 2015 appears to be linked to the unusually warm ocean conditions — nicknamed the "blob" — in the winter and spring of that year.

The bloom closed fisheries from southern California to northern British Columbia.

"We have toxic algae events that result in shellfish closures off the Washington and Oregon coast every three to five years or so, but none of them have been as large as this one," says lead author Ryan McCabe, a research scientist at the University of Washington's Joint Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Ocean, a collaborative center with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"This paper is significant because it identifies a link between ocean conditions and the magnitude of the toxic bloom in 2015 that resulted in the highest levels of domoic acid contamination in the food web ever recorded for many species," says coauthor Kathi Lefebvre, a marine biologist at NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center. "This is an eye-opener for what the future may hold as ocean conditions continue to warm globally."

## Harmful algal bloom

Researchers found that the 2015 harmful algal bloom, which set records for its spatial extent and the level of toxicity, was dominated by a single species of diatom,

Pseudo-nitzschia australis, normally found farther south off California.

This map shows impacts of the 2015 West Coast toxic algal bloom. Orange mammal symbols were detected with domoic acid, while those colored red also showed symptoms of poisoning. The numbers indicate how many mammals were affected. Shaded and hatched regions show closures for anchovy fisheries, offshore Dungeness and rock crab fishing, and shellfish harvesting.

Warm water not only allowed this species to survive, it also created an environment favoring its growth. By early 2015 the warm "blob" had moved toward shore and spread all along the West Coast. Warmer water creates less dense surface water that is more likely to stay floating on the surface, where it can become depleted in nutrients.

Previous laboratory studies by coauthor William Cochlan of San Francisco State University showed that P. australis can take up nitrogen very quickly from a variety of sources, and appear to outcompete other, nontoxic phytoplankton in nutrient-depleted warm water.

For the new study, published in the journal Geophysical Research Letters, researchers performed experiments with P. australis from the 2015 bloom. They showed that when these cells experience warmer temperatures and get more nutrients they can double or triple their cell



division rates, allowing them to potentially bloom into a large population fairly quickly at sea.

"When springtime shifts in wind direction brought deeper, nutrient-rich water upward near the coast, a small population of P. australis became a big population, which was then washed ashore along the West Coast by late spring storms," says coauthor Barbara Hickey, professor of oceanography at the University of Washington.

(Source: futurity.org)

## RIC to Win Insurance Rating from EU

The art of selling insurance policy and preserving top rating is a kind of prosperity and opulence.

Chief Executive of Razi Insurance Company (RIC) Younes Mazloumi announced the above statement held at the venue of Tehran Olympic Hotel held on Friday Sept. 31 in the presence of representatives and sales agents of the company.

The company is on the right track for development and excellence, he said, adding: "Razi Insurance Company is the first Iranian insurance company which

has managed to win EFQM (European Foundation for Quality Management) certificate."

Given the above issue, RIC is the first insurance company which has received "insurance rating" from European Union (EU), he maintained.

In this regard, senior executive official of Capital Interagency will visit Iran in next week in order to announce results of his evaluation officially in written form, he stated. It should be noted that insurance industry and insurance companies have composed

of a number of stakeholders, he said, adding: "Gaining satisfaction of beneficiaries and stakeholders is considered as main task of the senior management of the company in order to materialize most of its objectives."

In the end, Chief Executive of Razi Insurance Company (RIC) Younes Mazloumi put the insurance sales growth rate of the company at 90 percent in a way that it enjoys top rank financial opulence index with an excellent portfolio."

## Sarmayeh Bank Volleyball Team Awards Championship Cup to Families of Martyred Holy Shrine Defenders

Sarmayeh Bank awarded Asian Championship Cup to the esteemed families of martyrs of the defenders of the holy shrines.

The award-granting ceremony of Sarmayeh Bank volleyball team, crowing for the first time in Asian clubs, was held and championship cup was awarded to the esteemed families of martyred defenders of the holy shrines, Public Relations Department of Sarmayeh Bank reported.

It should be noted this prestigious ceremony was held in the presence of members of the Board of Directors of the

bank, sports officials and managers, Majlis representatives, senior state and military authorities, athletes of the bank's volleyball team as well as esteemed families of martyred defenders of the holy shrines.

Chief Executive and Member of Board of Directors of Sarmayeh Bank Dr. Mohammad-Reza Khani was the first speaker who pointed to the glorious triumph of volleyball team of the bank in Asian clubs as merited representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran and stated: "The precious and valuable triumph of volleyball of the

team in Asian competitions shows unsparing endeavors of officials and players of the team and it is hoped that this great victory will be considered as a introduction for future successes in global level."

It should be noted that the first credit card of the bank was unveiled in this prestigious ceremony, he ended.

Moreover, the first credit card of the bank was unveiled in the presence of member of the Board of Directors and Financial Deputy of the bank Dr. Khadem and Deputy Chief Executive of

Farhangian Reserve Fund Dr. Kazemi.

Another senior official of the bank pointed to the credit cards of the bank and said: "It is for years that credit-based cards have hit in widespread banking network of the world countries and have high efficiency for both customers and people."

In the end, official in charge of the bank Dr. Sepandar pointed to the efficacy and specifications of this card and said: "With its technical capabilities, credit card will cause transparency, growth and economic prosperity coupled with reducing costs."

## Modern 5G Mobile Tested in Iran in Presence of ICT Minister

In a glorious ceremony, IRANCELL's 5th generation (5G) mobile phone operator was tested in the country in the presence of Minister of Communications and Information Technology (ICT) Mahmoud Vaezi, Head of Mostazafan and Janbazan (M&J) Foundation Saaidikia and his deputies at the ministry.

Given the above issue, the 5th generation of mobile phone, which makes the possibility of accessing speed more than one gigabyte/second, was tested in Iran, Public Relations Dept. of ICT reported.

As tested for the first time in the Middle East region, download speed of 5th generation technology of mobile phone operator was recorded 1,200 megabyte/second



with the capability of 65 megabyte/second upload speed.

Of the other salient specification of this modern mobile generation, a film with two gigabytes (16 GB) was also downloaded only within 15 seconds, the report added.

Testing 5th mobile generation is one of the nine projects which was unveiled in IRANCELL Company.

Moreover, NFC payment system and new SIM cards of the company, entitled "Multi-Number SIMD Cards", tourism SIM Card and Children SIM Card were unveiled and put into operation officially.

It should be noted that 5G (5th generation mobile networks or 5th generation wireless systems) denotes the proposed next major phase of mobile telecommunications standards beyond the current 4G/IMT-Advanced standards. 5G planning includes Internet connection speeds faster than current 4G, and other improvements.

## Study says hanging out with your unattractive friend boosts your looks

A study says that people with less good looking friends appear more attractive to others. This new discovery breaks former assumptions that a person's perceived level of attractiveness is fixed, showing that this varies depending on the people you hang out with.

According to a research from the Royal Holloway, University of London published in the journal Psychological Science, how people judge and perceive your level of attractiveness depends on how you compare to the people in your surroundings. This new discovery breaks former assumptions that a person's perceived level of attractiveness is fixed, showing that this varies depending on the people you hang out with.

"Until now, it's been understood that a person's level of attractiveness is generally steady," said study author Dr. Nicholas Furl in a news release. "If you saw a picture of George Clooney today, you would rate him as good-looking as you would tomorrow. However, this work demonstrates that the company we keep has an effect on how attractive we appear to others."

Furl further notes that one's level of attractiveness and beauty has had a profound impact in today's society, but how it's measured is still a "grey area." The study aims to create a new understanding that good looks is not static.

To conduct the study, Furl asked a number of participants to rate different pictures of faces one by one. After which, two attractive faces were then placed alongside pictures of faces who were deemed less attractive face tagged as "distractor" face." Furl noted that the presence of a "distractor" face made the participants more critical in discerning the two attractive faces.

(Source: Nature World News)

## Earth's atmosphere now has carbon dioxide levels unseen for 15 million years

The world has crossed a major greenhouse-gas milestone, and it may never turn back.

As you can see, atmospheric CO2 cycles every year, but there's a significant upward trend in the measurements.

Right now we're at the low point in that cycle, just at the end of September. And, according to a post from the Scripps Institute of Oceanography (which we first saw covered over at Motherboard), atmospheric CO2 is holding at 401 parts per million.

That's the first time in recorded history that the annual carbon cycle has bottomed out at over 400 ppm. And it means the 2016 carbon trough is about 25% higher than the 1958 peak — just under 320 ppm.

As Scripps points out, there have been a few years when the readings in October have been a bit lower than September. But they've never seen one full ppm drop, so it's unlikely we'll see a reading under 400 ppm this year.

And given the steady upward trend in atmospheric CO2, it also means we'll likely never see a reading under 400 ppm in the foreseeable climate future.

The last time atmospheric carbon held above 400 ppm was 15 million years ago. The world was three to six degrees warmer, and sea levels were between 75 and 120 feet higher, according to research published in the journal Science.

(Source: Business Insider)



## The most murderous mammal is probably not what you think it is

Ape shall never kill ape. The primate society in the 1973 film "Battle for the Planet of the Apes," the fifth installment in the Planet of the Apes franchise, was governed by this central rule. It was a pleasant sentiment even when chanted from beneath a rubber mask. But such niceties never seem to last, particularly not in post-apocalyptic fiction.

We hate to rock Dr. Zaius's world, but that rule does not exist in real-life mammal societies, either.

As a new study published in the journal Nature demonstrated, not only does ape kill ape, but the mammalian world is full of murder.

Monkeys kill their own kind, as do lions, a few bat species and long-tailed chinchillas. But the bloodiest, most homicidal of more than 1,000 species surveyed is the meerkat.

The team of Spanish biologists and geneticists behind the study did not set out to point a bloody paw at the meerkat, however. They were more interested in plumbing the evolutionary history of lethal violence, comparing murder rates for 1,024 different types of mammals. The University of Granada researchers combed scientific studies to create a database of lethal aggression, totaling 4 million mammal-on-mammal deaths.

It turned out that, at about 1 in 5 meerkat deaths due to intraspecies slaying, the little African carnivores stood at the head of the violent class. Meerkats off their own young when resources are scarce. Meerkat society is also rigidly hierarchical, and fatally so; as pregnant meerkats will kill a subordinate's offspring to make room in the clan. (If you know a thing or two about the mongoose species, this might not come as a surprise — they are "baby-killing cannibals," per the Telegraph in 2006.)

(Source: The Washington Post)

## Southern Iran being hit by dust storms

**ENVIRONMENT** TEHRAN — Two southeastern and southwestern provinces of Iran have been dealing with consistent dust storms since last week, ISNA news agency reported.



Central Iraq and Syria are the sources of these storms, Zia-e-din Shoaei, the director of national working group for combatting dust storms, has said.

The director of Sistan-Baluchestan province meteorological department, Ali Mollashahi, warned that dust particles have reached an alarming level be becoming 18 folds.

Khuzestan province is also struggling with the phenomenon which made the local authorities to shut down schools on Sunday.

Additionally flights at the Abadan and Ahwaz airports got canceled due to the poor visibility caused by increased dust in the air.

## The tree that owns itself

"The tree that owns itself," which is located at the top of the steep hill where Dearing and Finley Streets intersect, is probably the most unusual property holder in the world. The tree pays no taxes, is protected by the community and rests secure in its own enclosed garden-type lot. In addition, this unique tree has been featured in Ripley's "Believe it or Not" and has received regular attention from newspapers and magazines from around the world.

The land on which the tree stands was originally owned by Col. William H. Jackson, a professor at the University of Georgia. Legend has it that in the early 1800s, Professor Jackson, out of love for the great oak, deeded to the tree ownership of itself and the land within eight feet of it on all sides.

The marker at the foot of the tree reads as follows: "For and in consideration of the great love I bear this tree and the great desire I have for its protection, for all time, I convey entire possession of itself and all land within eight feet of the tree on all sides." An original deed has not been located, but the Athens community has recognized the tree's title to the surrounding land and has taken measures to protect the tree. Philanthropist George Foster Peabody paid to install the enclosure surrounding the tree.

The original tree became diseased and was blown down in a windstorm on October 9, 1942, and a new tree was grown from one of its acorns. The Junior Ladies Garden Club grew a sapling from one of the tree's acorns and planted it on the same spot October 9, 1946.

Its property rights have never been questioned.

(Source: visitathensga.com)

## Food waste supermarket opens in the UK

Humans have a food waste problem: Every year about one third of the food we plan to consume ends up lost or thrown away, and supermarkets are among the worst offenders. Now, a new store in Pudsey, England is offering an alternative to conscientious shoppers. As Metro reports, The Warehouse sells food that would have otherwise been tossed on a "pay-as-you-feel" basis.

The shelves of the newly-opened supermarket are stocked with donations from local businesses, including restaurants, caterers, food photographers, and conventional grocery stores. A lot of the items have exceeded their sell-by date—a vague label that doesn't necessarily mean that food is unsafe to consume. The dates on their so-called "expired" bottled water, for example, are pretty much meaningless.

The supermarket is run by a UK-based organization called the Real Junk Food Project. Like The Warehouse, the cafes in their global network sell food that would have been wasted and urge their patrons to pay however they can. This means that customers can pay with money, volunteer hours, or pay nothing at all.

Their flexible payment policy makes the market a valuable resource for citizens in need, but the organization makes it clear that they serve the whole community. According to the organization's website: "In order for us to prove the value and safety of food waste, we couldn't just feed specific demographics of people. We believe food waste is absolutely fit for human consumption and so that's who we feed—human beings."

The Warehouse is reportedly the first supermarket of its kind in the UK, but similar food waste projects have been launched elsewhere on the continent: In March, Denmark welcomed a grocery store chain that sells "expired" food exclusively.

(Source: Mental Floss)



Be kind to me!

# Energy minister warns of failing to fulfil Paris climate deal commitments

**ENVIRONMENT** TEHRAN — Iranian Energy Minister Hamid Chitchian has voiced concerns over any probable failure in fulfilling Paris climate deal commitments, saying that it would face the country with sanctions even tougher than the nuclear sanctions.

He did not clarify the issue but said that with China and the U.S. recently ratifying the deal, the energy ministry is being beset by worries of not succeeding in meeting its commitments which is to reduce emissions by 4 percent, IRNA reported on Saturday.

Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) adopted the Paris agreement at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the parties held in Paris in December 2015.

The deal is an agreement within the UNFCCC dealing with greenhouse gases emissions mitigation, adaptation and finance starting in the year 2020.

The agreement shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date on



which at least 55 parties to the convention accounting in total for at least an estimated 55 percent of the total global greenhouse gas emissions have deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with the depositary.

Currently, there are 191 signatories to the Paris deal. Of these, 61 parties to the convention have also deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval accounting in total for 47.79 percent of the total global greenhouse gas emissions.

"The deal is legally binding and in case we fail to reduce the emission we would face punishment," Chitchian said.

Despite the past when implementing more projects was plausible currently executing projects which are more cost-efficient, causing the least damage to the environment and are sustainable are considered best, he said.

Mentioning his last trip to Denmark the minister noted that the country has managed to produce 45 percent of their energy from renewable sources while Iran has so far succeeded in producing 200 megawatts of energy from renewable sources.

Unfortunately managers are reluctant to change in Iran, he regretted.

"We need an outlook change at managerial level," he said, stating, "as long as managers receive free of charge fuel to generate electricity we cannot expect them to change their approaches."

Educating managers would be a great investment for moving forward, Chitchian suggested.

## Iran plans to halve plastic bags usage in 3 years

**ENVIRONMENT** TEHRAN — By regulating a three-year national plan Iran is determined to make cutbacks in the plastic bags usage by 50 percent, an official with the Department of Environment (DOE) has said.

The national plastic bags reduction plan [which is already approved but not executed yet] will result in less plastic bags litter by March 2019, Sa'eed Motesaddi said, Mehr news agency reported.

According to the new regulations all units which are producing plastic bags are legally bound to reduce their plastic productions by 10 percent annually and replace them with eco-friendly productions, Motesaddi noted.

Additionally, he added, all governmental organiza-

tions are banned from buying plastic bags and disposable dishes made from polluting chemical substances and are required to buy eco-friendly productions.

He went on to say that all chain stores are also obligated to decrease their plastic bags usage by 50 percent in two years after the implementation of the law and, moreover, giving away free of charge plastic bags would be prohibited in one year in chain stores and in three years in the standalones after the new regulations go into effect.

The Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade must also report on the annual reduction and gradual phasing out of the plastic bags to the DOE, he added.

The aforesaid ministry is also obliged to raise awareness among the public by encouraging them to replace

the plastic bags with more eco-friendly options using the mass media, educational bodies and NGOs, he highlighted.

Motesaddi further regretted the fact that some 21 tons of plastic bags are being used in grocery stores in Iran and even worse than that is the fact that 96 percent of the plastic bags end up in garbage and only four percent would be reused.

Each plastic bag is useful for some 12 minutes on average while they stay in the nature for centuries before they degrade, he noted.

Lightweight, single-use plastic bags are a unique threat to the environment.

To eliminate the problems caused by plastic bags bans or fees are in place in many countries.

## Why wildlife management in Iran needs more support?



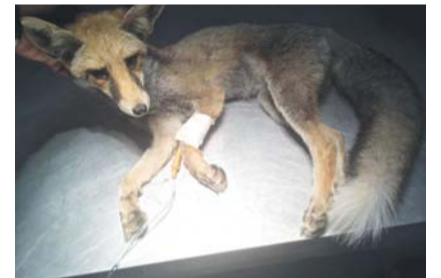
By Farnaz Heidari

Like forests, wildlife has had special value for people, not only for the meat and hides which provides us with food and clothing, but also because we enjoy knowing that we share the Earth with other living creatures, enjoy observing them, and in some cases have made them cultural and even sacred symbols.

On one hand are those who believe that wildlife is there for people to harvest and that the greatest good for the greatest number of people will be the largest harvest that is suitable. On the other hand are those who believe that wildlife is important because living creatures are beautiful, interesting, an important feature of the landscape, raise our spirits and have religious value to us, and, moreover, that they have an intrinsic right to exist, just as we do.

One thing is clear: Many species of our wildlife have declined greatly in abundance e.g. Persian leopard, sea cows, and Asiatic black bear; some have become endangered e.g. Caspian seal, Persian fallow deer, Asiatic cheetah, and Siberian crane; and some have gone extinct e.g. Persian lion and Caspian tiger.

Iran can be regarded as a quadri-directional bridge between four major geographical regions: Central Asia, the In-



dian subcontinent, the Arabian Peninsula and the lands bordering the Black Sea. It is at the crossroads between four distinct floral and faunal regions. We can use this historical range to estimate the probability of extinction.

The first estimate of the probability that the Persian lion would become extinct, made in the early 20th century, the lions had disappeared from Mesopotamia, but still occurred in several areas in Khuzestan and Fars. The last lion was seen by an Indian surveyor of the British Army in 1942, in an area 65 km northwest of the city of Dezful, Khuzestan province. The Persian lion now survives in the Gir forest reserve in northwestern India where the population is estimated to be about 350 individuals. At least 100 animals are outside the Gir Forest protected area and total number of mature animals is about 175. But lions are locally extinct in Iran.

### How could this happen?

The explanation is that the Persian lion is one of many species that appear always to have been rare. Rarity does not necessarily lead to extinction, but a rare species, especially one whose population has undergone a rapid and large decline, needs careful attention and assessment as to whether it is threatened or endangered. None of these attempts implied for Persian lion in Iran so it be-

came extinct forever in Iran. Some other species such as Asiatic cheetah, Persian leopards, Asiatic black bear, Persian fallow deer, Siberian Crane, and many other species experienced large decline so it is quite important for us to change our approach.

### Proposed principles

At first we need a safety factor in terms of population size, to allow for limitation of knowledge and imperfections in procedures. We shouldn't harvest a population such as Lorestan mountain newt to the point where it has been reduced to the lowest limit. Instead, we should assume that our estimate of that lower limit is crude, and leave more animals than that minimum would suggest. Lorestan mountain newt is endemic to four streams (in a single catchment area) within a restricted area of the southern Zagros Mountains of Lorestan (Shahbazan region). It has an altitudinal range of 1,500-2,000m. This is now a relatively rare species, with a dramatic decline within the previous ten years. The population is estimated to number fewer than 1,000 mature individuals.

Second step refers to concern for the entire community of organisms and all the renewable resources, so that policies developed for one species are not wasteful of other resources. Meanwhile, main-

tenance of the ecosystem of which the wildlife are a part, is essential because it minimize the risk of irreversible change and long-term harm as a result use.

The cheetah was once common throughout the drier steppic regions of Iran (and southwest Asia) and was found in most regions of the eastern half of the country until a generation ago, but it is now restricted to a few areas in north-east and east-central Iran. The habitat of Cheetah in Iran is fragmented and it accounts as an irreversible change and long-term harm so the situation is getting harder and harder for this subspecies who also experienced bottle-neck situation.

Continual monitoring, analysis, and assessment is the next step which requires many experts, sufficient money, governmental support, and social cooperation. We should continue to apply science to pursuit of knowledge about the wildlife we are concerned with and their ecosystems, and make the results available to public.

These principles broaden the scope of wildlife management from a narrower focus on a single species to inclusion of the ecological community and ecosystem. As said Edward A. Keller this is a starting point for an improved approach to wildlife management.

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Jahan-Nama protected area in the northern province of Golestan is one of the best habitats for the red deer.

# Turkey's EU membership bid is in 'endgame': Erdogan

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday warned that Turkey had reached the "end of the game" over its decades-long EU membership bid, saying it was time for Brussels once and for all to make clear if it wanted Ankara as a member.

In a hard-hitting speech marking the opening session of parliament, Erdogan also told Brussels it needed to allow Turks visa-free travel to the bloc by October, as per a previous agreement to decrease migrant flows.

Relations between the European Union and Turkey have strained in the wake of the 15 July failed coup, with EU officials among the most vocal critics of the relentless crackdown against the alleged plotters and their supporters.

Erdogan's 45-minute speech also touched on the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group, saying that it "makes no sense" that it has taken so many years to defeat the group's 10,000-strong fighting force.

"[ISIL] is not the cause of problems in Syria, but a result of them... ISIL is simply something everyone has exploited to promote their own interests in Iraq and



Syria." "The inability to defeat the 10,000-strong IS (ISIL) force over so many years doesn't make any sense," he said in a speech televised nationwide from the capital Ankara.

Moving on to discuss the EU, Erdogan

said: "If the EU is going to make Turkey a full member, we are ready. But they should know that we have come to the end of the game."

"There is no need to beat around the bush or engage in diplomatic acrobatics." "It's their (the EU's) choice to con-

tinue the path with or without Turkey. They should not hold us responsible," he added.

Erdogan said that October would be an important month in Turkey's relations with the European Union and that "it is necessary" that visa-free travel for Turks to the Schengen Area comes into force this month.

Under a March deal, Turks were to gain visa-free travel in exchange for Ankara helping reduce the flow of migrants to Europe. However the visa plan as stumbled over Turkey's anti-terror laws.

Turkey's bid to join the EU dates back to the 1960s with formal talks starting in 2005. So far, only 16 chapters of the 35 chapter accession process have been opened for Turkey.

"The fact that our country has been kept waiting at the door for 53 years shows your (the EU's) opinion towards us," Erdogan added.

After the attempted coup, Erdogan mulled bringing back capital punishment, a move which would spell an end to the bid. But he did not mention the issue in the speech to parliament.

(Source: Middle East Eye)

## Ethiopia: 'Several' killed in Oromia festival stampede

A deadly stampede broke out after Ethiopian police reportedly fired tear gas to break up an ethnic Oromo protest with several people killed south of the capital, Addis Ababa.

There were conflicting death toll reports following the stampede on Sunday. An AFP photographer at the scene said he saw 15-20 unmovable bodies, some of whom were clearly dead.

"As a result of the chaos, lives were lost and several of the injured were taken to hospital," the government communications office said in a statement, without giving exact figures. "Those responsible will face justice."

Merera Gudina, chairperson of the opposition Oromo Federalist Congress, told Reuters news agency at least 50 people were killed when people fled after police fired tear gas and shots in the air to disperse anti-government protesters at a crowded religious festival.

The government and opposition often give different accounts for casualties during protests. Crowds chanted "we need freedom" and "we need justice" and prevented community elders, deemed close to the government, from delivering their speeches at a religious festival, prompting police to fire tear gas that caused the stampede.

Thousands of people gathered for the annual Irreecha festival in Bishofto, about 40km south of the capital.

Protesters chanted slogans against

the Oromo People's Democratic Organization, one of four regional parties that make up the Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Democratic Front, which has ruled the nation for quarter of a century.

Sporadic protests have erupted in Oromia region in the last two years, initially sparked by a land row and increasingly turning more broadly against the government.

According to New York-based Human Rights Watch, at least 500 people have been killed by security forces since the demonstrations began in November. Though protests started among the Oromo - Ethiopia's biggest ethnic group - they later spread to the Amhara, the second-most largest in the country.

Both groups say the ruling coalition is dominated by the Tigray ethnic group, which makes up only about six percent of the population.

Small protests in Oromia province initially flared in 2014 over a development plan for the capital that would have expanded its boundaries, a move seen as threatening the seizure of farmland.

The government has blamed rebel groups and dissidents abroad for stirring up the protests and provoking violence.

The Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front last month rejected a United Nations request to send in observers, saying it alone was responsible for the security of its citizens.

(Source: agencies)

## Brexit: Britain to trigger Article 50 by end of March

Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May says she will trigger Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty before the end of March 2017, a two-year process that will divorce Britain from the European Union.

Speaking to the BBC on Sunday, May said she wanted to have good relations with European Union countries once Britain left and owed it to Britain's business to get the right deal for trade in goods and services.

When asked when she would invoke Article 50 of the EU's Lisbon Treaty, May told the BBC's Andrew Marr show: "We will trigger before the end of March next year."

She said that once Article 50 had been triggered, it would be up to the rest of the EU to decide how the negotiation process goes ahead.

She also said that the June 23 referendum vote to leave the EU vote contained a clear message that the British public wanted the movement of people from the rest of the EU to be controlled.

Earlier she announced a "Great Repeal Bill" to end the authority of EU law once Britain leaves the union.

The legislation will overturn laws that make EU regulations supreme, enshrine all EU rules in domestic law and confirm the British parliament can amend them as it wants.

"This marks the first stage in the UK becoming a sovereign and independent

country once again," May told The Sunday Times newspaper.

"It will return power and authority to the elected institutions of our country. It means that the authority of EU law in Britain will end."

Some 52 percent of Britons voted on June 23 to leave the EU, responding to calls by Brexit - or British exit - campaigners Nigel Farage, Boris Johnson and others. However, the result unleashed immediate political and financial market turmoil in Britain.

The vote also raised questions about the future of Britain and post-World War II European integration, though the initial economic effect of the Brexit vote has been less negative than was predicted by those who campaigned to remain within the EU.

Britain first joined in the European Union in 1973.

Britain's allies fear its exit from the EU could mark a turning point in post-Cold War international affairs that will weaken the West in relation to China and Russia, undermine efforts towards European integration, and hurt global free trade.

Some Conservative politicians said triggering Article 50 so early could put pressure on Britain as elections in France and Germany in 2017 could change London's negotiating partners in the middle of talks.

(Source: agencies)

## Afghanistan seeks aid to rebuild nation at Brussels talks

Afghanistan's president will meet world powers at a major conference in Brussels in a bid to secure financial aid from the international community up to 2020 to rebuild the war-ravaged nation.

The meeting on October 4 and 5 will try to drum up support from an international community suffering from aid fatigue as it grapples with conflicts in Syria and Iraq plus the worst migration crisis since World War II.

The United States Secretary of State John Kerry and United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon are among those who will join hosts Afghan president Ashraf Ghani and EU President Donald Tusk.

Financial support is "crucial" in order "to bring about a new strategic shift towards stabilization and possibly peace" in Afghanistan, despite the country not having "been in the headlines for many years", officials said ahead of the conference.

"Nobody can afford for Afghanistan to destabilize again," a senior EU official added.

More than 70 countries and 25 international organizations will attend the event, which comes just before



the 15th anniversary of the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan after the 9/11 attacks.

Afghanistan is still struggling to negotiate peace with the Taliban and other militant groups who continue to wage a bloody insurgency.

■ Tokyo, London, Brussels

The Brussels conference follows up from a meeting

in Tokyo in 2012 where the international community agreed to provide four billion euros a year in funding until the end of 2016.

It also comes two years after the London Conference on Afghanistan at which then newly-elected president Ashraf Ghani vowed to build a more self-reliant Afghanistan.

Ghani said last week in Kabul that "in Brussels, your government will represent all of you women, men, all of you. In Brussels the world is going to reiterate their economic commitments again."

He added: "We are taking Brussels very seriously. After we return from Brussels we have to work together, this is the importance of it."

The international community will make pledges for the next four years but officials would not be drawn on the level of funding in comparison to the four billion euros a year agreed in Tokyo.

"The pledging exercise remains a difficult one and very fluid until the last moments," one EU official said. "The three billion mark is passed, but we don't know where we'll end up."

(Source: AFP)

## 9/11 victims bill to bring down 'Judgment Day' on U.S.

The petrodollar seems doomed as Trump appears to be ready to assume office, and one of his first actions as President would probably be to somehow repudiate the 23 Trillion National Debt, thus rendering the Petrodollar valueless, with a possible shift to the Gold or Silver Standard. It doesn't help the U.S.-Saudi relationship that George Soros, Rothschild, and other Central Bankers are hoarding gold right now to shore up their reserves. Plus, the recent U.S. working relationship with Iran signals a paradigm shift in the Middle East, with the vast majority of American leaders, intelligence,

and business leaders preferring to work with Iran for oil imports and strategic interests, rather than with an out of control, backwards, and corrupt regime in Saudi Arabia, which appears to be toppling over any minute due to populist revolt. Iran is just a better bet for long term stable U.S.-Islamic World relations, rather than remaining partnered with Saudi Arabia, which thanks to its Wahhabi influence is essentially responsible for global terrorism worldwide, and frankly, gives Islam a bad name. The only obstacle to this natural progression is the Netanyahu-led government of Israel, but even their own Mossad Leaders and Defense Establish-

ment (Efraim Halevy, Meir Dagan, others) want peace with Iran rather than conflict, for Israel's long term security.

In case of Iran, a U.S. judge once ordered Iran to pay reparations to the families of 9/11 victims, even though there is no evidence of Tehran's connection to the attack and none of the hijackers were Iranian citizens. How legal was that ruling and does JASTA incorporate similar cases against Iran?

Yes, this was the work of U.S. District Court Judge George Daniels, who similarly exonerated Saudi Arabia of any wrong doing for 9/11. These were obviously extremely political decisions based on Zionist power and influence in New York City. I

would invite you to read former CIA Officer Philip Giraldi's excellent article entitled "Justice Is Blind: The Southern District of New York Is Deaf, Dumb, Blind and Stupid" for a thorough analysis of the whimsical nature of this particular courthouse, and how many perceive it to be simply an arm of Zionist power within the United States, not just for alleged "terrorism" cases but also for the wholesale financial fleecing/plundering of disfavored businesses/entities/individuals/nations, the stifling of African-American/Latino/Minority/Arab/Muslim civil and human rights, and the expansion and augmentation of "favored protected class" litigation and progressive causes.

## OPEC will not agree on quota level, business expert predicts



■ How do you assess the OPEC session in Algeria?

A: It was a symbolic meeting more than anything. They needed to agree to quotas that reduced output by about 1.5 million barrels a day. And the agreement had to be backed up by action—that is sticking to the agreement and not cheating. They could not. So they kicked the bucket and said they would come up with an agreement in December. No member had anything to lose by doing this.

■ What happened that Saudi Arabia agreed to freeze the level of its oil production?

A: Any meaningful future agreement would have to include a CUT (not just a freeze) in Saudi production. But for now, Saudi Arabia's ability to increase output over the next few months is smaller than Iran and Iraq's potential increase in output. Recognizing these simple facts that any agreement would have to include a cut in their output and the larger potential for an output increase in Iran and Iraq, the Saudis simply took the diplomatic path of a freeze to demonstrate that they are making concessions. But in reality it is not much of a concession (as they are near their capacity) AND remember they can always cheat—say one thing (agree to a freeze) and do something else (increase output a little).

■ Do you think that OPEC will act harmoniously after the Algiers meeting?

A: No. Iran and Iraq will not agree to any kind of a freeze as their output had been limited by factors outside of their direct control—for Iraq sanctions, wars and civil conflict, and for Iran sanctions. The only way that they could agree to any freeze would be for Saudi Arabia to cut output dramatically. But this is something that Saudi Arabia would not agree to because it will help Iran and Iraq, the Saudi role in OPEC would be diminished and Saudi Arabia would have a tough time regaining market share.

But there is always the likelihood that they announce an agreement and then cheat a few months later. They have nothing to lose if they do this. There would be a temporary increase in oil prices and then they would revert back to where they were.

■ OPEC members announced that they will discuss oil production quotas in a future session. Do you think they will agree on quota levels?

A: Again, I don't think that they will agree to a quota level AND stick to it for a while. But they could say they have an agreement and then cheat and exceed agreed quotas.

## 'I'm going to hit him': Dash-cam video shows officers tried to run over man before shooting him 14 times

"I'm going to hit him," the officer says before aiming his police cruiser at the mentally ill homeless man that he and his partner had been sent out to confront. "I'm going to hit him."

"Okay, go for it. Go for it," his partner responds, his voice recorded on the Sacramento police cruiser's dash cam.

Twice, the man dodges their accelerating cruiser. In the second attempt, he leaps into a median, barely avoiding the vehicle.

But Joseph Mann, 51, could not escape the volley of bullets that followed moments later.

Mann died in the street shortly after that July 11 shooting. Mann's family has accused officers Randy Lozoya and John Tennis of escalating the situation and showing no regard for his life, even before they jumped out of the car, fired 18 bullets and shot Mann 14 times.

His family says the video, the audio of which was enhanced by the Sacramento Bee and published on Friday, is damning.

"They are officers that shouldn't be in uniform," Robert Mann, Joseph Mann's brother, told the newspaper. "If this is their state of mind when they go to work, this doesn't serve anyone well."

Lozoya and Tennis have been placed on desk duty. Mann's family has filed a federal lawsuit and a claim against the city, which they plan to update to include the attempts to hit Mann with the car, the newspaper reported.

Police released the dash-cam video two weeks ago, after resisting for two months following the fatal confrontation.

On July 11, they were called to a brightly lit street in California's capital by neighbors who reported a man standing in the street, waving a knife.

That was Joseph Mann, who was in the midst of a mental health crisis, according to court documents filed by his family. They say he was "doing karate moves and zigzagging back and forth across the street as he tried to walk away from the Officers."

Mann also had methamphetamine in his system, according to police. And he wasn't cooperating with the officers who arrived.

A lawsuit filed by Mann's family said he was "displaying obvious signs of mental distress." It faults the department for not trying to de-escalate the situation.

"Inexplicably, the Officers failed to contact any properly trained mental health counselors or make any attempt to use less than lethal force and ignored the established police protocols to make attempts to de-escalate the situation," the lawsuit said.

"Instead, Officers left their (positions) of safety, cornered Mr. Mann against a (fence/wall) and opened fire on him."

The shooting happened as officers across the nation have been embroiled in a debate about whether they are too quick to use lethal force, especially against minorities. Police have killed 719 people so far this year, according to a Washington Post examination of fatal force. Like Mann, approximately 1 in 4 of those killed were reported to have some form of mental illness.

Mann's shooting sparked protests in Sacramento as residents demanded the release of the dash-cam videos.

(Source: The Washington Post)

## Celebratory scenes as Argentina triumph

In the jubilant scenes that followed Argentina's victory at the FIFA Futsal World Cup Colombia 2016, certain images stood out above all others. Among them was the sight of coach Diego Giustozzi being thrown into the air by his players, some of whom had been his team-mates only four years previously at Thailand 2012.

"Not in my wildest dreams did I ever imagine experiencing something like this at 38 years of age, and after only three years as a coach," admitted Giustozzi who, despite being soaked with water from the celebrations, still found a moment to speak with FIFA.com. "I'm over the moon! Not so long ago, this was unimaginable. But little by little, we brought in the right people, the right ideas... Then we arrived in Colombia, we grew in confidence, and now we're on top of the world. It's impossible to put such an achievement into words."



Another enduring image was that of a bewildered looking Fernando Wilhelm, heading up to collect his trophy as winner of the adidas Golden Ball. This 34-year-old veteran of four World Cups was to rejoin his team-mates before climbing the podium once more and, as captain, enjoying the privilege of being the first to hold the World Cup trophy aloft.

"I still don't believe it, it's like I can't put it into words," confessed Wilhelm, still wearing the No6 shirt, to FIFA.com. "Beforehand I was asked how I would celebrate if we won, but I didn't even want to think about that because it was going to be so difficult. That idea was so engrained in me that, when the time ran out, I didn't know what to do. It's so huge, I'm overcome by it all."

A little further away, and also waiting to collect the winner's trophy, Maximiliano Rescia was seated next to Russia's Brazilian-born star Robinho. "He told me that we deserved the title," Rescia confided to FIFA.com. "Why did we win? Because we added technique and, above all, tactical know-how to our courage and heart. The arrival of Giustozzi was crucial," added the 28-year-old midfielder.

### Reactions and conclusions

Giustozzi himself then took the time to analyse the victory over a Russian team who, when the match seemed lost to them, scored two goals in 45 seconds to put themselves only one down with 19 seconds to play. "They focused on the physical side and individual skill, but we won as a team. We had the game under control, until nerves came into play towards the end. The climax was just the result of our nerves."

Compared with his coach, Rescia offered a more visceral account of those final few moments. "When they scored the fourth goal I looked at the scoreboard, and I saw that there were still 19 seconds to go, and it felt like the ground was being pulled from beneath my feet. But then I focused again, because I knew that it was all that stood between me and glory."

Wilhelm, meanwhile, saw things from a more rational perspective: "It just goes to show that, in this sport, anything can happen until the time runs out. In fact, if the last rebound had gone in rather than staying out, we may have been back at square one again. You could say we were a bit lucky, but any luck we did get we worked really hard for."

So what now? "I just spoke about it with [Pablo] Taborda and [Leandro] Cuzzolino - we've been slugging away for 10 years now, so we could retire in peace! But over the coming days we'll take stock of it all, and no doubt we'll set new goals and targets moving ahead."

Wilhelm was aware that any triumphalism could be dangerous. "In sport, you become a slave to results. Personally, I didn't need this title to be proud of this team, I've been proud of it since we arrived in Colombia. More generally, I hope that futsal in Argentina benefits from this across the board. Now is the time to grow the sport."

And although such a significant success was so fresh in the memory, Giustozzi could also still see the bigger picture. "The impact for us is big, but it's a lot bigger for those in futsal who have it tougher than we do. There are a lot of people here - people who are not professionals, who don't get seen - who were waiting for this message to prove that we could do it. And quite simply, we could."

(Source: FIFA)

## Loew says 40-team World Cup would dilute tournament's value

Germany coach Joachim Loew is against FIFA president Gianni Infantino's plans to expand the World Cup to 40 teams, saying it would dilute the value of the tournament.

"I don't think it's a good idea to dilute the sporting value (of the tournament)," the 2014-World Cup winning coach told the Welt am Sonntag newspaper in an interview on Sunday.

Loew added that he had "an absolute understanding for the smaller nations who, thanks to this, could take their place on the big stage."

However, Loew, who was also against enlarging the European championship from 16 to 24 teams, said that expanded tournaments placed a greater "sporting and mental" burden on the players.

"We must be clear that, in the long term, the quality suffers," he said. "We must not overdo it."

Infantino made enlarging the World Cup from 32 to 40 teams a key point in his successful campaign for the FIFA presidency.

The FIFA Council is due to discuss the proposal, which would be implemented for the 2026 World Cup, at its next meeting on Oct. 13-14.

(Source: Reuters)

# Mourinho: Manchester United could have scored six against Stoke

Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho said his team should have had a "fat result" scoring five or six goals, instead of a 1-1 home draw with Stoke City on Sunday.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Paul Pogba were among those who missed chances for profligate United before substitute Anthony Martial gave them the lead, but an error from goalkeeper David De Gea helped Joe Allen to equalise.

Mourinho told his postmatch news conference: "I am very happy with the performance but, when the result should be us scoring five or six and it's 1-1, then happiness disappears and frustration with the result comes."

"It was our best performance in terms of football played. We started in the first minute with a big chance [when Ibrahimovic was denied by a double save from Lee Grant] and finished with another one [when Pogba hit the bar with a header]. In between, we had four, five, six, seven."

"The first chance is beautiful football. The chance Paul missed is also beautiful football."

"There was a great attitude after the score was 1-0. They wanted to kill the game. But by magic, they [Stoke] scored a goal, which was very unfair for us."

Mourinho said he would "never criticise my players for missing chances," adding: "Their goalkeeper is Man of the Match, and deservedly so."

"We had chances where we could have been better, but I am not critical. We should be not just with three points but with a fat result."

"Everyone is really disappointed. At half-time, they were already disappointed. The



message from me then was that if we play like this then we'll have three, four chances and score a couple of goals."

One positive for United was the quick impact made by Martial, who has been in disappointing form in the early part of the season, with Mourinho describing his run and strike as "an amazing goal and very good initiative."

The United manager also confirmed that

there were no injury problems going into the international break, meaning Phil Jones remains the only player on the sidelines.

Stoke manager Mark Hughes said his team had targeted United's holding midfield combination -- which sees Pogba advancing and often leaving Ander Herrera behind -- as a weakness. He explained: "We looked at their games and that was something that was certainly highlighted."

"I don't think there was any real sustained momentum in United's play apart from the last five minutes when they were whacking ball into the box, which we dealt with comfortably."

He praised Allen for staying calm after an ugly challenge by Herrera, adding: "It's credit to Joe that he didn't make a meal of it."

(Source: Soccernet)

## France can provide safe Games in 2024, says Hollande



Should Paris be selected to host the 2024 Olympics, France is well equipped to stage a safe Games because of the security measures that are in place after the recent terror attacks, president Francois Hollande said on Sunday.

Los Angeles and Budapest are the only other candidates left in the running to host the 2024 Games after Virginia Raggi pulled the plug on Rome's bid shortly after being elected mayor of the Italian capital. Boston and Hamburg had already abandoned their bids.

"We want to remind you, and you know it, that France is able to host big events - recently with Euro 2016 but also with some 40 world and European championships across all sports these past years," Hollande said as he welcomed International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach at the Elysee Palace.

"We have the savoir faire and the technology for big events but we can also ensure appropriate safety. We have ensured security for the events I just mentioned. It is our main priority and everyone can understand why," he added.

France has been struck by a series of attacks in the past 20 months, with 130 being killed in coordinated assaults claimed by the Islamic State in Paris on Nov. 13 last year before a truck attacker killed 84 in Nice on Bastille Day this year.

"I don't know how the world will be in 2024 but it will be dangerous. There

is no country, no capital that can think they will be protected, immune from this," said Hollande.

"We have been facing this reality for a while but we have what it takes to protect an event such as the 2024 Olympics. We have a form of preparation that no other country can have given what has hit us."

The head of state added that the outcome of future elections, starting with next year's presidential election, would have no bearing on the candidacy.

"I am certain that after the elections that will follow until 2024, all the presidents will want to pursue what we started," he said after handing Bach a special gift -- the flag of the 1924 Paris Olympics.

Bach praised the work done so far. "Your project is excellent and in line with the Agenda 2020," Bach said.

"Congratulations for having gathered the population behind this project. Sport is the best way to unite a society in all its diversity and today more than ever sport plays an important role in education and social integration."

"The IOC is attached to France because the French Olympic movement has perpetuated the tradition of (Games founder) Pierre de Coubertin and has been an efficient and friendly partner of the IOC." The host city will be elected in Lima on Sept 13, 2017.

(Source: Reuters)

## Tottenham romp to victory vs. Man City as Guardiola suffers first loss



Tottenham Hotspur inflicted a first defeat on Pep Guardiola's Manchester City as they outplayed their opponents to storm to a 2-0 victory.

City had been undefeated in 11 games, and won all six in the Premier League, since Guardiola's arrival but an own goal from Aleksandar Kolarov and a second from Dele Alli brought that run to an end in North London.

A lightning start to the game at White Hart Lane saw Son Heung-Min force his way into the box after beating a marker before firing wide of the target after just 24 seconds.

City then created a chance of their own down the other end, with David Silva just missing a flick from a few yards out following Jesus Navas' ball into the box.

By the ninth minute, Tottenham had raced into the lead as Danny Rose whipped in a dangerous delivery which Kolarov inadvertently sliced into the back of his own net.

And Spurs followed that goal up immediately with another attack against a stunned City that saw Son played into the box, only for the South Korean to be denied by Claudio Bravo at the near post.

The home side continued their early onslaught as they won a free kick right on the edge of City's area, with Christian Eriksen bending the ball over the wall but just wide of Bravo's goal. After their sloppy start, City soon weathered the storm and began to get a foothold in the game, with Sergio Aguerro going close from a free kick, only

to be thwarted by a save from Hugo Lloris.

However, it was not long before Tottenham doubled their lead in the 37th minute through Alli, who slotted home perfectly after Son had spotted his run into the box with an excellent ball.

The hosts started the second half like they started the first with a Son long-range strike drifting just over the bar, before Victor Wanyama then saw a hit from distance turned round the post by Bravo.

City, though, came close to pulling one back when Fernandinho played Aguerro into the box, but Lloris was able to divert the ball onto the woodwork.

The visitors struggled to build on that chance and force themselves back into the game, though Spurs wasted their own opportunity to put the result beyond doubt.

Alli won the home side a penalty in the 65th minute after being brought down in the area by Fernandinho, but Bravo was able to save the resulting spot kick from Erik Lamela.

Kelechi Iheanacho was thrown on for City by Guardiola and nearly made an impact with 15 minutes remaining on the clock, latching onto Silva's ball before being denied by Lloris, who was quick off his line to make the stop.

And Lloris was soon called into action again, this time tipping Aguerro's strike over the bar, with Ilkay Gundogan also firing high and wide as City tried but failed to pull a goal back late on.

(Source: ESPN)

## Bremen confirm Nouri appointment

SV Werder Bremen have announced that Alexander Nouri will remain first team coach until the end of the season.

The former coach of Werder's Under-23 side had been looking after first-team affairs on an interim basis following the departure of Viktor Skripnik. Now, after helping the team pick up four points from their last two games, Nouri will remain in charge for the rest of the 2016/17 campaign.

"Alexander Nouri has shown in recent

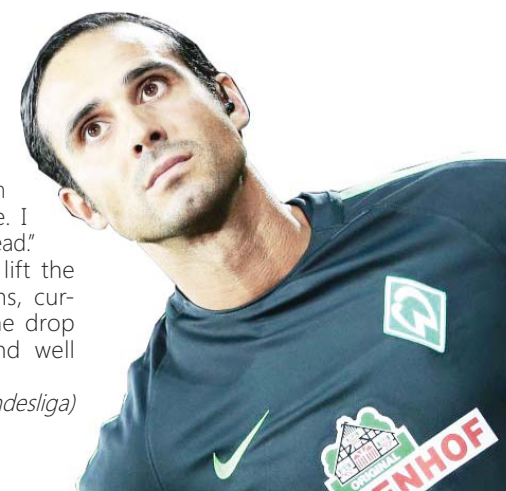
weeks that he has the respect of the team and has done an excellent job," said Werder CEO Frank Baumann. "We decided he should get the opportunity to continue the work he has started."

After his first game in charge, Nouri led the wild celebrations that accompanied Werder's last-minute victory over VfL Wolfsburg. That first win of the season was followed up by a well-deserved and hard-fought draw away to SV Darmstadt 98 on Matchday 6.

"It is a huge challenge but together we can rise to it successfully," said Nouri. "We have a great squad, a motivated coaching team and a fantastic infrastructure here. I am looking forward to the task ahead."

That task will initially be to lift the four-time Bundesliga champions, currently only one place above the drop zone, further up the table and well clear of relegation trouble.

(Source: Bundesliga)



# Iran names squad for World Cup qualifiers against Uzbekistan, S. Korea



**SPORTS** Carlos Queiroz has named his 25-man Iran squad for the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualification tournament with Uzbekistan and South Korea in Group A.

Iran will travel to Tashkent to face Uzbekistan on October 6 and will host South Korea five days later in Tehran's Azadi Stadium.

Team Melli has been drawn along with South Korea, Uzbekistan, China, Qatar and Syria in Group A of the third round of the competition.

Asian powerhouse Japan has been pitted against Aus-

tralia, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq and Thailand in Group B.

The winner and runner-up of each group (four teams in total) will qualify for the 2018 FIFA World Cup, while the third-placed teams of each group (two teams in total) will head to the play-off round of the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifiers.

The winner of the Asian play-off round will then face twice the fourth-placed squad in the fifth round of the Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) qualifying games.

## Iran squad:

Goalkeepers: Alireza Beiranvand, Alireza Haghighi, Mohammadreza Akhbari

Defenders: Vouria Ghafouri, Ramin Rezaeian, Milad Mohammadi, Saeid Aghaei, Jalal Hosseini, Morteza Pouraliganji, Ezatollah Pourghaz, Mohammad Ansari

Midfielders: Ehsan Haji Safi, Andranik Teymourian, Saeid Ezatollahi, Omid Ebrahimi, Mehdi Torabi, Alireza Jahanbakhsh, Vahid Amiri, Soroush Rafiei, Ashkan Dejagah, Masoud Shojaei

Strikers: Reza Ghoochannejhad, Sardar Azmoun, Mehdi Taremi and Karim Ansarifard

## IOC President Bach sends condolences over death of Golbarnezhad

**SPORTS** International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach sent his condolences to the family of Iranian Paracyclist Bahman Golbarnezhad.

Golbarnezhad died following a crash in the men's C4/C5 road race at the Rio Paralympics.

The 48-year-old Paracyclist, who also competed at the London 2012 Games, had finished in 14th place in the time-trial in Paralympics. He was Iran's sole cyclist in Rio.

"Our sympathy goes to the family of Bahman Golbarnezhad, his friends and the entire Iran Paralympic team. Our thoughts are with his family," Bach said.



## Time to support Team Melli: Carlos Queiroz

**SPORTS** Iran national football team head coach Carlos Queiroz says that it's time to support Team Melli ahead of two vital matches with Uzbekistan and South Korea.

Iran has been scheduled to meet Uzbekistan in Tashkent on October 6 in the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualification tournament. Iran will also face South Korea five days later at the Azadi Stadium in Tehran.

"Time to continue our work. Time to make the IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE and, after Brazil, fight for a historical consecutive World Cup qualification for Iran National Team. We will face top rivals. The time is now, it is time to develop the best support for this group. As always, we now we can count with you all. Wish all the players and you the best," Queiroz said.



## Iranian snooker players shine in Asian Billiard Sports Championship

Iranian cueists have won three medals, including one gold, at the first edition of Asian Billiard Sports Championship in the United Arab Emirates.

The cueists exhibited inspiring displays of agility and deliberation on Saturday, with Akram Mohammadi Amini participating in the Single Women 9-Ball Pool Games of the continental sporting event in Fujairah on the eastern coast of the UAE. She earned a bronze medal, having lost 2-9 to Chen Siming from China.

Her achievement brought an end to the Islamic Republic of Iran's years-long wait to clinch a medal in the women's division of Asian championships.

It came a day after the Iranian men's national snooker team of Amir Sarkhosh and Soheil Vahedi went down to the Pakistani pair Muhammad Asif and Babar Masih 3-1 (88-40, 76-14, 20-76, 74-15) to emerge runners-up of the



men's snooker team event.

Sarkhosh had earlier defeated Omar Alajlani of Saudi Arabia 5-3 in the final match of Single 15-Red event, and claimed a gold medal.

The Iranian sportsman had drubbed Pakistan's Muhammad Asif 5-0 in the semifinal encounter.

The first edition of the Asian Billiard Sports Championship, organized by the Asian Confederation of Billiard Sports (ACBS) and hosted by the UAE Billiards & Snooker Association (UAEBSA), began in Fujairah on September 24 and will finish on October 2.

A total of 223 players from 17 countries are participating in the event, which has seen competition in 11 disciplines including English Billiards Men (100 Points Format), Carom One Cushion, Carom Three Cushion, 9 Ball Pool Men, 9 Ball Pool Women, 9 Ball Pool Double and Chinese 8 Ball. Others are Snooker Single Men (15 Reds), Snooker Team Men, Snooker Single Men (6 Reds) and Snooker Single Women (6 Reds).

(Source: PressTV)

## AFC President Shaikh Salman praises Iran futsal for record-breaking performance

Asian Football Confederation (AFC) President Shaikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa has offered his heartfelt congratulations to Islamic Republic of Iran for producing Asia's best-ever performance at the FIFA Futsal World Cup after they beat Portugal on penalties to finish third in Colombia on Saturday.

"On behalf of the Asian football family, I would like to congratulate the Islamic Republic of Iran for their spectacular displays, commendable resolve and consistency throughout the competition.

"As articulated in our Vision and Mis-

sion, IR Iran have proven that Asian teams can not only compete but dominate the world's biggest stages. I hope that IR Iran's achievement will inspire more Asian teams to scale new heights in world futsal.

"IR Iran are now a dominant force in world futsal and their success in the FIFA Futsal World Cup Colombia 2016 is a testament to the culmination of years of hard work and commitment of everyone at the Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran."

In the Round of 16, IR Iran produced one of the biggest upsets after eliminating

FIFA Futsal World Cup Thailand 2012 winners Brazil, 3-2 on penalties, after a hard-fought 4-4 draw in extra time.

Later, IR Iran became the first Asian team since 1992 to reach the semi-finals of the FIFA Futsal World Cup when they overcame a resilient Paraguay side 4-3 in the quarter-final.

Again, the Iranians defeated their opponents on penalties, beating Portugal 4-3 after a 2-2 draw in extra time to clinch a third-place finish.

(Source: AFC)



## Iran wins bronze medal at FIFA Futsal World Cup

Iran's remarkable journey at the FIFA Futsal World Cup Colombia 2016 ended on a high note, as they claimed third place after a 4-3 penalty shootout win over Portugal following a 2-2 draw in Cali on Saturday.

The Iranians came from two goals down to take the third-place match to a dramatic penalty shootout, where six rounds of spot kicks were needed to decide the contest.

The first half had the feeling of a friendly, with both goalkeepers in Iran's Alireza Samimi and Portugal's Bebe being the standout performers in the opening period.

Both sides created a good opportunity to open the scoring. Ahmad Esmaeilpour had Iran's best chance, but his chip over Bebe also sailed over the crossbar. At the other end, Samimi did well to deny Cardinal at close range.

Where the first half was fairly tepid, the second half came to life, as Cardinal scored a quick-fire brace within the first minute of the restart for Portugal. He showed great patience to beat the onrushing Samimi to open the scoring before combining with captain Richardinho to make it 2-0.

Then an ugly melee that involved both sets of players in the Portugal half produced a pair of red cards, as Iran's Mohammadreza Sangsefidi and Portugal's Miguel Castro were given their marching orders.

It was at that stage that Iran turned the match around. Afshin Kazemi pulled the Asian champions back into the game with an assured finish before Mahdi Javid converted a second penalty past Portugal's back-up goalkeeper Vitor Hugo to send the contest to a penalty shootout after the full time whistle.

It required six rounds of penalties to decide this encounter. Iran's back-up goalkeeper Sepehr Mohammadi made a pair of big saves, but his team-mates twice hit the woodwork with their spot-kick efforts.

Then after Portugal's Joao Matos hit the post with his sixth-round penalty, Javid stepped up to convert his spot-kick and ensure Iran's best-ever finish to a Futsal World Cup, surpassing their fourth-place accomplishment at Hong Kong 1992.

(Source: FIFA)



## Iranian sportsmen claim more medals in Asian Beach Games

Iranian sportsmen have delivered fine performances at the fifth edition of the Asian Beach Games in Vietnam and pocketed three more medals, including two silver ones.

On Saturday, Sambo practitioner Yousef Karimiyan failed to overcome Kyrgyz contestant Urmat Mambetzhon Uulu in the title clash of men's minus 74-kilogram class, and fetched the silver medal for Iran.



Akbar Kiyaniyan claimed another silver for Iran in the 65-kilogram to 70-kilogram weight class of Pencak silat competitions.

Pencak silat is an umbrella term for a class of martial arts originating in Indonesia. It is a full-body fighting form incorporating strikes, grappling and throwing in addition to weaponry.

Earlier in the tournament, 28-year-old Iraj Amirkhani prevailed over Keven Nicolaos from Lebanon in his Friday repechage, and snatched a Sambo bronze medal.

Sambo is a Russian martial art and combat sport. There are three main formats recognized by the Federation International Amateur Sambo (FIAS), namely Sport Sambo, Combat Sambo and Freestyle Sambo.

Sport Sambo is stylistically similar to Olympic Freestyle Wrestling or Judo, but with some differences in rules, protocol, and uniform.

Combat Sambo resembles modern mixed martial arts, including extensive forms of striking and grappling. It was developed for military purposes.

Freestyle Sambo, which was created and debuted by the American Sambo Association (ASA) in 2004, focuses on throwing skills and fast ground work, and does not allow any strikes.

The 5th edition of Asian Beach Games began in the south-central Vietnamese city of Da Nang on September 24 and will finish on October 3.

Iranian athletes have already clinched 16 medals, six gold, four silver and six bronze medals, placing the Islamic Republic in the fifth spot of the medal count table.

Vietnam stands atop the medal count table with 120 medals, 42 gold, 36 silver, and 42 bronze medals.

Thailand is second with 85 medals, 34 gold, 22 silver, and 29 bronze medals, and China is third with a total of 46 medals, 12 gold, 16 silver and 18 bronze medals.

(Source: PressTV)



### Poem of the day

O bird of the morning, learn love from the moth  
Because it burnt, lost its life, and found no voice.  
Sadi

### Prayer Times

Noon: 11:53 Evening: 6:03 Dawn: 4:38 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:02 (tomorrow)

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## Rey to host conference on poet Naser Khosrow

**CULTURE TEHRAN** — Rey, a historical town in southern Tehran, will host a conference on Iranian poet and theologian Naser Khosrow Qubadiani (1004-c.1072/77) on Wednesday.



The one-day conference, which will be held at Farhanian University, aims to scrutinize Naser Khosrow's allusions to Rey in his most-celebrated prose work, Safar-nameh ("Book of Travel"), a diary describing his seven-year journey.

The book has been translated into English under the title of "Diary of a Journey Through Syria and Palestine".

A book fair, calligraphy workshop, literary contest and several other programs will be organized on the sidelines of the conference, which will be organized in collaboration with the National Library and Archives of Iran.

Naser Khosrow is also the author of the Rawshanai-nameh ("Book of Light"), which contains his philosophical poetry.

He also wrote more than a dozen treatises expounding the doctrines of the Ismailis, among them the Jami' al-Hikmatayn ("Union of the Two Wisdoms"), in which he attempted to harmonize Ismaili theology and Greek philosophy.

## Brad Pitt to have drug tests in deal with Jolie to see kids

**NEW YORK (Reuters)** — Brad Pitt will undergo drug and alcohol tests as part of a temporary agreement with his estranged wife Angelina Jolie that will allow him to see their six children, two people familiar with the agreement said on Friday.

The temporary agreement, which will run until Oct. 20, was the first breakthrough in the bitter split between the superstar couple since Jolie filed for divorce on Sept. 20. The actress cited "the health of the family" and sought full physical custody of the children.

Pitt, 52, and Jolie, 41, both agreed to undergo individual counseling, and Pitt's initial visit with the children will take place with a therapist, said the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

No ruling or decision has been made on who will eventually have legal or physical custody, they said.

Representatives of Pitt and Jolie did not return calls for comment on Friday.

Media reports say that since their separation on Sept. 15, Pitt has not seen the three biological and three adopted children he had with Jolie.

The couple, dubbed Brangelina during their decade-long romance, split following an incident on a private plane in which Pitt was reported to have lost his temper in front of one or more of the children. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has said it is evaluating whether to pursue an investigation into the matter.

Both stars have laid low since the announcement of their divorce. Pitt this week skipped the red carpet premiere in Los Angeles of his latest movie project, saying he wanted to focus on his "family situation."

Pitt's next film is the November war drama "Allied" in which he stars with French actress Marion Cotillard. Cotillard last week issued a statement strongly denying any involvement in Pitt's divorce after rumors that they became romantically involved during filming.

## Edward Snowden film premieres in Hong Kong

**HONG KONG (REUTERS)** — The new movie "Snowden" held its premiere in Hong Kong on Friday (September 30) night.

The asylum-seeking family who, at one point, hid the U.S. whistle-blower in their Hong Kong apartment after he fled his country, attended the premiere of the film, which tells the story of the former U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) intelligence contractor.

Edward Snowden's lawyer in Hong Kong, Jonathan Man, pointed out his client was actually helped by people who were also stateless.

The movie was shot by U.S. director Oliver Stone, known for his controversial revisions of key moments in American history and raising questions about U.S. government accountability.

Snowden leaked details about the US government's massive surveillance programs and was granted asylum in Russia, after fleeing the United States in 2013.

Supporters see him as a whistle-blower who boldly exposed government excess. But the U.S. government has filed espionage charges against him for leaking intelligence information.

The film is based on two books about Snowden written by The Guardian journalist Luke Harding and Snowden's Russian lawyer, Anatoly Kucherena.

# "Tell Nothing", "From Deceitful Age" honored at House of Music Celebration

**ART TEHRAN** — "Tell Nothing" and "From Deceitful Age", two albums of Iranian traditional music, have shared the award for best album at the 17th House of Music Celebration.

"Tell Nothing" ("Hich Magu") composed by Ehsan Zabihifar contains songs by young vocalist Mojtaba Asgari. The album was recorded at Mahur, a major label in Tehran.

"From Deceitful Age" produced by the Sepido-Siah Ensemble features Vahid Taj on vocals. The album has been composed by Kurosh Danai, Surena Safai and Maryam Rezanejadani.

The celebration attended by a large number of elite Iranian musicians began with performances by Iranian folk groups and the Iranian Artists Forum Orchestra at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on Saturday night.

As the keynote speaker, House of Music Managing Director Hamidreza Nurbakhsh made critical remarks about unemployment among young musicians and the local legal prohibition on public performances by female musicians.

He also lamented about the chain of cancellations of concerts under pressure from certain people and asked Iranian officials to find solutions for these obstacles.

Six veteran musicians and experts were honored with awards for their lifetime achievements.

Composer and santur virtuoso Milad Kiai, instrument maker Farman Moradi and music scholar Seyyed Abbas Sajjadi, who was the anchor of Dastan, a popular TV program on music, were



A combo photo shows vocalists Vahid Taj (L) and Mojtaba Asgari accepting awards during the 17th House of Music Celebration at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on October 1, 2016.



among the honorees.

In addition, flutist Azin Movahhed, violinist Siavash Zahreddini and composer Loris Tjknavorian received lifetime achievement awards.

The award for best writer was shared by Sasan Fatemi for "Musical Celebrations in Tehran's Urban

Cultures" and Sina Sadeqi for "A Stained Glass Window".

Hossein Yasini received the award for best translator for his work on "The Improvisation of Musical Dialogue: A Phenomenology of Music" by Bruce Ellis Benson of Wheaton College in Illinois.

## Book of cartoons on Iran's negotiating team on nuclear deal unveiled in Tehran

**ART TEHRAN** — A book containing cartoons and satirical poems about Foreign Minister Mohammad-Javad Zarif and other members of Iran's negotiating team on the nuclear deal was unveiled during a ceremony at Tehran's Niavaran Cultural Center on Saturday.

Entitled "Delicate Dimension of Negotiations", the book has been published under the auspicious of Niavaran Cultural Center Director Seyyed Abbas Sajjadi.

The word delicate refers to the meaning of the Persian word 'zarif', and negotiations highlight the nuclear deal that Iran signed with the 5+1 group (the U.S., UK, France, Russia, China and Germany) in July 2015.

"I do not deserve this much kindness and respect. It is the culture of sacrifice, resistance and martyrdom that has preserved this country and has found its way into works by satirists in their poetry and cartoons," Zarif said at the ceremony.

"We need to have the power to criticize and accept criticism in a society that is based on friendship, and it is so beautiful to put forth criticism with the language of satire."

"Today, it is the day of expressing thanks to the artists. They lead the society towards more understanding through the language of satire and criticism," Zarif said.

In his brief remarks Sajjadi said that the book is a combination of cartoons and poetry to narrate



a part of this national epic.

A number of artists and poets attended the unveiling ceremony.

### PICTURE OF THE DAY © Mehr/Masud Saki



Ehsan Karami (L) and Sina Raazani perform a short play about the life story of Davud Rashidi during a ceremony organized in memory of the recently deceased actor at Tehran's City Theater Complex on October 1, 2016.

## Fourth Intl. Art Festival of Resistance set for late autumn

**ART TEHRAN** — The Fourth International Art Festival of Resistance will be held in late autumn in the four categories of painting, poster, sculpture, as well as cartoon and caricature this year, secretary of the festival Habibollah Sadeqi says.

He made the remarks in the press conference held at the Osveh Art and Cultural Center on Sunday.

"Due to a lack of budget, the organizers have decided to hold the festival in fewer categories, although we know the photo section will be missed in this edition this time," he added.

He also said that the festival will take place in the Saba Art and Cultural Institute during the last month of autumn in collaboration with the Iranian Academy of Arts.

Executive director of the festival Mohammad Habibi also said that works from 70 countries will go on display at the fourth edition of the festival.

## Missing Van Gogh paintings turn up in Italian mafia country house

**AMSTERDAM/ROME (Reuters)** — Two stolen Vincent Van Gogh paintings worth millions of euros were found in an Italian country house belonging to an alleged mafia drug smuggler, police said on Friday, 14 years after they disappeared in a daring heist in Amsterdam.

Italian investigators displayed the recovered artworks - a sea scene and a church where the painter's father was minister - to reporters in Naples, saying each was worth an estimated 50 million euros (\$56 million).

"It is a great day for us today to see the works and to know that they are safe and that they are in safe hands," said

Axel Ruger, director of Amsterdam's Van Gogh museum, who was present when the paintings were shown to reporters.

"We may have to be a bit patient, but we hope that we will have them soon back where they belong," he said, adding the museum would respect Italian legal procedures.

Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi informed his Dutch counterpart Mark Rutte about the police operation before the funeral in Jerusalem of former Israeli leader Shimon Peres, a source in Renzi's office said.

The paintings were found wrapped in cloth inside a safe in a country house south of Naples that prosecutors

said belonged to Raffaele Imperiale, a 41-year-old businessman accused in January of running an international cocaine trafficking ring together with high-ranking mobsters from a clan made famous in the 2008 film "Gomorra".

Imperiale is a fugitive and Italian investigators suspect he is living and running a construction business in Dubai. But the arrests of 11 members of his alleged ring in January, including one man who turned state's witness, led investigators to the paintings.

Along with the artworks, which Naples prosecutor Giovanni Colangelo said were probably purchased with drug

proceeds, police seized a small airplane, boats, 49 properties, and 88 bank accounts worth some 20 million euros.

The paintings vanished in 2002 after a heist in which thieves used a ladder to climb onto the Van Gogh Museum's roof and break into the building. They escaped by sliding down a rope in a robbery considered by the U.S. FBI as one of the top ten global art crimes.

Two men were later caught and convicted of the theft thanks in part to DNA evidence linking them to the scene. They were sentenced to 4 years and 4 years, six months, respectively, but the paintings were not recovered.