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SEO aims to draw more global investors

By Ebrahim Fallahi

TEHRAN — One of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO)'s main goals are to attract more foreign investors to the country's capital market through holding a series of international conferences to introduce this market, SEO Head Shapour Mohammadi told the Tehran Times in an interview on the sidelines of the 23rd Press Exhibition on Sunday.

"SEO is pursuing this goal through holding a series of international conferences to introduce the country's capital market as good as possible," Mohammadi said.

For instance, the official mentioned a seminar called "Iran Capital Market: Higher Diversity, Higher Return" to be held on Kish Island, southern Iran, on Tuesday. ➔4

Military chief: Iran will surely quit nuclear deal if sanctions return

POLITICS

TEHRAN — Major General Mohammad Bagheri, the chief of staff of the Iranian armed forces, said on Monday that Iran will definitely quit the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) if sanctions return.

"It is the Islamic Republic of Iran's deci-

sion to accept some restrictions in the nuclear area to enjoy removal of nuclear-related sanctions, but if the sanctions return, it will make no sense to stay in the JCPOA," he told a conference on passive defense.

He noted that the JCPOA is a multilateral agreement which was achieved after months of diplomatic efforts and approved by the UN Security Council. ➔2

New round of Syria talks begins in Astana

A new round of Syria peace talks brokered by Iran, Russia, and Turkey has begun in Kazakhstan's capital of Astana.

It is the seventh round of talks in what is referred to as the Astana peace process for Syria.

Delegations from the Syrian government and armed opposition groups as well as the three guarantor states are present at the talks. So are

representatives from the United Nations, Jordan, and the United States, according to reports.

The Iranian delegation, headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Jaber Ansari, arrived in the Kazakh capital on Sunday.

Expert-level talks began the same day, and the high-level talks will continue until Tuesday. ➔13

Iran to firmly respond to new sanctions, threats

TEHRAN (MNA) — Head of Iran's Passive Defense Organization Brig. Gen. Gholamreza Jalali said the Islamic Republic of Iran should give a decisive response to new sanctions and threats.

The commander made the remarks on Monday morning while addressing a National Conference on Passive Defense underway in Tehran.

Pointing to recent anti-Iran statements by the US Brig. Gen. Jalali said breach of promise in JCPOA and seeking excuses for visiting Iran's military and missile centers all indicate to a new American strategy to oppose the Islamic Revolution.

"In a bid to counter expansion of Iran's influence inside the region, the US is supporting the ISIL and, at the same time, declares that Iran's actions are causing insecurity in the region."

The official went on to underlined that enemies of the Islamic Revolution have chosen and officially announced three strategies of economic war, people-centered threats and cyber attacks.

Head of Iran's Passive Defense Organization later elaborated on people-centered threat as a new strategy adopted by enemies against Iran saying "the US, as part of its new threats, is seeking to create a

The head of the country's non-operational defense organization on a people-centered threat strategy against the Islamic regime said that the United States is trying to create a bipolarity of people against security.

Referring to new Senate sanctions against Iran, the commander said the new bill covers IRGC and all companies associated with it including Khatam al-Anbiya Construction Headquarter which has provided many services to the Iranian nation and government. Banks working with IRGC have been also put on the sanctions list which is a dangerous move.

Brig. Gen. stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran should respond to new sanctions and threats in order to prevent implementation of new sanctions.

Iran fulfilling nuclear deal commitments - IAEA chief

ABU DHABI (Reuters) — Iran is fulfilling its commitments under the nuclear deal with world powers and UN inspectors are facing no problems in their verification efforts, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) director-general said on Monday.

U.S. President Donald Trump said earlier this month that he would not continue to certify the multinational 2015 agreement, reached under his predecessor Barack Obama, and warned that he might ultimately terminate it.

Iran would abandon the agreement if it were deemed not to be serving its national interests, President Hassan Rouhani said in reaction to Trump's decision. But he also said,

"No president can revoke an international deal...(and) Iran will continue to honor its commitments under the deal."

The other parties to the accord - Britain, Germany, France, Russia, China and the European Union - have all reaffirmed their commitment to it and urged the United States not to back out.

IAEA chief Yukiya Amano, whose inspectors are tasked with monitoring compliance with the deal, reiterated that Iran was adhering to it.

"The IAEA can state that such nuclear-related commitments are being implemented," Amano told a news conference in Abu Dhabi following a trip to Iran on Sunday where he

met with Rouhani and other officials.

"I requested that Iran ... fully implement the nuclear-related commitments. This (was) the main thrust of the meeting in Iran ... Regarding the activities of our inspectors, they are discharging their responsibility without problem," he said.

Amano added that he had told Iranian officials the nuclear deal was a "significant gain for verification".

Speaking on the sidelines of an international conference on nuclear power in the United Arab Emirates, Amano declined comment on U.S. policy towards Iran and on Iran's absence from the meeting, which draws together IAEA member states.

U.S. Treasury dispels rumors of Turkish bank sanctions over Iran

U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has said he did not threaten to sanction Turkish banks in a recent conversation with a senior government official, quieting rumors that had jarred that country's markets earlier this week.

"Turkey is not the focus right now, for the moment," Mnuchin told the Wall Street Journal and other reporters traveling with him on a trip through the Middle East.

Amid an escalation of U.S. sanctions against Iran for its ballistic missile program, Turkish media reported that the U.S. would sanction six Turkish banks that maintained business relations with Iran's sanctioned military unit.

"There is no truth to those rumors," Mnuchin said. "I did have discussions with them [on the sidelines of a global finance ministers' meeting in Washington earlier this month] but I did not have specific conversations on sanctions."

Mnuchin's comments come in the wake of a volatile week for Turkish assets. Stocks, bonds and the lira fell after a report in a local newspaper earlier this month said six Turkish banks may face penalties resulting from a U.S. investigation into their dealings with Iran, even after regulators denied the news and the publisher pulled the story, Bloomberg reported.

Earlier, Turkey's banking regulator had urged the public to ignore rumors about financial institutions, dismissing reports that some Turkish banks face billions of dollars of U.S. fines over alleged violations of Iran sanctions.

In an effort to address some of the concerns, Turkish Economy Minister Nihat Zeybekci said Halkbank, a state lender that acted as a medium of payments for imports from Iran, did nothing in violation of U.S. sanctions against Tehran.

Mnuchin is on a six-day visit to the region to discuss the U.S. administration's new Iran strategy.



Tehran Times/ Shahabodin Ghayoumi

Environmental scientist Madani visits press expo

Renowned Iranian scientist and environmental activist Kaveh Madani, who serves as the deputy chief of the Department of Environment for international affairs, paid a visit to the Tehran Times pavilion at the 23rd Press Exhibition in Tehran on Monday.

In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times, Madani explained his reasons for taking up office, his job description and future endeavors both in water sector and cultivating international cooperation.

Saudi Arabia to extract uranium for 'self-sufficient' nuclear program

The House of Saud regime plans to extract uranium domestically as part of its nuclear power program and sees this as a step towards "self-sufficiency" in producing atomic fuel, a senior official said on Monday.

Extracting its own uranium also makes sense from an economic point of view, said Hashim bin Abdullah Yamani, head of the Saudi regime agency tasked with the nuclear plans, the King Abdullah City for Atomic and Renewable Energy (KACARE).

In a speech at an international nuclear power conference in Abu Dhabi, he did not specify whether Saudi Arabia seeks to also enrich and reprocess uranium - steps in the fuel cycle which are especially sensitive as they can open up the possibility of military uses of the material.

The world's top oil exporter says it wants to tap atomic power for peaceful purposes only in order to diversify its energy supply and will award a construction contract for its first two nuclear reactors by the end of 2018.

"Regarding the production of uranium in the kingdom, this is a program which is our first step towards self-sufficiency in producing nuclear fuel," Yamani told a conference organized by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). "We utilize the uranium ore that has been proven to be economically efficient."

Atomic reactors need uranium enriched to around 5 percent purity but the same technology in this process can also be used to enrich the heavy metal to higher, weapons-grade levels.

The House of Saud regime would be the second country in the Persian Gulf Arab states to tap nuclear after the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which is set to start up its first, South Korean-built reactor in 2018. The UAE has committed not to enrich uranium itself and not to reprocess spent fuel.

Industry sources have told Reuters Saudi Arabia is reaching out to potential vendors from South Korea, China, France, Russia, Japan and the United States for its first two reactors. ➔13

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

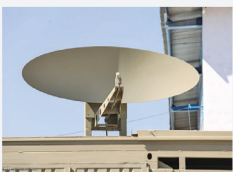


President Rouhani turned down a meeting with Trump

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi said on Sunday that President Hassan Rouhani rebuffed a request from the White House to meet U.S. President Donald Trump while in New York for the 72nd UN General Assembly in September.

"Such a meeting was suggested by the American side, but was not accepted by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani," Qassemi said.

He also denied reports that French President Emmanuel Macron had been prepared to mediate a meeting between the two leaders.



Iran unveils advanced radar system

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — In a ceremony held in Shiraz on Monday Iran unveiled an advanced radar system, dubbed Afagh, IRIB news reported.

Speaking at the event, Defense Minister Amir Hatami said the radar system was produced by SaShiraz experts who work for a branch of the Defense Ministry.

On Tuesday, Iranian forces will be holding air drills with fighter jets testing their newest weapons, General Massoud Roozkhosh said on Monday.

Iran's Air Force holds annual war games in a bid to boost capabilities to defend the country's airspace.



Top judge deplores Congress sanctions on Iran

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Sadeq Amoli Larijani on Monday railed against recent U.S. Congress sanctions against Iran, saying Washington has pursued such a failed policy for decades.

Speaking at a meeting of high-ranking judiciary officials in Tehran, Amoli Larijani said the Congress has turned out to be a "sanctions machine", Tasnim reported.

"They (U.S. officials) think they can put pressure on our nation through these measures, while they have repeated this failed experience for more than 30 years," the top judge remarked.



U.S. Iran policy decided in Tel Aviv: Mousavian

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Former Iranian nuclear negotiator Seyed Hossein Mousavian says Washington's policy toward the Islamic republic is shaped in Tel Aviv not Washington, ISNA reported on Monday.

Mousavian, a research scholar at Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School, made the remarks while addressing a special conference with leading U.S. policymakers and nuclear security analysts at Ploughshares Fund.

Mousavian said Donald Trump's policies showed that Washington places no value on its signature.

Despite repeated confirmations by the UN nuclear watchdog that Iran is abiding by its commitments under the nuclear agreement, Trump, in a speech on October 13, refused to certify Iran's nuclear compliance.

More Iran-Britain talks planned for coming months

Tehran-London relations at good level, Iran says

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi said on Monday that Tehran-London ties are at a good level and there will be more talks between the two countries in the coming months.

Qassemi made the remarks at a press conference in Tehran, Tehran Times correspondent reported.

"The talks are being well organized between the two capitals and will be held accordingly," he said.

The news comes nearly two years after Tehran and London reopened their embassies, following four years of diplomatic shutdown.

Answering a question on the possibility of negotiations over Iran's missile program, Qassemi said Iran's position on the issue is "crystal clear", noting Tehran won't participate in any negotiations over its defensive capabilities.

The comments came days after Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said Tehran has not held negotiations with other countries regarding its missile program, but "casual talks" were underway.



The spokesman said he was uninformed about the comments, and that they could be open to misinterpretation.

He also reiterated Tehran's firm stance on the issue.

The Islamic Republic should be able to defend itself against the enemies who have shown to be untrustworthy, he said, pointing to Iraq's invasion of Iran in the 1990s as a bitter experience which the Iranian nation will never forget.

"Historical experiences, imposed war,

regional issues, violation of agreements, and seditions have taught us that in defending the country we should rely on our capability," he explained.

Iran refers to Saddam's war against Iran which started in 1980 and lasted until 1988 as "imposed war".

He added Iran is not violating UN Resolution 2231 through missile testing.

Resolution 2231, which endorsed the Iran nuclear agreement, calls upon Tehran "not to undertake any activity

related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology."

Iran has repeatedly said that its missile program is only for defensive purposes.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said early October that Iran's missiles are all conventional and defensive in nature and Tehran keeps testing them to attain the highest precision, which is not a necessary feature for nuclear-tipped missiles.

In a press conference with Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop in Canberra on 15 March 2016, Zarif said, "Missiles are a means of our defense which we need as a country that has been subjected to eight years of war where everybody - people want to forget that but it's very difficult for Iranians to forget that. Eight years of war, everybody supported Saddam Hussein, nobody supported us. When he was showering our cities with missiles, some with chemical agents, nobody gave us a single missile to retaliate so that at least we could maintain the rights of our citizens for life."

Work on nuclear propulsion system has started, Iran says

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Behrooz Kamalvandi, spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, said on Monday that Iran has put nuclear-propulsion system for vessels on its agenda as part of efforts to counter the anti-Iran U.S. moves.

"The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran is implementing this plan, however, we cannot say that it will be unveiled in one year," Kamalvandi said during a press conference.

It takes four to five years to implement this plan, he noted.

"Four to five years of research and simulation are required to implement

this plan. Complicated steps in the area of fuel and reactor should be taken. Specialists are holding regular meetings whose details cannot be announced publicly and only some general information can be released," he said.

He also said the U.S. and Europeans are not happy with the implementation of the nuclear propulsion system, yet the Atomic Energy Organization has put it on the agenda.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani ordered in December 2016 the development of a nuclear-propulsion system for vessels in response to U.S. sanctions against Iran.

Military chief: Iran will surely quit nuclear deal if sanctions return

1 → Iran and the 5+1 group (the U.S., Britain, France, China, Russia plus Germany) signed the nuclear agreement in July 2015.

On July 20, 2015, the UN Security Council turned the JCPOA into international law by endorsing a resolution, setting the stage for the lifting of the Security Council sanctions against Iran.

■ Baqeri says Iran to reopen border crossing with Iraqi Kurdistan

On the sidelines of the conference, Baqeri also told reporters that Iran will reopen border crossing with the Iraqi Kurdistan in upcoming days.

Upon a request by the Iraqi government Iran closed its border with the Kurdistan Re-

gional Government (KRG) after Masoud Barzani pushed ahead with the independence referendum on September 25.

Baghdad described the voting as "illegal".

Kurdish leaders offered to freeze the referendum results and start dialogue with the central government in Baghdad, but Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi rejected that offer.

Abadi said he would accept only an annulment of the referendum and respect for the country's constitution.

On Sunday, Barzani announced in a letter that he would not seek an extension to his presidential term, which ends in four days.

Syria wants violation of Astana agreements addressed: Iran

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Jaber Ansari said on Monday that Syria has called for addressing violations of the agreements reached in previous rounds of talks in Astana between the government and opposition groups.

Jaber Ansari made the remarks as a new round of talks on the Syria conflict began in Astana, Kazakhstan, on Monday.

Iran, Turkey and Russia brokered the Astana dialogue on Syria and the first five rounds of the talks were held on January 23-24, February 15-16, March 14-15, May 3-4 and July 4-5.

The sixth round of talks were held on September 13-15.

Jaber Ansari arrived in Astana on Sunday to attend the seventh round of talks.

Iran and Syria have been supporting the Syrian gov-



Iranian and Syrian delegations meet in Astana as the 7th round of talks on the Syria crisis begins.

ernment while Turkey has been on the side of the opposition.

According to the Kazakh Foreign Ministry, on Monday the mediators – Iran, Russia, and Turkey – and op-

position forces held bilateral and trilateral talks.

"During the bilateral talks with the Syrian delegation headed by Bashar Jaafari [Syria's permanent representative to the UN], agenda of trilateral talks, latest developments in Syria and issues related to former agreements on Idlib were discussed," he told IRNA after a meeting with the Syrian delegation in Astana.

According to reports, delegations from the Syrian government and armed opposition groups as well as the three guarantor states are present at the talks. So are representatives from the UN, Jordan, and the U.S.

In the fourth round of the talks a document on creating de-escalation zones in Syria was signed.

According to the document, the de-escalation zones include Idlib province and part of the provinces of Latakia, Hama and Aleppo, the area to the north of Homs, Eastern Ghouta, as well as Deraa and Quneitra provinces in southern Syria.

second Announcement



NOTICE OF SINGLE- STAGE INTERNATIONAL TENDER

GOVERNMENT TRADING CORPORATION OF IRAN

The Government Trading Corporation of Iran (hereinafter referred to as GTC), affiliated to the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad of the Islamic Republic of Iran, intends to purchase 200 M/Ts 10 pct M/L unsalted lactic butter, through single stage international tender

All of qualified companies and suppliers who are interested to bid above tender are invited to receive tender documents from **30/10/ 2017** until **12/11/ 2017**

from the secretary of Trades&Tenders committee located on the 4th floor of GTC building no 2 , Iran,Tehran , Fatmei Ave .oppssit of Water and Wastewater Co. along with an official letter of introduction.

The bid participants are required to submit their stamped and sealed envelopes containing their offers latest **at 14:30 on Tuesday 12/12/2017** to the secretariat of tenders committee located on the 7th floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelopes will be held **on Tuesday 12/12/2017 at 15:00** with the presence of bidder's representatives in our purchasing committee (9th floor, No 12, Jahad Square, Tehran, Iran).

Bid bond: the bid bond worth **EUR 63,976 (IRR 2,460,000,000)** in cash or unconditional bank guarantee with three months validity and extendible for another three months.

For more information, you may refer to our website www.gtc-portal.com or contact us by phone no.**00982188957477**

(foreign trade department)

second Announcement



NOTICE OF SINGLE- STAGE INTERNATIONAL TENDER

GOVERNMENT TRADING CORPORATION OF IRAN

The Government Trading Corporation of Iran (hereinafter referred to as GTC), affiliated to the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad of the Islamic Republic of Iran, intends to purchase 60,000 M/Ts 10 pct M/L Raw Cane Sugar, through single stage international tender

All of qualified companies and suppliers who are interested to bid above tender are invited to receive tender documents from **30/10/ 2017** until **12/11/ 2017**

from the secretary of Trades&Tenders committee located on the 4th floor of GTC building no 2 , Iran,Tehran , Fatmei Ave .oppssit of Water and Wastewater Co. along with an official letter of introduction.

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Bid bond: the bid bond worth **EUR 373,718 (IRR 15,099,700,000)** in cash or unconditional bank guarantee with three months validity and extendible for another three months.

For more information, you may refer to our website www.gtc-portal.com or contact us by phone no.**00982188957477**

(foreign trade department)

Kurdistan's Barzani fires parting shots at U.S.

Masoud Barzani, who resigned as the president of Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region (Kurdistan Regional Government/KRG) on Sunday, has delivered pointed remarks against the United States for ditching its putative allies, the Kurds.

In a televised speech shortly after Kurdistan's regional parliament accepted his resignation, Barzani said no one had stood up to back Kurdish aspirations for separation.

Under Barzani's supervision, the KRG defied the central government in Baghdad by holding a referendum on secession on September 25. Baghdad reacted by saying that the results of the plebiscite had to be annulled and that Kurdistan had to turn over the control of its border posts to the federal government.

The Iraqi military also launched operations to drive Kurdish militants out of territory that they had overrun in the course of fighting against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist outfit but had refused to hand over after pushing the terrorists out.

The United States had voiced muted opposition to the Kurdish referendum before it was held. But the Kurds seemed to believe that once the vote was held, Washington would be faced with a fait accompli and would come out in support of the Kurdish ambitions to break up Iraq. It did not.

"Nobody stood up with us other than our mountains," Barzani said bitterly in his speech, standing in front of Kurdish and Iraqi flags.

"Why would Washington want to punish Kurdistan?" he said.

The U.S. has for long worked with the Kurds as its most trusted allies in the region. In neighboring Syria, the U.S. has been regarding Kurdish militants as its best regional partners in a purported fight against ISIL over the objections of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) ally Turkey.

Barzani, who was largely blamed for an injudicious decision to call the referendum at a time when the Iraqi government was busy fighting ISIL terrorists, said



American-supplied weapons had been used against Kurdish militants by the Iraqi forces.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi ordered military operations against Kurdish militants only after they defied several ultimatums to leave seized territory and after the KRG refused to annul the referendum results.

But days later, on Friday, Abadi also ordered a ceasefire to facilitate an agreement on the peaceful handover of all Kurdish border posts to federal forces.

In a statement on that same day, Abadi called Iraqi and Kurdish forces "children of the same country."

On October 16, the first day of the Iraqi military operations, federal forces retook control of the Kurdish-held city of Kirkuk.

Barzani said the forces in oil-rich Kirkuk, who largely left the Iraqi city on their own, had committed "high

treason" for handing over the city without a fight.

■ **Kurdish parties opposed to Barzani report attacks on offices overnight**

Meanwhile, Iraqi Kurdish political parties opposed to regional leader Masoud Barzani reported attacks on their offices in several cities overnight, hours after Barzani announced his resignation, brought low by a failed push for independence.

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK/Yekêtiya Nîrîtîmanî Kurdistan), the Movement for Change and Gorran said in separate statements several of their offices in the Duhok region, north of the Kurdish capital Erbil, were looted or burnt overnight. No casualties were reported. The semi-autonomous KRG in northern Iraq said it had ordered the local police forces, known as Asayish, to stop the attacks.

(Source: agencies)

Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey launch 'Silk Road' rail link

The leaders of Azerbaijan, Turkey and Georgia launched an 826-km rail link connecting the three countries on Monday, establishing a freight and passenger link between Europe and China that bypasses Russia.

The line, which includes 105 km of new track, will have the capacity to transport one million passengers and 5 million tons of freight.

The three countries are linked by the BP-led Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline and the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum gas line, but trade links between Turkey and the Caucasus region are limited. The new Baku-Tbilisi-Kars

railway (BTK) promises to provide an economic boost to the region.

"Baku-Tbilisi-Kars is part of a big Silk Road and it's important that we have implemented this project using our own funds," Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said at the railway's inauguration ceremony attended by Azeri President Ilham Aliyev and Georgian Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili.

Starting in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, trains will stop in the Georgian capital Tbilisi, pass through gauge-changing facilities in the Georgian town of Akhalkalaki

and end their journey in the Turkish town of Kars.

The project's total cost rose to more than \$1 billion from an initial estimate of about \$400 million. The bulk of that financing came from Azerbaijan's state oil fund.

The rail link between Azerbaijan and Georgia was modernized under the project, which was launched in 2007. Its completion had been postponed several times since 2011.

"Several European countries have expressed an interest in this project and Azerbaijan is in talks with them," Aliyev said,

adding Kazakhstan and other countries in Central Asia were interested in transporting their goods via the BTK.

The new link will reduce journey times between China and Europe to around 15 days, which is more than twice as fast as the sea route at less than half the price of flying.

Trains can depart from cities in China, cross into Kazakhstan at the Khorgos Gateway, be transported across the Caspian Sea by ferry to the New Port of Baku and then be loaded directly onto the BTK and head to Europe.

(Source: Reuters)

Ex-Trump campaign manager Manafort surrenders to FBI

Paul Manafort, a former campaign manager for the United States President Donald Trump, surrendered to federal authorities on Monday in the first charges stemming from a special counsel investigation of possible Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, according to media reports. Manafort arrived at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Washington field office, television video showed. He was to surrender to federal authorities, the New York Times and CNN reported, citing sources.

The charges against Manafort would be the first arising from the investigation by Justice Department special counsel Robert Mueller, who was appointed to look into alleged Russian meddling to sway the election in favor of Trump.

The charges against Manafort would include tax fraud, according to the Wall Street Journal.

A federal grand jury issued the indictment on Friday and a federal judge ordered it sealed, a source briefed on the matter told Reuters, adding it could be unsealed as soon as Monday. Manafort associate Rick Gates would also surrender, the Times reported.

Lawyers for Gates and Manafort would not immediately return calls for comment.

Manafort, 68, served the Trump campaign from June to August of 2016 before resigning amid reports he may have received millions in illegal payments from a pro-Russian political party in Ukraine.

Mueller has been investigating Manafort's financial and real estate dealings and his prior work for that political group, the Party of Regions, which backed former Ukrainian Leader Viktor Yanukovich, sources have told Reuters.

Investigators also examined potential money launder-



ing by Manafort and other possible financial crimes, according to the sources.

Gates was a long-time business partner of Manafort and has ties to many of the same Russian and Ukrainian oligarchs. He also served as deputy to Manafort during his brief tenure as Trump's campaign chairman.

Trump has denied any allegations of collusion with the Russians and called the probe "a witch hunt." The Kremlin also has denied the allegations.

Just before the Manafort report came out, Trump senior adviser Kellyanne Conway insisted any charges would not necessarily implicate Trump or his campaign.

"Whatever happens today with the Mueller investiga-

tion, we don't even know that it has anything to do with the campaign," Conway said on Fox.

The Russia investigation has cast a shadow over Trump's 9-month-old presidency and widened the partisan rift between Republicans and Democrats.

U.S. intelligence agencies concluded in January that Russia interfered in the election to try to help Trump defeat Democrat Hillary Clinton by hacking and releasing embarrassing emails and disseminating propaganda via social media to discredit her.

Mueller is also investigating whether Trump campaign officials colluded with the Russian efforts.

(Source: Reuters)

Bahrain calls for 'freeze' of Qatar's PGCC membership

Bahrain will not attend the next Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) summit if Qatar attends, the Bahraini foreign minister said in a series of tweets, in which he also called for Doha to be suspended from the bloc.

In the posts made late on Sunday night, Khalid al-Khalifa said Qatar's membership of the bloc should be frozen until it submits to demands made by the House of Saud regime, Bahrain, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"Bahrain will not attend the PGCC summit and sit with Qatar ... The right step needed to maintain the PGCC is to

freeze Qatar's membership until it comes to its senses and complies with our list of demands," Khalifa said.

"Given what comes from Qatar, from its rogue policy and pervasive evil nature that threatens our national security, our countries have taken the important step of boycotting Qatar and imposing a siege on it," he added.

Khalifa's tweets are the first admission by a member of the quartet that they are besieging Qatar after previously claiming there was merely a boycott of the country and that Doha had no grounds to complain.

The comments were made shortly af-

ter the broadcast of a CBS interview with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, in which he condemned attempts to encroach on his country's sovereignty.

"Our sovereignty is a red line. We don't accept anybody interfering our sovereignty. When you tell me to close a channel like Al Jazeera, history will write one day in 50, 60 or 70 years how it changed the whole idea of free speech in the region," Sheikh Tamim said of the demands.

Bahrain and its allies, which have imposed a land, sea, and air blockade on Qatar since June, accuse Doha of supporting terrorist groups.

Demands made by the quartet include

suspension of support for groups, such as the Muslim Brotherhood, cooling of ties with Iran, shutting down Al Jazeera and several other media outlets, and the removal of Turkish troops from Qatar.

Qatar has vehemently denied the accusations and rejected the demands.

"They don't like our independence, the way how we are thinking, our vision for the region. We want freedom of speech for the people of the region. And they're not happy with that. And so they think that this is a threat to them," the emir told Charlie Rose on the 60 Minutes strand.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

Britain's May 'deeply concerned' over reports of sexual harassment in parliament

British Prime Minister Theresa May is deeply concerned by media reports about the alleged misconduct of staff in parliament and believes any unwanted sexual behavior is "completely unacceptable", her spokesman said on Monday.

"She is deeply concerned at the recent media reports regarding the alleged mistreatment of staff by some members of parliament," her spokesman told reporters.

"She has been clear that any unwanted sexual behavior is completely unacceptable in any walk of life and she strongly believes it's important that those working in parliament are treated properly and fairly."

(Source: Reuters)

Spain prosecutor files charges against Catalan leaders

Spanish Attorney General Jose Manuel Maza has confirmed he will file criminal complaints against the dismissed Catalan government.

Maza said the charges will include sedition and rebellion, both felony offences with penalties of between one and 30 years in prison.

The attorney general said the charges will be filed against dismissed Catalan President Carles Puigdemont, Vice-President Oriol Junqueras and others who "have produced an institutional crisis that ended the unilateral declaration of independence with total disregard of our Constitution last October 27".

The complaint consists of 118 pages and asks that the accused be summoned as a precautionary measure, "taking into account the seriousness of the facts and of the crimes imputed."

The Catalan parliament voted to declare secession last Friday after an extended period of proposed negotiations between Madrid and Barcelona.

Puigdemont initially declared an independent republic on October 10, then suspending the effects to encourage dialogue with Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy.

No direct talks are known to have taken place.

The Spanish government subsequently chose to enact Article 155 of the Constitution, which allows for control of the regional government.

The regional government, including ministers and high-ranking officials, were dismissed on Saturday after Article 155 came into effect.

Rajoy has called for elections on December 21.

Sergi Sabria, a parliamentarian from the Republican Left of Catalonia (ERC/Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya) party, to which dismissed Vice-President Junqueras also belongs, said he does not view the elections as legitimate, but still plans to participate.

"The December 21 elections have to be another opportunity to consolidate the republic. We do not have to waste any opportunities," Sabria told a press conference after a meeting of the ERC.

Puigdemont has yet to be seen publicly in Barcelona, though Junqueras was present at the ERC meeting on Monday morning.

■ **Work resumes normally**

Although some public sector workers have yet to tell their new bosses whether they will accept orders, the lack of unrest came as a relief for financial markets, which rose.

Catalonia, a prosperous region with its own language and culture, triggered Spain's biggest crisis for decades by holding a secession referendum on Oct. 1, which Spanish courts called illegal.

Spain's Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy assumed direct control of the region on Friday, sacked its secessionist government and called a snap election for Dec. 21.

However, some of the most prominent members of the Catalan administration, including its president, Carles Puigdemont, and vice-president, Oriol Junqueras, had said they would not accept the move and only the people of Catalonia could dismiss them.

Spain's state prosecutor on Monday called for rebellion and sedition charges to be brought against Catalonia's leaders over their push to separate from Spain. Attorney-General Jose Manuel Maza also called for charges of misuse of funds to be laid.

Under Spain's legal system, the request goes to a judge for consideration. Maza asked the judge to call the secessionist leaders to testify.

The main civic groups behind the pro-separation campaign had called for widespread civil disobedience, and said that public sector workers such as teachers, firefighters and the police should refuse orders from the central authorities.

But most workers started their working day at 9 a.m. (0800 GMT) as normal and there was no sign of widespread absenteeism.

Most sacked Catalan leaders remained ambiguous on Monday and stopped short of directly defying Spain's authority. There were no signs of any spontaneous demonstration taking place.

Puigdemont posted a picture on Instagram taken in the regional government headquarters, but was not seen entering, suggesting the photo may have been taken by someone else.

Regional transport chief Josep Rull posted on Twitter a picture of him working in his office but he was later seen leaving the building. Spain's transport minister had said in a radio interview Rull would be allowed to collect his personal belongings but not work there.

(Source: agencies)

STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	87477.2
IFX	969.57

Sources: tse.ir, lfb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	40,710 rials
EUR	48,250 rials
GBP	53,900 rials
AED	11,200 rials

Source: Mehrnews.com

COMMODITIES

Brent	\$60.40/b
WTI	\$54.07/b
OPEC Basket	\$56.45/b
Gold	\$1,273.85/oz
Silver	\$16.81/oz
Platinum	\$920.75/oz

Sources: Oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

SEO aims to draw more global investors

1 → According to Mohammadi, 50 high-ranking international lecturers and panelists from 17 different countries are going to participate in the seminar to exchange ideas and share experiences on Iran's untapped market with its great potentials.

The seminar will be inaugurated by Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Masoud Karbasian.

Many Iranian capital market entities will participate in this event, which marks this seminar as a great opportunity for networking among Iranian capital market members with their foreign counterparts.

"There will also be an international exhibition on the relevant topics with many international companies and individuals attending and visiting," he noted.

The head of Iran's SEO believes that the implementation of nuclear deal known as joint comprehensive plan of action (JCPOA) has opened the country's market gates to the world and has facilitated the presence of foreign investors in the country's stock exchange.

Asked about the main barriers that foreign investors are facing for activity in Iran's stock market, the official mentioned problems related to money transactions as the main hurdle.

"If this problem is solved, Iran's capital market is completely ready to welcome and support foreign investment," he said.

Mohammadi further stressed SEO's presence in the world renowned organizations and institutes including the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO), saying "Securities and Exchange Organization has currently an observer status in IOSCO, but we are taking all the necessary measures for becoming a permanent member."

About relationship with other countries' stock exchanges, the director said, "We have signed numerous agreements and memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with counterparts from all over the world."

He mentioned India, South Korea, Greece, Germany and Oman as some of the countries that SEO have signed MOUs with their securities and exchange organizations.

"SEO has signed MOUs with Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin), South Korea's Exchange (KRX) as well as Greece and Oman's exchanges and many more."

Iran, Qatar hold transport talks

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iranian **d e s k** Transport and Urban Development Minister Abbas Akhoun-di and Qatari Minister of Transport and Communications Jassim Saif Ahmed Al Sulaiti held talks over cooperation on various transportation sectors, the official website of Iran's Transport Ministry reported on Monday.

"Regarding the conducted negotiations, a joint committee is to be formed to investigate expansion of transport ties including development of Iran-Qatar corridor," Akhoun-di told reporters after his meeting with Al Sulaiti.

"We also discussed feasibility of for-

mation of various companies and firms in free zones as well as non-free zones of both countries to boost mutual trade ties," the Iranian minister added.

Expressing content about the current wide air transportation ties between the two sides, Akhoun-di added that he has also held talks over development of cooperation between Iranian and Qatari airlines.

As Al Sulaiti told reporters, investment and trade bonds between Iran and Qatar will continue its upward trend in future.

The Qatari official expressed satisfaction about the mutual cooperation on air transportation sector, as well.

Contracts worth \$465m signed on export of technical, engineering services

ECONOMY TEHRAN — **d e s k** According to an official from Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPO), Iranian companies signed \$465 million of contracts on exporting technical and engineering services during the first half of the present Iranian year (March 21– September 22, 2017), IRNA reported on Monday.

"The figure shows 1,000 percent growth, in comparison with the same period in the preceding year," Mahmoud Eskandari said.

Iran could earn \$460 million from



exports of technical and engineering service in the last Iranian calendar year 1395 (ended on March 20, 2107), he continued.

Euro zone sentiment keeps surging, unaffected by Catalan crisis

Euro zone economic sentiment rose in October for the fifth consecutive month to reach its highest level since the start of 2001, showing almost no impact from the Catalan crisis, European Commission data showed on Monday.

The near 17-year high, the highest reading since January 2001 when the bursting of the "dot-com bubble" had begun to hit confidence in the euro zone, confirmed the solid economic recovery of the 19-country currency bloc after a decade-long economic and financial crisis.

The monthly survey showed that sentiment in the euro zone rose more than forecast on average by economists polled by Reuters to 114.0 points in October from a 113.1 the previous month.

Confidence grew markedly in Germany, the bloc's largest economy, and in Italy, while it declined in France.

Despite the uncertainties surrounding the Catalan crisis, sentiment improved also in Spain, with marked rises in the industry and services sectors. But confidence dropped in the country's



Tehran's property market witnesses 34% growth in a month

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The **d e s k** number of real estate deals in Iran's capital city Tehran shows a 34.4 percent rise during the seventh Iranian calendar month of Mehr (September 23-October 22) compared to the same month in the past year, according to a recent report by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI).

The CBI report also indicates that the number of deals in Tehran during the first seven months of this year (March 21-October 22) has risen 6.3 percent compared to the same period of time in the previous year, Tasnim



news agency reported.

Meanwhile, house price in Tehran has risen 8.7 percent in Mehr of this year from the same month of the past year.

Bitcoin price smashes through \$6,300 to hit another record high

Bitcoin broke through the \$6,300 mark for the first time late on Sunday to hit a new record high.

The price of the cryptocurrency hit \$6,306.58, according to CoinDesk data, just 10 days after first breaching the \$6,000 handle.

Investors appear to be shrugging off some of the negative news in the bitcoin world. Bitcoin recently underwent another «fork» or split, resulting in the creation of a new cryptocurrency called bitcoin gold.

It is the second split to bitcoin this year, after one in August which led to the creation of bitcoin cash. The fork is not seen as hugely disruptive, with many still convinced the original bitcoin will continue to dominate. Bitcoin has rallied over 500 percent this year.

(Source: cnbc)

Second Announcement

SINGLE- STAGE INTERNATIONAL TENDER
GOVERNMENT TRADING CORPORATION OF IRAN

The Government Trading Corporation of Iran (hereinafter referred to as GTC), affiliated to the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad of the Islamic Republic of Iran, intends to purchase 30,000 M/Ts 10 pct M/L Indian 1121 sella rice,(in cargoes of 10,000 MT 10% M/L each) through single stage international tender

All of qualified companies and suppliers who are interested to bid above tender are invited to receive tender documents from **30/10/2017** until **12/11/2017** from Trades&Tenders committee located on the 4th floor of GTC building no 2 , Iran,Tehran , Fatmei Ave .oppssit of Water and Wastewater Co. along with an official letter of introduction.

The bid participants are required to submit their stamped and sealed envelopes containing their offers latest on **12/12/2017 at 14:00** to the secretariat located on the 7th floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelopes will be held **on12/12/2017 at 14:30** with the presence of bidder's representatives in our purchasing committee **(9th floor, No 12, Jihad Square, Tehran, Iran).**

Bid bond: The amount of bid bond are as follows, which should be submitted in cash or an unconditional bank guarantee with three months validity and extensible for another three months.

Amount of bid bond in rial	Amount of bid bond in Euro	Cargo tonnage
10,120,000,000	250,471	10,000
14,760,000,000	365,310	20,000
19,060,000,000	471,735	30,000

*For more information, you may refer to our website **WWW.GTC-PORTAL.COM** or contact us by phoneNo.00982188957477 (foreign trade department) .*

First Announcement

IN THE NAME OF GOD

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NO. 96-08/135

Tender Holder:
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

Subject of Two-Stage Tender:
Supplying Imam Ali (AS) Data Center Active Equipment (Cyberspace Technology Center) according to the tender documents

Deadline of Receiving Documents:
As of publishing second announcement of advertisement latest by the business hour dated on **Wednesday Nov. 8, 2017.**

Place of Receiving Documents:
Secretariat of Tenders' Commission, Technical Purchasing (KALA) Dept., Media Technology and Development Deputy Office, Bldg. No. 2, IRIB, Jam-e Jam St., Vali-e Asr Ave., Tehran

Type and Amount of Guarantee for Participating in Tender:
The amount of **USD 356,364** which should be in the form of extendable bank guarantee

Time and Place of Delivering Priced Bid:
The sealed A, B & C packages/envelopes should be submitted within one main envelope marked with tender number no later than **15 p.m.** on **Saturday Dec. 16, 2017** and submitted to the Secretariat of Commission of Tenders.

Time and Place of Opening Envelopes
The date of opening envelopes A&B is at **8:30 a.m.** on **Monday Dec. 18, 2017** in the office of Vice President of IRIB Planning and Financial Resources and opening of envelope C will be after technical evaluation.
It should be noted that bidders should hold license from the authorized bodies.

For more information, please contact the following phone numbers: 0098-21-22166313
It is obvious that cost of publishing two advertisements shall be borne by the winner of tender.

Public Relations Dept. of IRIB

Oil prices rise on expected extension of output cuts

Oil markets rose on Monday, with Brent remaining above \$60 per barrel on expectations that an OPEC-led production cut due to expire next March would be extended, although rising exports from Iraq kept a lid on prices.

Brent crude futures, the international benchmark for oil prices, were at \$60.73 per barrel at 0802 GMT, 29 cents or 0.48 percent above their last settlement and near their highest level since July 2015. They have risen more than 36 percent since from 2017-lows marked in June.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were up 16 cents, or 0.3 percent, at \$54.06 a barrel.

"With strong compliance to OPEC's production curbs already supporting prices, comments from the Saudi Arabian Crown Prince that suggested the production cut agreement should be extended added to gains," ANZ bank said.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) plus Russia and nine other producers have agreed to hold back about 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd) to get rid of a supply glut.

The pact runs to March 2018, but Saudi Arabia and Russia, who are leading the effort, have both voiced their support to extend the agreement.

OPEC is scheduled to meet officially at its headquarters in Vienna, Austria, on Nov. 30.

Traders said that a 900,000 bpd export capacity increase from Iraq's southern ports to 4.6 million bpd, reported on Sunday, had prevented Brent from rising further.

Meanwhile, U.S. production is up by almost 13 per-



cent since mid-2016, resulting in a steep WTI discount of \$6.50 per barrel against Brent, making U.S. crude exports attractive. Confidence in the oil market is evident in the way financial traders have positioned themselves.

Hedge funds and other money managers raised their bullish wagers on U.S. crude futures and options in the week to Oct. 24, the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) said on Friday.

The speculator group raised its combined futures and options position in New York and London by 15,041

contracts to 280,634 during the period.

Despite this, some analysts were cautious, pointing to technical chart indicators.

"We note that both contracts' (Brent and WTI) relative strength indices (RSI) are both approaching overbought levels. This may imply that crude has risen enough in the short term and some consolidation is required," said Jeffrey Halley, senior market analyst at futures brokerage OANDA in Singapore.

(Source: Reuters)

S.Korea's S-Oil expects strong refining margins for next 2 years

South Korea's S-Oil corp said on Monday that profits from refining crude oil would stay strong for the next couple of years due to a tight outlook for supply.

Oil giant Saudi Aramco is the top shareholder in S-Oil, South Korea's third-largest refiner.

"Strong refining margins will be sustained for the next couple of years given a tight supply-demand balance outlook on the back of persistently slow capacity expansions," the refiner said in an earnings statement provided in English.

S-Oil reported a 553.2 billion won (\$492.32 million) operating income in the third quarter of 2017, well over four-times the 116.2 billion won recorded a year ago. Operating income soared mainly on strong refining margins and a broad rise in oil prices, the refiner said.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, Asian refiners boosted their output to sell their products to the United States and reap profits from higher prices as the storm hit U.S. Gulf Coast and forced to shut down about a quarter of U.S. refineries.

Asian refining margins, or profits of processing a barrel of Dubai crude into refined products, have averaged \$7.35



a barrel so far in October, up from \$5.98 per barrel in October last year.

S-Oil said it would operate its refinery units at an "optimal level" throughout the fourth quarter without planned maintenance, as previously announced.

When asked on a call with analysts whether the refiner had any maintenance plans for next year, a senior S-Oil official said the company had not confirmed its plans for 2018.

On the same call, S-Oil officials said they expected independent refineries in China to maintain stable run rates next year.

They also said the profit or 'crack' on producing diesel was likely to remain at this year's levels in 2018 on the back of robust global economic activity.

(Source: Reuters)

Chinese factories struggle with soaring gas costs

Factories in China's industrial heartland making everything from steel sheet to tofu and ceramics are struggling with soaring costs or facing closure as they wait for authorities to approve new gas-powered boilers, five industry executives told Reuters.

The problems illustrate the burden that is falling on China's small- and medium-sized manufacturers because of Beijing's radical shift from coal to natural gas and will raise concerns of insufficient power supply for industry.

China's central government has ordered regions near the capital to shut 44,000 coal-fired boilers that provide steam and energy for factories, including steel rolling mills, ceramics and chemical manufacturers, and convert or replace them with gas-fired boilers or switch to electricity by the end of October.

The change is part of the government's push to wean the country off coal and reduce the amount of smog emitted by its industries. Other measures include cutting steel and aluminum output and curbing construction in northern regions.

The city of Tangshan, in the province of Hebei which surrounds Beijing, set an earlier deadline of Oct. 9 for



the conversions and said it would shut companies that did not comply. Tangshan is China's biggest steel-producing city. "The price increases everyday. It is hard to say how long we can bear to run the operation," said a sales manager at Xinyiyuan Steel Corp, a small steel rolling factory in Tangshan. She declined to give her name as she is not authorized to talk to the media.

An average 10-tonne natural gas boiler costs about 2,531 yuan (\$381) per hour to run versus 909 yuan per hour for the same capacity of coal boiler, according to Reuters calculations based on spot gas and coal prices in China.

Rising demand for natural gas because of the switch has pushed prices higher, the sources said.

(Source: Reuters)

Analysts raise oil price forecasts

Just a few months ago, analysts and investment banks slashed their oil price forecasts as OPEC's production cuts drew down the global oil oversupply slower than initially expected, and rising U.S. shale production capped any short-lived oil price gains.

But at the end of the summer, as OPEC and the International Energy Agency (IEA) started reporting stronger-than-expected global oil demand growth and an accelerated pace of inventory declines, the market sentiment began to change. As 2018 and the November 30 OPEC meeting draw nigh, the cartel is said to be favoring a 9-month extension of the deal through the end of next year.

The possibility of such supply restriction throughout the whole of 2018—combined with expectations of strong oil demand growth and concerns over few new sources of supply due to years of underinvestment after the 2014 oil price crash—has prompted some analysts to warn that fear of the glut will turn into fear of a supply crunch next year. In addition, some investment banks expect the U.S. crude oil production in 2018 to underperform forecasts, which could remove some part of the cap on oil prices that American shale has kept since the start of this year.

Analysts at Jefferies see WTI at \$55 per barrel by the end of 2018, and the Brent price is expected at \$58.

However, Jefferies warned that U.S. production growth next year could be lower than expected.

"While the U.S. is out-punching on growth this year, [Jefferies]

"Bottoms-up forecast suggests that the U.S. could under-deliver on oil growth in 2018," the investment bank said a report,



as carried by Marketwatch.

"We believe that the backwardation in the Brent futures strip supports our thesis that the market is currently undersupplied, and if the OPEC/non-OPEC cuts are extended through the end of 2018 then we estimate the oil market will remain in modest under-supply until 2019," according to Jefferies.

Like many analysts and oil companies, Allianz Global Investors warns that the lower-for-longer oil prices have suppressed investment in exploration and new projects, which could result in a shortage of supply soon.

"An abundance of oil, thanks largely to U.S. shale, has pushed down oil prices and sector sentiment. But since that means less investment in new production sources, the bearish market may soon rebalance from fears of oversupply to concerns over shortages—which would push prices higher," said Neil Dwane, global strategist

at Allianz, in a note quoted by Market-Watch.

Bank of America Merrill Lynch also expects a supply shortage of 230,000 bpd this year. The bank also raised its WTI and Brent projections for the short term, seeing Brent prices averaging \$54 in Q4 2017 and \$52.50 in the first half of 2018, up from the previous estimates of \$50 and \$49.50, respectively. BofA Merrill Lynch also revised up its WTI price forecast to \$49 this quarter, compared to the previous \$47 estimate.

As of Friday, both WTI and Brent were trading at least \$3 above that average forecast for Q4.

RBC Capital Markets also raised its oil prices forecasts for next year—albeit by just a dollar or two. WTI is now seen averaging \$51 next year, up from the previous \$50 a barrel forecast, while the Brent price view was raised to \$55 from \$53.19.

Regarding U.S. oil production growth,

RBC Capital Markets differs from Allianz and Jefferies and is optimistic on American oil production at least until 2019. RBC Capital Markets lifted their forecast for the total U.S. crude production growth in Q4 2018 to 870,000 bpd from 850,000 bpd, and revised up the 2019 growth estimate to 810,000 bpd from 756,000 bpd.

In its latest Short-Term Energy Outlook, EIA expects total U.S. crude oil production to average 9.2 million bpd this year and 9.9 million bpd next year, which would mark the highest annual average production in U.S. history, beating the previous record of 9.6 million bpd set in 1970.

Rising U.S. crude production and gains from other non-OPEC countries will likely act as "the ceiling for aspirations of higher oil prices" next year, the IEA said earlier this month.

According to Standard Chartered, shale activity has been declining as a reflection of rising costs, a drop in initial well productivity, increased breakevens outside the sweetest geological spots, and "cash-flow constraints at unsustainably low prices."

"However, the turn down in drilling has yet to temper the optimism of most forecasts of U.S. output growth in 2018," Standard Chartered said in a note quoted by Reuters.

While banks and analysts were quick to slash their oil price projections earlier this year, some of them are now very cautiously lifting their forecasts by slim margins. Still, voices are growing that a supply crunch may come sooner rather than later, and that U.S. shale resilience may have been overestimated.

(Source: oilprice.com)

U.S. oil producers are moving into the Asian market

Mars and Poseidon are coming to Asia.

That is, those two varieties of U.S.-produced crude oil are spearheading American exporters' direct challenge to OPEC for market share in Asia.

In a shakeup to the established order, U.S. crude oil exporters are moving more cargoes toward high-growth Asia as they capitalize on favorable price differentials and as supply curbs by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries force Gulf producers to withdraw from their traditional demand heartland.

That's good news for Asian buyers who benefit from a more diversified basket of crude oil on offer and as competition between suppliers drives down prices.

"See it as a bigger buffet table for Asian refiners who have more supply options and sellers to engage with," said John Driscoll, director of JTD Energy Services in Singapore and a former oil trader whose career spans nearly 40 years.

India received its first American oil cargo of 1.6 million barrels on Oct. 2, the result of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S. in June where he negotiated contracts to supply three Indian refineries with nearly 8 million barrels.

All of this change was kicked off when the Obama administration lifted a 40-year-old ban on exporting domestic oil in December 2015.

Now, more U.S. crude is on the way if market economics stay favorable.

One of the decisive factors dictating global oil flows is the price gap between two international benchmarks: Brent crude oil and U.S. counterpart West Texas Intermediate. Typically, the higher Brent's premium is over WTI, the stronger the pull for lower-priced U.S. crude from outside buyers.

The gap between Brent and WTI hit its widest level in two years in early October at over \$6.00 a barrel. That spread "is the one everyone hones in," said Driscoll, though other differentials are also closely monitored by oil traders for clues generating possible arbitrage leads, as is the gap between U.S. Mars crude oil — increasingly seen as a key export grade — and WTI.

And exporting is an increasingly popular option: U.S. crude exports rose to a record 1.98 million barrels a day in the week ending September 29.

That's "classic Oil Markets 101," said Michael Wittner, head of oil research at Societe Generale, "too much crude in the U.S. and too little crude elsewhere means that U.S. prices weaken relative to global prices, and exports increase to address the imbalance."

■ OPEC on notice

Exports from U.S. "tight oil" extracted from shale formations alone may swell to over 3 million barrels a day by 2022 — with a third of that volume absorbed by Asia — said Ed Rawle, chief economist at Wood Mackenzie.

That signals a change in the energy world order as OPEC influence wanes. Some energy commentators believe the fracking boom has helped the U.S. take the title of the world's "swing" producer from Saudi Arabia. The Americans, it's thought, now possess the capacity to respond to fluctuations in market demand.

As tankers laden with U.S. crude move eastwards, OPEC is sure to take notice.

"Traditional OPEC suppliers will need to watch this space and price their crude competitively as up to 50 percent of incremental crudes into Asia could come from non-OPEC," Rawle said.

Whether more U.S. crude gets shipped east will hinge on how fast capacity can be added to key U.S. export terminals such as the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port, America's only deep-water tanker port in the Gulf of Mexico.

"The emergence of the U.S. as a significant exporter to Europe or Asia will only be progressive and contingent on the development of Gulf Coast export capacity and crude price differentials remaining favorable," said Harry Tchilinguirian, global head of commodity markets strategy at BNP Paribas. "For now, these exports remain opportunistic."

(Source: CNBC)

Energy company plans 1GW solar and storage in South Australia

UK billionaire Sanjeev Gupta has moved quickly to leverage his new investment in Australian renewable energy and storage company Zen Energy, announcing plans for 1GW of "dispatchable" renewable generation in South Australia.

The investment — hinted at earlier this month by Zen's Ross Garnaut — will be based around up to 680MW of solar capacity, and significant investments in battery storage, pumped hydro and demand management.

Included in the plan are expanding the proposed 80MW solar plant in Whyalla to 200MW, and then adding a further 480MW of solar to support the expansion of industrial capacity in the steel city of Whyalla and industrial loads elsewhere in the state.

Gupta's Liberty group recently purchased the OneSteel works in Whyalla, buying them out of administration with a plan to lift its fortunes by turning to green energy — a wonderful contrast to the toxic energy debate in Australia.

After that transaction, Gypta bought a majority stake in Zen Energy, and will now assume the role of chairman. Garnaut will remain a director.

"I am delighted ZEN Energy is able to hit the ground running", Chairman Sanjeev Gupta said.

"These first steps in SA will improve reliability and greatly reduce costs of electricity in our own steelworks at Whyalla, and provide competitive sources of power for other industrial and commercial users.

"This will be followed by early steps to lower Liberty OneSteel's electricity costs in NSW and Victoria, and to provide power at lower cost to other industrial enterprises in these states and Queensland."

(Source: reneweconomy.com)

Britain can deal with its ISIS returnees. But not by killing them

By Richard Barrett

The British pride themselves on their resilience to terrorism. We like to identify with the man who went back to pay his bill the morning after the attack at London Bridge last June; or the crowds of concert-goers who refused to be intimidated by the Manchester bombing in May. We express our outrage and carry on.

Other countries do the same. It took just 24 hours before Somalis began to rebuild after the enormous truck bomb that shattered buildings and killed over 350 people in Mogadishu earlier this month. The streets of Barcelona are now thronged with crowds demonstrating in favor or against Catalan independence, undeterred by the terrorist attack there in August.

But the aim of terrorist groups such as the so-called Islamic State is not just to destroy infrastructure or undermine local economies. It is also to destroy societal cohesion. ISIS has made no secret of this. Its propaganda — both of the word and of the deed — is directed not at the overwhelming majority of Muslims and non-Muslims who find its actions and ideology repellent. It is aimed at the very few whose sense of alienation and lack of agency make them vulnerable to recruitment. In this respect, its closest competitors at the local level are cults and gangs.

ISIS talks of eliminating the grey zone — in other words, forcing people to choose between supporting it through violence or being counted as the enemy. In the minds of its ideologues there is no middle ground, and nothing to debate or negotiate: they are fulfilling a prophecy. They hope that the images of blood and gore, and the stories of their atrocities, will provoke a social and governmental backlash that reinforces the divide between supporters and opponents, driving more people to their cause. The global growth in extremism, nativism and supremacism is in part a measure of their success, as well as the medium in which they grow.

■ Peaceful resolution of conflicts

Resilience is therefore not just about Keeping Calm and Carrying On. It is about continuing to trust in and pursue the values that most people support: tolerance, justice, equal opportunity, the peaceful resolution of disputes, and above all the rule of law — values that the tactics of terrorism aim to erode.

The extraordinary circumstances in the Middle East that allowed ISIS to control territory and function as a state, even down to issuing parking tickets, encouraged people without much sense of belonging or purpose in their own countries to think that a better alternative was truly possible, and that they could contribute in person to its development. They flocked to Syria in their thousands from all parts of the world.

When they got there, many found that the reality fell far short of the rhetoric, and soon left. Others stayed longer, but while they may have continued to believe in the utopian dream they recognized the actual dystopian consequences of the actions of the ISIS leadership. They too left. Others may have enjoyed the fighting and the sex slaves, but given up when the novelty paled or the squalid reality became too much to bear. Others will have fled only when squeezed out from shrinking territory. Still others will have gone, on the orders of their leaders, to carry on the fight elsewhere.

All these groups of returnees present a threat to the countries to which they go back, especially if the circumstances at home are no different from when they left. Those who went to join something new but were soon disillusioned will perhaps be less inclined to morph into domestic terrorists than those who came back only because the coalition against ISIS prevailed, or because they were sent back by their leaders. But all, by definition, rejected the country they left and are unlikely to feel any greater sense of loyalty or belonging on return.

■ Right of residence

There is only so much the state can do to repel, detain or indefinitely keep watch on the returnees.

International law prevents a state from leaving anyone without citizenship, and citizenship denotes a right of residence. Furthermore, detention requires investigation, trial and sentencing according to the law. And surveillance is hugely resource-intensive.

Hoping that these people may die before they come back, or even deliberately trying to kill them, as the foreign office minister Rory Stewart suggested last week — apart from raising serious legal issues — overlooks the fact that a large number are back already: about 400, in the case of the United Kingdom. There is no advantage in abandoning our values in this way. In fact the reverse is true: it gives the terrorists an easy victory.

On top of the returnees, there are many who thought of going but never did, and some who tried but were stopped while they were en route. These ISIS supporters will not have had their naivety doused in the cold water of reality, and may be more motivated to do something against society at home as a result.

In fact, returnees have not so far been notably engaged in terrorist plots, despite the significant increase in ISIS-inspired terrorism since 2015. That may change as more fighters go home. The rate of return has slowed considerably over this same period, but that may be because the less committed got out early while the hardcore are only leaving now.

Whenever the police learn of a returnee in the United Kingdom, they will try to establish whether he or she has committed a crime. But the numbers are overwhelming, the evidence hard to collect and, despite the major effort to assess and assign a level of priority in each case, mistakes will be made. There may be room for new laws, but these will add to the pressures on the police, the courts and the prison service. Prison, in any case, can prove a particularly fertile ground for spreading extremist ideas.

But there is more going on than this, and it underpins our resilience in a way that the use of force cannot. Britain has become a world leader in engaging the broader community in dealing with violent extremism. At times the government has got it wrong, but it is learning, and now supports a range of non-traditional civil society partners that have proved successful in changing the mindset of violent extremists or of those who may be tempted to join them.

(Source: *The Guardian*)

The UN is needed now more than ever. Here's why.

By Raja Karthikeya

The “United Nations has potential ... but what has it actually accomplished?” These words from a New Yorker at a dinner earlier this year came back to me after this year’s UN General Assembly. Both inside and outside the UN, it is clear things must change. But the unasked question is just what is the UN up against in living up to its potential? As one of the largest ever UN reform processes gets underway under Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, tough questions are being asked and dispassionate answers are expected.

The UN has many faces — a parliament of nations, an umbrella of intergovernmental collaboration and not-for-profit activity to solve mankind’s biggest challenges — from hunger to disease to climate change. But the one for which it’s arguably held most accountable is maintenance of peace and security.

Here, the part of the UN that is under the scanner of member states and the media alike is its multi-national civil service that takes instructions from the UN Security Council on when, where, and how much effort should be put in to ensure peace and security. In following through on its instructions/mandates from the Security Council in the uncertain world around it, this civil service finds itself frequently facing a few questions. Five of them illustrate its dilemmas and how it copes with them.

The first question: how have the UN’s actions prevented the “scourge of war” — its objective as laid out in the UN Charter? How we define war has rather incrementally expanded over the last few decades. Fresh from the memory of the devastation of World War II, those framing the UN charter were ostensibly thinking of war as unbridled armed conflict between states. Rather, the founders of the UN felt that if one country invades another, or if two countries (member states) were to go to war with each other, there should be a deterring force to restore peace, and that the collective might of all the other countries of the world — morally and coercively — could act as such a force. But over the past twenty years, the nature of war has changed.

■ Conflicts between countries

Intra-state wars — civil wars — have become more widespread and more destructive than any wars between states. In fact, wars between two countries are so rare now that, in 2015, there were just thirty fatalities from such conflicts in comparison to thousands of lives lost in civil wars. Intra-state wars last four times longer than inter-state wars and at least forty percent of them end up drawing in different states.

Since 1989, every given year has seen at least twenty civil wars — some new and many old. As a result of this trend, the UN is focused now than ever before on addressing the scourge of civil war. Unsurprisingly, only four out of fifteen UN peacekeeping missions are working on inter-state disputes. This does not mean the UN does not mediate between states when asked, but rather



The UN has thus struggled with the challenge of ending conflicts which cannot be framed by national interests alone. Resource-trafficking in the shadow of a conflict means that some civil wars look like private enterprises.

that its energies are directed at the more destructive form of war in our age.

The second question is about how effective has the UN been in restoring peace throughout the world. This has been done in two ways. The first is by assisting countries in transitioning from conflict to peace, such as in Cambodia and East Timor. Through such missions the UN has been largely successful in restoring peace in states with small populations but whose conflicts reflected the larger tensions in the world, especially during the Cold War. The value of this work cannot be underestimated: it was, after all, an assassination in a small state — Serbia — in 1914 that led to World War I and unprecedented carnage.

Through its work, the UN has invented a new type of diplomacy—one which uses the weight of world opinion (rather than of national interests) to make peace within a country where the state has collapsed or is seriously threatened. The role played by the UN in ending the civil wars in El Salvador, Guatemala, Angola, Nepal or in drawing the curtains on the Iran-Iraq War is still remembered in these countries.

The second way the UN has focused on restoring peace is by maintaining the peace. It is no exaggeration that it was not just nuclear deterrence (as seen during the Cuban Missile Crisis) or military alliances — such as Warsaw Pact and NATO — that have helped Europe experience decades of peace since World War II. It was the work of little known UN commissions such as UNECE, where Cold War rivals met to talk business and grew to see each other as “rational actors,” despite their governments’ external propaganda, and struck deals that went far beyond commerce. These platforms for dialogue helped main-

tain an undercurrent of trust between the East and the West.

The third question concerns whether the UN is indispensable or not. In an era where regional organizations like the OSCE, EU, AU, SCO, OAS, etc. are increasingly performing peacekeeping and peace-building roles, some ask if the UN’s role is as unique as it once was. To this, one must say that the UN’s goal is a world where there would be no need for the UN. Thus, the UN has worked towards fostering “regional solutions for local problems.” For instance, after the formation of the G-5 group to combat terrorism in the Sahel, the UN stepped back to provide support for the group. Empowering regional organizations to combat common threats is in line with its strategy of “prevention.”

■ Staunching persistent conflicts

The fourth question: why the UN has not succeeded in staunching persistent conflict in some countries in recent years? It is true that intra-state conflicts today — such as in Afghanistan or Somalia — seem to last longer than previous conflicts ever did. But there are reasons.

The growth of technology and global finance has meant that civil wars have become easy to start and easier to escalate. Conflict has become cheaper to finance. Proxy wars are no longer the exclusive domain of major powers, as private donors, diaspora groups and criminal enterprises are all able to fund factions in today’s civil wars. Traditional diplomacy and mediation cannot end such conflict.

The UN has thus struggled with the challenge of ending conflicts which cannot be framed by national interests alone. Resource-trafficking in the shadow of a conflict means that some civil wars look like private

enterprises. To address this, the UN works with its arsenal of sanctions experts and collaborates with law enforcement agencies to isolate the conflict through targeted actions such as arms embargoes. While it is neither a precise nor a short process, it remains the only effective one to date.

Lastly, what is the UN’s continuing relevance in a world where power is increasingly fragmented? Not only are states more hesitant to fight each other and imperil their prosperity; states are also beginning to realize that they cannot really control the end-game in a proxy war on a third country’s territory. Even airpower and missiles that can project power across time-zones have their limits. The only alternative in these conditions — even if it comes later rather than sooner — is to have someone set a table where parties can negotiate. This is where the UN is needed today more than ever before: what the UN brings to the table is the table itself. It offers an umbrella for nations’ divergent interests to come together — be it to share their redlines, to jointly fight the specter of terrorism or to stem the flow of weapons to countries undergoing conflict.

But setting the table is not enough in itself. The key is to start talking — and to time it right. Criticism about UN-facilitated talks has not been about them being too little, too late. For its part, the UN has tried to navigate the dilemma of stepping in early without stepping on the sovereignty of member states. The UN calls this “preventive diplomacy,” and now spends the bulk of its political outreach resources on it. The successes of preventive diplomacy never make the headlines. They are quiet and often held away from the media glare. But the fact that we are experiencing what is now called a period of “Long Peace” — in which businessmen are as feted as soldiers is proof of how far we have come. Preventive diplomacy ensures that the Long Peace is not taken for granted.

By continually monitoring every sign of conflict and drivers of conflict — from bad elections to conditions of famine — the UN is today able to often anticipate conflict and undertake pre-emptive messaging to ensure that tensions do not spill over into violence. By this process, diplomacy, which was once an art, is now slowly transforming into a science.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is attempting a long-overdue reform of the UN system. But for it to be effective, governments would do well to explain the importance of the UN and its work to their domestic constituencies. For it is the governments themselves that set the UN’s agenda. While some procedural reform is inevitable and even welcome, assessing the UN should be less about headcounts and budgets, and more about outcomes. The UN remains the most cost-effective option to pursue the restoration and maintenance of peace. And the questions the UN faces are questions to us all, to which all of us have an obligation to respond.

(Source: *nationalinterest.org*)

The banality of crimes against migrants

By Ioannis Kalpouzos and Itamar Mann

Agnes Callamard, UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary, and Arbitrary Executions, presented an important new report to the UN General Assembly on Friday. The report is on “Unlawful Death of Refugees and Migrants” — already an unordinary focus for her mandate. In recent years, her office has focused nearly exclusively on counter-terrorism, particularly on deaths by drone attacks.

As she explains, the report concerns an “international crime whose very banality in the eyes of so many makes its tragedy particularly grave and disturbing.” The contention is rather dramatic, and we believe that it is indeed historic, at least as far as reports by UN bodies are concerned.

Callamard spells out the practical implications: The “International Criminal Court should consider preliminary investigation into atrocity crimes against refugees and migrants where there are reasonable grounds that such crimes have taken place and the jurisdictional requirements of the court have been met.” It is particularly out of the ordinary for a UN body to recommend to the International Criminal Court what cases it should consider, but that is exactly what Callamard has chosen to do.

Against the backdrop of constant militarization of borders, her recommendation is urgent; yet without some contextualization, it can be easily misunderstood. The discipline of international criminal law emerged in aggression and atrocity. The paradigm, still capturing popular imagination, is of course the catastrophe of World War II. Aggressive war was at the center of the jurisdiction of the international military tribunal created by the allied victors. The existence of war was necessary in order to pass judgment on the perpetrators of collective violence.

Only gradually has the practice of international criminal



law moved away from the fixation on war as the necessary trigger for international accountability. International criminal prosecution diversified its focus. The legal concept of crimes against humanity, linked to war at Nuremberg, is no longer tied to it. For example, the indictment of General Augusto Pinochet in 1998 had associated criminal prosecution with a society’s attempt to reckon with past tyranny.

■ International Criminal Court

At the same time, the creation of the International Criminal Court (ICC) was brimming with potential. The support it enjoyed was not only associated with mass atrocities but also with an aim to achieve global justice. Crimes Against Humanity, not necessarily linked to war, feature in the ICC’s jurisdiction. They include crimes like apartheid, which is a system of government rather than a method of war. Prohibited acts when committed as a “widespread or systematic attack against a civilian population” encompass an array of practices that may occur in times of peace: torture, which is often practiced in law enforcement contexts; imprisonment without procedural

safeguards or in abhorrent conditions; persecution, which is the severe deprivation of fundamental rights through discrimination; and unlawful deportation.

While international criminal law has reached outside the realms of war, war and militarization have arguably spread into many realms of civil life. The “endlessness” of war, which commentators now often point out, should not only refer to war’s duration. It also reflects the many ways in which war has expanded endlessly, in many ways becoming the mold of our everyday. The “Unlawful Death of Refugees and Migrants” are only one aspect of this. With increased global inequalities, new transportation and communication technologies, and an unfolding climate catastrophe, affected people are migrating to the sources of livelihood in the “global north”. Populations in the latter have begun feeling threatened more by the mass of poor (often black and brown) people, than by an armed attack.

Militarized borders have soon been deployed against migrants on the fault lines between the “developed” and the “developing” worlds. At least since 2009, the EU agency Frontex has deployed a border control operation in Greece. Frontex has ratcheted up surveillance, including by the use of drones, and oversees conditions of detention which the European Court of Human Rights has deemed inhumane.

Australian enforces its maritime borders by a navy operation led by a Major General. In a particularly cynical measure, Australia has introduced windowless and allegedly un-drownable rafts to push refugees back to foreign shores. In 2015, European countries sought and obtained a UN Security Council Resolution to use force against smugglers in the Mediterranean, an extraordinary measure clearly signaling the unprecedented militarization of border controls. ➔13

U.S. Biggest Terrorist Organization on Earth: U.S. Analyst

TEHRAN — (Tasnim) _ An American political commentator denounced the U.S. government as the world's biggest terrorist organization, saying such an empire would never honor treaties or deals because upholding an agreement means the U.S. is not really an empire.

In an interview with the Tasnim News Agency, Dr. Mark Mason from California provided a review of the U.S. government's imperial policies, its lack of commitment to the treaties and deals it signs, and its sponsorship of terrorism.

He also hit back at the U.S. administration for accusing Iran of destabilizing the region and violating the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), saying Trump's foreign policies "represent the belligerent end of the imperial spectrum which is now internally in conflict with other segments of the plutocracy that are based upon banking and manufacturing imperial policy."

Dr. Mason offers analyses of United States domestic and foreign policies for the international news media. He was trained as a biological anthropologist educated at the University of California, Berkeley. Mason has appeared on Al-Etejah TV, Russia Today, Voice of Russia radio, as well as on Life News Russia, ActVism Munich News, Nuestra Tele Noticias NTN24 Colombia, The Real News Network, and Radio 786 Capetown, South Africa, and KQED Forum in San Francisco, California.

What follows is the full text of the interview:

Tasnim: In mid-October, U.S. President Donald Trump unveiled his new strategy for Iran, saying it begins with imposing tough sanctions on the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), and also accused Iran of proliferation of missiles and weapons. Why, do you think, has Trump focused on efforts to curb Iran's military capabilities?

Mason: United States foreign policy is set within the context of empire. The USA is an empire, and empires do not have friends. They have client states obeying orders issued from the imperial center, and they have enemies. There is no in between. There is no such thing as friend of the empire. The U.S. empire does not honor treaties. The American Empire has a rotating Imperial Ruler called a President. Some are Imperialists Light, whereas others are Imperialists Heavy. This was true of Rome and the British. It's true of the USA. The Republican Party is Empire Heavy, as was demonstrated by former President

George Bush.

The current imperial manifestation under President Trump is characterized by simplistic domestic and foreign policies of doing the opposite of whatever President Obama did. Yes, empires are capricious. They do things on the basis, not of rational argument and rational diplomacy, but on the basis of imperial whim. Imperial fiat is important for the purpose of training other nations to expect nothing but contempt from the imperial center. These conditions are worsening as the U.S. imperial structures are collapsing. Thus, a primary goal of empire is to establish a power ranking that is useful when the empire comes around to collect tribute. Historically the U.S. has demanded that subject states open their country to plunder by U.S. banking, mining, and manufacturing corporations.

As for the concern with the IRGC, the U.S. is losing its imperial colonial aggression in Syria. The U.S. desperately needs to find someone to publicly blame for their failed Syrian coup and the IRGC is today's enemy. Tomorrow, who knows. One must never forget that the U.S. does many things merely because it can. That's what defines imperialism. The U.S. doesn't answer to anyone or uphold any treaties, alliances, or deals. In fact, it is very important for the empire to break treaties because if the U.S. upheld a treaty that would mean it isn't really an empire. Thus, the rest of the world should expect erratic and inconsistent foreign policy. That's what maintains the system of obedience.

The frame of reference is important for understanding U.S. foreign policy. U.S. foreign relations are based upon demanding obedience to the imperial power, not upon mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation. The word "cooperation" is not found in the imperial dictionary.

Tasnim: While the governments of Syria and Iraq acknowledge that Iran's genuine supports have helped them defeat the militant groups and the Daesh (ISIL) terrorists, Trump has accused Iran of "fueling sectarian violence in Iraq, and vicious civil wars in Yemen and Syria" in his speech. What is your take on this, considering Trump's refusal to comment on the role of the U.S. regional ally, Saudi Arabia, in the war on Yemen?

Mason: Never believe any U.S. government claims. As an empire, the U.S. has no obligation to tell the truth to anyone, and this is especially true in re-



gards to its own citizens. In fact, telling lies to the domestic population is necessary to maintain domestic obedience to the capitalist colonial aspirations of the state. Lies are told not to fool anyone outside the U.S. Lies are told to maintain a docile, passive, fearful domestic population.

When the U.S. blames other states for creating international conflicts, the truth is found simply by reversing the claims. The U.S. is the biggest terrorist organization on Earth. The U.S., not Iran, illegally invaded Iraq, a war crime. The U.S. is fueling human suffering in Yemen through the sales of arms and the provision of military intelligence to Saudi Arabia. The U.S. is also supporting Daesh in Syria. Supporting terrorists is nothing new. The U.S. began overt support for Nazis in Ukraine under "gentle" President Obama. "Morality" is another word not found in the imperial dictionary.

Hence, the world is turned upside down by blatant false claims made by the U.S. If the U.S. had a free press, the U.S. government would find it difficult to lie. The U.S. does not have a free press, and thus the U.S. government does not fear media correction. The US corporate media are capitalist institutions that profit from U.S. imperialism. Thus, we can shine some light on the system of information control that allows the U.S. government to lie brazenly about world affairs. Currently, the U.S. desperately needs to create false evils outside the U.S. These fabrications are necessary to maintain a frightened domestic population that is focused on some imaginary, fictitious and distant country that they cannot even find on a map. All this is quite perplexing

for people living outside the U.S., but here, the President and his friends in Congress are openly raiding the public treasury and attacking all manner of domestic social programs that serve the interests of ninety-nine percent of the population. Thus, the purpose of creating global chaos is twofold: it maintains uncertainty and fear among foreign nations, and it creates a necessary fear-based distraction for the U.S. domestic population while elites stuff their own pockets full of ill-gotten cash.

If U.S. foreign policy makes no sense to you, it is because it is purposefully intended to make no sense. That's what empires do, although— yes, it's more complicated. President Trump hopes to create a stir about Iran while he is increasing U.S. military presence in Afghanistan. Why would Trump care about a big desert? Afghanistan is now a militarized colony of the U.S. for the purpose of exploiting lucrative minerals for American corporate profits. The U.S. is a plutocracy with no democracy anywhere in sight. Theft is the business of empire.

Tasnim: Trump alleges that Iran has committed "multiple violations" of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the nuclear agreement between Iran and the Group 5+1 (Russia, China, the U.S., Britain, France and Germany). But the International Atomic Energy Agency has explicitly verified Iran's compliance with the JCPOA in eight successive reports. What makes Trump comment about such technically complicated issue, ignore the UN nuclear agency's reports, and allow himself to accuse Iran of breaching the deal?

Mason: Again, this is what empires do. Empires are not held to anything so trivial as facts, international law, treaties, or moral precepts. The USA is a gang of thieves, self-legalized capitalists who operate solely on the basis of what actions will increase corporate profits. The U.S. is a giant corporate-capitalist mafia recognizing only the power of money, and the power of military violence. The claims Trump made in a recent speech regarding Iranian violations of the so-called nuclear deal are patently false, but there's no one around here, inside the U.S., associated with the mainstream media, with the courage to tell the truth. Thus, domestically, the U.S. government lies day and night, year after year, with impunity. The press here is comprised of servants of corporate power, and corporate power is what the U.S. is all about.

The U.S. intent is to keep the parties to the agreement on alert at all times, generating frustrated, fear, and attention focused on U.S. demands. Bullying is what empires do.

We can observe that the policies of the U.S. are now so deranged with hubris that the Trump administration is willing to destroy the fabric of NATO by discarding all semblance of international diplomacy, even with its European imperial subjects such as Germany and the UK. The U.S. is an empire in decline; this one is not going down quietly.

Trump gained access to U.S. power without being vetted by the domestic plutocracy. His foreign policies represent the belligerent end of the imperial spectrum which is now internally in conflict with other segments of the plutocracy that are based upon banking and manufacturing imperial policy. U.S. foreign policy is in disarray, in part, because capitalist plutocratic elites are divided on the question of how best to exploit the rest of the world. We are witnessing the beginning of the end of the U.S. Empire.

Tasnim: At the conclusion of his anti-Iran speech, Trump prayed for a future where "American and Iranian, Muslim, Christian, and Jewish" can live in a world free from violence, hatred, and terror. But he himself is known by many for hate-filled speeches and normalization of the language of hatred. What is your take on this issue as an American citizen?

Mason: I live on the west coast of the USA. Five hundred years ago, some crazy Europeans sailed across the Atlantic Ocean to then stumble upon the Americas. It's been downhill ever since. Here I am living in California, stolen by

the U.S. from Mexico, who stole it from the Native peoples of this continent. The crazy Europeans, mostly British, French, and Spanish (although not exclusively) began a historical period of genocide and plunder of the Americas. So, here I am, of European extraction, living on the edge of a stolen continent. The Americas were plundered by Europeans, then followed by the creation of the USA, a former British colony, now functioning as a spinoff of the collapsed British Empire. Call us the British Empire version 2. The U.S. Empire has, since the 1890's, ventured out across the seas. Nothing much has changed in the past 500 years except the accelerating capability of violence as has culminated in nuclear weapons. The U.S. is the only country on Earth to have used nuclear weapons, and remains today as the most dangerous government on the planet. The word "hypocrisy" is found in bold letters in the imperial dictionary.

President Donald Trump is a stage show, a Vaudeville act, a song-and-dance man, a dark comedian. He was put there to distract us while corporate Wall Street banks and the corporate military-industrial complex plunder the U.S. public treasury and prepare to use the U.S. military to rob Afghanistan of a trillion dollars in rare minerals.

All this imperial violence is driven by something so trivial, and yet deadly, as the quest for corporate power as measured by accountants tabulating quarterly corporate profits. Such is the human predicament. If Trump is crazy, he's a product of the crazy, devious, and delusional European corporate-capitalist-state economic system. As an American citizen, I look around me to find other Americans confused, fearful of immigrants, and distracted by Trump's tirades and yet pacified by violent American football. The U.S. Empire is disintegrating. Whether it will go down with a whimper or a bang is anyone's guess. The people know nothing. When examining U.S. foreign policy, let us keep in mind that the U.S. is not a democracy, has no free press, and that the people know nothing. Such is the power of the "manufacture of consent."

Profits from military arms sales and profits from civilian jet aircraft sales represent conflicting U.S. foreign policy interests. The corporate profits from peace and cooperation are few compared with the profits from militarism and theft. Thus is the conflicting internal division within the plutocracy that controls the U.S. government.

UN Sarin Attack Report Goes Hand in Hand with US Militarization of Syria

TEHRAN (FNA) — For obvious reasons the Syrian government has rejected a bogus report sent to the United Nations Security Council that blamed it for a chemical attack on the opposition-held town of Khan Sheikhoun in April in which dozens of people were killed.

As maintained by Syrian government officials, the bogus report was compiled under instructions from the United States and other Western countries "to place more political pressure" on Syria. The report claims President Bashar Assad's government was responsible for the release of Sarin at Khan Sheikhoun on April 4. The attack prompted an American missile strike against a Syrian air base that Washington claimed was used to launch the chemical attack.

It seems, however, more is at play here than meets the eye:

The War Party in Washington is escalating the ongoing war on Syria, and it is not stopping there. It is occupying once terror-held cities like Raqqa and it is busy building illegal bases throughout the country to ensure permanent occupation of the Arab country. For this, the US needs a pretext and what better than the recent UN Sarin attack report to justify the presence of its occupying forces there.

After all, the massive increase in US ground troops in post-ISIL Syria is part of the usual war for imperialism and greed, in the form of a large contingent of Special Forces being sent to the country's northeast. To this end and after its embarrassing failure in regime changing Syria, the Pentagon says it has begun again with training what it calls "new rebel forces" for after ISIL has been dislodged from the rest of the country.

Regardless, what makes sense should be this: The Middle East region and its



strategic resources are so important that even the British government has announced plans to return. It has already reopened its old colonial naval base in Bahrain. It has military bases in other parts of the Persian Gulf too. It has also announced plans to build new bases in the former British protectorate of Oman and beyond to re-establish its power east of the Suez Canal.

Indeed, the War Party generals should be out of their minds to call it quits in Syria. Unlike the Asia-Pacific region, the Middle East is a region of massive strategic resources, such as oil, gas and minerals, making it irreplaceable for many decades to come. For the US Military-Industrial Complex it is lucrative too, which is why it remains a key plank of the US strategy to pull countries in the region into its sphere of influence and global arms market, even those that are not on the same boat with Washington, including Syria and Iraq.

Though overshadowed by the so-called peace talks, the pivot to Syria and the Middle East remains very much underway. Already the US has expanded and established small military bases within the Syrian territory. It is building another one right outside Raqqa too. Because why not. The United Nations is

looking the other way.

The powerful reality is that the UN has long been bullied by its most powerful and richest member, and UN secretaries-general (plus many member states) have always been forced to grit their teeth and take it quietly. This is yet another textbook example of what the world body has become so lately. The Americans offer a prime example of their criminality in Syria and the UN is more than happy to bury the underlying hypocrisy of its support.

Regardless, the world body needs to wake up to the real dangers that are facing the people of Syria. The UN has failed Syria. It is betraying its people in a time of great crisis. Through silence and complicity, or by taking part directly in the running propaganda war against Syria on the pretext of its non-existent chemical attack, some UN member states are also failing Syria, too timid and tradition-bound to warn of the terrible new dangers that the region is facing.

What post-ISIL Syria needs is a warning of the severe dangers that its people are facing, combined with an outline of the practical steps that are needed to avert these dangers, including an immediate end to the war and withdrawal of all US occupying troops.

First Announcement



N.I.O.C
1396.3469



National Iranian
Drilling Company

Public Calls For Quality Evaluating Of Tender(First Publish/Seconed Publish)						
One-Stage(compressed)						
TENDER GUARANTEE		ESTIMATED VALUE (Rial)	Subject of Tender	Tenders Portal Reg. No.	TENDER NO. / INDENT NO	No
Euro	Rial					
6,294	254,200,000	5,083,668,500	P/F "FANN" API/LPLT LOW PRESSURE FILTER PRESS, SERIES 300	1,504,380	Tender No.: FP/09-96/054 Indent No.:01-22-9646009	1

Brief discription of subject:
National Iranian Drilling Company(NIDC) address pasdaran Blev., Airport Saqare, Ahvaz, Iran hereby intends to purchase its requirements from qualified and interested tenderers through one-stage public tender (compressed) upon following terms and conditions:

A) Qualitative evaluation of tenderer:
The evaluation is based on article (J) implementing regulations of the law of tenders and also carried out base on worksheets qualitative evaluation inq uiry in the tender doucments. Minimum acceptable point of quality is 60.

B) Preparation of tender documents:
Purchasing of documents:
In order to receive the tender documents, 510,000 Rials should be paid to SIBA account number 2174652205004 of NIDC in Bank Meli Iran and providing the original deposit receipt.
Receiving of documents:
Tenderers must be obtain the quality evaluation documents along with tender documents maximum ten days after the date of second publication in person at the following address: Hall No.:113, 1thfloor, Foreign Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahvaz, IRAN
Notice: Only the real or legal persons who apply to purchase and recieve tender ducments from foreign procurment department in due date and participates in tenderwill be known as tenderer from tender committee.

C) Delivery of envelopes of bids and call quality evaluating:
Tenderers shall submit simultaneously envelopes of bids including bank guarantees(A), financial offer(C) and stamped and signed of tender documents(B) along with qualificaion worksheets in form of software in CD and documentary within 40 days from last day of document recived deadline to the following address: Hall No.:107, 1thfloor ,Tender Committee, Building operations, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahvaz, IRAN.
Notice: The deadline for the refusal of bidders participation in the the tender is the last day of determined for submission of bids.

D) Tender Guarantee:
Type of guarantee:
A)Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that have activites licensed by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
B) The original cash deposit receipt paid to National Iranain Drilling Company.
Duration of credit guarantee & quotation:
This duration should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum For one time in initial credit amount.
More on this & other tenders is accessible by click on. WWW.NIDC.IR

Foreign Procurement Dept
National Iranian Drilling Company

تهران تایمز: نوبت اول ۹۶/۰۸/۰۹ نوبت دوم ۹۶/۰۸/۱۰

Trump's legacy: Damaged brains

By Nicholas Kristof

The pesticide, which belongs to a class of chemicals developed as a nerve gas made by Nazi Germany, is now found in food, air and drinking water. Human and animal studies show that it damages the brain and reduces I.Q.s while causing tremors among children. It has also been linked to lung cancer and Parkinson's disease in adults.

The colored parts of the image above, prepared by Columbia University scientists, indicate where a child's brain is physically altered after exposure to this pesticide.

This chemical, chlorpyrifos, is hard to pronounce, so let's just call it Dow Chemical Company's Nerve Gas Pesticide. Even if you haven't heard of it, it may be inside you: One 2012 study found that it was in the umbilical cord blood of 87 percent of newborn babies tested.

And now the Trump administration is embracing it, overturning a planned ban that had been in the works for many years.

The Environmental Protection Agency actually banned Dow's Nerve Gas Pesticide for most indoor residential use 17 years ago — so it's no longer found in the Raid you spray at cockroaches (it's very effective, which is why it's so widely used; then again, don't suggest this to Dow, but sarin nerve gas might be even more effective!). The E.P.A. was prepar-

ing to ban it for agricultural and outdoor use this spring, but then the Trump administration rejected the ban.

That was a triumph for Dow, but the decision stirred outrage among public health experts. They noted that

So Dow's Nerve Gas Pesticide will still be used on golf courses, road medians and crops that end up on our plate. Kids are told to eat fruits and vegetables, but E.P.A. scientists found levels of this pesticide on such foods at up to 140 times the limits deemed safe.

"This was a chemical developed to attack the nervous system," notes Virginia Rauh, a Columbia professor who has conducted groundbreaking research on it. "It should not be a surprise that it's not good for people."

■ The brain-damager

Remember the brain-damaging lead that was ignored in drinking water in Flint, Mich. What's happening under the Trump administration is a nationwide echo of what was permitted in Flint: Officials are turning a blind eye to the spread of a number of toxic substances, including those linked to cancer and brain damage.

"We are all Flint," Professor Rauh says. "We will look back on it as something shameful."

Here's the big picture: The \$800 billion chemical industry lavishes money on politicians and lobbies its way out of

effective regulation. This has always been a problem, but now the Trump administration has gone so far as to choose chemical industry lobbyists to oversee environmental protections. The American Academy of Pediatrics protested the administration's decision on the nerve gas pesticide, but officials sided with industry over doctors. The swamp won.

The chemical industry lobby, the American Chemistry Council, is today's version of Big Tobacco. One vignette: Chemical companies secretly set up a now-defunct front organization called Citizens for Fire Safety that purported to be a coalition of firefighters, doctors and others alarmed about house fires. The group called for requiring flame retardant chemicals in couches, to save lives, of course.

In fact, this was an industry hoax, part of a grand strategy to increase sales of flame retardants — whose principle effect seems to be to cause cancer. The American Chemistry Council was caught lying about its involvement in this hoax.

Yet these days, Trump is handing over the keys of our regulatory apparatus to the council and its industry allies. An excellent Times article by Eric Lipton noted that to oversee toxic chemicals, Trump appointed a council veteran along with toxicologist with a history of taking council money to defend carcinogens.

■ Trump's appointed foxes

In effect, Trump appointed two foxes to be Special As-

sistant for Guarding the Henhouse.

Some day we will look back and wonder: What were we thinking?! I've written about the evidence that toxic chemicals are lowering men's sperm counts, and new research suggests by extrapolation that by 2060, a majority of American and European men could even be infertile. These days we spew fewer toxins into our air and rivers, and instead we dump poisons directly into our own bodies.

A Dow spokeswoman, Rachele Schikorra, told me that "Dow stands by the safety of chlorpyrifos" (I don't think the company approves of my branding it Dow's Nerve Gas Pesticide). Given Dow's confidence, I suggest that the company spray it daily in its executive dining rooms.

Look, it's easy to get diverted by the daily White House fireworks. But long after the quotidian craziness is forgotten, Americans will be caring for victims of the chemical industry's takeover of safety regulation.

Democrats sometimes gloat that Trump hasn't managed to pass significant legislation so far, which is true. But he has been tragically effective at dismantling environmental and health regulations — so that Trump's most enduring legacy may be cancer, infertility and diminished I.Q.s for decades to come.

(Source: The NYT)

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What happens when you don't eat?

We have to have food to survive, but as everyone learned in school, the body can last longer without food than water. In fact, some studies show that some people can go up to 70 days without food. This is because our bodies are designed to withstand stress. The defense mechanisms triggered when you don't eat can help you to survive as long as you stay hydrated.

■ What happens when you don't eat?

There is a lot of talk about diets based on ketosis and starvation mode diets. Starvation mode is what your body can go into if you don't eat. While your body can adjust to a lack of nutrition it can only survive for a few weeks if you are also taking in enough fluids.

There are a lot of factors that can determine whether or not you can survive a fast of longer than 2 weeks, including genes, health, level of hydration and other factors. Regardless of how long you can go, here is what happens to everybody during 3 weeks of not eating.

■ Within 6 hours

Within 6 hours of not eating your body is using the glycogen it created by digesting food that enters the bloodstream as glucose. This is the primary fuel of the body. Once the 6 hours is up, the body will turn to consuming excess fat and transforming it into glucose for distribution to cells and tissues via the bloodstream too.

■ After 3 days

Once you have gone 3 days without



food you enter into what is known as the "starvation mode." This is a process that the body uses to survive lack of nutrition. Fat stores are gone and the brain needs glucose to function. It begins to use the stores in the liver through a process called ketosis. The ketone bodies replace glucose as fuel for the brain. The body metabolism lowers significantly so what stores of fuel are left is directed towards the brain.

■ 3 Days to 3 Weeks

After 3 days the liver has no more stores of fuel for the body and brain to convert and consume. This is when the

process of autophagy begins to occur. This refers to the process of the body breaking down its proteins in order to create fuel for all its systems. That protein comes from the destruction of muscle tissue, which is one of the tissues highest in protein in the body. This is not a consistent process but peaks after 72 hours before the metabolism slows again to act to conserve protein.

■ After 3 weeks

After 3 weeks the body continues to look for protein sources to convert into fuel. Once the muscles are gone the only source left are tissues, with the

highest concentration occurring in the organs. Before this usually happens, the lack of essential vitamins and minerals usually cause complications as your immune system becomes compromise. If you do not become ill, you will fall into a vegetative state followed by death. People in the final stages of starvation can usually be identified from their lack of muscle mass, lack of energy and bloated stomach.

■ Warning

It is important that you understand what happens when you don't eat and the seriousness of not eating as many people use not eating as a way to lose weight. If you choose to starve yourself, even temporarily, it can create irreversible effects on the body that can lead to death.

When no food is coming in, the body consumes what it already has inside. That begins with fat and then moves onto muscle and other tissue. It slows your metabolism down to conserve energy too, so you won't lose much weight at all. When you start eating again, the body will keep the metabolism low and pack on weight because it is trying to build a reserve. Starvation can alter body composition and processes that can jeopardize organ function and overall health. The effects created by it are irreversible and it is never recommended as a way to lose weight.

(Source: newhealthadvisor.com)

Toothache home remedies, help for dry socket pain

Clove oil - Put a couple drops of clove oil on a cotton ball and apply to tooth. For larger area you may want to mix the drop in 1/4 teaspoon of organic olive oil then dip the cottonball in the mix. Clove oil is very potent but it's probably my favorite of all the toothache remedies!

This is a great dry socket remedy also. Clean the socket first (irrigate with warm water syringe) and pack the socket with the cotton ball infused with a couple drops of organic clove essential oil. This simple oil will greatly help toothache pain!

If you can't find clove essential oil, your local drugstore should have a Red Cross Toothache Kit. This kit contains an oil called Eugenol which is basically clove oil.

Whole cloves or powdered clove - When using whole cloves dip the clove in some honey and gently chew it to release the essential oils. Or make a paste with powdered clove and water or olive oil. Apply directly or use a cotton ball.

● **Cayenne pepper** - Apply a few grains of cayenne pepper to the tooth or make a paste. This may make your tooth ache pain worse for only a minute before the pain subsides.

● **Ginger root** - Chew a small piece of ginger root or make a paste with powdered.

● **Echinacea tincture** - Apply a few drop of tincture to the tooth and gums. This is one of the best toothache home remedies as it will not only numb the pain but fight infections as well.

● **Sage** - Make a strong cup of sage tea. Swish each mouthful and hold for 30 seconds before swallowing. Do the same for each mouthful until cup is gone. Sage is also a natural tooth whitener!

● **Oil of oregano** - Oil of oregano is deeply penetrating and germicidal. Use directly on the tooth or put a few drops on a cotton ball and wedge be-



tween bad tooth and gum.

● **Activated charcoal** - Charcoal has a great ability to draw toxins and can be very beneficial for an abscessed tooth or just a toothache. Make a poultice and apply as long as possible.

● **Acupressure** - Squeeze your index finger (same side your tooth is on) on each side of your fingernail. Squeeze and rotate back and forth for several minutes.

■ Fighting gum disease and general oral health

● **Myrrh essential oil** - A great antiseptic for your mouth and more! Make a paste by adding a few drops to some baking soda. Rub on gums then use to brush your teeth. You can also add a few drops to some vodka then mix with water and use as a mouthwash. (essential oils and water will not mix hence the need for vodka) This is a good remedy

for canker sores also.

● **Hydrogen peroxide** - Use 3% hydrogen peroxide as a mouthwash. Soak your toothbrush in HP to sanitize!

● **Salt** - Add a teaspoon of salt to warm water and rinse.

■ Homemade mouthwash recipes

● Combine 1/4 cup apple cider vinegar in two cups distilled water. Store in a glass bottle and use daily. (You can add myrrh oil to the vinegar before you add the water for an even more antiseptic rinse!) Make sure you rinse with pure water afterwards to dilute the acids in the vinegar.

● **Essential Oil Mouthwash Recipe** 20 drops peppermint essential oil 10 drops orange essential oil 10 drops eucalyptus essential oil 1 cup vodka Mix all ingredients and store in a tightly capped jar. To use, dilute 1 tablespoon mouthwash in 1 cup water. Use as a rinse and gargle but do not swallow.

● **Herbal Mouthwash Recipe** 1 cup water 1 tablespoon whole cloves 1 tablespoon cinnamon chips 1 teaspoon fennel seeds 1 teaspoon anise seeds 1 teaspoon licorice root Mix ingredients in a small glass jar. Seal tightly and steep for two weeks. Shake the jar daily. After two weeks, strain and re-seal in glass jar. To use, dilute 1 tablespoon mouthwash in 1 cup water. Do not swallow.

● **Grapefruit seed extract** - Add 3 drops of grapefruit seed extract to 3 ounces water for a rinse and/or gargle. (Available in most health food departments) Use 5 - 10 drops in a glass of water to soak/sanitize your toothbrush for 15 minutes.

● **Solomon's seal root tincture** - This amazing herb is mostly known as a bone and muscle remedy so it's no surprise that it is wonderful for teeth and gums.

(Source: healing-from-home-remedies.com)

Fruit juice and medications don't mix

Here's something to contemplate over your morning fruit juice. A few years back, doctors discovered the "grapefruit effect"—the fact that drinking grapefruit juice affects the way certain blood pressure medications work. Doctors have since found that more than 40 different meds can have their effects magnified by grapefruit juice.

Now, the story has gotten a bit more complicated. Orange juice and apple juice could also interfere with some medications. And depending on the drug you're taking, the effects of your treatment could be either be blocked or boosted. This could stop the drug from helping you, or put you at risk of an overdose.

In a new study, researchers looked at healthy volunteers who took a drug called fexofenadine. It's an antihistamine, used to treat allergies.

Some people took the allergy pills with water, and others drank grapefruit, apple or orange juice. The juices stopped people absorbing the drug properly, meaning they got about half the dose they should have done. Grapefruit juice seemed to have the strongest effect.



Drugs that can react with orange, apple or grapefruit juice include some antibiotics, chemotherapy drugs and beta-blockers. According to the researchers, if you're taking medications and want to drink these juices, you need to leave a gap of four hours either side of taking your pills. So if you take your pills first thing in the morning, you might want to save your breakfast glass of orange juice for lunchtime.

■ Here are some other things to watch for if you're taking prescription medications.

● Cranberry juice can increase the effects of a blood thinner called warfarin (brand name Coumadin). This could cause dangerous bleeding.

● A group of drugs for weak bones, called bisphosphonates, need to be taken with plenty of water while standing or sitting upright. You can't eat anything for half an hour after taking the pills.

● Some drugs have pretty complicated instructions. People taking MAOIs, a type of antidepressant, need to avoid several foods, including cheese, processed meats and soy products.

If you're ever unsure about how to take medications safely, your doctor or pharmacist will be able to help.

What you need to know. Whenever you start a new medication, check the instructions about how to take it. It's safest to wash down pills with nothing more than a glass of water.

(Source: consumerreports.org)

Why weight matters when it comes to joint pain

If you're having the occasional twinge of joint pain when you go for a walk or climb stairs, or you're worried about arthritis because a parent had it, one step toward prevention is to check your weight.

There are two ways that being overweight raises your risk for developing osteoarthritis (the most common joint disorder, which is due to wear and tear on a joint). First, excess weight puts additional stress on weight-bearing joints (the knee, for example). Second, inflammatory factors associated with weight gain might contribute to trouble in other joints (for example, the hands).

Let's look at weight and your knees. When you walk across level ground, the force on your knees is the equivalent of 1½ times your body weight. That means a 200-pound man will put 300 pounds of pressure on his knees with each step. Add an incline, and the pressure is even greater: the force on each knee is two to three times your body weight when you go up and down stairs, and four to five times your body weight when you squat to tie a shoelace or pick up an item you dropped.

Losing a few pounds can go a long way toward reducing the pressure on your knees — and protecting them. For example, research has proven that a sustained 10- to 15-pound weight loss in obese young people can translate to a much lower risk of osteoarthritis later in life.

■ The best tactics for losing weight

Increasing physical activity has many health benefits and can help you shed weight. But stepping up your exercise alone is rarely enough to help you lose weight. Every pound you'd like to shed represents roughly 3,500 calories. So if you're hoping to lose half a pound to one pound a week, you need to knock off 250 to 500 calories a day. A good way to start is to try to burn 125 calories through exercise and eat 125 fewer calories each day.

Don't forget that the math works both ways: indulging in an extra 100 calories a day without burning them off can leave you 10 pounds heavier at the end of a year! Over time, routine treats like a scoop or two of ice cream, a calorie-packed coffee drink, or visits to the cookie or candy jar can tip the scales in the wrong direction.

(Source: health.harvard.edu)

This is your body on candy

Your heart, joints and even mood take a hit

By Toby Amidor

Each year, my kids come back from trick-or-treating with pillowcases filled with chocolate bars, taffy, sugar-filled sticks and more. After they're done swapping their treats and picking their favorites from the pile, I'm stuck with buckets of goodies just begging to be eaten. But before I indulge my kids' reject pile, I think about how candy affects different parts of the body. It helps me reject the treats, too. Here's what to know before digging in:

■ Your teeth

According to the American Dental Association, hard candy, sticky foods and sour candy top the list of worst candies for your teeth. In addition to being high in added sugar, hard candy can lead to dental emergencies like broken or chipped teeth. Who needs to be dragging a kid to the dentist to get that baby fixed? Sticky candy like taffy is tougher to remove and may stay longer on teeth. This gives cavity-causing bacteria more time to wreak havoc on your mouth.

And, when it comes to sour candy — especially those that are sticky and coated in sugar — they can be very acidic, making your teeth more vulnerable to cavities.

■ Your weight

Although a small handful of candy won't bust your gut, eating an extra few hundred calories a day can lead to weight gain. If you're a chocoholic like me, those bad boys are filled with saturated fat and carry a hefty calorie tag. It's probably more likely you're eating 1,000 or more extra calories per day if you're bingeing on them.

■ Your heart

Studies have strongly connected a diet high in saturated fat with an increased risk of heart disease. Eating one full-sized Hershey bar (a real score, according to my kids) will give you 220 calories and 42 percent of the recommended daily amount of saturated fat. Eat a bar every day (or binge on a handful of minis) and you've probably gone over the recommended amount of saturated fat for the day. Over time, this can in-

crease your risk of heart disease.

■ Your mood

A 2016 study in Scientific Reports linked intake of sweet food, beverages and added sugar with symptoms of depression. The study, which looked at the dietary patterns of over 23,000 men and women, showed that men who had the highest intake of sugar from sweet food and beverages had a 23 percent higher change of having the common mental disorder after five years. Men and women who consumed the highest amount of sweet foods and sugar were also more likely to have recurring depression.

Another study published in 2015 in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition examined the link between foods with higher glycemic indexes and glycemic loads and the incidence of depression using data from about 88,000 postmenopausal women. The study found that women with a diet higher in high glycemic index foods and added sugar were more likely to have depression.

■ Your joints

According to the Arthritis Foundation, added sugar from chocolate bars and candy can trigger the release of cytokines, which are inflammatory messengers. Further, a 2014 study published in the Journal of Clinical Nutrition including data from nearly 200,000 women found that those who consumed one or more servings of sugar-sweetened soda per day had a 63 percent higher risk of developing rheumatoid arthritis than those who consumed no sugar-sweetened soda or those who consumed less than one serving per month.

■ Your pancreas

Every time you eat any food with sugar, your pancreas releases insulin. Overindulging in sugar for a long period of time can result in your pancreas releasing even more insulin. Eventually, your poor, overworked pancreas doesn't work efficiently, which can lead to high levels of blood sugar and possibly even Type 2 diabetes.

(Source: usnews.com)

S. Korean ancient relics to go on show in Tehran

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — Over 140 historical relics associated with South Korea's Silla treasure will go on display at the National Museum of Iran in downtown Tehran.

The 41-day exhibit titled "Silla and Persia, a common memory" will open its doors to the public on November 4, ISNA reported on Monday.

These artifacts largely date from the 4th to 9th centuries, contemporary with the Sassanid and Buyid eras in Iran, ISNA quoted National Museum of Iran Director Jebreil Nokandeh as saying.

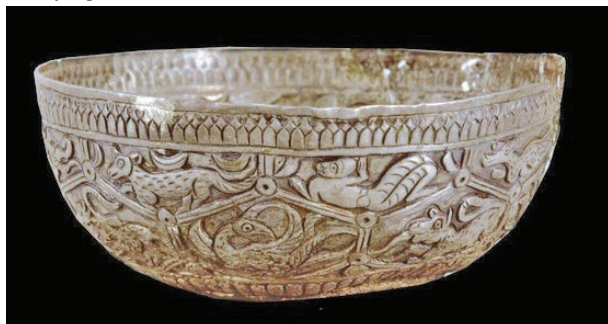


Photo depicts an engraved silver vessel, which is part of Korea's Silla treasure

During that period the two countries had commercial and cultural ties via the terrestrial and the maritime routes of the ancient Silk Road, he added.

The historical objects have been borrowed from the Gyeongju National Museum, Nokandeh said.

The museum's holdings are largely devoted to relics of the Silla kingdom, of which Gyeongju was the capital.

The Silla dynasty was one of the world's longest sustained kingdoms ruled in southern and central parts of the Korean Peninsula. The historic area around Gyeongju was made a UNESCO World Heritage in 2000.

Brexit: 11% drop in successful visa applications

The number of UK visas granted to individuals representing foreign businesses has dropped since Britain's vote to leave the European Union.

According to law firm Collyer Bristow, 125 visas were granted in the year ending March 2017, down 11 percent from the 140 that were handed out in the previous year.

It said the drop may have been due to stricter reviews by the Home Office carried out on the back of Prime Minister Theresa May's clamp down on net migration targets.

The Prime Minister's office said on Thursday that data suggesting Britain's population will pass the 70 million mark by 2029 proves the need to bring net migration down to the tens of thousands.

A "representative of an overseas business" visa is valid for three years and granted to individuals representing a company from outside the EU looking to expand into the UK.

Collyer Bristow said many of these businesses are from industries such as tech. It warned that more overseas business visa rejections could put the Government "at risk of missing out" on large amounts of tax revenue.

(Source: Independent)



ROUND THE GLOBE

Bardejov town in Slovakia

The town of Bardejov is located in north-eastern Slovakia, on a floodplain terrace of the river Topla near the Polish border.

Due to its proximity to the major trade route that stretches across the Carpathian Mountains, from Hungary into Poland, Bardejov was able to develop into an important medieval town.

The town's surviving urban plan, with a regular division of streets around a spacious market square, is an indication of European civilization from the 13th to 14th centuries.



A view of the historical Bardejov town, a UNESCO World Heritage in Slovakia

Burgers' houses, dating from the first half of the 15th century, surround three sides of the square and document the highly developed burgess culture. The fourth side of the square is closed by the Roman Catholic Church of St. Giles, a three-naved Gothic basilica with a precious collection of eleven late Gothic altars.

The Renaissance town hall occupies the center of the square. The historic core of the town is encircled by the fortification system which was, at the time of its construction, one of the most advanced in Central Europe.

Bardejov provides exceptionally well-preserved evidence of the economic and social structure of trading towns in medieval Central Europe. Its surviving building stock represents a developed burgess culture and Jewish community, thus illustrating a multi-national and multi-cultural society.

(Source: UNESCO)

Tourism holds vast potential for Iran-Korea co-op: envoy

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN — Seoul's ambassador to Tehran says tourism holds vast potential for the growth of cooperation between Iran and South Korea though most of the potential is still untapped.

Kim Seung-ho terms mutual understanding "a solid foundation" for the two nations to enhance cultural and tourism ties, highlighting the need for proper advertising to involve more and more people.

"Iranian authorities can [widely] advertise Iran's rich culture and tourism destinations in order to penetrate to the Korean society," the ambassador told the Tehran Times in an exclusive interview held at the 23rd Press Exhibition on Sunday.

The two nations established diplomatic relations in 1962. Their resilient, friendly and strategic partnership is frequently referred to as "Korea-Iran One Heart One Soul".

In what follows the text of the interview has been given:

■ **How do you see the status quo in the tourism sphere as well as ways to deepen it?**

The Korean government is very keen for increasing these people-to-people exchanges between the two nations. You know, to boost the tourism interest, first of all it requires two governments work more closely together.

Iranian authorities should advertise how rich your culture and your tourism destinations are to Korean people who does not much about Iranian cultural heritage and Iranian tourism destinations.

■ **So you fault the lack of precise information and advertising?**

Yes, [by the means of] covering relevant information, advertising and promo-



Kim Seung-ho terms mutual understanding "a solid foundation" for the two nations to enhance cultural and tourism ties, highlighting the need for proper advertising to involve more and more people.

tion of such potentials, the Iranians will penetrate to the Korean society.

As for the Korean side, for example at embassy here, we encourage Iranian people to travel to Korea. We hold series of events with cultural themes as well.

■ **Any initiative planned for making visa simplification?**

Currently, it takes only one day to take

a Korean visa. If you apply today, you would get the visa tomorrow. We reduced the necessary document from 12 to 5 in order to facilitate it and shorten the time.

I also pushed an Iranian air service company as well as a Korean counterpart to launch direct flights. The two companies are now watching closely the market situation if it is mature enough to start

doing the business.

■ **How many visas granted to Iranian nationals last year?**

We issued around 7,000 visas mostly business ones. The number of tourism visas are around 1,000. We grant tourism visas to Iranian travel companies which can gather possible Iranian travelers to the country.

Amano visits National Museum of Iran

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — Yukiya Amano, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, paid a visit to the National Museum of Iran on October 29, 2017.

He toured various sections of the museum including the ones dedicated to prehistoric, ancient, and Islamic-era Iran as well as countless archaeological objects that chronicle the country's juicy history.

Accompanied by several senior officials, Amano also visited a Tehran-Yerevan joint exhibit titled "Armenia and Iran: Memory of The Land".

"I am very pleased to find the objects that are similar to those in Shosoin Temple. This shows a long-standing good relation between Iran and Japan, my country," he wrote in the memorial book



of the museum.

On the same day, Amano also held talks with



President Hassan Rouhani, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and some other officials.

Myanmar's tourism in crisis amid Rohingya suffering

Fears grow as a cascade of cancellations ripples through Myanmar's fledgling tourism industry, with shocking images of burnt villages and Muslim Rohingya fleeing army-led violence in western Rakhine state sparking global outrage.

With more than half a million Rohingya forced to flee to neighboring Bangladesh in two months, carrying testimony of killings and arson at the hands of soldiers and Buddhist mobs, Myanmar's fledgling tourism sector could collapse back to its dark days under military rule.

Ever since the bloodshed broke out in late August, tourism operators have witnessed a torrent of cancellations in the emerging industry that was gearing up for its high season in October.

"Almost all the trips scheduled for October and November have been cancelled due to instability in the country, because of the situation in Rakhine state," said Tun Tun Naing from New Fantastic Asia Travels and Tour, an agency that leads trips to the pristine beaches and mist-shrouded lakes that dot the lush country.

"Most groups in Japan, Australia and other Asian countries cited security reasons and some Europeans have clearly said they boycotted because of the hu-



manitarian situation."

Leaders from the UK, U.S., France, Canada and Australia have urged Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi to push for an end to violence against the Rohingya, but so far, she has failed to explicitly condemn the killings, which Human Rights Watch UN Director Louis Charbonneau has called an "ethnic cleansing campaign".

There is a need for "strong UN action to

compel Myanmar security services to end their ethnic cleansing campaign", Charbonneau said.

In Yangon, a bustling city known for its crumbling colonial architecture, some foreign tourists could still be seen circling the gilded Shwedagon Pagoda that looms over the former capital.

But they admitted that the ongoing crisis is an awkward backdrop for their holiday.

A getaway to Australia can be worth the long flight

Travelers from the United States seem to have an increasing interest in visiting Australia: Sales of Australia trips from the United States on Expedia.com have grown almost 35 percent in the last two years.

From January through September, the tour operator Intrepid Travel has hosted 310 American travelers in Australia, up from 182 for the same period last year.

Despite the long flight, said Ignacio Maza, the executive vice president of Signature Travel Network, a consortium of travel consultants, American travelers should consider it.

"There are vibrant cities like Sydney, beautiful

beaches, natural wonders found nowhere else and world-class wine and food," he said. Best of all, an Australian getaway can be had at an attractive price.

Throughout 2017 and 2018, Intrepid Travel is offering a 14-day Australia's East Coast Encompassed, Sydney to Cairns group tour. The itinerary includes stays in Sydney, Byron Bay and the Great Barrier Reef; a boat trip around the Whitsundays Islands; and a day trip to Fraser Island. Prices start at \$3,890 a person, inclusive of upscale accommodations, transfers, all tours and 19 meals. Book by calling 800-970-7299.

Travelers with less time to spend should consider

the eight-night Contrasts of Australia group tour from Trafalgar, also offered from now through 2018; stays and tours in Melbourne, the Great Barrier Reef, Sydney and Cairns are part of the itinerary. Prices start at \$2,655 a person, inclusive of accommodations, transfers, most tours and 14 meals. Book by calling 866-513-1995.

For those who prefer private travel, Expedia.com has several hundred Australia packages for travel from November through March and inclusive of airfare and hotels, for \$1,683 a person.

(Source: The New York Times)

E-cigarette use by high school students linked to cigarette smoking

Use of e-cigarettes by high school students was strongly associated with later cigarette smoking, according to a large study conducted in 2 Canadian provinces and published in CMAJ (Canadian Medical Association Journal).

"While our study provides strong evidence that e-cigarettes are associated with smoking initiation among youth, the association is unclear," says Dr. David Hammond, School of Public Health and Health Systems, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario. "E-cigarettes may help to re-normalize smoking; however, the association between e-cigarettes and smoking may simply reflect common factors rather than a causal effect: the same individual and social risk factors that increase e-cigarette use may also increase the likelihood of youth smoking."

The study included 44 163 students in Grades 9-12 at 89 schools in Ontario and Alberta, Canada, who participated in the ongoing COMPASS study.

■ In the current study

In the current study, researchers looked at e-cigarette use at the start of the study in phase 1 (2013/14) and at follow-up (2014/15, with 87 schools). They classified students into 6 categories: current daily smokers, current occasional smokers, former smokers, experimental smokers, puffers and those who had never tried smoking.

Among students in both study phases, youth who used e-cigarettes in the 30



days prior to the start of the study were more likely to start smoking cigarettes and to continue smoking after 1 year, a finding consistent with other similar study types. At the same time, the prevalence of smok-

ing decreased slightly over time; therefore, if e-cigarettes are promoting youth smoking, the overall impact has been modest to date.

"Youth may be trying e-cigarettes be-

Among students in both study phases, youth who used e-cigarettes in the 30 days prior to the start of the study were more likely to start smoking cigarettes and to continue smoking after 1 year, a finding consistent with other similar study types.

fore smoking because they are easier to access: until recently, youth could legally purchase e-cigarettes without nicotine, whereas regular cigarettes cannot be sold to young people under 18 years of age," says Dr. Hammond.

This is a large longitudinal study, meaning it collects information on the same subjects over time. Similar studies have been conducted in the U.S., although tobacco regulation in Canada is different. Unlike the U.S., Canada has not approved nicotine-containing e-cigarettes for sale in conventional retail outlets such as supermarkets, although they are widely available online and in vape stores.

■ Non-nicotine e-cigarettes

Non-nicotine e-cigarettes do not require prior approval and make up a larger part of the e-cigarette market in Canada compared with many other countries. Canada is expected to announce new federal regulations on e-cigarettes shortly.

As the study was conducted in only 2 provinces, extrapolation of the findings nationally is unwise. As well, the study only looked at smoking initiation related to e-cigarettes and not the possible impact of e-cigarettes on smoking cessation.

The authors note that the "findings from our study provide support for both sides of the debate. It is highly plausible that 'common factors' account for a substantial proportion of increased cigarette-smoking initiation among e-cigarette users." (Source: EurekAlert)

Space travel alters gene expression 'like fireworks'

NASA's Twins Study's preliminary results show that gene expression changes as a result of space travel. These changes happen "like fireworks," as they occur the moment the human body gets into space.

Being an astronaut is no easy job especially with the physical challenges that come along with being launched into space. Now, NASA may be closer to a clearer understanding of just how much the body changes during space travel as the preliminary results for NASA's Twins Study have been released with quite interesting outcomes.

One of the most interesting results to come out of the Twins Study is that space travel evidently increases methylation, or the process of genes turning on and off. In fact, this effect is seen almost immediately, as the changes happen as soon as an astronaut gets into space.

■ Exciting things

"Some of the most exciting things that we've seen from looking at gene expression in space is that we really see an explosion, like fireworks taking off, as soon as the human body gets into space," says Chris Mason, Ph.D., of Weill Cornell

University, principal investigator of the Twins Study.

What's more, this "fireworks" effect doesn't just occur when an astronaut reaches space, as investigators still observe this phenomenon, albeit temporarily, after an astronaut returns to Earth.

The Twins Study comprises 10 investigations with the aim of understanding the subtle differences that occur in the body as a result of space flight. To do this, two individuals with the same genetics spent one year in different environments — one in space and the other on Earth.

Astronauts and identical twins Mark and Scott Kelly participated in the first-of-its-kind study that will not just enlighten NASA on the effects of space flight on the human body, but possibly lead to safer and longer space travels.

■ Interesting effects

Investigators also noted other interesting effects of space travel so far. For instance, the telomeres, or the caps at the end of chromosomes became longer during space travel, and then shrunk back upon returning to Earth.



Interestingly, shorter telomeres are associated with getting older.

While investigators are still unsure as to the cause of this phenomenon, they surmise that more exercise and lesser calories consumed in space may have contributed.

What's more, the twins' gut bacteria had notable differences throughout the

investigation, though this could possibly be due to the differences in diet and environment. Temporary height increase after space travel was also observed, and differences in 200,000 of the brothers' RNA molecules led the investigators to look at the possibility of the activation of a "space gene."

(Source: Tech Times)

New cars on IKCO's New Platform

The representative of the Italian car design firm, Pininfarina, says the company has launched a joint project with Iran Khodro Industrial Group to design new platforms for IKCO's future vehicles.

In an address to the Early Suppliers Involvement (ESI) for IKCO's new platform, Geno Mozako, said the design and development of new vehicles as well as internal-combustion engines with other

companies in this cooperation is among our main goals in Iran.

He went on saying Pininfarina's main strategy is unprecedented which includes not only designing of a vehicle but also other features like fuel efficiency, safety, environment-friendly and competitiveness.

"Producing vehicles in various types like hatchback, sedan, crossover and

SUV have been predicted for the new platform. Meanwhile, we have an eye on hybrid and electronic vehicles," he said.

Pininfarina Company is a designing and engineering company which has already designed some leading brands like Ferrari.

According to the representative, Pininfarina is also active in propulsion production and is capable of producing it

for certain vehicles in a limited number.

"Pininfarina is the only company which tests and analyses all stages of development itself," he noted.

It's noteworthy that the first ESI for IKCO's new platform was held on Wednesday (October 25) in SAPCO complex with the presence of leading foreign suppliers as well as more than 80 Iranian companies.

Mega Motors Co. Inks Deal with S. Korea's Power Tech Hyundai Co.

Iran's second largest car manufacturing company SAIPA signed and sealed a contract with South Korean Power Tech Hyundai Company, Public Relations Dept. of SAIPA reported.

Given the above issue, the second phase of cooperation of SAIPA Group kicked off with South Korean Power Tech Hyundai Company (HPT) in the field of manufacturing automatic 6-speed gearbox transmission.

It should be noted that Mega Motors Company is a subsidiary company of SAIPA Group.

On the sidelines of signing this contract, Mohammad-Reza Sheikh Attar Chief Executive of Mega Motors Company said: "Talks started between Mega Motors Company and South Korean Power Tech Hyundai Com-



pany as of early 2016."

He expounded on the specifications of automatic

six-speed transmission gearbox and said: "With its 170 Newton/meter, the said gearbox is of the mostly-used automatic transmission in the world, observing requirements of international standards."

Moreover observing requirements of international standards, this automatic transmission has the other features such as low fuel consumption which can meet all expectation of driver from a suitable power transmission system, he maintained.

In the end, Mohammad-Reza Sheikh Attar Chief Executive of Mega Motors Company said: "Currently, this type of automatic gearbox has been installed on two model of cars manufactured by SAIPA Group named "SAINA" and "Quick".

IKCO to Produce Fuel Efficient Cars

A member of Mahle Group's board of directors says cooperation between the group and Iran Khodro is expanding further, adding one of the main joint projects between the two sides is to produce new three-cylinder propulsions with significant fuel efficiency.

Martin Burger who was attending in the Early Supplier Involvement

(ESI) for IKCO's new platform said "since raising the standard level of propulsions and taking steps towards hybrid cars manufacturing are costly projects, we have decided to begin our work with simple targets."

He said Mahle Group has great experience in CNG production and added the company has been in-

involved in designing and producing propulsions for a long time. "We are now working on new platforms for Iran Khodro and given the available capacities, we are sure that the multi-national cooperation will pay off."

Burger also said hybrid and automatic cars will have the upper hand in the auto industry by 2030 and added "so we need to adopt some

appropriate technologies which decrease the use of internal combustion propulsions by 2030."

The Early Supplier Involvement (ESI) for IKCO's new platform was held on Wednesday (October 25) in SAPCO complex with the presence of leading foreign companies as well as more than 80 Iranian companies.

Evolutionary history a better key for conservation targets

An "extinction crisis" is affecting every continent on Earth, but a new study published in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B has identified Australia, Central Asia, Spain and North Africa as among the most vital areas in need of protection "for conservation of the mammalian tree of life".

Efforts that focus on preserving specific endangered species based on how many of each remain are well known and often highly visible. But the new study takes what its authors believe is a more realistic and effective global approach to conservation at the family tree level, taking into account a group's evolutionary history — its phylogenetic diversity — and also how much territory is available to be set aside for the animals' preservation.

The study uses maps of about 4700 land mammals' habitats, and genetic information on how species are related to each other, to identify important places across the world for protecting mammal diversity. It identifies key places on every continent, including parts of coastal Queensland, Australian deserts near Alice Springs, Sumatra and Java, Madagascar, India, China and Spain.

The researchers say their method is a substantially more effective solution "for conserving the diversity of mammal evolution along with minimum target areas for habitat protection".

"This study seeks to protect all land mammals but it gives top priority to species with no close relatives, because if they were lost there would be nothing like them left," Rosauer says.

"This is the first time that anyone has mapped these priority areas for conserving the diversity of mammal evolution along with minimum target areas for habitat protection."

(Source: cosmosmagazine.com)

World's quickest laser pulse can track electrons in slow motion

The race to produce ever-faster laser pulses has set a new record, and it could lead to breakthroughs in our understanding of atom-level physics.

A team at ETH Zurich has shortened an X-ray pulse to just 43 attoseconds (10⁻¹⁸ seconds), which is quick enough that you can observe electrons moving in slow motion. That, in turn, makes it realistic to study extremely fast processes, such as the formation of chemical bonds or the creation of electricity in solar cells.

The system uses a mid-infrared laser to generate "soft" X-ray pulses with an extremely large spectral bandwidth. Previous attosecond-level pulses revolved around titanium-sapphire lasers, which limited the potential photon energy and effectively ruled out studying large chunks of the periodic table.

ETH's breakthrough could significantly improve our understanding of how electrons behave, but there are also some practical benefits. You could see more efficient solar panels as scientists learn which materials and methods excite electrons the most.

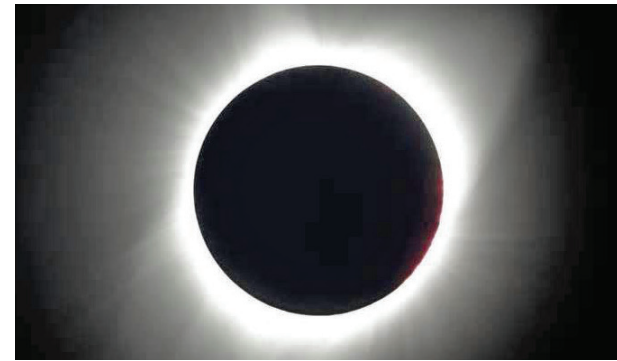
You can also use these laser pulses to change reactions -- imaging stopping or slowing a natural reaction by zapping a molecule at just the right moment. (Source: Engadget)

First solar eclipse ever recorded took place more than 3,000 years ago

The oldest solar eclipse ever recorded has been pinpointed to a specific date more than 3,000 years ago, helping historians to date the Egyptian pharaohs.

Cambridge University researchers believe that the eclipse occurred on 30 October 1207 BC and is referenced in the Bible.

They said the discovery helps explain text in the Old Testament book of Joshua that has puzzled biblical scholars for centuries.



The book states that after Joshua led the people of Israel into Canaan — a region of the ancient Near East that covered modern-day Israel and Palestine — he prayed: "Sun, stand still at Gibeon, and Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon. And the Sun stood still, and the Moon stopped, until the nation took vengeance on their enemies."

Prof Sir Colin Humphreys from the University of Cambridge's Department of Materials Science & Metallurgy, said that if these words were describing a real observation, a "major astronomical event" was taking place.

"Modern English translations, which follow the King James translation of 1611, usually interpret this text to mean that the sun and moon stopped moving," he said.

Earlier researchers also only looked at total eclipses, failing to consider that the text may refer to an annular eclipse, in which the moon passes directly in front of the sun, but is too far away to cover the disc completely, they said.

In order to date the eclipse, the Cambridge researchers developed a new "eclipse code" which examined variations in the Earth's rotation over time.

From their calculations, they determined that the only annular eclipse visible from Canaan between 1500 and 1050 BC was on 30 October 1207 BC, in the afternoon.

(Source: The Telegraph)

Two more women take on managerial posts in Iran

WOMEN d e s k TEHRAN — Marzieh Shahdaei and Fariba Moradi have been appointed respectively as the vice minister of oil and the member of the board of directors of the post company of Iran.



Marzieh Shahdaei



Fariba Moradi

Shahdaei is the first woman in the history of Iran's oil industry to take on the responsibility. Previously, she served as the managing director of the National Petrochemical Company.

Meanwhile, Moradi is the first female member of the board of directors of the post company affiliated with the ministry of information and communications technology. Earlier, three women, namely Maryam Hazrati, Sareh Mohammadi, and Shahla Khosravi were appointed as the advisor to the health minister for midwifery affairs, the deputy health minister for nursing, as the advisor to the health minister for women's affairs.

Also, Parvin Dadandish and Marzieh Meratnia were appointed by the minister of culture as advisors for social and women's affairs respectively.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Jack-o'-lantern beef pies

"Yummy biscuit cups filled with spicy beef mixture and topped with Halloween pumpkin faces!"

Ingredients:



- 1 1/2 pounds ground beef
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 (15 ounce) can tomato sauce
- 1 cup shredded carrot
- 1 (6 ounce) can chopped black olives, drained
- 1 (12 ounce) can refrigerated biscuit dough
- 10 slices American cheese

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Grease 10 muffin cups.

Place ground beef and onion in a large skillet over medium heat; cook and stir until the meat is browned and crumbly, about 10 minutes. Drain excess grease. Stir in the chili powder, cumin, salt, garlic powder, tomato sauce, carrot, and olives, and bring the mixture to a simmer. Cover the skillet, and cook until thickened and the carrot is tender, about 20 minutes. Stir occasionally.

Working on a floured surface, separate each biscuit, and roll out into 4-inch circles. Press the circles of biscuit dough into prepared muffin cups; bake in the preheated oven until the cups are lightly browned, about 10 minutes. Remove the biscuit cups from the pan, and place onto a baking sheet.

Cut the 10 slices of American cheese into 3-inch circles, and cut jack-o'-lantern faces into the circles with a sharp paring knife. Chop remnants of cheese, and mix into the meat mixture. Fill the biscuit cups with meat mixture, and place a cheese face on top of each.

Return to the oven, and bake just until cheese begins to soften, 3 to 5 minutes.

LEARN ENGLISH

Buying a Suit

A: Hello sir, what can I do for you today?

B: Hi, I need a new suit. I have an important interview next week, so I really need to look **sharp**.

A: No problem! We have a **broad** selection of suits, all **tailor-made** so that it will fit perfectly.

B: Great! I want a three piece suit, **preferably** made from Italian cashmere or wool.

A: Very well sir. Would you like to have some shirts made also?

B: Sure. I'll also take some silver cuff link and a pair of silk ties.

A: Very good. Now, if you will **accompany** me, we can take your measurements and choose the patterns for your suit and shirts.

Key vocabulary

sharp: stylish or fashionable

broad: wide; a lot

tailor-made: if something is tailor-made, it has been specially designed for a particular person or purpose

preferably: most wanted or preferred

accompany: to go together with

Supplementary vocabulary

collar: the cloth around the neckline of a shirt, that is folded over

impression: the first feeling you give when you encounter/ meet someone

custom-made: made according to your own specifications

alteration: a change (in length, width, fit) made to an item of clothing

dry-clean: a cleaning process that uses chemicals to clean clothes

herringbone: type of pattern, common on suits, that resembles thin, "saw-like" lines

garment: an article of clothing

(Source: irlanguage.com)

Deputy minister optimistic about women's presence in stadiums

WOMEN d e s k TEHRAN — Positive steps are being taken to lift a ban on women for entering stadiums and pave the way for them to watch sports events, said the deputy minister of sport and youth for women's affairs.

Attempts have been made to increase female athlete's share of championship events as well as boost their presence in public sports, Fariba Mohammadian told Mehr news agency on Monday.

Several meetings have been held on the issue of women's presence

at stadiums which have led to great results, she added.

Mohammadian went on to say that "we will soon achieve the goal maintaining the same trend."

The physical presence of women in stadiums takes the second priority, rather, the public should be trained to welcome safe and secure presence of women in sports arenas, the official stated.

Efforts have been made on creating jobs for women through sport activities and promoting their presence in social events, she concluded.



Special plans aim to boost women's role in economy: VP

WOMEN d e s k TEHRAN — Special plans for increasing women's contribution in economic activities and increasing their share of the job market are to be implemented, said Masoumeh Ebtekar, vice president for women's and family affairs.

The first step toward implementing the plan for increasing women's role in the national economic development is to allocate \$1.5 billion for creating jobs for rural women, Mehr news agency quoted Ebtekar as saying.

Thanks to the infrastructures created by the Ministry of Agriculture good conditions have been made for rural women's occupations, the official noted.



A pilot plan aiming to create jobs for women heads of family has been launched by the Welfare Organization and Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation in Shahr-e Ray, south of Tehran. The plan is going to be implemented all over the county, the vice president explained.

Enhancing women's education, capability and skill are among other objectives with the goal of increasing their share of entrepreneurship, she added.

Ebtekar further hoped for implementation of different plans for job creation for women heads of family.

Official statistics indicate that women's share of occupation has grown over the past two years, she concluded.

Muslim woman hit by car in Leicester was hate crime victim, police say

A Muslim woman who suffered serious injuries after being struck by a car was the alleged victim of a hate crime, the Guardian has learned.

The woman, Zaynab Hussein, 47, is still in hospital more than five weeks after the attack. Police allege the car driver intended to kill her, and also struck a child in the area.

It is one of the worst crimes in the recent upsurge of attacks suffered by Britain's Muslim and ethnic minority communities.

The incident happened in Leicester on Wednesday, 20 September as Hussein returned from taking her children to school.

A man has been charged with attempted murder over the incident and with attempted grievous bodily harm for an incident where a car was driven that same morning at a 12-year-old girl. The child was struck by the car but police say

she did not suffer any visible injuries.

Police say both incidents are being treated as hate crimes and as deliberate acts.

Diis Barre, Hussein's husband, praised paramedics and medical staff for saving his wife's life but said: "Why would anybody attack my innocent wife who was going about her daily business?"

Hussein suffered broken limbs, extensive cuts and has required skin grafts. The attack happened in the Beaumont Leys area of Leicester.

Leicestershire police and the Crown Prosecution Service say they are treating both incidents as hate crimes on religious and racial grounds. They are being linked and were allegedly deliberate.

It is the second alleged vehicle attack directed against Muslims this year in Britain. In June a man was killed after a man

drove a van into worshippers near to the Finsbury Park mosque in north London.

In that case the Metropolitan police classed it as a terrorist incident. A man has been charged with murder over the Finsbury Park attack. The attack has shocked local communities in Leicester. Dr Shazad Amin, of Mend, a Muslim campaigning group, said: "The whole community is shocked by this senseless, unprovoked attack. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and we hope she makes a full recovery".

A Leicester man faces criminal charges over the attacks. He was detained shortly after them and charged the next day. He can not be named for legal reasons.

Leicestershire police declined further comment on the basis that strict contempt of court rules apply which limit the details they can release.

In a statement announcing the charges, Leicestershire police said: "A man has been charged following two road traffic collisions yesterday in Leicester.

"(The suspect) has been charged with attempted murder, attempted grievous bodily harm with intent, dangerous driving and driving with alcohol above the limit."

"The attempted murder charge relates to an incident yesterday (Wednesday, 20 September) when a vehicle collided with a pedestrian, a woman in her forties, on Acer Close at the junction with Butterwick Drive. She remains in hospital in a serious condition.

"The GBH charge relates to a separate collision which happened in Butterwick Drive when a vehicle collided with a pedestrian, a 12-year-old girl. She didn't receive any visible injuries."

(Source: The Guardian)

First Announcement



N.I.O.C
1396.3495



National Iranian
Drilling Company

Public Calls For Quality Evaluating Of Tender(First Publish/Seconed Publish)						
One-Stage(compressed)						
TENDER GUARANTEE		ESTIMATED VALUE (Rial)	Subject of Tender	Tenders Portal Reg. No.	TENDER NO. / INDENT NO	No
Euro	Rial					
7,143	250.000.000	5.000.000.000	P/F: GRANT ROTATING DRILLING HEAD	1.504.480	Tender No.:FP/04-96/034 Indent No.:08-22-9645009	1

Brief discription of subject:
National Iranian Drilling Company(NIDC) address pasdaran Blev., Airport Saqare, Ahvaz, Iran hereby intends to purchase its requirements from qualified and interested tenderers through one-stage public tender (compressed) upon following terms and conditions:
A) Qualitative evaluation of tenderer:
The evaluation is based on article (J) implementing regulations of the law of tenders and also carried out base on worksheets qualitative evaluation inquiry in the tender documents. Minimum acceptable point of quality is 60.
B) Preparation of tender documents:
Purchasing of documents:
In order to receive the tender documents, **510,000 Rials** should be paid to SIBA account number 2174652205004 of NIDC in Bank Meli Iran and providing the original deposit receipt.
Notice: According to N.I.D.C technical and commercial committee rule, the limitation for job referrals in procurment field is four active and in process contract.
Reciving of documents:
Tenderers must be obtain the quality evaluation documents along with tender documents maximum ten days after the date of second publication in person at the following address: Hall No.:113, 1thfloor, Foreign Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahvaz, IRAN
Notice: Only the real or legal persons who apply to purchase and recieve tender ducments from foreign procurment department in due date and participates in tenderwill be known as tenderer from tender committee.
C) Delivery of envelopes of bids and call quality evaluating:
Tenderers shall submit simultaneously envelopes of bids including bank guarantees(A), financial offer(C) and stamped and signed of tender documents(B) along with qualificaion worksheets in form of software in CD and documentary within 40 days from last day of document recived deadline to the following address: Hall No.:107, 1thfloor ,Tender Committee, Building operations, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahvaz, IRAN.
Notice: The deadline for the refusal of bidders participation in the the tender is the last day of determined for submission of bids.
D) Tender Guarantee:
Type of guarantee:
A)Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that have activites licensed by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
B) The original cash deposit receipt paid to National Iranain Drilling Company.
Duration of credit guarantee & quotation:
This duration should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum For one time in initial credit amount.
More on this & other tenders is accessible by click on. WWW.NIDC.IR

Foreign Procurement Dept
National Iranian Drilling Company

تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۹۶/۰۸/۰۹ نوبت دوم ۹۶/۰۸/۱۰

Raqqah still an occupied city, Syria says

Russia eyeing Syria victory by year-end

Syria says it still considers the northern city of Raqqah “an occupied city,” less than two weeks after U.S.-backed Kurdish-dominated Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) flushed out ISIL (Daesh) terrorists from the city while still keeping government troops out of the liberating offensive.

The Syrian Foreign Ministry made the comments in a statement, adding that Raqqah, used to be Daesh's de facto capital for a couple of years, still “cannot be considered liberated until the entry of the Syrian army, which is fighting” against terrorists “along with its allies.”

“The allegations of the United States and its so-called alliance concerning the liberation of the city of Raqqah from the Daesh terrorist group are pure lies,” further said the statement, carried by Syria's official news agency, SANA.

The ministry also asserted that Washington's goal was to “divert the eyes of the international community from the crimes committed by this alliance in the province of Raqqah.”

On October 17, the SDF coalition announced that it had defeated Daesh in Raqqah and three days later said that it had fully recaptured the city from the terror group, following a military operation, which was launched in July without Damascus' approval.

At the time, the U.S.-backed SDF also said in a provocative statement that the city would be part of a system of “federal government” in the country's north.

The Syrian military has not so far engaged the SDF, which has reportedly shelled the positions of government troops on several occasions in recent weeks.



Syria has been gripped by foreign-backed militancy since March 2011. The Syrian government says the Israeli regime and its Western and regional allies are aiding Takfiri terrorist groups that are wreaking havoc in the country.

■ Russia eyeing Syria victory by year-end

A Moscow-backed congress of all Syria's ethnic groups may take place in Russia and begin working on a new constitution as early as next month, the news agency RIA reported Monday, citing a

source familiar with the situation.

The congress, which President Vladimir Putin first mentioned earlier this month, may take place in mid-November at Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi, RIA said.

The idea of a congress had United Nations backing, a senior Russian negotiator on Syria said. Russia's Hmeymim air base in Syria also might be used, he added.

“This matter is still being discussed,” Alexander Lavrentyev, the head of the Russian delegation at Syria talks in Ka-

zakhstan, told reporters between meetings with diplomats from Turkey and Iran.

“As you know [UN Special Representative on Syria Staffan] de Mistura has in principle supported the idea of holding the congress,” Lavrentyev said. “Although he had some reservations, he supported this initiative of Russia.”

Lavrentyev said the congress would focus on seeking “compromise solutions towards the political settlement” of the Syrian conflict.

(Source: agencies)

15 Afghan policemen killed in separate Taliban attacks



A total of 15 police officers have been killed in the east and south of Afghanistan in separate attacks by the Taliban militant group.

Nine policemen were killed on Monday in an attack by the Taliban on a checkpoint in eastern Ghazni province.

Arif Noori, spokesman for the provincial governor, said police forces in the area engaged in a shoot-out with the militants, killing seven of them and injuring five others. He said four police officers were also injured in the battle that lasted an hour.

The attack was the second by the Taliban in less than 24 hours. Militants of the group targeted another police checkpoint in the southern province of Zabul late on Sunday. The clashes that erupted afterwards left six police officers dead while eight others were injured. Local officials said eight militants were also killed in the confrontation

while 12 others were injured.

Meanwhile, there were reports of a bomb blast in a market in northern Baghlan province, which injured 13 people on Monday. There has been no claim of responsibility.

The Taliban, which ruled Afghanistan before the United States-led invasion in 2001, have increased attacks on security forces and foreign troops over the past two years.

The group, mostly based in the south and east of Afghanistan, has been behind many attacks in the north of the country in the recent past.

Afghanistan still suffers from continued violence despite the presence of thousands of foreign troops in the war-torn country.

Some 200 people have been killed in attacks by the Taliban across Afghanistan this month.

(Source: Press TV)

Iraqi premier calls on Kurdish people to abide by law after outbreak of riot



Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has called for “calm” and “adherence to law” in Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region (Kurdistan Regional Government/ KRG) following an outbreak of riot there after Massoud Barzani, the KRG's president, announced that he would effectively step down early next month.

The Iraqi premier made the request in a statement on Monday, warning that the Kurdish people would suffer the most from unrest in the region. He also said that “political differences” in the region would also affect the Kurds the most.

Abadi further stressed that “the federal government in Baghdad is keen to stabilize the situation in all provinces of Iraq, work for the citizens and protect their interests.”

The Iraqi prime minister also said that his government was closely monitoring what he described as “attempts

to create chaos and disorder” in two cities of the Kurdish region, namely Erbil, the KRG's capital, and Dahuk.

Abadi's remarks came a day after Barzani told the Kurdish regional parliament that he would step down as president of the KRG as early November 1 and that he would not seek a re-election after the September 25's highly controversial Kurdish independence referendum, whose architect was Barzani himself, sparked a crisis with Baghdad and neighboring countries.

A few hours after Barzani's announcement, Kurdish lawmakers approved the 71-year-old Kurdish leader's request to resign, prompting dozens of people, who called themselves Peshmerga Kurdish fighters, to storm the assembly on Sunday evening and began attacking the legislators and journalists until the police subdued them.

(Source: Press TV)

Kushner reportedly makes visit to Saudi Arabia out of the public eye

Jared Kushner, the Jewish senior adviser and son-in-law of U.S. President Donald Trump, has reportedly taken a secret trip to Saudi Arabia, marking his third visit to the monarchy this year.

U.S. Deputy National Security Adviser Dina Powell and the administration's Middle East envoy Jason Greenblatt traveled with Kushner on a commercial flight to Saudi Arabia on Wednesday and returned on Saturday, Politico reported Sunday, citing a White House official.

“The senior advisor to the president, the deputy national security advisor for strategy, and the special representative for international negotiations recently returned from Saudi Arabia,” the White House official said.

The official further asserted that Kushner has been in touch with Israelis as well as certain countries in the Middle East.

“The senior advisor has also been in frequent contact with officials from Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Jordan and Saudi Arabia,” said the official.

The Jewish presidential son-in-law has been tapped



as a negotiator to bring about peace between Israel and Palestinians. Ivanka Trump's husband is also a person of interest in an ongoing probe into possible collusion between the Trump campaign and the Kremlin, an allegation both side have denied.

“While these regional talks will play an important role, the president reaffirms that peace between Israelis and Palestinians can only be negotiated directly between

the two parties and that the United States will continue working closely with the parties to make progress toward that goal,” said the unnamed official.

Trump has already suggested that he would not pursue decades of American policy in favor of the so-called two-state solution in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

He has also vowed to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem al-Quds, a move indicating that Washington recognizes the city as the capital of Israel, as the New York billionaire has previously asserted.

Before winning the 2016 election, Trump promised Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to “recognize Jerusalem (al-Quds) as the undivided capital of the state of Israel.”

Hailed as a “great friend to the Jewish people” by Netanyahu, Trump has mended ties with Israel, which had gone sour under former U.S. President Barack Obama, in part due to his resolve to participate in nuclear negotiations with Iran, which yielded a nuclear deal not welcomed by U.S. regional allies, namely Israel and Saudi Arabia.

(Source: Press TV)

Saudi Arabia to extract uranium for ‘self-sufficient’ nuclear program

1 → The plans have received extra momentum as part of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, an ambitious economic reform program launched last year by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Yamani said Saudi Arabia will soon pass laws for its nuclear program and will have set up all of the regulations for its nuclear regulator by the third quarter of 2018.

“The IAEA also has been requested to conduct an integrated review of our nuclear infrastructure during the second quarter of 2018,” he said, which will allow the agency to assess efforts to prepare Saudi regime infrastructure “to introduce nuclear power for peaceful purposes.”

The House of Saud regime is considering building some 17.6 gigawatts of nuclear capacity by 2032, the equivalent of about 17 reactors, making it one of the strongest prospects for an industry struggling after the 2011 nuclear disaster in Japan.

Preliminary studies have estimated that the House of Saud regime has around 60,000 tons of uranium ore, Maher al Odan, the chief atomic energy officer of KACARE said at an electricity forum in Riyadh on Oct. 11.

(Source: Reuters)

New round of Syria talks begins in Astana

1 → Syria has been beset by foreign instigated conflict since March 2011. Another peace process for Syria has been ongoing under the auspices of the UN. Known as the Geneva peace process, it has achieved little in comparison with the Astana process, which began just this year and has already cultivated in the establishment of four de-escalation zones which are expected to ease the conflict now in its seventh year.

Meanwhile, there are unconfirmed reports of plans to enforce no-fly zones over these areas.

Iran and Russia are the Syrian government's allies, while Turkey is a supporter of anti-Damascus groups.

■ The agenda of the 7th round

Jaberi Ansari, the Iranian chief negotiator, told IRIB before the start of the talks that the first item on the agenda of the negotiations was reviewing the activities of the three guarantor states within the framework of the de-escalation zones, particularly in Idlib, in northern Syria.

He said the latest developments and any potential breaches of the de-escalation agreement would be discussed.

Other issues to be addressed, he said, are two documents that have humanitarian significance, one on the exchange of captives and bodies, and the other on the clearance of mines in various areas in Syria. He said the Islamic Republic would “seriously” pursue the two issues because of their humanitarian importance and to contain the losses inflicted on the people of Syria over the course of the Syrian conflict. Jaberi Ansari said some parties had also floated ideas on the political process to be pursued in Syria. He said viewpoints would be exchanged and consultations would be made on those ideas. If an agreement is reached, he said, it will be publicly announced.

■ Russia hopes Turkey will stabilize Idlib

Meanwhile, RIA news agency cited Russia's special envoy for Syria and chief negotiator at the Astana talks as expressing hope that Turkey would help stabilize the situation in Idlib.

“There is a pretty high level of tension there (in Idlib) and there is still a threat of offensives by radical groups deployed there,” Alexander Lavrentiev said. “But we hope that our Turkish partners will in the end fulfil their part of the obligations concerning the Idlib de-escalation zone and will stabilize the situation there.”

(Source: agencies)

The banality of crimes against migrants

6 → Their impact on the world's most disempowered populations is tremendous, ranging from deaths by drowning to the epidemic of mental illness and self-harm in refugee camps the world over. As the Special Rapporteur rightly says, when crimes of such gravity are committed within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court, the Court should act. Yet international law does not recognize the existence of a generalized and globalized international crime, one that Callamard's report may be taken to suggest.

The practice of international criminal law requires prosecutors to investigate a “situation,” thus severing a particular temporal and special unit as the focus of concern. For the last few years, we have been working to help explain the need for such an investigation, and to clarify where might such an investigation take off.

We first conducted a study on Greece. Later, we researched Australian practices and indeed submitted to the ICC prosecutor an international criminal complaint directed primarily against Australian government agents. This work could only be done with the support of a large group of senior international lawyers, brought together by a clinic at Stanford Law School and the Global Legal Action Network (GLAN). We believe that around the world affluent populations are waging war against the struggle for equality that poorer populations are fighting with their feet.

Make no mistake, the effort to move international criminal justice from war to migration is not yet another attempt to expand the gamut of a cash-strapped and inefficient court. It is, rather, an attempt to shift political priorities, in the Court and outside of it, away from looking for “monsters” committing spectacular violence and towards addressing increasingly normalized suffering. The very “banality” of these crimes, we argue, is a testament to their gravity and the necessity of their prosecution.

(Source: Spiegel)

Ancelotti indicates interest in Premier League coaching return

Carlo Ancelotti has suggested he could consider coming back to the Premier League, but brushed off rumors linking him with a return to Chelsea.

Ancelotti, sacked by Bayern Munich earlier this month, said he would take a break but was looking ahead to a new challenge next year. He told RAI radio: "I want to be given an opportunity to create a project and work serenely, even if ours is a job which doesn't allow you serenity, but that's normal. "It takes just one bad result and the pressure rises, but I'm waiting -- I'm not in a rush.

"The Premier League's interesting in certain aspects -- there's a great atmosphere in the stadium, but they're also advanced in that respect in Germany.

"I don't know what could be the best solution -- I can easily see myself at any club. I like football and I like coaching so, for as long as I have this passion, any job will do."

Some reports had suggested that Ancelotti could return to Stamford Bridge and take over from compatriot Antonio Conte, but he said: "There's something new every day.

"First there was talk of Chelsea and my friend Antonio, who I speak to a lot and he gets mad [about the rumors], then there was China, Everton.

"I'm waiting for June 30 and then we'll see what opportunities there are." However, Ancelotti said he would not consider a move to Major League Soccer, adding: "The [U.S.] national team is one thing, but the league is another.

"They don't have relegation, which means the players' motivation levels are not so high -- and if there's no motivation, there's no real interest."

Ancelotti reflected on his dismissal from Bayern, saying: "Maybe the club no longer believed in my work and they decided to change, but I've been doing this job for 20 years and I know how the game works, and that big clubs are dependent on results and when they start not to arrive...

(Source: Soccernet)

Pogba injury remains 'long-term' issue

Jose Mourinho has once again insisted he has "no idea" when Paul Pogba is likely to return to action.

Pogba's hamstring problem sustained on Sept. 12 has seen the France midfielder miss Manchester United's last 10 matches in all competitions.

United boss Mourinho described the injury as a "long-term" issue towards the end of last month.

And since then, while social media posts from Pogba have suggested he is making good progress, Mourinho has stressed on a number of occasions he does not know when the player is set to be available again.

The Portuguese was asked after Saturday's 1-0 home win over Tottenham if Pogba, who has been undergoing rehabilitation in the United States, had any chance of returning before the forthcoming international break.

And Mourinho said: "Again, I have no idea. Honestly. "I am not in control of his recovery process. He is not training with me. He is on individual work.

"For example, Marcos Rojo is working with me, with certain conditions, and I would expect him to be ready to play after the international break. I can predict that. But Paul, I have no idea."

United's two remaining matches before the international break see them host Benfica in the Champions League on Tuesday, then face Chelsea away in the Premier League five days later.

(Source: Soccernet)

Nadal virtually assured year-end top ranking

LONDON (Reuters) - A hoped-for fight to the finish for the year-end number one ranking at next month's ATP World Tour Finals in London will likely be a coronation for Rafa Nadal, who is virtually guaranteed ending 2017 top of the pile.

Roger Federer's eighth Swiss Indoors title on Sunday reduced the points gap on the Spaniard to 1,460 points, but his subsequent withdrawal from this week's Paris Masters means Nadal is poised to finish top for the fourth time in his career.

With 1,500 points available in London for winning the title, having won all three round-robin matches, the 31-year-old Nadal needs to win just one round in Paris to put himself out of reach of the 19-times grand slam champion.

It is a far cry from last year when the year-end ranking was decided in the last match of the season at London's O2 Arena when Andy Murray beat Novak Djokovic to seal it.

"My body is asking for a break," 36-year-old Federer, who beat Argentina's Juan Martin del Potro in Basel to claim his 95th career title, said of his decision to give up the chase of Nadal.

"Basel takes a lot out of me emotionally. I had five matches in six days. I feel sorry and sad for Paris.

"I'd like to be fully fit for London (the World Tour Finals) and for 2018.

"I did think about the ranking, but I'm so far back in the points race that it was almost out of the question."

Nadal, who shared this year's grand slam titles with Federer, winning a 10th French Open and third U.S. Open title while the Swiss took the Australian and Wimbledon titles, starts his Paris campaign against either German serve-and-volleyer Mischa Zverev or young South Korean Hyeon Chung.

Federer has finished the year as number one five times, one less than record-holder Pete Sampras.

Big six are top six as Man United, Man City, Arsenal win

It's taken 10 fixtures but the Premier League has finally coalesced to form the top six we were all expecting back in August. Liverpool managed to keep a clean sheet in their victory over Huddersfield, Arsenal won their 10th home game on the spin to move into fifth, Chelsea edged past Bournemouth, and while Spurs have had better days, Manchester United and City both won again.

So who's going to be the best of the rest? Probably not Everton, all things considered. Perhaps the real challenger will emerge on Monday night when Newcastle and Burnley lock horns. Perhaps it will be Leicester. They've got form for this sort of thing...

Goal of the weekend

You know everything you need to know about the Darren Fletcher goal when you realize that Paul Scholes scored one just like it at Manchester United and it ranks among his very best strikes. But Fletcher is not exactly known for this sort of thing, is he? He's a hard-working, inspirational defensive midfielder. He was not, until this weekend, the sort of chap you expect to spank home a volley direct from a corner; better yet, it was the only goal as Stoke beat Watford 1-0.

Individual performance of the weekend

These have been testing times for Joe Hart and he deserved better than to end up without a win on Saturday for his efforts. Hart's mission to find his form in Italy was not a successful one and while he hasn't been a disaster in his brief time at West Ham, he hasn't exactly shone -- until this weekend. Hart made a number of fine saves but none as impressive as the one-handed stop that denied James Tomkins in the second half as West Ham drew 2-2 at Swansea. Perhaps this will prove a turning point.

Wally of the weekend

If it had been a teenager, you'd have some sympathy for their naivety. But it was Michail Antonio. He'll be 28 next week, he's been in the game for years and has played at every level from non-league to the Premier League. He's been in the England squad for heaven's sake. He should know that the 97th minute is not the time to be tossing lethargic crosses in from the touchline. It's the time to head to the corner flag, stick your bottom out and hold the ball



there for as long as possible.

But a lethargic cross it was, easily claimed, and then Crystal Palace went up the other end and scored the equaliser. Hart called him "unprofessional" in public. It's probably best that we don't know what he called him in private.

Tactical switch of the weekend

Given that he had been one of the few bright spots in a very dull game, there were few who agreed with Jose Mourinho's decision to withdraw Marcus Rashford on Saturday. Indeed, there were reports of scattered boos and widespread grumbling at Old Trafford. But Anthony Martial had a point to prove and, more pertinently, he had fresh legs with which to prove it.

Martial's movement in behind the Tottenham defense was clever, his pace proved more than enough to leave Eric Dier floundering and we'll gloss over the messy finish because it went in and that's all that counts. Mourinho 1-0 Dissenting Observers.

Spare a thought for...

Poor Jonjo Kenny. Not only did he manage to mistime a clearance so badly that it went over his head and into his own goal, but he had to watch as the cold-hearted Leicester City entertainment team replayed twice it on the big screen to gales of mocking laughter. This was the stuff of

Barcelona star furious with Ernesto Valverde for Athletic Bilbao decision



BARCELONA star Lionel Messi is reportedly furious at Ernesto Valverde for picking Andre Gomes against Athletic Bilbao last night.Barcelona continued their unbeaten start to the new La Liga season with a 2-0 win over Bilbao.

Lionel Messi opened the scoring in the first half, with Paulinho then doubling their lead in stoppage time to ensure they remain four points clear of Valencia at the summit.

However, Spanish website Don Balon claims the 30-year-old is furious with Valverde, despite Barcelona securing another important three points.

And it is supposedly because Valverde dared to pick the controversial Andre Gomes, whose relationship with Messi appears to be at an all-time low.

All does not seem to be well behind the scenes, with reports previously claiming that Gomes had leaked infor-

mation about the Catalan giants to Real Madrid talisman Cristiano Ronaldo.

The Portugal international has since denied that, but it seems Messi remains unhappy with the fact he is still at the Nou Camp."I have not said anything against Messi nor the manager, Valverde," he said last month.

"It's all been invented.

"I have too much respect for Valverde and for Leo to say something like that."Don Balon say the Barcelona No10 did not want Gomes to be picked - but Valverde went and selected him anyway.Gomes went on to endure a solid, but not spectacular, evening last night.

He is still expected to depart when the transfer window reopens in January.

Tottenham, West Ham and Manchester United have all been touted as potential destinations.

(Source: Express.co.uk)

Werder Bremen sack coach Alexander Nouri



Alexander Nouri on Monday became the third Bundesliga coach sacked this season when Werder Bremen fired him with the club second from bottom in the Bundesliga and winless this season.Bremen's 3-0 thumping at home to mid-table Augsburg on Sunday was the last straw for Werder's board after cries of "Nouri out!" were heard by home fans after the final whistle.

The defeat left Bremen 17th with just five points from five draws and as many defeats in Germany's top-flight.

The 38-year-old Nouri took charge in September 2016, taking them from the relegation places to challenge for a place in Europe, before they eventually finished eighth last season.

"Alex took over during a very difficult situation last year and successfully mastered it, for that we'd like to thank him," said Bremen's

chief executive Frank Baumann as Nouri bid farewell before Monday's training session.Florian Kohfeldt, the coach of the club's Under-23 team, will take charge for Friday evening's league match against Eintracht Frankfurt.

He will be helped by ex-Germany international and Bremen midfielder Tim Borowski."We are convinced that this team of coaches can give a new impetus to the team in the coming days and solve the uncertainty," added Baumann.

Bremen qualified for the Champions League in 2010, but have struggled to stay out of the relegation places in recent seasons.Nouri is the third Bundesliga coach fired this season after Wolfsburg sacked Andries Jonker in September, before league leaders Bayern Munich showed Carlo Ancelotti the door five weeks ago.

(Source: AFP)

Verstappen wins big after week of controversy

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) — Max Verstappen might have cause to thank the Formula One stewards, even if only as a backhanded compliment, for giving him plenty to get stirred up about ahead of Sunday's Mexican Grand Prix.

Demoted off the podium at last weekend's U.S. Grand Prix, and also in Mexico a year ago, the 20-year-old Red Bull driver produced a faultless sporting response at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez. In Austin he had railed at one 'idiot' steward, language for which he subsequently apologized, after he was handed a time penalty for exceeding track limits while overtaking Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen. Raikkonen was again third on Sunday but this time with Verstappen on top of the podium. "After last week I was very fired up and very motivated to do well," the Dutch driver told reporters.

"Of course I missed out on pole, but I was very determined to win this race and I gave it all in the start, in Turn One and it feels great. "It's a great podium to be on, which last year I think I should have been on already but I missed out at the very last moment but luckily now no penalties."

Verstappen, already Formula One's youngest ever winner, had said on Saturday that he was 'super annoyed' to miss out on becoming the sport's youngest ever pole-sitter but he



made a sensational start. He had also faced a stewards enquiry after that session, without any further action.

Team boss Christian Horner said he could tell from the look in his eyes the moment Verstappen arrived in the paddock in Mexico that he wanted to win more than anyone. "I think it (Austin) didn't hurt his motivation," he said.

With title contenders Sebastian Vettel and Lewis Hamilton colliding, and going to the back of the field, Verstappen had a free run and the team's biggest problem was to rein in his enthusiasm.

YouTube compilations. In 20 years' time, teenagers will be overlaying European disco beats to footage of that, segueing it into footage of Chris Brass and Jamie Pollock and uploading it to a grateful world.

Rise of the Reep?

He is long dead now, but Manchester United's winning goal would have brought a smile to the face of Wing Commander Charles Reep. Originally an accountant, Reep was the father of football analytics and the man whose key maxim was essentially that as the majority of goals were scored after moves of three passes or fewer, the best way to score goals was to launch moves with three passes or fewer.

The sight of David de Gea launching the ball, Romelu Lukaku nodding into his "position of maximum opportunity" and Martial tucking it away would have delighted him.

Naughty boy

We like Troy Deeney, generally speaking. We like him because you couldn't ask for a more hard-working, selfless striker. We like him because he's interesting and is unafraid to say things that other footballers wouldn't, like that little vignette about Arsenal's undercarriage a couple of weeks ago. We like him because he's actually quite nice in real life. And we're saying all these positive things because we're really scared that he seemed to be trying to pop Joe Allen's head like a balloon on Saturday, and we wanted to soften the blow.

Having just worked his way back into the first team, we have a feeling he'll be sitting the next three games out.

One to watch next week

Are Arsenal back? Stop laughing, we're serious! They've looked pretty good recently. They've only lost once since the Anfield Incident, cruised through their Europa League group and have proved themselves of fighting back from a goal down on three occasions in six days. And they could be just six points off Manchester City next week. Assuming, of course, they can beat Manchester City.

Stop laughing! It might happen. No team goes through a whole season without losing a single game. Well, apart from Arsenal, but that's not going to happen again, is it? Are we on the verge of quite the plot twist?

(Source: Soccernet)

Kianoush Rostami: I never seek asylum in U.S.

S P O R T S Iranian weightlifter Kianoush Rostami says he is not seeking asylum in the United States.

Phil Andrews, the chief executive of USA Weightlifting, told Tehran Times on Sunday that Rostami showed intent to move to the United States during his visa interview, or rather he failed to prove his intent to return to Iran after his move to the country.

Andrews said to attain the visa Rostami will need to satisfy rule 214b which states that the applicant for the visa must prove they will not remain in the United States.

The Olympic gold medallist says he will never seek asylum in the U.S. in response to Andrews's allegations.

"I will remain in my country since I love Iran. We owe much to our martyrs and war veterans. I just think about winning gold in the world," Rostami said.

"I do hope that I can participate in the competition. I don't know where all this talk comes from because I am proud of an Iranian," the two-time world champion added.

International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) World Championships will be held from Nov. 28 through Dec. 6 in Anaheim, California.



Former Iran wrestler Zandi passes away

S P O R T S Ex-Iran freestyle wrestler Abbas Zandi passed away at the age of 87 in Tehran on Monday.

Zandi will be laid to rest in Tehran's Behesht Zahra Cemetery on Tuesday.

He competed in three Olympic Games including 1948 London, 1952 Helsinki and 1956 Melbourne. Zandi went to Babr (Tiger) Club in Tehran when he was 14 and learned wrestling from Abdolhossein Fe'li and Hassan Sa'dian.

At 17, he became a member of the Iran national freestyle wrestling team. One year later, Zandi achieved the Pahlavan of Iran title. Zandi claimed a gold medal in the 1954 World Wrestling Championships in Tokyo after defeating

Ismet Atli from Turkey in 79kg weight category. He also won the gold medal at the 87kg four years later at the 1958 Asian Games. Tehran Times staff wish to express deepest sympathy and condolences to his family and Persepolis club.

Iran ready to earn second gold at Beach Soccer Intercontinental Cup



TASNIM — Under tutelage of Brazilian coach Marco Octavio, Iran won its first ever title at the Beach Soccer Intercontinental Cup in 2013 and now is ready to repeat the honor.

Team Melli has been pitted against two-time champion Russia, Mexico and Paraguay in Group B.

Iran will kick off the prestigious event with a match against Paraguay on Tuesday at the Marasi Business Bay in Dubai.

Group A consists of Three-time champion Brazil, host UAE, Egypt and Portugal.

Brazil is the competition's favorite after it won title at the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup in May.

Brazil coach Gilberto Costa maintains his side's incredible winning run, which stretches back over 40 matches, does not add any extra pressure as they prepare to defend their title at the Intercontinental Beach Soccer Cup Dubai.

The 2017 Beach Soccer Intercontinental Cup

is an annual international beach soccer tournament contested by men's national teams, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

After the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup, the Intercontinental Cup is the biggest tournament in the current international beach soccer calendar. Similar to the FIFA Confederations Cup, eight nations will take part, with one team representing each of the six continental football confederations (except for the OFC) as well as the current World Cup champion, Brazil, and the host, the United Arab Emirates.

The tournament starts with a group stage, played in a round robin format. The winners and runners-up from each group advance to the knockout stage, in which the teams then compete in single-elimination matches, beginning with the semi-final and ending with the final. A third-place deciding match is also contested by the losing semi-finalists.

Saudi Arabia to let women into sports stadiums

Saudi Arabia is starting to ease restrictions on women spectators in sports stadiums. Starting in early 2018, women will be allowed into three arenas in major cities, according to a statement issued Sunday by the General Sport Authority, the country's governing body for sports. The previously male-only venues of King Fahd Stadium in Riyadh, King Abdullah Sport City in Jeddah, and Prince Mohammed Bin Fahd Stadium in Dammam will begin preparations to "accommodate families," the statement said. Specific seating arrangements are unclear at the moment; Saudi men and women are customarily separated in places where they are both allowed.

The country has several stadiums ranging in size, but the government appears to have chosen the biggest and most important. The stadiums are home to six teams in the Saudi Professional League -- the top division -- and two of the three stadiums included have the

highest seating capacity in the kingdom.

The change is the latest to give women more freedom following a historic decree in September allowing them to drive.

The conservative kingdom adheres to some of the strictest interpretations of Sunni Islam in the world. Under its guardianship system, women cannot marry, divorce, travel, get a job or have elective surgery without permission from their male guardians. They cannot mix freely with members of the opposite sex, and must wear a full-length black abaya in public.

Some of that is starting to change. The move to open stadiums is the latest of 32-year-old Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's ambitious reforms, as laid out in his "vision for 2030" plan. The plan for the country's economic reinvention rests on a number of pillars, including youth empowerment, social organization and women's empowerment. The king-



dom wants to increase participation of women in the Saudi labor market and other aspects of life. Also, for the first time ever in September, women were allowed to enter King Fahd Stadium for a celebration commemorating the kingdom's 87th

anniversary. They were seated in a specific section for families. Though welcomed by many, the move drew backlash from conservatives holding on to the country's strict gender segregation rules.

(Source: CNN)

Lisa Gjessing talks motherhood and Worlds success

Lisa Gjessing's gold medal at the London 2017 World Para Taekwondo Championships had a special flavour because although it was her fourth world title, it was the first with her two daughters watching on from the Copper Box Arena stands.

"It's so amazing [to win in front of my daughters]. It is the best the feeling ever," said Gjessing.

"I saw them in the stand during my first match and I started crying but thought 'no, you can't cry now!' When I went to the mat in the final I also felt like crying but told myself 'you can't be emotional now'. So, I went from emotional to kicking-ass!"

At 39 years old, Gjessing remains top of the sport thanks to making big sacrifices. Her years of success stem from "lots of hard work, lots of planning and lots of mental training."

The Dane trains nearly every day of the week and consequently misses out on time spent with the family. Hence, she is extremely committed to performing at her best to bring the gold home for those who she holds closest.

"Since spring we had started training for Lon-



don 2017. Then, since the summer we have had six training sessions a week - three or four taekwondo and three running or weight training. With a full-time job and kids it has been really hard work," she explained.

"When I'm competing, I am taking time away from the family, taking time away from cleaning the house

and making food. I have to be totally dedicated and perform well. I feel that I have to go for the gold when I do take the time off away from the family.

"It is tough leaving the family at 5:30pm when they're about to eat and they have homework. I say to myself 'I should be with them, helping them' but there are so many choices. When I take the choice of taekwondo I have to deliver in the end. So I put pressure on myself for that and I have to compete at 100 per cent every time."

Despite her many victories, Gjessing understands there is still work for her to do if she is to become successful once again at Tokyo 2020.

"Taekwondo being included in the Paralympics, oh wow, it means so much!"

"The sport's setup is getting more professional and I'm so amazed of World Taekwondo in how they've set it up. They are doing such a great job."

"The sport is more than just giving us a competition, it is giving us a new goal in life, which means an awful lot."

(Source: Paralympic.org)

Esteghlal parts company with Mick McDermott



TASNIM — Iranian football club Esteghlal has parted ways with Northern Irish coach Mick McDermott on Monday.

The 43-year-old coach was appointed as Esteghlal interim coach in Sept. 21 as replacement of Alireza Mansourian and the Blues earned their second win in Iran Professional League under his leadership.

After signing a contract with Winfried Schaefer, McDermott returned to his former position as the team's assistant.

In a session held in Esteghlal club on Monday, the Iranian football club terminated the cooperation with him.

McDermott began his work in Iran as fitness coach in Team Melli in 2011 but after one year joined Al Nasr of the UAE as an assistant coach.

He returned to Iran in 2016 as Esteghlal assistant coach.

Iranian twin sisters clinch two medals in Canoe Marathon World Cup

Press TV — Iranian twin sisters Saqar and Saqi Khaqani have exhibited admirable athletic skills at the 2017 International Canoe Federation (ICF) Canoe Marathon World Cup, and managed to scoop two medals in the tournament.

Saqar Khaqani finished second in the 16-kilometer marathon section of the competitions in the eastern Chinese city of Shaoxing, and received the silver medal, the Rowing Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran reported.

Her sister, Saqi, claimed the third position on the podium, and pocketed a bronze medal.

The 2017 ICF Canoe Marathon World Cup kicked off on October 21, and came to an end on October 27.

Dortmund wanted Barcelona-bound Dembele one more season

Borussia Dortmund had hoped they could persuade Ousmane Dembele to stay with the club for one more season before he completed a €105 million move to Barcelona.

Dembele, 20, spent only one season with Dortmund, having joined from Rennes in the summer of 2016, before becoming the most expensive Bundesliga player ever when moving to the Camp Nou.

"We knew that Ousmane Dembele would not be with us for his entire career," Dortmund's sporting director Michael Zorc told kicker. "We also knew that he would want to play for his dream club Barcelona one day."

"However, we hoped that he would stay at BVB for more than one year. And that was also what had been discussed."

The France international went on strike when BVB initially blocked the move to Barcelona, who were looking to replace Neymar after the Brazilian's world record transfer to Paris Saint-Germain.

"I am convinced that he'd still be here had there not been the special situation with Neymar," Zorc added on Dembele, who currently is sidelined long-term with a tendon injury. "There's a direct connection. And looking back, it was the right decision for the club to let him go. We got the corresponding financial compensation for it."

(Source: ESPN)

Cologne instructed to pay Arsenal for Europa League damage

UEFA has fined Cologne and ordered them to pay Arsenal for damage caused by fans before last month's Europa League game at the Emirates.

The match, on Sept. 14, had to be delayed by an hour as thousands of Cologne supporters amassed outside the stadium, preventing home supporters from getting to the turnstiles.

Around 15,000 Cologne fans got into the stadium, the majority of them with tickets allocated for Arsenal supporters.

UEFA opened disciplinary proceedings after the incidents, and Cologne were hit with charges including crowd disturbances, acts of damage and setting off fireworks.

European football's governing body said on Monday that Cologne would be fined €60,000 and must reimburse Arsenal for the damage caused.

The Bundesliga club's supporters were also given a two-match travel ban, suspended for two years.

Arsenal had faced one charge over a blocked stairway in the away supporters' section, but UEFA decided not to open disciplinary proceedings against them.

(Source: Soccer.net)

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“The Man Without a Past” coming to Tehran museum

A R T TEHRAN — Finnish director Aki Kaurismäki’s 2002 comedy-drama “The Man Without a Past” will be screened at the Cinematheque of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art on Wednesday.



Iranian critic Majid Eslami, who selected the film to be screened, will attend the screening, which will begin at 4:30 p.m.

The film, which was Finland’s submission for the Academy Award for Best Foreign-Language Film in 2002, begins with an unnamed man arriving by train to Helsinki.

After falling asleep in Kaisaniemi Park, he is mugged and beaten by hoodlums, and is severely injured in the head, losing consciousness. He awakes and wanders back to the train station and collapses in its bathroom. He awakes the second time in a hospital and finds that he has lost his memory. He starts his life from scratch, living in container dwellings, finding clothes with help from the Salvation Army and making friends with the poor.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Iranian Illustration Week opens in Tehran

A R T TEHRAN — The Iranian Illustration Week opened during a special ceremony at the Iranian Artists Forum on Sunday.

Works by Iranian illustrators have been put on display in several exhibits, including “We Are the Illustrators of Ourselves” and “Illustrators of the City”.

A number of meetings and seminars have also been arranged on the sidelines of the program.

New film “Aqerat” depicts continued plight of Rohingya refugees

TOKYO (Reuters) — Rohingya refugees flee Myanmar for a new life in Malaysia only to suffer continued violence in the film, “Aqerat (We the Dead)”, which paints a complicated portrait of a young woman caught up in human trafficking.



Malaysian filmmaker Edmund Yeo (L) and actress Daphne Low attend a post-screening Q&A session about their movie “Aqerat” (We the Dead) during the 30th Tokyo International Film Festival in Tokyo, Japan, October 28, 2017. Picture taken on October 28, 2017. (Reuters/Chris Gallagher)

The flood of Rohingya migrants into Bangladesh has grabbed headlines in recent months, but it was the plight of the Rohingya “boat people” two years ago that moved director Edmund Yeo to make the film.

Yeo said the news of mass graves of people thought to be mainly Rohingya victims of human traffickers discovered near Malaysia’s border with Thailand in 2015 drew his attention to conditions for migrants from neighboring countries.

“It inspired me to explore more what really happened,” Yeo told a question-and-answer session after the film’s world premiere in the main competition section at the Tokyo International Film Festival on Saturday.

“I realized that as they tried to run away from their own country, many of them came to Malaysia for a better life, but the truth is, life isn’t better for them,” said Yeo.

“Aqerat” follows Hui Ling, played by Malaysian actress Daphne Low, a young woman painstakingly saving up for a move to Taiwan - until her roommate and the roommate’s abusive boyfriend make off with her savings.

Desperate for money, she begins working for a human smuggling ring, but the job takes a heavy emotional toll as she witnesses severe beatings and death.

Tehran gallery to display embossing works from veteran, young artists

A R T TEHRAN — Mess-d e s k Negar Gallery, Tehran’s major showcase for Persian traditional arts, will display a collection of embossing works by several masters of the art and promising young artists in an exhibition opening on Friday.

“We are happy to see more young artists in this field of art,” Mess-Negar director Mohammad-Hassan Golchinpur said in a press release on Monday.

He added that the younger generations’ desire to work in embossing shows that the art has made great progress.

Works by masters such as Mansur Hafezparast, Akbar Bozorgian, Reza Qaderan, Majid Bahramipur, Mohammad-Mehdi Babakhani and Mostafa Mirfakhrai have been selected for the exhibition.

The exhibit will also showcase works by Mohsen Barati, Reza Abedi, Kamal Lotfi, Shapur Akbari, Emad Dalvi and several other young artists.

The gallery is located at No. 5 in the Park Prince Building on Molla Sadra Highway.



An embossing artwork by Mohammad-Mehdi Babakhani

Iranian movies line up for Tirana festival



Nazanin Bayati acts in a scene from “Mothering” by Roqieh Tavakkoli.

A R T TEHRAN — Nine movies by Iranian directors will be competing in various categories of the 15th Tirana International Film Festival, which is scheduled to be held in the Albanian capital from November 3 to 11.

“Mothering” by Roqieh Tavakkoli is the sole Iranian films competing with eight feature films from Sweden, Bulgaria, Turkey, Croatia and several other countries.

In the Short Fiction Film section, “Animal” by Bahman and Bahram Ark, “Building No. 13” by Amir Gholami and “Retouch” by Kaveh Mazaheri will

be screened.

“Bystander” by Sheyda Kashi, “Light Sight” Seyyed Moslem Tabatabai, “Pet Man” Marzieh Abrarpaydar and “The Servant” by Farnush Abedi have been selected for the Short Animated Film section.

“Lunch Time” by Alireza Qasemi will compete in the Student International category.

In addition, three Iranian artists are scheduled to hold video art performances on the sidelines of the event. The performances are “Finish” by Saeid Naqavian, “Genesis” by Abtin Mozaffari and “Label” by Amir Lashkari.

Exground Filmfest to screen movies from Iran

A R T TEHRAN — Eight Iranian films will be screened at the 30th Exground Filmfest in Wiesbaden, Germany.

“Disappearance” by Ali Asgari will compete in the main section of the festival, which will run from November 17 to 26.

The film is set on a cold winter night in Tehran where a couple of young lovers run into a serious problem. They have just a few hours to come up with a solution.

Seven films will also go on screen in a section dedicated to Iranian shorts.

“The Man Who Forgot to Breathe” by Saman Hosseinpour, “Sleepwalker” by Behnam Afari, “From Hasakah with Love”



A scene from “Disappearance” by Ali Asgari

by Mohammad Farahani and “The Snail” by Mohammad Torivaryan are among the films.

The lineup also includes “999999999” by Karim Azimi, “Acetone” by Behrang Dezfulizadeh and “Kitchen Dreams” by Arvin Medqalchi.

“Israfil” wins NETPAC Award at Iranian Film Festival Australia



Pejman Bazeghi acts in a scene from “Israfil” by Ida Panahandeh

A R T TEHRAN — “Israfil” by Ida Panahandeh has won the NETPAC (Network for the Promotion of Asia Pacific Cinema) Award at the 7th Iranian Film Festival Australia.

Kiki Fung, Frances Bonner and Michelle Langford were the NETPAC Award jury members, Nasrin Mirshab of Dreamlab, the France-based international distributor of the film, announced on Monday.

“Israfil” tells the story of Behruz, who has returned to Iran after 20 years to sell his properties and meet his fiancée Sara for the first time. But attending the funeral of his friend’s son, reminds him of his painful past and lost love.

The Iranian Film Festival Australia was

held in Melbourne from October 26 to 30. Eleven movies were screened in the official competition section.

“Subdued” by Hamid Nematollah, “The Girl’s House” by Shahram Shah-Hosseini, “Leila” by Dariush Mehrjui, “Breath” by Narges Abyar and “Israfil” by Ida Panahandeh were among the films competing in the event.

“Negar” by Rambod Javan, “Take Me Home” by Abbas Kiarostami, “The Home” by Asghar Yusefinejad, “Yellow” by Mostafa Taqizadeh and “Walking on String” by Ahmadrza Motamedi were also screened.

The films will also be screened in the cities of Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra, Perth and Adelaide on different dates.

“The End of Dreams” competing in Chicago filmfest

A R T TEHRAN — Iranian filmmaker Mohammad-Ali Talebi’s movie “The End of Dreams” will go on screen at the 34th Chicago International Children’s Film Festival (CICFF), which is currently underway in the U.S. city.

The movie is about a boy who lives with his family in a village in northern Iran. After his father buys a horse, he falls in love with it. He makes a mistake along the way but keeps it to himself. This creates even more troubles for him as time goes by.

The festival, which is the first Academy Award qualifying children’s



A scene from “The End of Dreams” by Mohammad-Ali Talebi

film festival in the world, will come to an end on November 5.

Clooney’s “Suburbicon” tanks, “Saw” sequel No. 1 with \$16.3M

NEW YORK (AP) — George Clooney’s “Suburbicon” notched one of the most dismal wide-release debuts in recent years on a sluggish pre-Halloween weekend where the horror sequel “Jigsaw” topped all releases despite an underperforming debut.

The eighth “Saw” film landed at No. 1 with \$16.3 million in North American ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday. That came in below industry expectations and suggested the revived “Saw” franchise isn’t connecting with audiences the way other recent horror entries have.

In its first release since the Harvey Weinstein scandal began unfolding, the beleaguered Weinstein Co. feebly released a horror sequel of its own: “Amityville: The Awakening.” It played in an unusual Saturday-only engagement on just 10 screens, and grossed a mere \$742.

“Jigsaw” distributor Lionsgate also claimed the No. 2 spot with \$10 million in the second week of release for “Tyler Perry’s Boo 2! A Madea Halloween.”

Made for about \$10 million, “Jigsaw” comes seven years after the notoriously gruesome franchise — with “Saw 3D: The Final Chapter.”

Critics weren’t happy to see its return, giving “Jigsaw” a 39 percent Rotten Tomatoes score. The Hollywood Reporter



A scene from George Clooney’s “Suburbicon”

said the film “now feels like an outlier in a horror marketplace dominated by films that typically favor spooks over spurts.” Opening-weekend moviegoers also weren’t overwhelmed, giving the film a modest B CinemaScore.

But that rating still easily surpassed the D-minus grade that greeted Clooney’s latest directorial effort. Despite debuting on more than 2,000 screens, “Suburbicon” managed just \$2.8 million, making it one of Paramount Pictures’ worst performing wide-releases ever and marking a new box-office low for Clooney as a director and star Matt Damon.

“Obviously we are disappointed in these results which we don’t feel are indicative of the quality and message of his original movie,” said Kyle Davies, president of distribution for Paramount.

“Suburbicon,” which debuted at the Venice Film Festival, was crafted as a fusion between an old Joel and Ethan Coen home-invasion comedy script and a more pointed satire of racism in a 1959 suburb. Critics didn’t respond well to the mix, either; its Rotten Tomatoes score is just 26 percent fresh.

Paramount paid \$10 million for domestic distribution rights for the Black Bear Pictures production, made for about \$25 million. The studio has recently backed several divisive releases from respected filmmakers, including Darren Aronofsky’s “mother!” which also sputtered at the box office and garnered an even worse F CinemaScore.

The Miles Teller PTSD drama “Thank You For Your Service,” directed by “American Sniper” writer Jason Hall, also opened weakly with \$3.7 million in 2,054 theaters for DreamWorks and Universal.

Business overall was slow ahead of Halloween. Weekend ticket sales totaled about \$75 million, according to comScore, making it the second-lowest grossing frame of the year in the U.S. and Canada.