



IRGC commander
martyred in
northeast Syria **2**



Steel products
export up 129% in
2 months yr/yr **4**



SCO long term investment
for Iran, not solution to
urgent issues: Bininachvili **7**



Shahnameh illustrations
inspire collection of
glass paintings **16**

Turkey votes in crucial twin polls



See page 3

Behind the scenes of Israeli-Arab conflict

By Fatemeh Salehi

TEHRAN — Popular protests in Jordan against the rising prices and the visit of Zionist and American officials to the King of Jordan reflects the underlying issues behind the occupied Palestine and the conspiracy of the United States against al-Quds.

The story began when the Jordanian people took to the streets for wrecking prices and taxes in recent weeks, however, violent clashes took place between protesters and security forces. Jordan's Abdullah II, whose country owes much of his economy to foreign aid, warned in a secret letter to the leaders of the Persian Gulf Arab states that the protests could be drawn to theirs as well. Arab countries, which had stopped their aid to Jordan for different political stance over Syria, Iran, and Palestinian, held an urgent meeting, at the request of the King of Saudi Arabia, to arrange a donation package of \$ 2.5 billion to Jordan.

After that the Zionist and American authorities began to travel to Jordan to meet with the king. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held a rare and secret meeting with the King of Jordan, coinciding with the visit of an American delegation to the region. Israeli TV channel 10 announced that Yossi Cohen, the head of the intelligence service of the regime (Mossad), also took part in a meeting held in Amman. Less than 24 hours later, White House senior adviser Jared Kushner, the U.S. envoy to the Middle East and Trump's son-in-law, and Jason Greenblatt, Trump's Middle East peace negotiator, were discussing Palestine's peace plan. The media had previously announced that Trump's son-in-law would travel to some of the Mideast countries to negotiate about the "Deal of the Century".

Many analysts believe at these meetings, Jordan's stance on the deal of the century was studied as well as Aman's concerns about the impending battle of the Syrian army in the southern axis of the country and in the vicinity of the Jordanian armed forces against terrorist groups based in Daraa. Syrian Army forces began their efforts to deploy on the southern side of the country and to deploy military equipment to northwest al-Sweida and Khalkhalah and Al-San-amayn air Base.

Syrian army equipment has reached the triangle of Daraa- al-Quneitra and Reef. **→7**

Refugees thriving in Iran: WFP country director

By Maryam Qarehgozlou

TEHRAN — Negar Gerami, the WFP representative and country director in Iran, says Iran is a country in which refugees thrive.

"Despite all the hardships that the Iranians have suffered throughout the years I don't think this is a country where you would say that refugees are not thriving," Gerami told the Tehran Times in an exclusive interview on the occasion of World Refugee Day 2018.

She also said, "In Iran the acceptance of the refugees is quite high..., we have welcomed these refugees and have given them sanctuary."

"We all hope that the peace does prevail in the countries of their origin and that these people can go back. But for the time being and until the situation is conducive to their return I think we have welcomed them with open arms," she said.

Each day war forces thousands of families to flee their homes, people who are just like us. People who are forced to leave everything behind

to escape violence for a safer future. But refugee or not, everyone deserves to live in safety.

According to the UN Refugee Agency we are living in a world where nearly 1 person is forcibly displaced every two seconds as a result of conflict or persecution. An unprecedented 68.5 million people around the world have been forced from home. Among them are nearly 25.4 million refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18.

There are also an estimated 10 million stateless people who have been denied a nationality and access to basic rights such as education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement.

The Islamic Republic of Iran continues to host one of the largest and most protracted refugee populations of the world. Iran has been generously hosting an estimated 3.5 million refugees residing in Iran, inclusive of registered refugees, passport holders and undocumented ones— the

fourth largest refugee population in the world – for more than three decades. The vast majority of these, mainly from Afghanistan and Iraq, live in urban areas, with only three percent living in 20 settlements spread across the country.

WFP ensures food security for refugees

Refugees living in settlements are not able to meet their food needs. Poorly diversified diets and detrimental practices – such as skipping meals or consuming cheap, unhealthy foods or too much sugar – often lead to chronic health issues such as high blood pressure and diabetes. The World Food Programme (WFP) has been assisting refugees in Iran with food since 1987.

"WFP has been assisting refugees in Iran for three decades. Majority of them are from Afghanistan and when they came they basically came with just some clothes on their backs. And as the refugees are very vulnerable and don't have much, our mandate is to make sure that they are food secure," Gerami explained. **→12**

EU, Iran to cooperate in areas of common interest: commissioner

By Marjan Golpira

TEHRAN - The European commissioner for migration and home affairs who is paying a visit to Tehran says the European Union and Iran have politically agreed to restart dialogue and cooperation in several areas of "common interest".

"Almost two years ago, following the entry into force of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action agreed by Iran, five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany and the EU, the EU and Iran have agreed at political level to kick start dialogue and cooperation in several areas of common interest," Dimitris Avramopoulos tells the Tehran Times in an exclusive interview.

Avramopoulos, who described the objective of his trip to Tehran to address "migration management and drug abuse and trafficking" with related Iranian authorities, assured that the EU addresses the root causes of migration by "improving the situation and creating economic opportunities in countries of origin, fighting smugglers and traffickers, improving living conditions and protection of asylum seekers and refugees."

Below is the full text of interview with the European commissioner:

■ Last year, you threatened the EU states that had refused to step up to take in illegal immigrants such as Poland, Hungary, and the Czech

Republic. Has the approach been effective to motivate European countries to respond more positively to desperate immigrants who have fled war and famine?

A: It is important to highlight that the EU relocation program aims to help people in need of international protection in Greece and Italy to find new homes in other EU member states. The main goal is on one hand to provide protection to those fleeing war and persecution, and on the other to support and show solidarity with EU member states most affected by migratory pressure. This is precisely what was achieved, to an unprecedented level. **→13**

Majlis opposes division of ministries

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Iranian MPs on Sunday voted against a proposed bill by the government to divide up three ministries into five.

The bill proposed splitting Ministry of Transport and Urban Development; Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade and Ministry of Sport and Youth into five separate ministries.

The bill proposed splitting Transport and Housing Ministry into Ministry of

Transport and Ministry of Housing; Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade into "Ministry of Industry and Mine" and Ministry of Trade.

According to the bill, the National Youth Organization was to be separated from the Ministry of Sports and Youth.

Mohammad Ali Pourmokhtar, an MP who voted against the bill, said that there is not enough capacities, budget and workforce to divide the ministries. **→2**

Zarif: U.S. seeking to make Iran leave nuclear deal

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Sunday that it is the U.S. "strategic objective" to make Iran leave the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

"However, it does not mean that we will not exit the JCPOA under any circumstances, but we are aware of the other side's

objective," Zarif said during a meeting of Iran's chamber of commerce.

He noted that the Europeans along with Russia and China seek to find a way to preserve the JCPOA.

Even closest allies of the U.S. seek to preserve the nuclear deal, he added.

"This will be a difficult path, but it will bring us a better future," the chief diplomat remarked. **→2**

War on Yemen reveals ineffective Patriot shield

By Farzad Farhadi

TEHRAN — The strategic location of Yemen is due to its overlooking to the Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden in the south, Red sea on the west and its coastline which stretches for about 2,000 kilometers. It is situated at the entrance to the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, after Strait of Hormuz which is one of the most active and strategic shipping lanes in the world. The most

world's energy goes through the coast of Yemen to Europe.

This great importance of Yemen has made its neighbors, as well as European dissidents, greedy. Americans have always claimed that they do not have a role in the Yemeni war, but from the outset, Yemenis have emphasized the direct role of the United States and its Western allies. **→13**

Zimbabwe rally blast injured 41: minister

A blast that rocked a rally in which Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa narrowly escaped unscathed injured at least 41 people, including his two deputies, the health minister told a state Sunday paper.

Health Minister David Parirenyatwa, said wounded rallygoers had been treated at three main hospitals across the city and "a total of 41... have so far approached our health institutions complaining of injuries".

Footage circulating on social media showed an explosion and plumes of smoke around the president as he descended stairs from the podium at the city's White City stadium.

Mnangagwa said he was the target of the attack, which also injured Vice-Presidents Kembo Mohadi and Constantino Chiwenga.

The device "exploded a few inches away from me -- but it is not my time", the president told state broadcaster on Saturday night, blaming the attack on his "mortal enemies".

"These are my mortal enemies and the attempts have been so many.

"It's not the first attempt [on] my life. I'm used to it. Six times my office has been broken into; cyanide was put in my offices so many times. I will continue."

The health minister said some of those wounded had lost limbs and some would require "serious surgery", suggesting the number of injured could rise as the government was still consolidating numbers from the various hospitals.

"We have no fatalities so far," said Parirenyatwa.

Mnangagwa, who was quickly rushed away from the scene of the explosion, later visited the injured in hospital.

While Bulawayo has long been a bastion of opposition to the ZANU-PF and it was Mnangagwa's first rally in the city, commentators suggest the attack could have been instigated by internal ructions within the ruling party.

The polls in five weeks will be the first since Zimbabwe's veteran leader Robert Mugabe resigned following a brief military takeover in November last year after 37 years in power.

The intervention by the army was led by Chiwenga who was then head of the armed forces.

The vote will be a key test for Mnangagwa, 75, who succeeded the 94-year-old autocrat and remains untested at the ballot box.

(Source: AFP)



© Tehran Times / Mohammad Khodabakhsh

Caps in the air: Shahid Beheshti students celebrate graduation

A group of students at Shahid Beheshti University celebrated their graduation on Sunday morning.

The photo is depicting happy graduates throwing their caps in the air to mark the happy moment.

The graduation ceremony, attended by the university chancellor Hassan Sadoq, was held at the university's international conference hall.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



India won't accept unilateral sanctions against Iran: FM Swaraj

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Indian Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj said on Saturday that the Indian government accepts only sanctions approved by the UN and won't accept or recognize unilateral embargoes against Iran.

Pointing to her visits to different European countries, Swaraj said the Iran nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), was one of the main topics of her meetings, IRNA reported.

She said that she told French President Emanuel Macron that if Europe wants Iran to honor the JCPOA, Europe should also adhere to commitments with regard to providing financial support to Tehran.



Majlis committees see major changes

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — The makeup of the presiding board of the parliamentary committees go under changes as the tenth parliament under the Islamic Republic entered its third year.

Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh was elected to the chair of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, replacing Alaeddin Boroujerdi, who headed the committee for many years.

Mohammad Mahdi Boroumandi and Kamal Dehqani were elected as vice presidents of the committee, Mohammad Javad Jamali and Mohsen Alavi as secretaries and Ali Najafi-Khoshroudi as the committee's spokesman.



IRGC commander martyred in northeast Syria

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) announced on Saturday that one of its commanders has been martyred earlier on Friday in a fight against Daesh (ISIL) militants in the northeastern part of Syria.

The details of the death of Shahrokh Daiepour have not yet been revealed. However, According to Fars news agency, Daiepour had been training members of Hezbollah, who have been fighting alongside Syrian forces against militants.

Daiepour served as a military commander in the Iranian Navy during Iraq's war against Iran in the 1980s. He was reported to have been killed in the border region with Iraq.



Iran's new ambassadors to Japan, China named

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Morteza Rahmani-Movahed and Abdolnaser Hemmati have been appointed as ambassadors of Iran to Japan and China respectively.

Proposed by Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, President Hassan Rouhani approved their appointment as new ambassadors of Tehran to the two important Asian countries.

Rahmani-Movahed has served as the deputy director of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization, ambassador to New Zealand and consulate general in Shanghai.

Hemmati is also faculty member at Tehran University. He had previously served as the president of Central Insurance of Iran and CEO of Iran's Bank Mellī.



Tehran condemns assassination attempt against Zimbabwean president

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Iran has strongly condemned Saturday's assassination attempt against Zimbabwean President Emurson Mnangagwa during a campaign rally in the city of Bulawayo.

In a statement released on Sunday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi wished a complete recovery to those injured in the blast and expressed sympathy with their families, Tasnim reported.

He further deplored any resort to violence to push ahead with one's political goals and expressed hope that the upcoming elections in the country would be held in peace and security.



Commander: Enemies not able to attack Iran

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Head of the Civil Defense Organization underlined that Iran's enemies have given up the military option against Iran due to the country's deterrence power, Fars reported.

"The structure of the Army and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps Ground Forces has changed proportionate to the threats," Brigadier General Gholam Reza Jalali said in Tehran on Sunday.

He said the enemies "have studied our capabilities and their commanders say that using the military option to confront the Islamic Republic will be highly costly, deadly and impossible."

Zarif: U.S. seeking to make Iran leave nuclear deal

1→ On May 8, President Donald Trump officially withdrew the U.S. from the UN-endorsed nuclear agreement and reintroduced unilateral sanctions on Iran.

Iran has warned if its interests are not guaranteed under the nuclear agreement it would resume its nuclear activities with a greater speed.

European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said in May that the EU is "determined to preserve" the nuclear deal.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping also issued a joint statement on June 8, supporting the JCPOA.

■ 'Enemy seeks to annihilate Iran' Zarif also said that the enemy seeks to "annihilate" Iran.

"The enemy's target is neither the Islamic Republic system nor government of Rouhani, but it is Iran. It is Iran which can impede certain objectives. They seek to annihilate Iran," the foreign minister opined.

Zarif said considering the current situation guarding national unity is of paramount importance.

"Currently, domestic integrity is more important than anything else in the country. Currently, domestic integrity is more



important than bread and air for us."

Zarif tacitly implied that the Trump administration and its client states in the region are seeking a disintegration of Iran.

"Now, Iran, this great geography and honorable entity, has been targeted and hopefully we will foil the plots," he noted.

"During the sanctions time,... some foreign companies refrained from working with Iran and they cited bad reputation

as the reason.... But today things have changed and Mr. Trump will pay for his bad reputation," Zarif stated.

"I believe that although the Americans' hustle and bustle may be effective in short term, but in long term, Trump's infamy will benefit us."

He added, "I confirm our friends saying that America has spotted our breathing venues and is trying to block them."

"I believe that although the Americans' hustle and bustle may be effective in short term, but in long term, Trump's infamy will benefit us."

"We are talking about an Iran which is backed by the world while Trump stands alone."

Up next, Trump administration uses the 'M' word against Iran

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Not long after laying waste a landmark nuclear deal between Iran and the P5+1 (the U.S., UK, France, China, Russia, and Germany), the Trump administration just threatened Iran with military action if it goes beyond the nuclear limits of the deal.

The United States' top diplomat Mike Pompeo on Saturday warned Iran not to, as he claimed, "pursue nuclear weapons," saying it would face the "wrath of the entire world" if it did so.

Pompeo then went on to express hope that it would never be necessary "for the United States to take military action" against the country.

In an interview with political columnist Hugh Hewitt conducted on Friday and broadcast the following day on MSNBC, Pompeo said that whatever the fate of the international nuclear deal with Iran, it would not be in Tehran's interest to seek nuclear arms.

"I hope they understand that if they begin to ramp up their nuclear program, the wrath of the entire world will fall upon them," he said. Trump announced on May 8 that Washington was walking away from the nuclear agreement. Trump also said he would reinstate U.S. nuclear sanctions on Iran and impose "the highest level" of economic bans on the Islamic Republic.

Under the JCPOA, the official name for the nuclear agreement, Iran undertook to put limits on its nuclear program in exchange for the removal of nuclear-related sanctions.

Since the U.S. president pulled Wash-



ington out of the historic nuclear deal, Iran has tried through diplomatic talks with the European Union to ensure that without the U.S., Iran gets enough economic benefits from the JCPOA to persuade it to stay in the deal.

Pompeo's threats come a few months after he said in April as the CIA director that "Iran wasn't racing to a weapon before the [nuclear] deal. There is no indication that I'm aware of that if the deal no longer existed that they would immediately turn to racing to create a nuclear weapon today."

Shortly after Pompeo's confession, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said the statement showed the United States' moral bankruptcy.

"U.S. moral bankruptcy on full display in CIA chief's admission of U.S. policy: in the past Iran was sanctioned over false claims that it sought nuclear weapons. Now, sanctions must be reimposed because we seek no nukes?" Zarif tweeted back in April.

Should Iran pivot to the East?

TEHRAN — Former diplomat Ali Khorram has criticized the recurrent motif of Iran's "turn towards the East" policy and closer relations with China and Russia.

With U.S. President Donald Trump's withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers, and with the doubtful prospects for the deal despite intense negotiations between Iran and European countries, powerful voices inside Iran are calling for Tehran's exit from the nuclear deal and a "pivot to the East" policy which would revolve around stronger relations with China and Russia.

Khorram, however, is a critic of this idea. "Russia and China play the Iranian card vis-a-vis the United States," he said in an interview with Fararu.

"But Europeans are defying the United States [in the nuclear deal] because of certain values. There is less chance that they double-cross Iran."

Khorram does not look at the "turn towards the East" calls positively. "We have tried this approach again and again" he asserted. "Russia has used Iran as a leverage to solve its conflicts with the West. They have never been reliable partners for us."

He pointed to the Syrian war as an example. "Tehran convinced Moscow to have military presence in Syria. Provided it with military base and allowed Russian missiles heading towards Syria to pass through its airspace," he said. "Now that Moscow has gained the upper hand in Syria, it is talking



about Iran's withdrawal from the country."

"China has not behaved like Russia. But they also seek their own interests," Khorram noted. "It would be an egregious mistake to think Moscow and Beijing would back Iran when tension between Tehran and Washington are on the rise. Quite the opposite, they approach Iran whenever our relations with the U.S. and the West are cordial," he added.

Pointing to Turkey as an example, Khorram said, "Turkey is a NATO member. Russia is manufacturing advanced S400 anti-missile system for the country in Turkey. For Iran, it took ten years to receive the older S300 system from Russia."

"Moscow views countries with no leverage in the West as useful cards," Khorram warned. "This is something to be taken into consideration when we tout the 'pivot to East' policy."

(Source: irdiplomacy.ir)

International Court of Justice to hear Iran lawsuit against U.S.

By staff and agencies

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) will hear a case brought by Iran against the U.S. seeking to recover billions in frozen assets, which U.S. courts claimed should go to American victims of terror attacks.

The International Court of Justice said in a statement issued on Friday it will "hold public hearings in the case concerning Certain Iranian Assets (Islamic Republic of Iran v. United States of America), from Monday 8 to Friday 12 October 2018" at its seat in The Hague, AFP reported.

The hearings "will be devoted to preliminary objections raised by the United States," the statement added, after which judges will decide whether or not they can rule in the dispute.



The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in April 2016 that \$2 billion in frozen Iranian assets should be paid to about 1,000

survivors and relatives of those killed in the 1983 bombing of a U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut and other attacks.

According to Press TV, two months later, Iran filed a formal complaint with the ICJ about the "illegal verdicts" issued by American courts.

"The government will follow the case until the nation's rights are realized and the money is back, along with its compensation," Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said.

Iran's frozen assets have long been subject to a witch hunt by the Americans who have used Washington's animosity toward the Islamic Republic to easily win lawsuits against the country in U.S. courts.

Iran says the U.S. is breaking the terms of the 1955 Treaty of Amity signed with the then regime of the Shah concerning economic relations and consular rights.

Majlis opposes dividing of ministries

1→ Before voting, Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri defended the bill saying that it is required to divide the ministries in order to overcome problems caused by sanctions.

"The most important tool of the government to manage in the current situation is dividing the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade and as well as the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development," Jahangiri stated.

Mahmoud Vaezi, the presidential chief of staff, was also present in the parliament.

■ VP Jahangiri says all should get united against U.S. 'economic war'

Jahangiri also suggested that under the current situation, it is essential that all state bodies and political factions get united to counter the U.S. plot against the Islamic Republic.

"Under the current situation, it is essential for all the country's officials, including the government, parliament,

political factions and the people, to get united against a big plot being hatched by enemies especially the U.S."

The vice president noted that the U.S. has waged "economic war" against Iran in order to push Iran to the negotiating table and the Iranians should get united to counter this plot.

Iran's industry and trade are the main targets of the U.S. economic war, Jahangiri said.

He said one of the targets "on the enemy's agenda to strike" is the transportation sector through imposing sanctions on shipping and aviation.

He added, "Delaying formation of a ministry for trade, even for one day, to control prices and market means increase in people's hardship."

On May 8, President Donald Trump officially withdrew the U.S. from the 2015 nuclear deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and vowed to re-impose sanctions against Iran.



U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced in May that the U.S. will apply economic and military pressure against Iran and will impose "the strongest sanctions in history" on the Islamic Republic.

Turkey votes in crucial twin polls

By staff & agencies

Turks voted on Sunday in presidential and parliamentary elections that pose the biggest ballot box challenge to Tayyip Erdogan and his Islamic-rooted AK Party since they swept to power more than a decade and a half ago.

The vote will also usher in a powerful new executive presidency long sought by Erdogan and backed by a small majority of Turks in a 2017 referendum. Critics say it will further erode democracy in the NATO member state and entrench one-man rule.

A crowd of President Erdogan's supporters chanted his name as he emerged from a school after voting in Turkey's largest city Istanbul, shaking hands with people amid tight security.

"Turkey is staging a democratic revolution," he told reporters in the polling station. "With the presidential system, Turkey is seriously raising the bar, rising above the level of contemporary civilizations."

Erdogan, the most popular but also divisive leader in modern Turkish history, argues the new powers will better enable him to tackle the nation's economic problems - the lira has lost 20 percent against the dollar this year - and deal with Kurdish rebels in southeast Turkey and in neighboring Iraq and Syria.

But he reckoned without Muharrem Ince, the presidential candidate of the secularist Republican People's Party (CHP), whose feisty performance at campaign rallies has galvanized Turkey's long-demoralized and divided opposition.

Addressing a rally in Istanbul on Saturday attended by hundreds of thousands of people, Ince promised to reverse what he and opposition parties see as a swing towards authoritarian rule under Erdogan in the country of 81 million people.

"If Erdogan wins, your phones will continue to be listened to ... Fear will continue to reign ... If Ince wins, the courts will be independent," said Ince, adding he would lift Turkey's state of emergency within 48 hours of being elected.

Erdogan told reporters voter turnout appeared good.

"This stability must continue and that can happen with Erdogan so I voted for him," said janitor Mehmet Yildirim, 48, in Istanbul. "With Erdogan, we stand stronger against the West."

Crackdown

Opposition parties and NGOs have said they were deploying half a million monitors at ballot boxes to prevent fraud. They argue election law changes and fraud allegations in the 2017 referendum raise fears about the vote's fairness.

State-run Anadolu news agency said "legal action" had been launched in the southeast against 10 foreigners - French, German and Italian citizens - who identified themselves as election monitors but did not have accreditation. It was not clear whether they were in custody.



The leader of the main opposition CHP party, Kemal Kilicdaroglu, said after voting in Ankara that his party had received complaints of voting irregularities in the southeast.

"Every shadow cast over the election is a blow to our democracy. Hence it is my duty to warn all civil servants again: Please everybody do their duty," he said.

CHP spokesman Bulent Tezcan told a news conference it had reported to the High Election Board (YSK) allegations of block votes being cast and of election monitors being beaten and kept out of polling stations in the southeast's Sanliurfa province.

YSK chairman Sadi Guven told Anadolu it was taking steps in response to reports of irregularities in Sanliurfa's Suruc town, near the Syrian border.

The government gave no immediate response to the reports, but Erdogan said there had not been any serious problems.

Turkey has been under emergency rule - which restricts some freedoms and allows the government to bypass parliament with decrees - for nearly two years since an attempted

coup in 2016.

Erdogan blamed the coup on his former ally, U.S.-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, and has waged a sweeping crackdown on his followers in Turkey, detaining some 160,000 people, according to the United Nations.

The president's critics, including the European Union which Turkey still nominally aspires to join, say Erdogan has used the crackdown to stifle dissent.

"This is no longer a Turkey we want. Rights are violated, democracy is in terrible shape," said health sector worker Sema, 50, after voting in Istanbul.

She and others in the city said they voted for the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), hoping it would exceed the 10 percent threshold of votes needed to enter parliament. If it does so, it will be harder for the AKP to get a majority.

Polls show Erdogan falling short of a first-round victory in the presidential race. He would be expected to win a run-off on July 8, while his AK Party may lose its parliamentary majority.

Trump adviser Kushner criticizes Abbas, says U.S. peace plan near

Jared Kushner, U.S. President Donald Trump's senior adviser, said Washington would announce its Middle East peace plan soon, and press on with or without Palestinian authority president Mahmoud Abbas.

The comments underlined gaping divisions between Washington and the Palestinian leadership that have widened since Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital in December and moved the U.S. Embassy there, overriding decades of U.S. policy.

Palestinian officials, who want East Jerusalem as the capital of a future state, accused Kushner of trying to undermine Abbas and what they described as their leader's moderate camp. Kushner - Trump's son-in-law who is meeting leaders in the region, but not Abbas - told Palestinian newspaper Al Quds in an interview published in Arabic on Sunday, that he doubted whether the Palestinian president was willing or able to seal a deal.

"If President Abbas is willing to come back to the table, we are ready to engage; if he is not, we will likely air the plan publicly," Kushner said, according to an English transcript of his words provided by Washington.

"However, I do question how much President Abbas has the ability to, or is willing to, lean into finishing a deal. He has his talking points which have not changed in the last 25 years," he added.

Kushner appealed directly to the Palestinian people and portrayed Abbas, 82, as a leader entrenched in the past.

"There have been countless mistakes and missed opportunities over the years, and you, the Palestinian people, have paid the price," said Kushner, who is on the trip with U.S. envoy Jason Greenblatt. "Don't let your lead-



ership reject a plan they haven't even seen," he added. Abbas has refused to see Trump's team since the embassy decision, accusing Washington of pro-Israel bias.

"This (U.S.) administration is really trying to destroy the Palestinian moderate camp. They want to throw us into chaos and anarchy," said Saeb Erekat, the Palestinians' chief negotiator.

"The road to peace is clear - commitment to the two-state solution, a Palestinian state on the 1967 borders with Jerusalem as its capital. This is the road to any negotiations or any meetings," said Nabil Abu Rdainah,

a spokesman for Abbas.

Specifics

Kushner visited Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Egypt before talks on Friday and Saturday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Kushner said Arab leaders had told him they wanted to see a Palestinian state, long the foundation of U.S. policy in the region. Asked if the new U.S. peace plan would accommodate that view, he reiterated that it was up to the Israeli and Palestinian "leadership and people" to determine the shape of a final agreement.

Kushner was given responsibility over Washington's Israel-Palestinian policy, along with other top postings, after his father-in-law was inaugurated one year and five months ago.

Many commentators have questioned the credentials of Kushner and U.S. Middle East emissary Jason Greenblatt - neither had diplomatic experience.

In the interview, Kushner again refused to go into details on his peace plan. "I don't want to speak about specifics of the deal we are working on," Kushner said.

Netanyahu said on Sunday he and the two envoys discussed the diplomatic process and regional issues, with "particular focus on the situation in Gaza", where economic hardship has deepened and violence has surged along the Israeli frontier.

"The question came up of how to solve the humanitarian situation in Gaza without strengthening Hamas," Netanyahu told his cabinet in public remarks, referring to the Islamist militant group that is dominant in the enclave. "These things are clear - one, how do we maintain security, and two, how to prevent a wider escalation - if this is at all possible," Netanyahu said.

The U.S. plan is expected to propose solutions to core issues in dispute between the Israelis and Palestinians, such as borders, the future of Israeli settlements, the fate of Palestinian refugees and security.

Israel captured the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip in the 1967 war. Israeli forces and settlers pulled out of the Gaza Strip, now controlled by Abbas's main rival, the Islamist Hamas group, in 2005.

U.S.-brokered peace talks collapsed in 2014.

(Source: Reuters)

U.S.-backed militants declare 'curfew' in Syria's Raqqah



The United States-backed militants reportedly declare a curfew in the northern Syrian city of Raqqah, citing alleged Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) movements.

The so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) announced the two-day measure on Sunday "in response to intelligence on potential attacks" by the Takfiri terrorist group.

Local authorities said they had received "information that terrorist groups working on behalf of Daesh (ISIL) ... have entered Raqqah city to carry out attacks against stability and security."

Therefore, they decided to put in place "a state of emergency and a curfew in Raqqah city starting at 5:00am (0200 GMT) on Sunday June 24, 2018, until 5:00 am on Tuesday."

ISIL lost its de facto Syrian capital of Raqqah after four months of ferocious fighting and bombing by the SDF and the United States that left the city in ruins. During the operation, Russia accused the United States and its allies of "carpet-bombing" residential areas. ISIL's territory in Syria's north and east has been whittled down to just a handful of isolated pockets but security incidents around Raqqah have been on the rise in recent weeks.

The U.S. supports several militant groups in Syria, notably Kurds, sparking fears that they might be trying to create a state outside the Syrian government's control.

On Sunday, Washington was reported to have sent a message to the so-called Free Syrian Army (FSA), telling the militant group it should no longer rely on its support.

A copy of a message, seen by Reuters, said the U.S. government wanted to make clear that "you should not base your decisions on the assumption or expectation of a military intervention by us."

The message came amid reports that the Syrian government had launched an offensive to regain militant-held parts of Syria bordering Jordan and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

The FSA began waging militancy in Syria in 2011. Washington has provided the group with arms and salaries under a military aid program run by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Syrian forces make gains in Dara'a

Syrian government forces have liberated two villages in the Dara'a province's eastern countryside as they warm-up for a major offensive against militants holed up in the region.

According to the so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights on Saturday, the villages of al-Bustan and al-Shumariya were liberated during Syrian forces first advance in the area.

The UK-based observatory also noted an "ongoing escalation of shelling and clashes in eastern and northeastern parts of Dara'a province."

"Intense Russian air strikes are hitting towns in Dara'a's eastern countryside for the first time since the ceasefire was agreed in southern Syria last year," claimed Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman. Syrian forces also heavily shelled militant-held areas in the towns of Busr al-Harir and al-Hrak in the region and also carried out several airstrikes on the militants.

Syria's official news agency, SANA, confirmed the gains, noting the government forces targeted militant held area's with "precise strikes."

Last Month, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said that only Syrian government forces should maintain presence on the Arab country's southern parts.

The recapture of Dara'a is highly important because it borders the occupied Golan Heights which Israel has used to treat wounded militants for years. The territory's return to the Syrian government control would cut the much-reported collaboration between Israel and militants and deal a blow to Tel Aviv's plans to annex the Golan Heights.

(Source: agencies)

Italy says 'arrogant' France risks becoming 'No.1 enemy' on migration

Italy said "arrogant" France risked becoming its "No.1 enemy" on migration issues, a day before European leaders convene in Brussels for a hastily arranged meeting on the divisive issue.

In answer to comments by French President Emmanuel Macron, who said migration flows towards Europe had reduced compared with a few years ago, Italy's Deputy Prime Minister Luigi Di Maio said Macron's words showed he was out of touch with reality. "Italy indeed faces a migration emergency and it's partly because France keeps pushing back people at the border. Macron risks making his country Italy's No.1 enemy on this emergency," Di Maio wrote on his Facebook page.

Macron said European cooperation had managed to cut migration flows by close to 80 percent and problems stemmed from "secondary" movements of migrants within Europe.

"The reality is that Europe is not experiencing a migration crisis of the same magnitude as the one it experienced in 2015," the French president said. "A country like Italy has not at all the same migratory pressure as last year ... The crisis we are experiencing today in Europe is a political crisis ... tied to secondary movements between European countries."

But Italy's Interior Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini said his country had faced 650,000 arrivals by sea over the past four years, 430,000 asylum requests and the hosting of 170,000 "alleged refugees" for an overall cost of more than 5 billion euros (\$5.8 billion).

"If for the arrogant President Macron this is not a problem, we invite him to stop insulting and to show instead some concrete generosity by opening up France's many ports and letting children, men and women through at Ventimiglia," he said in a statement, referring to the northeastern Italian town at the border with France.

(Source: Reuters)

Spain: Almost 800 refugees rescued off southern coast

Spanish rescue boats have saved more than 700 refugees trying to cross the Mediterranean from Africa to Europe.

Three boats belonging to the Spanish coastguard saved 769 people in total on Saturday.

The majority was found between the North African coast and the island of Mallorca, while others were saved on their way to the Canary Islands, west of Africa.

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Spain has become increasingly popular for refugees to enter Europe over the last couple of months.

In 2017, the organization registered 3,326 people from entering Spain between January and April. This year, that amount has risen to 4,627, the highest number yet.

This month, many hundreds more have tried to reach Spain, with more than 2,000 arriving last week alone.

The increase comes as Italy's new populist government has made attempts to clamp down on refugees entering the country.

Last week, the country barred the French NGO (non-governmental organization)-run Aquarius ship with more than



600 rescued people on board of docking in Italy, triggering a dispute across the European Union (EU).

Interior Minister Matteo Salvini, also the head of the far-right League party, is making good on an election promise to

go after rescue ships run by aid groups, which he has likened to taxi services that help people-smugglers.

On Friday, Italy doubled down on its tough stance against migrants, insisting it could not take "one more" refugee and warning the migration crisis could put the EU's survival at stake.

Italy's new stance has led to renewed political tension within the EU.

On Sunday, European leaders will gather in Brussels to discuss the need for changes to its migration policies.

Although the number of refugees arriving in Europe has gone down significantly this year compared to previous, the issue has resulted in a political crisis.

Central and Eastern European countries especially have opposed the European policies of resettling refugees across the continent.

The issue has led to a political crisis in Germany, where Chancellor Angela Merkel has received criticism from her own party for Germany's open stance in the refugee issue.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

STOCK MARKET	
TEDPIX	112061.3
IFX	1287.25
Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir	

CURRENCIES	
USD	42,510 rials
EUR	49,537 rials
GBP	56,382 rials
AED	11,576 rials
Source: mehrnews.com	

COMMODITIES	
WTI	\$68.58/b
Brent	\$75.32/b
OPEC Basket	\$70.94/b
Gold	\$1,270.00 /oz
Silver	\$16.49/oz
Platinum	\$882.50/oz
Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com	

‘New imports ban to thwart \$10b of foreign currency outflow’: MP

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Implementation of the newly set ban on imports of 1,339 kinds of goods into Iran is expected to prevent outflow of \$10 billion foreign currency, IRIB news quoted the chairman of Majlis (the Iranian parliament) economic committee as saying in a TV interview on Saturday.

“The Majlis approved some restrictions on allocation of foreign exchange for importation of 1,339 kinds of goods which are produced domestically or are recognized as unnecessary ones,” Mohammadreza Pourebrahimi said, “The decision is predicted to impede \$10b of foreign currency outflow.”

On June 20, Iranian industry minister ordered forbidding imports of 1,339 kinds of goods, classified in four groups, since they have similar domestic rivals. Some banned products include home appliances, textile products, footwear and leather products, furniture, health-care products, some machineries and etc.

Steel products export up 129% in 2 months yr/yr

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran exported 413,000 tons of steel products during the two-month period from March 21 to June 21, with 129 percent rise from the figure of the same time span in the past year, Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) announced.

As reported, the country had exported 180,000 tons of steel products during the two-month period in the preceding year.

IMIDRO also announced that over 4.258 million tons of crude steel have been produced in the country during the two-month time,

while the figure was 3.96 million tons in the same period of time in the previous year.

Meanwhile, steel products output rose to 3.407 million tons in the two-month time of this year from 3.249 million tons of the same time span in the past year.

Production of sponge iron also increased to 4.564 million tons from 3.532 million tons, showing 29 percent rise year-on-year.

Last week, Deputy Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Jafar Sarqini announced that several crude steel production projects have been specified in the country over the past five years that have 40-percent progress at



the moment.

The official said that Iran’s crude steel output will reach 40 million tons per year once the mentioned projects are complete, Shata news agency reported.

Iran produced 21.884 million tons of

crude steel and 19.776 million tons of steel products in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), showing 19 percent and 9 percent rise, respectively, year on year, according to the data released by IMIDRO.

Tehran hosts intl. conference on transportation, logistics

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** – The second edition of Iran’s International Conference on Export Transportation and Logistics was held at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds on Sunday.

As reported by IRIB, this year’s event was focused on improving and signifying the role of transportation in the country’s foreign trade and also exploring the role of foreign investment in developing export transportation.

According to the organizers, the conference also aimed to introduce Iran’s



potentials in the transportation sector and promote trade with the countries in the region.

Construction operation of over 3,400 km of railways underway

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Over 3,410 kilometers of railways are under construction throughout Iran, Deputy Transport Minister Kheirollah Khademi told IRNA on Sunday.

The official also announced that construction of 5,000 kilometers of railways is under study.

Iran’s Construction and Development of Transportation Infrastructures Company

(CDTIC) managed to build 516 kilometers of railroads in the country during the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), he added.

Khademi, who is also the managing director of CDTIC, has previously announced that 10 railway stations were inaugurated in the country during the past calendar year.

He put the cost of constructing those stations at over 350 billion rials (about \$83.33 million).

Gasoline consumption tops 2.5b liters in a month

ENERGY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iranians Consumed over 2.5 billion liters of gasoline during the Iranian calendar month of Khordad (May 22-June 21), that is an average daily consumption of 83.6 million liters.

The figure for average daily consumption increased 11.2 percent compared to the same period last year. The average daily consumption stood at 75.2 million last year same period, Shana reported.

According to the National Iranian Oil Products Distribution Company



(NIOPDC), over 68 million liters of gasoil was also consumed on average per day during the mentioned time span.

Bitcoin slips to 2018 low as rising scrutiny fuels skepticism

Bitcoin dropped to the lowest level this year as pressure mounts on the embryonic digital-currency sector, with global central bankers raising questions of viability and government regulators increasing scrutiny.

The biggest virtual currency fell as much as 5.1 percent to \$5,832.68, piercing the previous low of the year of \$5,920.72 that was set on Feb. 6, according Bitstamp

prices as of 10:40 a.m. in London. That bought its decline from the record high of almost \$20,000 reached in December to 70 percent.

On Friday, Japan’s Financial Services Agency ordered six of the country’s biggest crypto trading venues to improve measures to prevent money laundering. The companies must submit their plans by July 23.

Peer-to-peer money has come under fresh pressure in recent weeks after two South Korean exchanges said they were hacked. That raised fresh concerns about the security of investor holdings. New pressure in Japan, one of the most crypto-friendly jurisdictions, demonstrated the market’s fragility to regulatory moves in the absence of much positive news.

(Source: Bloomberg)

China to unleash \$108b in reserve cut for some banks

China’s central bank will cut the amount of cash some lenders must hold as reserves, unlocking about 700 billion yuan (\$108 billion) of liquidity, as it seeks to control leverage and support smaller companies.

The required reserve ratio for some banks will drop by 0.5 percentage point, effective July 5, the People’s Bank of China said on its website Sunday. The aim is to support small and micro enterprises, and to further promote the debt-to-equity swap program, according to the central bank. The cut will apply to major state-run commercial banks, joint-stock commercial lenders, postal banks, city commercial lenders, rural banks and foreign banks.

Such a reduction had been widely expected, especially after China’s cabinet said on Wednesday that it would use monetary policy tools, including cutting reserve ratios for some banks, to boost credit supply to smaller companies.

The PBOC designed the cut to do two different things. The 500 billion yuan unlocked

for the nation’s five biggest state-run banks and 12 joint-stock commercial lenders will be channeled to debt-to-equity swaps, which can reduce companies’ debt burdens and help cleaning up banks’ balance sheets. The 200 billion yuan freed for smaller lenders such as the postal bank and city commercial lenders will be used to support funding for smaller businesses.

■ **Targeted, precise change**

The move will “help push forward the steady progress of structural deleveraging, and strengthen support to the weak links of small-and-micro businesses. It is a targeted and precise fine-tuning,” the central bank said in a separate statement. “The PBOC will keep implementing prudent and neutral monetary policy, and create a favorable monetary and financial environment for high-quality development and supply-side reform.”

“The RRR cut this time doesn’t change the PBOC’s prudent policy stance. The decision fits the current economic and liquidity

situations,” said Wen Bin, a researcher at China Minsheng Banking Corp. in Beijing. “It is also an innovative move and addresses structural problems, as the central bank ordered the lenders to use the money unleashed to push forward debt-to-equity swaps and support small-and-micro-sized businesses. This can help relieve financial burdens for some companies while reducing leverage.”

The funds unlocked from the reserve ratio cut shouldn’t be used to support so-called zombie companies, the PBOC said.

The central bank is adjusting monetary policy at a time when China’s economy is showing signs of slowing amid an ongoing campaign to clean up the financial sector and worsening trade tensions with the U.S. The change will also help ease a funding squeeze for lenders, which have to repay money borrowed from the central bank’s medium-term lending facility, and put aside cash for both the July tax season and upcoming quarterly regulatory checks.

(Source: Bloomberg)

Trump’s trade war sets bigger booby trap for strong U.S. economy

The escalating trade battle between the U.S. and the rest of the world is raising the risk of a meaningful slowing in an otherwise vibrant American economy.

While the tariffs already in place and set to be implemented will barely dent U.S. growth, economists say the panoply of additional measures being considered would take a perceptible bite out of gross domestic product if they go ahead.

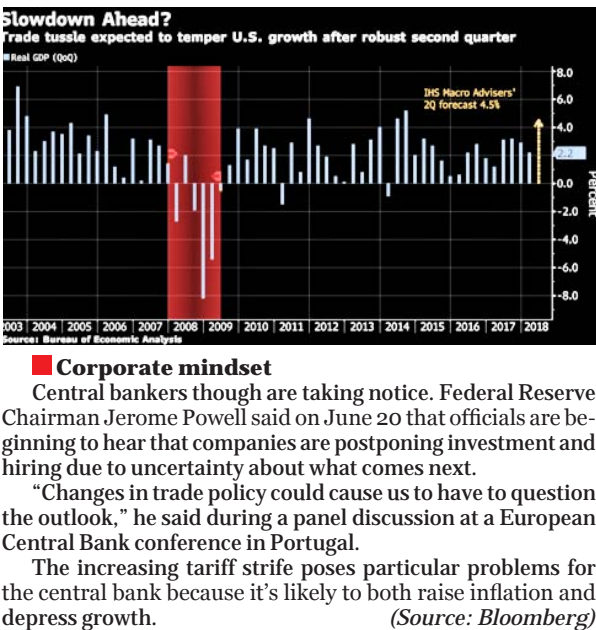
“It’s going to be more noticeably painful,” said Peter Hooper, chief economist at Deutsche Bank AG in New York.

Hooper, who expects the economy to expand 3 percent this year, said the steps already taken or in the works would clip just 0.1 percentage point off GDP growth.

Throw in President Donald Trump’s threat to slap a 10 percent tariff on an additional \$200 billion of Chinese imports and a 20 percent levy on car shipments from the European Union and the impact grows to 0.3 point to 0.4 point, he said. And the fallout could even be greater if heightened tensions begin to infect consumer, business and investor confidence.

“It really dings the economy but certainly doesn’t undermine it,” said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody’s Analytics Inc., who agreed with Hooper’s estimate of a roughly 0.3 percentage point impact from the accumulated trade actions.

So far the stock market seems to be taking the contretemps largely in stride, perhaps in the belief that Trump’s latest threats are more of a negotiating tactic than a concrete plan of attack.



First Announcement

IN THE NAME OF GOD

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NO. 97-03/127

Tender Holder:
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

Subject of Two-Stage Tender:
Supplying Audio Equipment for HD Making Channels 1, 2 and 3 (Tehran IRIB Center) according to the tender documents

Deadline of Receiving Documents:
As of publishing second announcement of advertisement latest by the business hour dated on **Monday June 25, 2018.**

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 121,055** 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 Wednesday August 1, 2018** 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 Sunday August 5, 2018** 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

Russia to boost oil output, invited as observer to OPEC

Russia is carefully studying proposal of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to become an observer in the organization, Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said Saturday.

"There is really such an option, it is being considered, and we are now studying this issue carefully," Novak said, answering a question on whether Russia is ready to become an observer in the OPEC.

The statement refers to the offer by OPEC, voiced by Saudi Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih earlier in the day.

"We invited them [Russia] to join as an observer and we believe that they are considering it. We are looking forward to getting their formal application. And I can assure you that we will welcome Russia's membership to OPEC formally," Falih said at the press conference after the OPEC and non-OPEC talks.

In his speech, Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak announced that Russia would be able to increase its oil output by 170,000-200,000 barrels per day over the second half of the year.

When asked when Russian companies could



start stepping up oil production, Novak noted that "everything will depend on how quickly companies would be able to prepare" for restoring the previous levels of production.

As Saudi Energy Minister Khalid Falih stated, the actual production hike of the countries

participating in the oil production cut deal of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and other producing states will be closer to 1 million barrels per day due to the fact that the deal parties decided to go away from the strict quota principle.

Speaking about the oil output, Oman's Oil and Gas Minister Mohammed Rumhi told journalists on Saturday after OPEC-non-OPEC talks in Vienna countries participating in the oil production cut deal of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and other producers may start increasing output as early as in July.

Earlier on Saturday, countries participating in the oil production cut deal of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and other producers agreed on the oil output increase by up to 1 million barrels per day, with the level of collective compliance with the Vienna deal agreed to be kept within the 100-percent target.

OPEC and several non-cartel oil producers, including Russia, reached a deal in Vienna in 2016, agreeing to cut oil output by a total of 1.8 million barrels per day in an effort to stabilize global oil prices. Non-OPEC states pledged to jointly reduce oil output by 558,000 barrels per day. The agreement, which came into effect in 2017, has been extended twice since then and is expected to remain in force until the end of 2018. (Source: Sputnik)

A storm is brewing in the southern gas corridor

No fewer than Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and Turkish Cypriot President Mustafa Akinci attended a gathering in Central Turkey on 12 June. The amount and variety of attendees of this meeting reveal a common interest in one field of geopolitical developments: energy and more specifically natural gas.

The opening ceremony of the 1,850 kilometers long Trans Anatolian Pipeline, TANAP, starting at the Shah Deniz gas field in Azerbaijan and ending in Turkey, is the last step before connecting to the European grid in Greece and Italy. TANAP is part of the Southern Gas Corridor, which was the dream of many European leaders and officials to create an alternative to Russian gas.

The attendance of several high-level

dignitaries shows the interest in the pipeline and the geopolitical developments of the region. More specifically, Russia's dominant position in the natural gas market of southeast Europe has set leaders scrambling to find alternatives or at least competition of producers.

The fraught relations between Russia and Ukraine brought these countries on a collision course. However, due to historical reasons the energy industries of Moscow and Kiev have been closely intertwined. Russia has set itself an ambitious goal of circumventing Ukraine as its main transit country for gas exports. The Turk Stream and Nord Stream 2 pipelines, which are either planned or under construction, will carry much of the needed gas to Europe starting in 2019 when a new transit contract has to be signed with Kiev.

Ukraine intends to diversify away from and ultimately stop buying gas from Russia.

The Southern Gas Corridor, therefore, is a highly anticipated alternative. The attending of Petro Poroshenko at the opening ceremony is a testament to this goal. Already Ukraine importing gas from neighboring European countries with plans to increase domestic production of natural gas.

The election of a new government in Italy has brought change to the strategic energy map, which for a decade seemed to be fixed. The €40 billion Southern Gas Corridor pipeline bringing Azeri gas to Europe was intended to be linked to Italy's by a yet-to-be-built Trans Adriatic Pipeline, TAP. However, the coalition government of the Five Star Movement and the League has created much uncertainty.

Environment Minister Sergio Costa has dubbed TAP as "pointless" and has ordered the launch of a formal review. The coalition

partners have made fighting corruption one of their election promises. Furthermore, decreasing gas consumption is used as another argument not to construct an additional pipeline. Although demand has risen over the years, it is nowhere near the peak of a decade ago. Italy imports 90 percent of its needs from Russia, Libya, Algeria, and Holland while there is spare capacity.

Environmental reasons are also being used as the 5-Star Movement has a green political program. The new government's minister for southern Italy, Barbara Lezzi, has said that the government believes that the pipeline presented an unnecessary environmental danger given Italy's excess gas capacity. Although Puglia's governor does not object to the construction of TAP, he has proposed redirecting it away from a tourist area. (Source: oilprice.com)

UK green energy feels the heat as subsidies go to fossil fuels

The number of people generating their own power has almost flatlined, with only one new group formed in the UK last year, according to the body representing grassroots energy organizations.

Cuts to subsidies for homeowners to install solar panels and a "hostile planning approach" that has in effect banned new wind turbines are behind the "wholesale decline", Community Energy England (CEE) said in its 2018 State of the Sector report.

Grassroots schemes can slash electricity bills in half at a time when the "big six" energy companies have raised their prices so that the average household is paying £1,150 to £1,200 a year.



But setting up a project is risky, with the cost of installing solar panels or constructing turbines paid up-front, and nearly 30 percent of community energy groups saw some of their schemes fail last year, the report said.

Subsidies can hedge the risks, but in 2015 the government cut them for green energy, including the "feed-in tariff" households get for supplying excess energy back to the national grid, capping the total at £100m by 2019. Fossil fuel subsidies are more than 30 times higher – companies running oil or coal-fired power stations received more than £3bn last year through the capacity market, funded partly by household fuel bills.

"There is a clear link between recent subsidy changes and an increasing number of failed or stalled community projects," said CEE's chief executive, Emma Bridge. "If government is serious about creating a new renewable energy industry to meet the nation's power needs it has got to embrace the community energy sector and restore the modest support that it needs to thrive."

Community energy groups were growing by 30 a year until 2015, but only one was formed last year, bringing the total to 228, serving 48,000 members. One of the successes is Energise Barnsley, which has installed solar panels and batteries in 321 council homes, municipal buildings and schools, focusing on people at risk of fuel poverty.

Elaine Marsh, a retired NHS secretary, used to pay £350 a year for her electricity, but now her annual bill is only £185. "The battery stores what I don't use during the day so I can use it at night," she said. "So I do all my laundry at night when it's free. I use as much of my utilities at night as I can."

Grossbardorf FC's stadium is powered by solar panels paid for by fans who get free sausages, or season tickets, in return. (Source: The Guardian)

BREITLING
1884

AIR
LAND
SEA

SUPEROCEAN HERITAGE II

BREITLING
MON 8
superocean
CHRONOMETER

SWISS MADE

SARMAN Co.
021 2261 3752

SUPEROCEAN HERITAGE II CHRONOGRAPH 44
SELF-WINDING MECHANICAL
CHRONOMETER-CERTIFIED

Europe's left turns right on immigration

By Michael Bröning

Europe's center-left parties are increasingly succumbing to political pressure on immigration. Instead of following in the nationalist right's footsteps, they should pursue a three-pronged strategy that can be popular without being populist.

Europe's established left is facing the threat of extinction. In less than two years, the continent's social-democratic parties have suffered historic losses in France, the Netherlands, Germany, and Italy. On a continent long defined by democratic competition between center-right and center-left parties, the collapse of the left could have far-reaching consequences, beyond particular party interests.

Many factors underlie the left's decline, including the dissolution of the traditional working class. But one of the most important reasons is as grim as it is simple: European voters are increasingly opposed to immigration, and do not trust the left to limit it.

Faced with a sustained influx of refugees and migrants, primarily from the Middle East and Africa, European voters have transformed a series of recent elections into popular referenda on immigration. Right-wing populist movements have skillfully played on blue-collar voters' fears by convincing them that traditional labor parties will allow immigrants to flow in virtually unchecked.

In April, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán won a landslide election victory after running a campaign that focused on the "threat" to "Christian values" supposedly posed by Muslim immigrants. Italy's new anti-establishment coalition government was propelled to power by the popularity of the staunchly anti-immigrant League party, led by Matteo Salvini, who is now interior minister and deputy prime minister.

In Slovenia, former Prime Minister Janez Janša's right-wing opposition party secured just under 25% of the vote in this month's parliamentary election, meaning that Janša will form the country's next government. Echoing U.S. President Donald Trump, Janša campaigned on an anti-immigrant "Slovenia first" platform.

When right-wing populists first started gaining political traction, Europe's center-left parties hoped that their traditional strengths would enable them to weather the challenge. To avoid unwittingly strengthening right-wing narratives, center-left campaigners attempted to shift public debate toward their ideological comfort zone: unemployment, inequality, and social justice. Germany's Social Democratic Party (SPD) based its entire 2017 election campaign on the slogan, "It's time for more justice."

Yet defeat after painful defeat has driven center-left parties to a stark realization: voters who are concerned primarily with immigration are not going to be won over with calls – however justified – for equality. As a result, center-left parties across Europe have begun to change course, with social democrats in several key countries changing long-held positions on migration.

In Germany, the coalition government (comprising the SPD, the Christian Democratic Union, and the CDU's Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union) is embroiled in a bitter fight over immigration that threatens the survival of the coalition. While the SPD aims for a European solution and rejects sealing Germany's borders, party leader Andrea Nahles called for accelerated asylum procedures that would enable authorities to conclude asylum applications from safe third countries within one week. Last month, Nahles launched the debate within the SPD when, seemingly echoing right-wing rhetoric, she declared that Germany "cannot accept all."

Some in the SPD's leadership and its youth wing were up in arms. Yet Nahles has doubled down on her stance, publicly endorsing a critical analysis, compiled by a board of independent observers, of last year's election defeat. That report identified "the lack of a consistent social-democratic position" on migration issues as one of the party's structural weaknesses.

Austria's Social Democratic Party has taken its shift on immigration further. The party leadership has presented a new platform, to be officially endorsed later this year, that formally redefines the party's position as "pro-integration," as opposed to pro-migration. While the platform does refer to the country's "humanitarian responsibilities," it also demands "functioning protection" of the EU's external borders.

Denmark's social democrats are a step ahead of their Austrian counterparts: in preparation for next year's elections, they have adopted a new position paper on immigration titled "Just and Realistic." By establishing "reception centers" outside Europe to decide on asylum claims, the paper asserts, the flow of migrants into Denmark can be reduced. The paper also calls for stronger cooperation with the United Nations and a "Marshall Plan" for Africa that would presumably convince more migrants to stay home.

This stance is largely mirrored by Sweden's social democrats, as they attempt to cope with strong public support for the far-right, anti-immigrant Sweden Democrats. Prime Minister Stefan Löfven, who is campaigning for reelection in September, recently called his country's traditionally open immigration policy "not sustainable." His proposed policy, entitled "A Safe Migration Policy for a New Time," would halve the number of refugees allowed into Sweden and prevent rejected asylum seekers from receiving social support – a position that pro-migration groups harshly criticize.

The criticism highlights a key challenge. On one level, social democrats' immigration shift is a necessary response to voter demand. Efforts to limit or manage migration are not necessarily based on racism or xenophobia. The key is to ensure that policy responses remain morally acceptable.

European voters are increasingly opposed to immigration, and do not trust the left to limit it.

At the same time, too drastic a change could be self-defeating for struggling center-left parties. They clearly cannot copy the crude nativist recipes of the radical right, which would not only be economically counterproductive, but would also fly in the face of progressive values, alienating cosmopolitan supporters.

Instead, Europe's center-left parties should strike a balance between national and international solidarity with a three-pronged strategy comprising effective limits on immigration, a focus on integration, and humanitarian efforts to ease large-scale human suffering. Such an approach would eschew incendiary rhetoric, and instead offer real, forward-thinking, and morally sustainable solutions that are not populist, but certainly can be popular.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has embraced this approach, as has French President Emmanuel Macron. Struggling center-left parties across Europe should follow suit, recognizing that such a repositioning may well be the key to political survival.

(Source: Project-Syndicate)

Is the UAE purchasing properties in East Jerusalem on behalf of Israel?

By Ali Adam

As reported by MEMO two weeks ago, Kamal Khatib, the Deputy Head of the Islamic Movement in Israel, warned in an online statement on 6 June that an Emirati businessman close to the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Mohammed Bin Zayed, is trying to buy Palestinian houses and properties in the old city of Jerusalem, especially those which are close to Al-Aqsa Mosque. It is alleged that he is doing this through a businessman from Jerusalem who's affiliated with exiled former Fatah leader Mohammed Dahlan.

According to Khatib, the businessman offered \$5 million to a local Palestinian to buy his house adjacent to Al-Aqsa. The house owner, apparently, declined, even when the initial offer was raised to \$20m. Khatib warned that such efforts are similar to those in 2014, when "Mohammed Bin Zayed's regime" bought houses in Silwan and Wadi Hilwa in occupied East Jerusalem in order to sell them to Israeli settler organizations.

At the end of his online statement, Khatib advised all of the landowners in Jerusalem that they should "never deal with any attempt to sell houses or real estate to anybody and under any cover." He repeated his claims in an interview with Al-Jazeera on the same day as his Facebook post.

Two days later and on the same social media site, Dahlan denied the allegations and responded harshly against Khatib and Al-Jazeera. He basically claimed that lies and fabrications are nothing new to Khatib and Al-Jazeera, and those who run and finance the television station.

"The lies and the fabrications of Khatib and Al-Jazeera regarding Jerusalem are intended to distract and confuse people about whoever tries to give a helping hand to our beloved and holy city," Dahlan said. "The likes of Al-Khatib are the ones that intensify the isolation of Jerusalem and its people in the face of the colonizing occupier." He then threatened to sue both Khatib and Al-Jazeera for libel.

This is not the first time that the Islamic Movement official has accused the UAE of buying properties in East Jerusalem on behalf of the Israeli occupiers, particularly those buildings that are closest to Al-Aqsa Mosque.

In 2014, during East Jerusalem's largest influx of Jewish settlers in two decades, 35 apartments and houses in Silwan, which is a densely populated Palestinian neighborhood on the outskirts of the Old City of Jerusalem, ended up in settlers' hands. At the time, Kamal Khatib and Raed Salah (the leader of the Islamic Movement in Israel) accused the UAE of playing a major intermediary role in the sale of the properties to settlers' groups. I spoke exclusively to Khatib about this.

"In 2014, when the month Ramadan coincided with the start of the vicious Israeli offensive against Gaza, Emirati businessmen bought, through intermediaries and realtors, homes from Jerusalemites in Silwan and Wadi Hilweh," he said. "The claim [at the time] was that they would be used to host Indonesian visitors and others in order to encourage more Muslims to visit Al-Aqsa Mosque."

Only a few weeks later, Khatib pointed out, representatives of an Israeli Jewish organization called Ateret Cohanim, accompanied by police officers, demanded that the owners of



"The Palestinians who sold their houses in 2014 were told by Palestinian brokers that the Emirati sellers want to rebuild and renovate the holy city and merely want to support the Jerusalemites and their steadfastness against the settlers and the Israeli government, only to find later that their houses were sold to settler organizations" said a source from East Jerusalem.

the houses should vacate them because the settlers were the new owners. "They presented the sales documents, which were said to be for Emirati businessmen."

A source from East Jerusalem who monitored the sales in 2014 – and has asked to remain anonymous – told me that, "The Palestinians who sold their houses in 2014 were told by Palestinian brokers that the Emirati sellers want to rebuild and renovate the holy city and merely want to support the Jerusalemites and their steadfastness against the settlers and the Israeli government, only to find later that their houses were sold to settler organizations."

At the time, the settlers' takeover in Silwan sparked outrage and drew international condemnation, especially from Washington. In 2016, Lebanese newspaper Al-Akhbar published an investigative report under the headline "Al-Aqsa Mosque is besieged by Emirati money." It provided details of other attempts by the UAE to buy houses in the Old City of Jerusalem through Palestinian intermediaries.

Those accusations are rejected by proponents of the UAE who claim that the purchase of properties in Jerusalem is intended to protect the city and support the Jerusalemites who can no longer handle life there. Furthermore, they insist, buying such properties is merely a way to ensure that they stay in Arab and Muslim hands.

However, some remain skeptical about this, not least because of the recent, overt development of positive relations between Israel and countries like the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. Their relationship is not

only experiencing unprecedented warmth, but they have also started to cooperate with each other on what are perceived as common interests and common threats.

Indeed, Persian Gulf countries led by the UAE have been leading the effort to normalize the Arab world's links with Israel. This is at the expense of the Palestinians and their rights, given that Arab countries have previously conditioned normalization with Israel on the implementation of the two-state solution with East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine. Within that context, therefore, the Palestinians are losing what is arguably their only leverage for negotiations with Israel.

Moreover, Saudi Arabia and the UAE are supporting and co-sponsoring the so-called "deal of the century" which doesn't recognize East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine; considers the whole of Jerusalem to be the capital of Israel; and proposes that the Palestinians should relocate their capital to Abu Dis, east of Jerusalem. Hence, some believe that the allegations about the UAE buying houses in East Jerusalem on behalf of Israel fit very closely with the overall position of the UAE and the context of its links with the occupying state.

According to political analyst and researcher Muhammed Shehade, the UAE and Saudi Arabia want their cooperation with Israel to step up from its limited, behind-the-scenes nature, and reach its full potential with cooperation on many levels.

"However, they cannot do this until some kind of diplomatic agreement is reached in the Israel-Palestine issue so that they'll sell it to their own citizens in order to mitigate

their anger over the relations with Israel," he explained to me. "The UAE's actions of buying houses in the Old City of Jerusalem could either be to pave the way for the 'deal of the century' and make the Palestinians more accepting of the fact that East Jerusalem is not going to be the capital for their state, or – and this is more likely – the whole thing could be merely a quid pro quo with Israel as part of the UAE's overall cooperation with the Zionist regime."

■ **The status of East Jerusalem**

The Palestinians claim East Jerusalem as the capital of their long sought-after state, whereas Israel vows that "undivided" Jerusalem is its own "eternal" capital. The international community, however, doesn't recognize Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem and considers settlements there to be illegal under international law. However, last December Washington broke with decades of U.S. and international policy when it recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital and followed that by moving its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in May.

Ever since Israel annexed East Jerusalem after the 1967 Six Day War, it has worked to establish and expand a Jewish presence and ownership in the city. It treats the Palestinian residents of the city as unwanted immigrants and has imposed a repressive system designed to stifle their daily lives in order to drive them out of the city.

Using such tactics as house demolitions and withdrawal of residency permits, Israel has changed the demographic makeup of East Jerusalem from being nearly 100 per cent Palestinian in 1967 to a 63 per cent Jewish majority in the city today. The change has accelerated over the past 10 years; in 2008, Jews made up less than half of the population.

Homeowners in East Jerusalem generally refuse under any circumstances to sell properties to Israeli settlers. The vast majority of the properties sold to Jewish institutions have been made by fraudulent or deceptive means, sometimes using intermediaries or straw men to fool Palestinians into thinking that their homes will still be in safe hands. Occasionally, imposters who pose as the homeowners have been used.

The buying of properties in East Jerusalem by Jewish groups is the most sensitive and explosive issue to the Palestinians, not only because of the religious sensitivity of the area, but also because it touches on the future of the city that is supposed to be the capital of Palestine. Hard-line Jewish organizations have always wanted a contiguous presence in East Jerusalem in order to thwart any attempt to share the city under a peace deal with the Palestinians.

"The overall role of the UAE in helping Israel is not yet clear in all its details," Kamal Khatib explained to me, "and the story of buying real estate and delivering it to the settlers is only a manifestation of that role." What's more, he asked, how are we supposed to believe that the UAE is supporting the Palestinian cause when it sent a sports delegation to participate in the anniversary of Israel's creation, which is also the anniversary of the Nakba of the Palestinian people? "Doesn't this prove that the UAE is closer to Israel than it is to the Palestinians?"

(Source: Middle East Monitor)

Rise of xenophobia is fanning immigration flames in EU and U.S.

By Simon Tisdall

Like a timebomb waiting to go off, Europe's smouldering immigration problem exploded into a full-blown crisis last week. The U.S. experienced a similar delayed upheaval, after the human consequences of Donald Trump's "zero tolerance" border policy became too painful to ignore. The two events are closely linked, the product of systemic international failings.

The longstanding inability of governments to cope with challenges posed by the increased flows of refugees, asylum seekers and economic migrants is common to both sides of the Atlantic. The ensuing vacuum has been filled by opportunists such as Trump, maverick fringe parties, and rightwing zealots such as Italy's new interior minister, Matteo Salvini, and the U.S. attorney general, Jeff Sessions.

Chaos in Congress, where Republicans and Democrats have argued over conflicting plans to end incarceration of immigrant children on the Mexican border, enabled Trump to claim he was addressing Americans' concerns. The U.S. president has backed off for now, but his tough approach remains popular. Likewise, Salvini's approval rating has soared after he banned a ship carrying migrants from Libya.

In Germany, Angela Merkel's domestic public standing has never wholly recovered from her decision to admit 1.1 million refugees in 2015. Although the total annual influx into Europe has plunged to under 40,000 people so far this year, polls suggest about two-thirds of German voters agree with Horst Seehofer, the interior minister and the chancellor's rebellious ministerial rival, that tougher border controls are necessary.

Merkel is scrambling to agree a Europe-wide policy at next week's EU summit. She and other national leaders will first hold an emergency meeting in Brussels on Sunday. But Poland, Hungary and other central and east European opponents of her "burden-sharing" approach will not alter their stance. Attitudes among the "frontline states" – Greece, Italy and Spain – are hardening. As in Washington, there is no European consensus.

The latest proposed sticking plaster – creating processing centers along the north African littoral – sounds



Populists are exploiting citizens' fears while ignoring root causes of migration crises

a lot like replicating the Libyan holding camps that have become notorious for abuses. Another problem: nobody seems to have asked Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria or Morocco whether they are willing to be re-colonized as dumping grounds for Europe's problems.

Sebastian Kurz, Austria's rightwing chancellor, goes further, talking about military "secure zones" in north Africa. His ministerial colleague, Herbert Kickl, wants to "concentrate" migrants in one far-off place. Like Salvini's ideas about rounding up and expelling Roma people, such talk carries disturbing echoes of the 1930s. Austria will hold the EU council of ministers chair from next month, from where it can push its agenda.

The recent pan-European surge in nationalist, populist and xenophobic political forces forms the intractable backdrop to the immigration crisis. Similarly, Trump won in 2016 on a wave of demagoguery that exploited Middle America's fears. Phobias about foreigners, mixed with old-fashioned

racism and concerns over terrorism, were the genesis of his Mexican border wall and his ban on citizens from Muslim countries. Yet, like many European politicians, Trump ignored the root causes of problematic migration – and, in many instances, the west's culpability.

American wars in the Middle East, notably in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya; the collective failure to halt the Syrian, Yemeni, South Sudanese and Somali conflicts; and the tolerance shown to repressive, undemocratic regimes in Eritrea and Egypt have all stoked the crisis.

Add the ever-widening north-south wealth gap, western indifference to the economic plight of sub-Saharan African and west Asian countries, the disproportionate impact of climate change and environmental pollution, and the chronic insecurity of lives lived in impoverished, unstable societies, and it is not hard to see why large numbers of people would prefer to move to Michigan or Magdeburg.

In the specific case of the US southern border, much of the migration from Mexico and Central America is an attempt to escape murderous narco-wars involving gangs feeding off massive U.S. demand for illegal drugs, something Trump has done little to curb.

Unusually among top politicians, Merkel grasps the connections and has urged a more holistic approach. She was instrumental in creating the EU's €4.3bn emergency trust fund for Africa, dedicated to fighting "the root causes of irregular migration" (and thereby curbing it) through investing in jobs, education, training and good governance in countries of origin.

But recent research shows three states that together are the biggest source of asylum seekers – Nigeria, Somalia and Eritrea – received less EU money than more stable, better-off countries such as Ethiopia. The trust has also been criticized for spending too much on preventing migration and tighter border controls, rather than improving lives.

More time bombs are ticking. In the absence of agreed, joined-up solutions, the overall problem is expanding exponentially. According to the UN, wars, violence and persecution uprooted 68.5 million people last year – an all-time record.

(Source: The Guardian)

SCO long term investment for Iran, not solution to urgent issues: Bininachvili

By Payman Yazdani & Ebrahim Fallahi

TEHRAN — Dr. Albert Bininachvili, professor of political science at the Columbia University believes Iran's SCO membership is a long term investment for Tehran and doesn't necessarily provides Iran with solutions to its most urgent issues.

Attending a meeting in Merh News Agency and Tehran Times newspaper headquarters on 20th of June, a series of issues were discussed with Dr. Albert Bininachvili, a professor of political science at the Columbia University, by political analysts from the outlets. Bininachvili is an expert in security and energy focusing on the Persian Gulf and the Caspian. He has published numerous articles on Iran, Central Asia and the Caucasus.

A wide range of topics were discussed during the meeting ranging from speculations on OPEC's probable decision regarding its output to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the role of the EU for saving the pact, effects of new US sanctions on Iran's energy sector, reasons behind lack of adequate post-JCPOA foreign investment in Iran, options that the EU has to maintain JCPOA and Iran's presence in Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Asked about possible result of the OPEC meeting on 22th of June, Bininachvili highlighted that the result is both "complicated and simple."

He highlighted the great influence of Saudi Arabia and Russia regarding oil output, saying that Russia surely follows its own national interests, implying that it shouldn't be expected from Russia to address other states' interests in this regard.

Touching upon the low cost of JCPOA withdrawal for USA, Payman Yazdani framed "how could Iran increase the cost for USA exit?"

"By having attracted investments in the past," Bininachvili answered, adding that Iran cannot increase the price now because of not being in a "favorable position."

Referring to the high interest of American companies in Iran, he said "every multinational [company] will be obviously interested in the untapped market [of Iran] ... with 80 million people."

Giving Boeing as an example, he highlighted that this American company is surely interested in dealing with Iran. He further referred to Iran's need to reconstruct and modernize its oil and gas fields; which provide extensive opportunities for multinational companies. Iran's oil and gas sector can "easily" absorb some \$100 b investment, he added.

Asked about the reasons behind lack of foreign investment in Iran, Bininachvili said his "personal feeling" is that some Iranian officials were under the delusion that JCPOA was a kind of infinite document and so there was no need to hurry up.

Describing post-JCPOA as the "period of lost opportunities for Iran," he noted that the country has just attracted



one major investment and that is \$1 b from French energy giant Total.

Bininachvili compared the status of Iran and Iraq in attracting investment, saying that Iraq has managed to attract more companies despite all their problems including instability, war, and separatism. It is much easier to work in Iran because of its centralized authority, he added.

Asked about the effects of new sanctions on Iran's energy sector and solutions for lessening the effects, he answered "I expect the immediate effect in terms of the amount may be around 0.5 million [bpd], if things go really bad."

The most negative effect would be Iran's oil export to Europe, he said, adding that oil export to China and India have the potential to experience a slight increase while exports to Turkey will probably stay at the current rate.

Reiterating that EU, Japan and South Korea will be the main challenge of Iran for oil export, Bininachvili said that there is chance for obtaining exceptions for trading with Iran, in which companies will be carved out and sanctions won't limit their activities.

"It is much easier to negotiate with Trump about the carvings and exceptions than it used to be with Obama," he highlighted.

He went on to say that Japan was in desperate need of energy after Fukushima crisis but Obama insisted on sanctions and prevented Iran's oil export to Japan. Touching on the good relations between Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, he noted that there is a fair chance for obtaining exceptions.

Questioned on the extent of guarantees that EU can provide to keep JCPOA and whether European countries are ready to sacrifice their own interest for Iran or not, the political analyst said, "no one is doing anything for another and this is all about politics and protection of national interest and there is no room for emotions ... There are no free lunches in this world"

Analyzing the European positions, he listed three options regarding the EU approach toward the JCPOA. One option is

deterioration of EU-U.S. relations given the trade wars and other issues, he said, adding, Europe, in this scenario, will try to expand ties with Iran to retaliate pressures from U.S.

He believed that the first option will not happen mostly because of Russia's behavior in Europe. If Russia was behaving much better, Europeans might have allowed themselves to mitigate with America, he said, adding, "... otherwise they [Europeans] will be forced to give concessions to Russia."

The second option of EU is "wait and see," the scholar said, highlighting that this is the most probable one. In this scenario, Europe will offer Iranians to stay in the pact but simultaneously expresses solidarity with U.S. regarding issues like missiles and Iran's presence in the region, he said, adding that Europe may say that it will provide more support if Tehran makes some concessions on concerned areas.

Also, EU may use Iranian cards for bargaining with Washington on other sectors such as free trade, he added.

The next option is when EU says that it is maintaining independence from U.S. but at the same time will do nothing to convince their own companies to work with Iran, Bininachvili highlighted.

Then, they will tell Iran "you see, we are not with America, but our companies are independent. We love Iran and Iranians but we can do nothing with regard to the companies and business activities," he noted.

Answering a question regarding the importance of Iran's presence in SCO and whether this international body can help Iran to tackle its economic, security concerns or not, the analyst said that Iran's membership in SCO doesn't necessarily provides Iran with solutions to its most urgent issues but it is a long-term investment.

The upgrade on SCO is an obvious continuation of Iran's long-term policies and another facet for implementation of Iran's Eastern strategy, the Columbia University professor noted.

Membership in SCO provides another outlet for strengthening ties with Russia and China, he said, adding, Iran relies on the diplomatic support of these permanent members of UN Security Council which are also members of SCO.

Considering the amount of economic cooperation with China and their potential of investment in Iran, joining SCO provides the ground for further cementing ties between the two countries, he added.

Describing China as a "very important actor," the political analyst said that cooperation with china can be boosted not only on the unilateral level but also on multilateral level.

Referring to Russia, he said that Iran has developed some sort of dependency on Russia's support in confrontation with U.S. and there are many facets of cooperation between the two countries, the most impressive being the military aspect.

Iran's presence in SCO is "all in all positive" and "absolutely a right step," Bininachvili highlighted, adding that this provides opportunities to boost ties with India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Central Asian countries.

Behind the scenes of Israeli-Arab conflict



1 → The main focus of these meetings is to align the positions of Jordan and the Zionist regime with the US plot against the Palestinian people, known as the "deal of the century". The plan has entered a very sensitive phase, which would probably ask for Jordan's flexibility and retreat in terms of clauses it follows after the pressure from America and Zionists. A recent popular demonstration in Jordan, where some slogans were heard against the king and his removal from power, became a winning card and leverage in the hands of the Arab states of the Persian Gulf, and specifically Saudi Arabia, along with the United States and the Zionists.

The killing of two Jordanian citizens by the Israeli embassy security guard in Amman two years ago, has raised the tension between the two governments. These incidents come as surprise amid the sudden Netanyahu's friendship with King of Jordan. Today, their close ties mean nothing other than Amman's implicit agreement with the "deal of the century."

After these meetings and speculations about the possibility of a change in Jordan's position on the Palestinian issue, the Palestinian leaders emphasized that they were resolutely opposed to the deal of the century and did not accept it at all. It seems that holding these meetings exactly a few days after the Mecca summit and granting a package of financial assistance to Jordan are indications that Saudi Arabia pushes for an agreement between Amman and Tel Aviv. After the Mecca summit, several Saudi's media outlets reported that the Jordanian ambassador to Tehran has been withdrawn, a piece of news from three years ago. A review of these developments suggests that the summit in Mecca is a message for Jordanian authorities that if Saudi Arabia and the Zionist regime are to seek financial assistance to resolve the crisis in Jordan, there must be concessions behind Tel Aviv and Riyadh.

In annual General Assembly of Chadormalu Mining & Industrial Co. (PJS):

Net EPS of Rls.330 Distributed among Shareholders



The Ordinary Annual General Assembly of Chadormalu Mining & Industrial Company (Public Joint Stock) was held at the venue of Talash Hall of Sports and Cultural Complex of the Ministry of Labor, Cooperatives and Social Welfare on Wednesday June 13, 2018 in the presence of about 93 percent of its shareholders.

Mr. Mohammad-Reza Khorsandi was selected as the chairman of the General Assembly while Messrs. Mehrdad Nemati and Morteza Ali Akbari were appointed as observers. It should be noted that Eng. Mahmoud Nourian was selected as the secretary of the meeting. The meeting was attended by Mr. Mahmoudi representative of Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) and Mr. Bahramian representative of RAYMAND Auditing Institute.

Eng. Mahmoud Nourian CEO of the company was the first speaker who expounded a comprehensive report on the performance of executive programs of the company including extraction operations, sales and production of products and also physical progress of the projects at hand. In the course of organizing the General Assembly, CEO of the company and also Deputy Financial and Economic Affairs of the company responded to the questions raised.

Then, report of legal inspector of the company was read on the performance of the Board of Directors and financial statements including consolidated balance sheet, profit and loss account and its attached notes for the fiscal year closing on March 20, 2018. After hearing the remarks of the Board of Directors and legal inspector of the company, the Assembly, moreover approving performance of the Board of Directors of the company, approved financial statements of the company and its attached notes for the fiscal year closing on March 20, 2018.

The following decisions were adopted and approved:

- With regard to dividing profit for the fiscal year closing March 20, 2018, it was envisioned that 11,055,000 rials should be distributed among shareholders (330 rials for each share, EPS).

- Transactions subject to Article 129 of Commercial Law were approved and ratified.
- Attendance fee and bonus of the Board of Directors were determined.

4. RAYMAND, et al Auditing Institute was selected as auditor and legal inspector and DASH, et al Auditing Institute was selected as alternate inspector for the fiscal year 2018.

5. Donya-e-Eqtesad Persian Daily was selected as widely circulated paper for publishing upcoming notices and advertisements of the company.

6. The General Assembly appreciated unflinching efforts of the Board of Directors and also all staff and personnel of the company in materializing most objectives of the company.

The company owes its success to the unflinching efforts of the company's laborers and personnel in materializing most of its objectives in the past Iranian calendar year in 1396 (ended March 20, 2018).

CEO of the company also expressed his special thanks to the Board of Directors of the company in steering the company towards prosperity and boom. Objectives of Management and Management Strategies to Attain Objectives:

- Predicted and realized short-term objectives in the past Iranian calendar year in 1396 (ended March 20, 2018).

- Continuation of trend of execution of programs for the production of iron ore concentrate, above the nominal production capacity (similar to the previous years) and production of graded and granulated iron ore products, pellet and steel (rebar in SARMAD Steel Company of Abarkuh) according to the scheduled program approved in 2017

- Starting commercial production of 300,000 tons of steel ingot in Chadormalu Mining & Industrial Company.



trial Company.

- Continuation of installing operation of relevant equipment and machinery for the construction operation of Direct Reduction Plant project with the annual production capacity of 1,500,000 tons of sponge iron in the vicinity of Pelletizing and Steel Production Factory and achieving appropriate physical progress as well as commissioning the factory as pilot in July 2018

- Production of 300,000 tons of rebar in SARMAD Steel and Iron Industries Company of Abarkuh

- Finalizing water supply project out of sewage network system in Ardakan and conveyance of water to Ardakan Pelletizing Complex as well as full operation of the aforementioned plan in 2017

Long-Term Objectives

Feasibility studies for the construction operation of three important projects of the company are underway envisioned for the next five years (long-term) projects as follows:

- Project for construction operation of two rolling mills with the annual production capacity of 1.2 million tons of rebar in the vicinity of steel manufacturing factory located in Chadormalu Industrial Complex, costing 3,000 billion rials, using foreign finance scheme

- Construction of new pelleting factory with the annual production capacity of four million tons in Chadormalu Mining & Industrial Company, costing 9,000 billion rials (using foreign finance scheme)

- Planning to attain new mines for operation

According to the information mentioned in Table 1, the company managed to materialize 108 percent of its objectives in the past year.

Accordingly, performance of main activities of the company in the fiscal year closing on March 20, 2018 shows considerable 123 percent growth as compared to the same period of last year.



Chadormalu Mining & Industrial Co. (PJS)
Consolidated profit and loss account for the fiscal year closing on March 20, 2018

(revision presented)	Mar. 20, 108	March 20, 2017
	Million rials	Million rials
Income obtained from selling goods	34,554,089	20,962,000
Cost price of goods sold	(24,103,540)	(13,804,081)
Gross profit	10,450,549	7,157,919
Sales, administrative and general costs	(266,661)	(226,763)
Net of other incomes and operating costs	(322,114)	71,987
Operating profit	9,861,774	7,003,143
Net of other incomes and non-operational costs	2,722,494	651,025
	2,722,494	651,025
Profit of operations before taxation	12,584,268	7,654,168
Income Tax	-----	-----
Net profit	12,584,268	7,654,168
EPS (equity per share) according to the number of stocks available on the formulation of balance sheet		
Caused by the operations underway		
Operational	295	248
Nonoperational	81	23
Equity per Share (EPS)	376	271
Number of stocks in balance sheet date	33,500,000,000	28,215,000,000
EPS (according to the average number of shares in year	408	355
Symmetrical average of number of stocks in the reported year caused by increased capital made	30,833,601,195	21,533,852,459
Cumulative Profit Account Turnover		
Cumulative dividend in the beginning of the year	6,576,866	7,180,608
Yearly adjustment	131,897	2,022,099
Cumulative dividend in the beginning of year - adjusted	6,444,969	5,158,509
Dividend of profit appropriation	5,643,000	5,985,000
	801,969	826,491
Net profit in year	12,584,268	7,654,168
Profit appropriation	13,386,237	6,827,677
Legal reserve	629,214	382,708
Cumulative dividend in the year end	12,757,023	6,444,969

Chadormalu Mining & Industrial Co. (PJS)
Consolidated Balance Sheet for fiscal year closing on March 20, 2018

(revision presented)	Mar. 20, 2018	Mar. 20, 2017	Liabilities and owner's equity	Mar. 20, 2018	Mar. 20, 2017
	Million rials	Million rials		Million rials	Million rials
Assets			Current liabilities		
			Trade and nontrade accounts payable		
			Income tax payable	1,412,992	4,815,205
Cash inventory	1,513,526	657,411	Payable dividend	1,771,031	5,357,483
Trade and nontrade receivables	4,926,252	4,963,758	Financial facilities receivable	4,399,034	5,516,084
Inventory of goods and materials	9,026,139	6,717,780	Advance received	1,840,894	1,132,684
Down payments and orders	1,975,670	1,177,044	Total current liabilities	20,871,294	24,355,010
Total current assets	17,441,587	13,515,993	Non-current liabilities		
Noncurrent assets:			Long term facilities	249,206	-----
Long term investments	12,991,382		End service reserve	114,819	99,149
Visible assets	57,982		Total noncurrent liabilities	364,025	99,149
Visible fixed assets	39,723,313		Total liabilities	21,235,319	24,454,159
Total noncurrent assets	52,772,677		Owner's equity		
			Capital (33,500 million shares each worth 1,000 rials, totally paid)	33,500,000	28,215,000
			Legal reserve	2,721,922	2,092,708
			Cumulative dividend	12,757,023	6,444,969
			Total owner's equity	48,978,945	36,752,677
Total assets	70,214,264	61,206,836	Total liabilities and owner's equity	70,214,264	61,206,836

Torture, state terrorism and Ethiopia's transformation

By Awol K Allo

On June 23, a grenade exploded during a rally in support of Ethiopia's new Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and his reform policies, killing a number of people. Clearly not everyone is happy about the transformative path he has embarked on.

Just five days earlier, Ahmed appeared before the parliament to answer questions about the performance of his government. During the session, the members of parliament began to field serious questions ranging from the government's decision to normalize relations with Eritrea to the liberalization of the economy, from community cohesion to the release of tens of thousands of political prisoners.

The debate was a magnificent moment in history that marked a promising turning point for a rubber-stamp parliament that had been gaslighting the Ethiopian public for the last 27 years and a

new beginning for the people it represents.

In his response, the prime minister offered an honest, awe-inspiring and highly robust defense of his administration's transformational decisions. While all of Ahmed's policy statements were clear, detailed, and nuanced, it was his astonishing admission of state terrorism and torture that signaled a new dawn for the country and the continent.

In response to a challenge about the constitutionality and legality of some of the government's actions, particularly the release of thousands of prisoners accused of terrorism, Ahmed argued that terrorism is not just an act of trying to forcefully overthrow a government, and added that the government's unconstitutional use of force to stay in power should also be considered terrorism.

He then admitted that Ethiopian security forces tortured people in the past, and asked the MPs whether the country's constitution sanctions torture.

By admitting that his own party, the ruling Council of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), used torture and terrorist tactics to stay in power in the past, Ahmed showed that he is serious about changing the Ethiopian state for the better and further cemented his already ineffable magnetism.

However, it is important to note that his admission came against the backdrop of a power struggle between the Tigray Peoples Liberation Front (TPLF) and the current administration. TPLF, a faction of the ruling coalition that dominated Ethiopian politics for the last 27 years, does not seem prepared to accept the sweeping changes unfolding beneath its feet and appear to be genuinely surprised when the violence it used to maintain its privilege is exposed.

Over the course of the last decade and half, the Ethiopian regime used the discourse of terrorism as a political weapon to maintain and further con-

solidate its authoritarian grip over the population. As the "war on terror" became the centerpiece of U.S. foreign policy, Ethiopia positioned itself as Washington's most reliable front line counterterrorism ally in the Horn of Africa - all in an effort to benefit from its unparalleled political and economic payoffs.

War on terror

At the height of this weaponization of the "war on terror", the Ethiopian government adopted one of the most draconian anti-terrorism legislations in the world, and used it as a justification to crush dissent and opposition.

Can Ethiopia's new leader bridge ethnic divides? Security forces rounded up opposition politicians, journalists, academics, activists, religious leaders, and bloggers and subjected them to politically motivated legal proceedings that bear the hallmarks of Stalinist show trials. A number of autonomous political movements that had been

pushed out of the country - the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF), and Ginbot 7 - were designated as terrorist organizations.

After criminalizing autonomous opposition organizations, the government started to use ideological censure and counterterrorism arguments to legitimize the growing securitization of political life in the country.

To guarantee their absolute invulnerability, the ruling elites used counterterrorism related technical and economic aid to build an Orwellian surveillance state similar to the one in East Germany. The complete decimation of the press and civil society, and the increasing use of violence against dissent and opposition, all justified by narratives of terrorism, allowed the ruling party to win 99.6 percent of votes in the 2010 elections and 100 percent of seats in the 2015 elections. ➔13

Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

Apartment

Apt in Niavaran
110 sq.m, 2 Bdrs. fully furn
Swimming pool, Jacuzzi, pkg
\$1600

Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Elahiyeh
18th floor, 140 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.
almost new, equipped kitchen
unfurn, balcony, luxury lobby spj
gym saloon, good access
\$4000

Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Diplomatic Apt in Velenjak
super luxury apt, just 5 floors each
floor one unit, 300 sq.m
3 Bdrs., nice balcony
green garden, spj, parking
\$4500 including charges

Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in South Dibaji
100 sq.m, 2 Bdrs., 2 bathrooms
fully furn, clean, near to Arghavan
Park, **\$1300**

Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Amazing Apt in Elahieh
300 sq.m, 3 Bdrs., fully furn
peaceful area and amazing view
perfect location
\$6500

Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Jordan
5th floor, 140 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.
fully furn, parking, diplomatic
\$2000

Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Villa

Duplex Villa in Velenjak
1100 sq.m built up, 1300 sq.m land
9 Bdrs., renovated, nice garden
semi furn, outdoor pool nice
garden, 2 big balconies nice &
cozy place storage servant quarter
2 side entrances

\$15000

*Suitable for
Embassy & Company*

Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Villa in Shariati-Elahieh
1000 sq.m built up, 5000 sq.m
land, 6 Bdrs., outdoor pool green
garden, parking renovated, **\$20000**

*Suitable for
Residency or Embassy*

Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Super Luxury Villa in Farmanieh
800 Built up in 1200 Land, duplex
completely renovated
7 Bdrs., 2 level, green garden
outdoor pool, high security
equipment kitchen

*Suitable for
Residency of Ambassadors*

Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Unbelievable Villa in
North of Tehran
7000 sq.m land, 2200 sq.m built
up, duplex, 7 Bdrs., big saloon
garden, renovated, waterfall
Ms.Diba: 09128103206



Job Vacancy

Pars Diplomatic Real Estate is looking for the agents
for its Zaferanieh and Elahieh offices who require
these qualification:

1. Fluent in written and spoken English
2. Good at teamwork and communication
3. Enthusiastic about this job and highly motivated
4. Full time agent
5. Having his/her own car

Please send your CV to the below email address:

info@parsdiplomatic.com

Intl. Department Manager "Tina 09128103205"

Hot Line: 28141
www.parsdiplomatic.com

Building & Office

Twin building in Jordan
10 apts totally, new, 30rooms
totally roof outdoor pool
good access to highway
Suitable for Embassies
Price negotiable

Ms.Diba: 09128103206

New Whole Building in
Farmanieh
5th floor, each floor 2 Apt, each Apt
200 sq.m, 3 Bdrs., lobby
3 different entrances, 2 level
parking, spj, garden
*Ready for renting
to Embassy or Residency*

Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Best Office in Valiasr
5th floor, 350 sq.m, 3 rooms
nice lobby, could be flat or office
parking lot, guest parking
full of foreign companies
good access to highway
near to Mellat Park
Price negotiable

Ms.Diba: 09128103206

New Commercial Building in
Saadat Abad
totally around 3000 sq.m built up
unbelievable building, each floor
1500 sq.m, flat, 180 parking
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Commercial Building in
Valiasr
200 sq.m, parking
Price per each sq \$55
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Ideal Offers

Luxury Apt in Mahmoodieh
4th floor, 120 sq.m, 2 master rooms
almost new, luxury lobby, luxury
& new furn
pkg, spj, good access to, **\$3000**

Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Elahieh
3th floor, 300 sq.m, 4 Bdrs.
fully furn, nice & cozy, lobby
spj, diplomatic building, **\$4000**

Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Jordan
5th floor, 120 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.
fully furn, lobby, pkg diplomatic
\$1500

Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Qeytarieh
170 sq.m, 3 Bdrs., beautiful
& perfect furn, good light, spj
parking, good access to
highway & Elahieh, **\$2500**

Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Commercial Building in
Valiasr - Park Melat
130 sq.m, 3 rooms, almost new
lobby, security, guest parking good
access to highway
full of foreign companies
Price reasonable

Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Elahieh
180 sq.m, 3 Bdrs., fully furn
nice & cozy, spj
\$2500

Ms.Diba: 09128103206

مالکین محترم

ملک های فروش و اجاره ای خود را (آپارتمان،
ویلا، مستغلات، اداری و تجاری) به ما بسپارید.

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت

مالکین محترم املاک مبله و غیرمبله، مسکونی، اداری و تجاری، ویلا و مستغلات
شما را جهت اجاره به سفارتخانه ها و شرکت های خارجی نیازمندیم.

مالکین محترم

ویلاهای شما را جهت اجاره به منزل سفیر و مدیران
شرکت های بین المللی در مناطق شمالی تهران
نیازمندیم.

PARSIAN Real Estate

SHANON
Shanon_zt@yahoo.com
+989121907875
Tel : 88510081

Darrous (\$3200) 280sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, & F.F

Velenjak (\$3600)
Elahieh (\$3000) 3bdrs, S/p, S, J
Arjantin bldg 3bdrs, S/p, F.F balcony, & F.F 10bdrs (\$10000)

Jordan Villa (\$6000) 1300sq.m, 5bdrs, S/p, F.F
Elahieh Villa (\$8000) 1500sq.m, 6bdrs, S/p, F.F

Don't Waste Your Time

Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties

www.DeltaHOME.ir
The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners

HOME
Real Estate
Member of DELTA Real Estate Group
(021) 88888865

Advertising Dept:
times1979@gmail.com

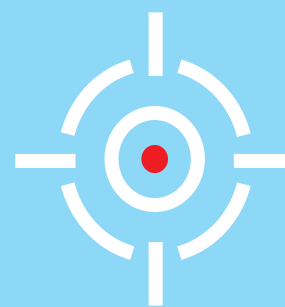
TEHRAN TIMES
Iran's Leading International Daily
www.tehrantimes.com

+9821 430 51 450

TEHRAN TIMES

Iran's Leading International Daily

Advertising Dept



Tel: 021 - 430 51 450

times1979@gmail.com



Taj Mahal Hotel & Indian Restaurant



Mahi Mahi Gilaki Restaurant

Plot No 29, Sout Sheykh Bahayi Street, Molasadra Blvd, Vanak Sq, Tehran, Iran

www.Tajmahalhotel.ir

[@tajmahal_hotel](https://www.instagram.com/tajmahal_hotel)

Tel: +98(21)-88035444

Iran plans to expand nanomedical device market

TECHNOLOGY **TEHRAN** — The Iranian Nanotechnology Initiative Council (INIC) plans to expand market for Iranian nanomedical devices, the INIC secretary general told Mehr on Saturday.

Saeed Sarkar said that INIC supports nanomedical devices to earn CE marking, a certification mark that indicates conformity with health, safety, and environmental protection standards for products sold within the European Economic Area (EEA).



The certificate is very important for expanding market in Europe, he said.

INIC reimburses half of expenses by knowledge-based companies for earning CE, Sarkar announced.

He added the ceiling for reimbursement is 400 million rials (about 9.5 thousand dollars).

Iran's medical device market is estimated to be worth about €2 billion and Iran's production market share is only 30 percent, he said.

The council also supports nano companies which have afforded 80 percent of expenses for earning ISO 13485 and expenses up to 200 million rials (about 4,700 dollars) for obtaining CE, the official added.

The council aims to develop market for products made by knowledge-based companies and to facilitate exporting of the items, he said.

Iran has already exported nano products to over 45 countries, he added.

In Iran, about 170 nanotechnology companies produce over 420 nano products in the different fields including healthcare, textile, home appliances, energy and laboratory equipment, INIC official Reza Assadifard told IRNA in mid-June 2018.

Blue Origin to start selling tickets for spaceflights

Private space company Blue Origin announced that it plans to sell suborbital spaceflight tickets to aspiring space tourists starting next year. No price was given, but the company said it expects to conduct the first passenger tests of the New Shepard launch system "soon."

As Jeff Foust reports in SpaceNews, Blue Origin Senior Vice President Rob Meyerson made the announcement during his keynote address at the Amazon Web Services Public Sector Summit, held earlier this week in Washington DC.

"We plan to start flying our first test passengers soon," he told the audience, adding that. "We expect to start selling tickets in 2019." No price was given for a ride aboard the New Shepard reusable launch system, but it likely won't come cheap. Estimates range from \$50,000 to \$250,000 per seat.

Those who can afford it would be in for a treat. The New Shepard capsule accommodates six astronauts, and it has a reasonably spacious 530-square-foot interior—a space that's 10 times larger than NASA's Mercury capsule.

The New Shepard reusable rocket is driven by a single BE-3 engine, which provides 110,000 pounds of thrust. Once the capsule crosses the Kármán line—the boundary that separates Earth's atmosphere from space (around 328,080 feet, or 60 miles above Earth)—passengers will be able to undo their seat belts and experience weightlessness. The mission ends with a parachute-assisted descent and a soft landing in the Texas desert.

(Source: gizmodo.com)

SOCIALLY SAFE

Customize privacy options on social networks

Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn, Twitter, Ning, Digg, MeetUp, blogs, etc. -- the number of social networking sites and tools is exploding. Social networking is the killer app of the Internet for everyone – not just the texting teenybopper crowd.

Participating in online social networking sites leaves a trail of personal information that can make stealing your identity a whole lot easier. What's a current-day Internet user to do? Should we go blithely along like a fish protected in a larger school of potential identity theft victims, or maybe we should forego social networking altogether? No and no.

Instead each of us should take responsibility for protecting ourselves. On the following pages, I bring you my top 12 tips to help you practice safe social networking.

Social networking sites increasingly give users more control over their own privacy settings. Don't assume you have to take whatever default settings the site gives you. Check out the settings, configuration and privacy sections to see what options you have to limit who and what groups can see various aspects of your personal information.

Facebook probably has some of the broadest privacy options, giving you control where no one, friends, friends and networks, or everyone can see basic info, personal info, photos, friends and

Search is a new area where users are gaining control of what others are allowed to see. Some sites let you set limits on who can see search results about you on the social networking site.

If you've just joined a social networking site, or even if you have been a user for some time, log onto your account and view and adjust the privacy settings –new settings are often added over time.

(Source: networkworld.com)

Without freedom of information, digital transformation leads to favoritism

TECHNOLOGY **TEHRAN** — In absence of freedom of information,

digital transformation leads to economic favoritism, Iran's Information Communication Technology Minister Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi said on Saturday as he was visiting Kerman Province.

Freedom of information is one of the manifestations of citizenship right charter which has always been emphasized by the administration, he said.

"We live in era of digital transformation and digital economy, hence with facilitation for development in this field of economy, we can solve several problems," the minister remarked.

The government aims to increase productivity, which is not possible without digital technology.

According to negotiations conducted between the Ministry of Information Communication Technology and Ministry of Co-operatives, Labor and Social Welfare, small companies and startups will benefit from tax exemption on insurance in near future, the minister announced.

Azari Jahromi said that the companies at the technology parks are already exempted from tax on insurance.

However, the government plans to establish digital economy parks, which do not



have any physical location, and the member companies will also use tax exemption on insurance, he continued.

During his trip, a total of 88 base trans-

ceiver station (BTS) were launched in different parts of Kerman province in order to facilitate wireless communication between a device and network.

"Over 1700 villages in southern part of Kerman province which do not have internet coverage, are now in the network," Azari Jahromi said during his visit to Garuk village.

Amir Kabir University to host Finup Women



TECHNOLOGY **TEHRAN** — The Iranian women active in the field of financial technology (fintech) will attend the 5th edition of Finup Women on June 27 at the Amir Kabir University of Technology.

During the event, a meeting will be held on regulatory technology, known as RegTech, a new field within the financial services industry that utilizes information technology to enhance regulatory processes.

Four females who are active in renowned startups will also make speech during the event.

Finup Women, the first education-

al-interactive event in the field of fintech in Iran, has been held four times since September 2017.

Fintech is a portmanteau of financial technology that describes an emerging financial services sector in the 21st century.

Originally, the term Fintech applied to technology to the back-end of established consumer and trade financial institutions. Since the end of the first decade of the 21st century, the term has expanded to include any technological innovation in the financial sector, including innovations in financial literacy and education, retail banking, investment and even crypto-currencies like bitcoin.

Use space technology to build a better world for all, urges UN chief

European Space Agency astronaut Paolo Nespoli presents the SDG flag he flew abroad the International Space Station to UNOOSA Director Simonetta Di Pippo. UNIS Vienna

European Space Agency astronaut Paolo Nespoli presents the SDG flag he flew abroad the International Space Station to UNOOSA Director Simonetta Di Pippo.

Not only has space exploration captured the world's imagination, it can also help humankind address existential challenges back on earth, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Wednesday, in his message to the UN's key forum on space affairs. In a video message to the opening of the high-level session of UNISPACE+50, the UN's main forum to

discuss the peaceful uses of outer space, Mr. Guterres highlighted that despite major political differences on the ground, "countries have worked together for progress in outer space."

The collaboration has led to "great scientific and technological achievements," he continued.

(Source: news.un.org)

A point checklist for your startup



So you want to start a business – congratulations! Once you get over the initial excitement, it's time to break down the process of launching your startup into manageable chunks.

You might get overwhelmed with the sheer number of items on your to-do list. But not to worry; I've broken down this startup checklist into the primary tasks you need to do now, and those that you can defer until later.

Do the following tasks either before launch or during the early days of your startup.

#2. Create a business plan

It's easy to convince yourself that you don't need a business plan, but creating a business plan with financial projections forces you to think through details. Keep

your plan a living breathing thing that you revisit and adapt regularly.

Bplans website suggests three rules for writing a business plan:

- Keep it short. Business plans should be short and concise.
- Know your audience. Write your plan using language that your audience will understand.
- Don't be intimidated. The vast majority of business owners and entrepreneurs aren't business experts.

And, you don't have to start with a full, detailed business plan. In fact, it can be much easier to start with a simple, one-page business plan—what we call a Lean Plan—and then come back and build a detailed business plan later.

(Source: smallbiztrends.com)

Accelerator vs. incubator: which is right for you?



Incubators support startups entering the beginning stages of building their company. The startups possess an idea to bring to the marketplace, but no business model and direction to transition from innovative idea to reality.

Accelerators advance the growth of existing companies with an idea and business model in place. These programs build upon the startups' foundations to catapult them forward to investors and key influencers.

Incubators operate on an open-ended timeline. They focus more on the longevity of a startup and are less concerned with how quickly the company grows. It is not uncommon for incubators to mentor startups for more than a year and a half.

Accelerators operate on a set timeframe, which usually lasts three to four months. During this period, startups build out their

business with the support of mentors and capital provided by the accelerator. At the end of the program, startups receive the opportunity to pitch their businesses to investors.

Incubators invest time and resources into advancing local startups; they are generally tasked with creating jobs or finding ways to license intellectual property.

Incubators have less pressure to deliver startups that can grow fast, as fostering and supporting local startups is part of their charter. Therefore, even a slow growing or less scalable business constitutes a good incubator candidate.

Accelerators use a more traditional and formal model for entry into their program. Participants must apply for a select number of slots in the program.

(Source: entrepreneur.com)

Nocturnally migrating insects use Earth’s magnetic field to navigate

Like many migrating birds, numerous species of nocturnal moths undertake long-distance migrations at night. Each spring, billions of Bogong moths (*Agrotis infusa*) escape hot conditions in different regions of southeast Australia by making a migration of over 600 miles (1,000 km) to cool caves in the Australian Alps; after a few months in a dormant state, the insects make the same journey back when summer is over.

A new study led by Lund University shows that the moths can sense the Earth’s magnetic field and use it to steer their migratory flight behavior.

“Our findings are the first reliable proof that nocturnally active insects can use the Earth’s magnetic field to guide their flight when migrating over 600 miles,” said Lund University’s Professor Eric Warrant, co-lead author of the study.

“We show that insects probably use the Earth’s magnetic field in a similar way to birds.”

■ Moths know the direction
Professor Warrant and co-authors studied Bogong moths in Australia and focused on investigating how the moths know in which direction to fly.

They found answers by capturing the moths in flight and placing them in a flight simulator where the insects were free to fly in any direction they chose.

The flight simulator — invented by the team for studying navigation in Monarch



butterflies — was in turn placed in a system of magnetic coils which allowed the researchers to turn the magnetic field in any direction. In addition, they were able to show visual

A new study led by Lund University shows that the moths can sense the Earth’s magnetic field and use it to steer their migratory flight behavior.

landmarks to the moths.

The results, published in the journal *Current Biology*, indicate that the moths use both visual landmarks in their flight path and the Earth’s magnetic field, probably making their navigation more reliable.

■ Turning the magnetic field
“By turning the magnetic field and the landmarks either together or in conflict with each other, we were able to investigate how the Bogong moths use magnetic and visual information to direct their flight,” said co-lead author Dr. David Dreyer, also from Lund University.

“When the magnetic field and the landmarks were turned together, the moths changed their flight path in an equivalent manner.”

“However, if the magnetic field and the landmarks were turned in conflict with each other, the moths lost their sense of direction and became confused.”

“We believe that moths in northern Europe may use the Earth’s magnetic field in an equivalent manner when flying over the Alps to the Mediterranean,” the researchers said.

They now plan to find out how Bogong moths, despite never having been to the caves before, know that they have arrived at their destination. They also want to locate and characterize the insects’ elusive magnetic sensor.

(Source: sci-news.com)

Repellent research: Navy developing ship coatings to reduce fuel, energy costs

It can repel water, oil, alcohol and even peanut butter. And it might save the U.S. Navy millions of dollars in ship fuel costs, reduce the amount of energy that vessels consume and improve operational efficiency.

The Office of Naval Research (ONR) is sponsoring work by Dr. Anish Tuteja, an associate professor of materials science and engineering at the University of Michigan, to develop a new type of “omniphobic” coating. This chemical coating is clear, durable, can be applied to numerous surfaces and sheds just about any liquid.

Of particular interest to the Navy is how omniphobic coatings can reduce friction drag -- resistance created by the movement of a hull through water -- on ships, submarines and unmanned underwater vessels.

Compare friction drag to jogging through a swimming pool. Because of the water’s resistance, each stride is more difficult and requires more energy and effort.

■ Ship’s fuel consumption
A “significant percentage of a ship’s fuel consumption (up to 80 percent at lower speeds and 40-50 percent at higher speeds) goes toward maintaining its speed and overcoming friction drag,” said Dr. Ki-Han Kim, a program officer in ONR’s Sea Warfare and Weapons Department. “If we could find a way to drastically reduce



friction drag, vessels would consume less fuel or battery power, and enjoy a greater range of operations.”

Tuteja’s omniphobic coating could be a solution. Picture two ships sailing at the same speed -- one dealing with friction drag and the other covered in a coating that causes water to bead up and slide off the hull easily. The coated vessel theoretically would guzzle less fuel because it doesn’t have to fight as much

water resistance while maintaining speed.

While repellent coatings aren’t new, it’s hard to create one that resists most liquids and is tough enough to stick to various surfaces for long periods of time. Take a Teflon-coated pan, for example. Water will bead up and roll off the pan, while cooking oil will spread everywhere.

“Researchers may take a very durable polymer matrix and a very repellent filler

and mix them,” said Tuteja. “But this doesn’t necessarily yield a durable, repellent coating. Different polymers and fillers have different miscibilities (the ability of two substances to mix together). Simply combining the most durable individual constituents doesn’t yield the most durable composite coating.”

■ Studying computer databases
To engineer their innovative coating, Tuteja and his research team studied vast computer databases of known chemical substances. They then entered complex mathematical equations, based on each substance’s molecular properties, to predict how any two would behave when blended. After analyzing hundreds of combinations, researchers found the right mix.

The molecular marriage was a hit during laboratory tests. The rubber-like combo can be sprayed, brushed, dipped or spin-coated onto numerous surfaces, and it binds tightly. The coating also can withstand scratching, denting and other hazards of daily use. And the way the molecules separate makes the coating optically clear.

Besides reducing friction drag, Tuteja envisions other Navy uses for the omniphobic coating—including protecting high-value equipment like sensors, radars and antennas from weather.

(Source: eurekalert.org)

IAU of Qazvin Branch Crowned Championship with BSI Sponsorship

As sponsored by Bank Saderat Iran (BSI), Robotic team of Islamic Azad University (IAU) of Qazvin Branch was crowned champion in 2018 World Robocup League in Canada, the Public Relations Dept. of the bank reported.

The Mechatronic Research Center of Islamic Azad University of Qazvin Branch managed to attain championship title in 2018



World Robocup League, held in Montreal, Canada, in the fields of ‘relief simulator’, ‘movement of objects with rescuer robot’ and ‘technical competition of humanoid robot’.

The Robotic team of the Islamic Azad University of Qazvin Branch was ranked second in the fields of ‘human robot in size of child’, ‘human robot in size of teens’ and ‘rescue robot’.

Also, MRL team of Islamic Azad University of Qazvin Branch stood at the third rank in the sector of ‘industrial robot’.

It should be noted that robotic teams from Iran, Germany, US, Portugal, Austria, China, Brazil, the Netherlands, Turkey, Mexico, Japan, Canada and Singapore participated in this edition of the competition, the Public Relations Dept. of the bank concluded.

Total Value of Transactions at 56,000bn Rials in IME

More than 2,101,000 tons of goods, valued at over 56,000 billion rials, were transacted at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) in the Iranian month of Khordad (June 22), the Public Relations Dept. of the organization reported.

According to IME, more than 209,010 tons of agricultural products, valued at 2,645 billion rials, were transacted at the market.

Accordingly, 900 kg saffron, 60,000 day-

old chicks, 178,525 tons of wheat, 7,775 tons of sugar, 21,400 tons of crude oil, 400 tons of oily seeds, 100 tons of date and also 750 tons of barley were sold in the reported period.

In the same direction, 1,409,000 tons of various types of goods, valued at 35,964 billion rials, was transacted in two domestic and export sectors.

Moreover, over 393,693 tons of various

types of bitumen, 310,941 tons of polymer products and also 122,830 tons of chemicals were also transacted at IME in the same period.

Of the other products transacted in IME can be referred to as follows: 419,500 tons of vacuum bottom, 99,470 lube cut, 51,200 tons of sulfur, 3,098 tons of humid insulation, 220 tons of gases and feeds, 4,000 tons of slaps wax coupled with 4,517 tons of lubricant.

It should be noted that 370,135 tons of various types of steel, 20,155 tons of various types of copper, 560 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 21 tons of concentrate, 11,920 tons of aluminum, 5,000 tons of cement, 35,000 tons of sponge iron and also 25,000 tons of iro ore have also been purchased from customer, the Public Relations Dept. of IME reported.

Initial Agreement on the Cooperation between Iran TVTO and German FHM

Regarding Part of German Workforce to be Trained in Iran.

Iran Technical and Vocational Training Organization (Iran TVTO) and German University of Applied Sciences of SMEs (FHM) will sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) aimed at empowering and supplying part of the workforce needed by Germany.

According to Iran TVTO’s Public Relations, an initial agreement on training of Germany’s needed workforce from Iran was reached during the meeting held between Soleiman Pakseresht, President of Iran TVTO and Doust Mohammadian, Iran representative and project manager of FHM.

Based on this report, it is stipulated that Iran TVTO will provide arrangements for skill training, skill certificate accreditation and German language education for Iranian job applicants in Germany. Then the applicants will be introduced to FHM for final training course and absorbing in German labor market after passing the language test held by Iran National Organization of Educational Testing



(NOET). Referring to the draft of MOU, Iran TVTO will be the main partner and counterpart of FHM in the fields of technical, vocational education and training (TVET).

In the meeting, Pakseresht indicated that Iran TVTO’s Instructor Training Center & Technical and Vocational Researches (ITC) will be ready to provide training skill facilities and space as well as holding German language courses with focus on TVET in accordance with TELC standards and introduce applicants to NOET.

Based on discussions, it is worth mentioning that both parties agreed on exchange of TVET trainers and trainees, skill training curriculum development as well as holding joint international events. After finalizing, the MOU will be published in upcoming days.

Previously signing a MOU with Sharif University of Technology on holding joint civil engineering courses, taking German and English languages test and establishing joint research center of environment and energy studies, FHM is a German well-known university in the field of supplying the skilled and expertise work force for small and medium sized enterprises and has a close relations with German industries and communities.

Domestically produced hemodialysis machines hit market in Iran

SCIENCE **TEHRAN** — Hemodialysis machines designed and produced by Iranian scientists have entered the market, director for an Iranian knowledge-based company operating in the field of hemodialysis products has said.

The private sector invested some 120 billion rials (nearly \$2.8 million) on designing and manufacturing these machines, Behrouz Sabok-Dast said, Fars reported on Saturday.

Sabok-Dast also said all parts used in the machine have been designed and manufactured domestically. “Additionally the machine’s software has been developed and engineered by Iranian knowledge-based companies.”



The Ministry of Industry, Mine and trade has issued permits for manufacture of 1,000 dialysis machines per year, he stated.

Some of the machines are now commercialized, Sabok Dast said, adding that so far some 70 hemodialysis machines have been installed in over 10 health centers located in 4 cities of Sarpol-e Zahab, Qom, Tehran and Hamedan.

Purchasing Iranian products should become a priority as domestic products cost 20 percent cheaper and require lower maintenance costs, he highlighted.

A hemodialysis machine used in dialysis that filters a patient’s blood to remove excess water and waste products when the kidneys are damaged, dysfunctional, or missing. The dialysis machine itself can be thought of as an artificial kidney.

According to an article titled “Quality of life of patients with chronic kidney disease in Iran” published in Indian J Palliat Care Journal on Jan-March, 2018, the incidence of chronic renal failure in the world is 242 cases per a million people, and 8% is added to this population each year. The population of patients with renal failure in Iran is 320,000.

One of the ways to improve the condition of patients with chronic renal failure is hemodialysis. In addition to hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis and kidney transplantation are the common alternative treatments. The patients undergoing dialysis have to spend several hours of their lives in dialysis sessions.

Iran, Russia to carry out joint research on Caspian Sea

SCIENCE **TEHRAN** — Iran and Russia have signed a contract to conduct geological studies on the Iranian part of the Caspian Sea, head of Geological Survey and Mineral Explorations of Iran (GSI) Khalil Bahar-Firouzi says, ISNA reported on Saturday.

The agreement was reached between the Russian State Geological Company (ROS GEO) and GSI during St. Petersburg International Economic Forum held on May 26, the ROS GEO website reported.

The documents was signed by S.H.M Meigouni, director of international affairs in GSI and Anastasia and S. Afanasye-



va, ROS GEO director of marketing and foreign projects.

It was signed at the presence of Iranian Deputy Industry Minister Razyeh Lak, Minister of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation Dmitry Kobylkin, and Roman Panov, general director and chairman of the executive board of ROS GEO.

According to the first document, ROS GEO will conduct 2D seismic exploration works in the Iranian part of the Caspian Sea. The project should be implemented in a 4-year period.

The results will allow to solve the following geological problems: to study the geological structure of the basement, to delineate the deep faults of its surface, to estimate the thickness of the sedimentary cover, to visualize structurally the main unconformity surfaces, and to study fault tectonics, etc.

Availability of ideas about the geological structure of the territory will allow to draw conclusions about its oil and gas potential and outline further plans for geological prospecting works.

“The market of geological prospecting works of Iran is extensive and very diverse in the types of research proposed. It meets both the interests and the capabilities of the multi-profile geological ROS GEO,” Afanasyeva said.

For the Islamic Republic of Iran, it is more important than ever to develop, strengthen and expand the development of its own mineral and raw materials base such as hydrocarbon raw materials, as well as the most important industrial and precious metals, building materials and groundwater,” he noted.

Refugees thriving in Iran: WFP country director

➔ “What is the meaning of food security? It means having enough food that would keep you healthy throughout the day every day of the year.”

“Initially when people cross over they don’t have means of cooking, stove, utensils, so what WFP does is to provide them with ready-to-eat meals which doesn’t require a lot of utensils. Later on, when the UNHCR comes in and provide them with non-food items that are required for preparing a meal, we provide dry food items. We have been doing that now for 30 years,” Gerami added.

“We had a food basket that consisted of wheat flour, rice, oil, sugar and pulses. In every country depending on the dietary need of the people and their culture we vary the commodity. It’s not one-size-fits-all program. For example, when we have refugees in Africa, they are not rice eaters. They eat corn so we provide them with corn. But it has to be a balanced diet, so we calculate the kilocalorie value, it has to have the right balance of fat, protein and micronutrients. Therefore depending on the location and background of the people we provide different types of food baskets,” she explained.

“In Iran we have been doing this for Afghan refugees who have very similar diet to the Iranians. Bread is very important and staple diet in their food basket so we provide bread, rice, and oil to cook with, and the protein content derived from the pulses, so it’s either lentil chickpeas, or red beans. And then sugar as well.”

■ Replacing food assistance with cash

The WFP representative and country director went on to explain that they had revolutionized the old system of providing the refugees with a monthly ration consisting of the staple commodities with cash.

“Since January of 2018 we have shifted to a cash-based transfer modality. Now we are providing the refugees with the cash to buy the food that they want. We do that in stable environments where markets are available and accessible for the refugees, and it’s just that they don’t have purchasing power. So we give them money and with that money they go and buy the food item that they need.

“This will help diversify the diet of the person who is benefiting from our assistance. For example, we don’t have eggs, vegetables and meat in our food basket usually. All of these can be bought along with dairy products when the refugees have cash.

“Now we have taken our fourth round of cash distribution. And another interesting aspect of the Iran operation is that we are continuing with the wheat flour. So the only part that is in-kind is the wheat flour that the refugees take to bake their own bread. And the rest is a cash contribution that is deposited into accounts that we have established for these refugees which is attached

to an ATM card and the distribution is done on a monthly basis.

“We do the cash transfer through a bank that is working with us as a partner and we transfer the money every month to the account of the head of the household depending on how many people are under that household,” she said, adding, “The refugees we are serving are living in 20 settlements in 30 provinces in Iran.”

“In most settlements there are small shops that are also being run by refugees. So the shop owner is a refugee and now that we are providing them with a cash the refugees have purchasing power and can actually buy what they want at a shop inside the settlement. Now most of the settlements have POS machines where they can swipe the cards and actually pay for the food items.

“We were recently in one of the settlements and we had conversation with the refugees to see if they are happy with the new modality, are they spending the money on food or how much are they spending on food and we were very pleased to hear from them that they are happy with this new arrangement, they feel more comfortable, it’s a more dignified way of assisting people and they can buy whatever they need either inside of the settlement or if they wish so outside of the settlement, because this is a card like the cards you and I have. And it can be used in ATM machines and also point of sale machines wherever all across the country,” Gerami highlighted.

■ WFP commemorates World Refugee Day 2018

Inquired about the WFP’s program to mark World Refugee Day 2018, Gerami said, “We always commemorate World Refugee day or World Food Day; why do we commemorate it and not celebrating it? Because it’s not really a good thing to celebrate.

She added, “But we do mark this day with various events. We were lucky enough to have a high ranking delegation visit us from our regional office in Cairo, so I have my deputy regional director here and it was a good opportunity for me to showcase the activities of WFP in Iran. We had a visit to the Saveh settlement [Markazi province]. We actually sat with the refugees and talked about their situation and needs and desires.”

■ ‘Stand with refugees campaign’ a path to acceptance

Commenting on “stand with refugees campaign”, launched by UNHCR in 2016, Gerami explained that the campaign is all about awareness raising.

“The more people think about issues related to refugees the more possibilities to have acceptance. To accept the fact that these are people in need and that these are people who have had to leave all that they held dear and near and flee because



Negar Gerami, wearing head scarf, is talking to a group of Afghan children in a refugee settlement in Saveh, Markazi province.

“I do think that this country is a welcoming one although every refugee deep in his or her heart wants to return; I think they are in a good condition as long as they are here in Iran,” Gerami said.

of conflict, because of war and because of unfortunate realities, so this is a worldwide campaign.”

■ Refugees are thriving in Iran

“In Iran, I’m very pleased to say that the acceptance of the refugees is quite high. We Iranians are generally very hospitable and very welcoming. So we have welcomed these refugees and have given them sanctuary. We all hope that the peace does prevail in the countries of their origin and that these people can go back. But for the time being and until the situation is conducive to their return I think we have welcomed them with open arms. We do receive quite a lot of contribution from Iranian nationals here and they are willing to help the refugees and in general help anyone who is worse off than I am.

And that’s the way it has been.”

“Bear in mind 30 years is very long time to be hospitable. Nevertheless despite all the hardships that the Iranians have suffered throughout the years I don’t think this is a country where you would say that refugees are not thriving.”

“I just came back from the World Refugee Day ceremony that was co-hosted by UNHCR and Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA), and there were three or four refugees who made the first rank in the Konkur (university entrance exam) for master’s degree.”

“Another guest was young entrepreneur, living in Shiraz [Fars province] who had actually invented spare parts for automobiles; he has hired 40 staff and he is now thinking of exporting the items he

has invented also to Afghanistan.”

“There was another lady there who had a master’s degree in nursing. These are all examples of how when a country is welcoming, when the people are welcoming and when there is opportunity for the refugees to grow when they can grow. Because these are people with a lot of talent and potential.”

“Now we have children who are all attending schools following the decree came from the Leader which came couple of years ago saying that education should be available to any child regardless of the fact that they are documented or not.”

“So I do think that this country is a welcoming one although every refugee deep in his or her heart wants to return; I think they are in a good condition as long as they are here in Iran,” Gerami concluded.

In the Annual general meeting announced;

The shine of Iran Carbon Company for paying 640 Rials earnings per share



Report by Asr-e Eghtesad reporter from the General Meeting

Holders of more than 60.83% of the shares of Iran Carbon Company (Public Joint Stock Company) met at 10:00 AM on Monday 2018/06/11, in Talash Hall. Annual general meeting of the company was held to examine the company’s financial statements and performance for the year ending on 2018/03/20. According to our reporter, Dr. Dianatchi as chairman, Barzegar and Sharifan as observers, and Mr. Shams, the CEO, as secretary, formed the board of directors of the general meeting. The general meeting after hearing report of the board of directors and comments of

the legal inspector took the following decisions:

1- The financial statements, as reported in the following tables, were approved by the board of directors

2- Earnings per share of 640 Rials was allocated

3- The audit institution of Farivaran Rahbord as the legal inspector and Donya-e-Eqtesad newspaper as the widely circulated newspaper of the company in the current fiscal year were selected.

■ The Board message

Once again we succeeded to announce report of efforts of employees and managers of Iran Carbon Company in 2017 to our respectable shareholders. We are proud to announce that with the help of God and effort of our employees, besides realizing 106% of our latest forecasts for production, sales and profitability, we still attempt to improve our performance to increase production and quality of products and customer orientation and to earn larger shares of the domestic and export markets. Undoubtedly, the honor of increased sales and profitability of company in 2017

in comparison to previous year is realized with the help, support and trust of our dear shareholders.

The board of directors and company’s management believes that they are trustee of our respectable shareholder and in order to protect and safeguard their properties do not hesitate to make any effort to realize their strategic goals and with strict conviction and reliance on efforts and knowledge of our employees, we continue the company’s dynamism and success with increasing competitive production, desirable interaction and the use of constructive criticism and guidelines of our respectable shareholder to improve our decision making and planning process.



■ History

Iran Carbon Company in 1972 with participation of the world’s most famous producer of carbon block, i.e. the American Cabot Corporation, with an annual capacity of 16000 tons was established to provide the carbon block needed for the tire and rubber industry and in 1994 with construction of a new unit, its nominal capacity increased to 36000 tons. Iran Carbon Company in 1995 become a public joint stock company and joined the group of investment companies in the petrochemical industry and at present, it is one of the active companies in the stock market of the country.

Major shareholders of company

Shareholder’s name	Approval date of report: 2018/06/11
	Percent
Petrochemical Industries Investment Company	39
National Development Investment Company	1.1
Iran National Investment Company	4.0
Pars Industrial Soot Company	2
Hamoon Kish Investment Company	1.6
Hamoon business Expansion Company	1.7
Bank Melli Joint Stock Investment Fund	1.3

Representative of legal people	Position
Seyed Sobhan Hosseini Heydarabadi	Chairman of the Board-executive
Shakoor Shams	The CEO and Deputy Chairman of the Board- executive
Hossein Taeb	The board member-executive
Davood Kaghazgaran	The board member- non-executive
Darioush Zia Ghorabi	The board member- non-executive

Iran Carbon Company (Public Joint Stock Company) Profit and Loss Statement for the year ending on 2018/06/11			
	Year 2017		Year 2016
	Million Rials	Million Rials	Restatement Million Rials
Operating profit		1,495,427	951,341
Cost of operating profit		1,093,572	820,677
Gross profit		401,855	130,664
Sales, administrative and general costs	(93,811)		63,113
Other operational items	(4,779)		496
		98,590	62,617
Operating Profit		303,265	68,047
financial costs	(11,522)		17,255
Other non-operating profits and expenses	2,660		2,229
		(8,862)	15,026
Profit before tax		294,403	53,021
Income tax			
Current year	(45,996)		(7,006)
Previous years	(17,384)		-
		(63,380)	
Net profit		231,023	46,015
Operational diluted and basic earnings per Share- rial		961	245
Non-operational diluted and basic earnings (loss) - rial		(37)	61
Diluted and basic earnings per Share- rial		924	184
Net profit		231,023	46,015
Profit accumulated at the beginning of the year	306,694		294,813
Annual adjustments	(24,296)		33,430
Profit accumulated at the beginning of the year- accumulated	282,298		261,383
Approved dividends	-		25,000
		282,398	236,383
Profit accumulated at the end of the year		513,421	282,398

Iran Carbon Company (Public Joint Stock Company) Balance sheet on 2018/06/11				
Assets	2018/06/11 Million Rial	2018/06/12 Restated Million Rial	Liability and equity	2018/06/11 Million Rial
Current assets			Current liability:	
Cash	65,218	14,658	Commercial and non-commercial payables	492,667
Short-term investments	5,519	4,825	Tax payable	83,196
Commercial and non-commercial receivables	652,634	617,580	Dividend payable	83,155
Inventory of materials and goods	317,101	206,507	Financial facilities	138,146
Prepayments	72,289	11,745	Advances	59,867
Assets held for sale	144,515		Total current liability	857,031
Total current assets	1,257,276	855,315	Non-current liability:	
Non-current assets			Provision for staff termination benefits	24,583
Long term investments	269,330	413,845	Total non-current liability	24,583
Intangible assets	1,940	2,005	Total current liability	881,614
Fixed-tangible assets	141,707	141,450	Owner equity:	
Total non-current assets	412,977	557,300	Capital	250,000
			Legal reserve	25,000
Total assets	1,670,253	1,412,615	Other reserve	218
			Retained earnings	513,421
			Total Owner equity	788,639
			Total Owner equity and liability	1,670,253

War on Yemen reveals ineffective Patriot shield

1→ The United States is pursuing various goals from the Yemeni war, of which the most important:

- Selling more weapons to the Saudis
- Empty pockets of Arabs, especially Saudis and Emirate, through arms sales and aid to the American economy.
- Dominating the Yemeni coast in order to keep safety the highway of energy and transporting it to Europe
- Prevent Israel from threatening
- Yemen's oil and gas resources

In fact, the strategic importance of Yemen has led the Zionist regime, with the help of the U.S. and the West, to seek domination of Yemen to overcome this important economic and military turmoil. In fact, they got the dominance of Aden and its port and its airport, as well as Hadramawt and its port and its airport and the islands of the Socotra. Israelis, along with Emiratis and Saudis, have been involved in the Yemeni war since its beginning.

To illustrate the ineffectiveness of the Saudi-American coalition, it is enough to mention two examples; firstly, the unrelenting Yemeni missile attacks in Saudi Arabia and the positions of the Saudi army, which, contrary to what they claim, brought blows to the Saudis. It is said that the missiles are being intercepted, except for psychological warfare and media play. The facts that the Saudis conceal is evidence of the massive casualties and losses of the Saudis, which also seems to be many issues.

■ The secret of King Salman's acceleration to Moscow for the purchase of the S-400



If the Saudis claim that they have thwarted the Yemeni missiles, then why does King Salman run on the doors of Moscow to buy the S-400 air defense systems and sign an initial agreement with the Russians to buy S-400?

Is this the only American Patriot system inefficiency? If the Patriot system, for which the Americans paid a lot of money for Saudi Arabia, were able to pay for it, why the Saudi authorities were looking to buy the S 400.

As the Yemeni people have said, the Patriot system is completely ineffective. The deadly attacks of Yemenis missiles hit Saudi Arabia. They censor and cover the facts after any missile strike against the demoralization of the missile being intercepted.

Indeed, American commandos that were active in Yemen, south of Saudi Arabia and

the border areas, were called by the Saudis after a deadly blow. But neither these commandos nor the widespread support of the United States could cure the suffering of the countless Saudis. The United States is seeking for the continuation of the Yemeni war because it can sell its weapons to warlords and handle its economy.

The second example is the failure of the Saudi-American coalition to fulfill their goals. Not only has Yemen's widespread spending on the Saudis not only failed to meet its goals, it is exacerbating Saudi Arabia's economy despite the efforts of its media to boost its prosperity.

The Saudis, using the conditions of Eid al-Fitr, tried to dominate al-Hudaydah and the western coast of Yemen, but so far they

have not only lost their way, but suffered heavy casualties.

How much Saudi Arabia has been silent about the consequences that this war will place on their pockets, especially since Saudi Arabia has, according to some statistics, spent a significant amount on this war?

If, according to the Saudi-Emirati-Western media propaganda campaign, the goals of what was called the "storm of decisiveness" have been realized, then all the French, British, American, Israeli and other supporters, along with the Saudi coalition, for the domination of al-Hudaydah, are just for al-Hudaydah?

Another question is that if the Yemeni war, as the Saudi media are proposing to stabilize and so-called legitimacy in Yemen, why are children and women killed and hungry?

The Yemeni people are honorable people who are not accepting to being subjected to force. They will turn al-Hudaydah and other areas of Yemen into the cemetery of the invaders.

The casualties of the aggressors are very heavy, unlike what the Western-Hebrew-Arab media has been silent about. A large number of invaders have been killed and injured and their equipment has been destroyed.

The overwhelming fact of the Yemeni war, especially al-Hudaydah, is that the invaders have embarked on a war of extreme endeavors, but have not come to the rescue of the army and the popular committees in Yemen. As the leader of the Yemeni Ansarullah revolutionary movement Sayyed Abdul Malik Al-Houthi warned a few days ago that al-Hudaydah will turn into a graveyard for those who try to invade the country.

Russia rejects UN-backed call to withdraw troops from Moldova

Russia on Saturday rejected an international call backed by the United Nations for it to withdraw troops from the Transnistria breakaway region of Moldova.

The Russian foreign ministry said in a statement that its troops stationed in ex-Moldova's Transnistria region despite Chisinau's calls for them to withdraw "remain a guarantor of peace and stability."

It reacted after the UN General Assembly on Friday backed a call from Britain, Canada, Poland and eight other countries for Russia to complete "unconditionally and without further delay the withdrawal" of its troops from Moldova.

Moldova's Russian-speaking Transnistria region broke away after a brief civil war as the Soviet Union collapsed. Russian troops, there as peacekeepers, enforced a ceasefire.

Transnistria's independence is not recognized by any state, including Russia, which still stations troops there.

The region is considered one of the many "frozen conflicts" in the former Soviet Union.

Peace efforts have stumbled over demands for a Russian military withdrawal.

(Source: AFP)

EU, Iran to cooperate in areas of common interest: commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos says it is time for EU and Iran to cooperate on migration management and war on drug trafficking

1→ Unfortunately, much to my regret some decided not to show solidarity and did not respect their legal obligations. We have therefore launched legal actions against Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic.

But I wish to underline that in general the EU relocation program is a success. Over 34,000 persons – more than 96% of all eligible persons registered – have been relocated from Greece and Italy and almost all member states have actively contributed. It has been a positive experience of responsibility sharing and EU solidarity. It has shown that when we work together towards a common goal, we can achieve very important results with positive outcomes for the EU as well as for people fleeing war and persecution.

■ Many lives are at stake in Yemen and many have been displaced in the poor country since Saudi Arabia attacked the country in March 2015. What solution has the European Commission thought of for the refugee crisis in the country?

A: I am aware of the terrible humanitarian situation in Yemen. The EU has always reiterated its firm belief that violence will just protract the horrific suffering of millions of civilians. The EU has called on all the parties to respect International Humanitarian Law, to urgently agree on a cessation of hostilities, and to engage in a negotiation process.

The Commission's response was immediate and focuses on mobilizing humanitarian aid in Yemen. Since the beginning of the crisis, the EU has made available almost €440 million in funding to Yemen, with over €100 million announced just a few days ago at the pledging conference in Geneva. Our support is notably aimed at providing emergency humanitarian assistance for life-saving aid across a wide range of sectors such as health, nutrition, food security, protection, shelter, and water and sanitation.

In addition to that, with our support, we are also helping laying in Yemen the groundwork for more sustainable cities once the conflict is over, and to provide flexible and effective support to the peace process and the ensuing political transition.

■ As the world silently watches the war on Yemen, millions more in Syria have also become victim of another atrocious war that has left more than 6 million internally displaced, and around 5 million refugees outside Syria. What has your organization offered to relieve the refugee crisis in Syria?

A: Since the beginning of the conflict in 2011, the European Union has been very active on the ground and a leading donor, with over €10.6 billion mobilized for humanitarian, stabilization and development assistance in favor of Syrians.

The EU's humanitarian assistance has reached millions of people in need inside Syria and in surrounding refugee-hosting countries (such as Turkey, Jordan, and Lebanon), providing shelter, food, water and health care as well as support livelihoods, facilitating people's access to basic services and strengthening local institutions.

The EU will continue to play its part fully and will use the second Brussels Conference on Syria at the end of April to continue promoting the cessation of the hostilities, the delivery of humanitarian aid to and the protection of the civilians inside Syria, as well as to renew its support to hosting communities in neighboring countries.

■ Has the EU commission thought of a fundamental solution to tackle the root causes of migration from Afghanistan, Africa and the volatile Middle East to Europe?

A: The European Union, which is already the biggest



donor worldwide of development aid, is also in the lead in putting in place initiatives aimed at specifically addressing the root causes of migration by improving the situation and creating economic opportunities in countries of origin, fighting smugglers and traffickers, improving living conditions and protection of asylum seekers and refugees, strengthening border protection and increasing cooperation on return.

We have put in place an ambitious European External Investment Plan that will mobilize up to €44 billion to support investments in partner countries in Africa and the European Neighborhood to improve economic and social development and create jobs and growth.

Specifically for Africa, we have established an Emergency Trust Fund with the aim of funding projects for over €3.3 billion to address root causes of instability and forced displacement in key African countries of origin and transit.

Many other programs have been launched by the EU in countries of origin and transit located in other regions of the world, to promote their development, build their institutions, strengthen their security, or to provide assistance to their refugees and internally displaced persons. This is the case for instance for countries like Afghanistan, Iraq or Syria.

■ As of today, Iran hosts some 2 million registered and unregistered Afghan refugees. What facilities have the EU Commission provided for a safe and voluntary repatriation of them?

A: Since December 2017, the EU is fully supporting the reintegration of Afghan migrants and internally displaced persons returning back home from whichever country. More specifically, a €39 million program was put in place for that scope, as well as to develop and implement the capacities at local level to give support to the returnees. This program is in place in Afghanistan and is open to any Afghan returnee, independently on the country from which he or she is returned.

■ What do you hope to achieve from your trip to Iran?

A: Almost two years ago, following the entry into force of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action agreed by Iran, five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany and the EU, the EU and Iran have agreed at political level to kick start dialogue and cooperation in several areas of common interest.

“The EU and Iran are already contributing to achieve a common objective - providing relief to refugees.”

Two of these areas - migration management and fight against drug abuse and trafficking - are under my direct responsibility and it is now time to start our dialogue and our cooperation in these two areas of common interests. This is the main objective of my visit.

■ In what ways can Iran and the EU Commission join hands and extend cooperation in dealing with refugee crisis worldwide?

A: In relation to migration and refugee issues, the EU and Iran have some common challenges and interests since we face similar situations as a country and region of destination of migrants and refugees. I am therefore pleased to also note that as long as we are both open to give hospitality to persons in need of international protection, we share a similar approach.

While operating in a separate manner, the EU and Iran are already contributing to achieve a common objective - providing relief to refugees. We can deepen this cooperation. We may also work together in view of addressing other refugee crises, notably by promoting measures facilitating the solution of these crises and giving assistance to their victims.

I refer here for instance to the situation in Syria. The EU calls on all parties involved to take all the necessary measures to ensure an immediate cessation of hostilities, to allow for urgent access of humanitarian assistance and medical aid to the whole population, and to ensure the protection of civilians by respecting the International Humanitarian Law. This needs to be a priority for every party.

■ The U.S. announcement of 08/05/2018 to re-impose sanctions previously lifted under the JCPOA in August and November of this year will have negative impacts on Iran's economy and consequently on refugees, mostly Afghans, who sought refuge here. With long history of hosting refugees, Iran seems to be getting penalized rather than rewards from the international community for embracing people from the war-torn states. Where does the EU commission stand on that issue, and what can it do to help Iran get over these tough times?

A: The European Union remains fully committed to the implementation of the JCPOA. Sanctions-lifting is an essential part of the JCPOA and we view it as vital that the economic dividends flowing from the nuclear deal continue to be felt directly by the Iranian people and Iranian businesses.

The European Commission is working on measures to preserve the JCPOA following the U.S. withdrawal and to mitigate the impact of U.S. sanctions on EU companies legitimately investing in Iran, as well as sustain our overall cooperation with Iran. We are looking for measures to ensure that banking services between the EU and Iran can continue. This work is ongoing at expert level and should be finalised soon.

Undoubtedly, the overall economic situation in Iran has an impact on vulnerable populations, including Afghan refugees. In 2017, the EU allocated almost €10 million to deliver vital assistance to Afghan refugees in Iran. The European Commission has also included Iran as beneficiary of a €200 million package to help address the issue of chronic displacement in the region. The EU stands ready to continue its engagement with Iran on the issue of displacement in the region, including through the setup of a comprehensive migration dialogue.

Iraqi PM Abadi, cleric Sadr announce alliance of their political parties

Meantime, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi and cleric Moqtada al-Sadr have announced an alliance between the political parties.

“We announce a cross-sectarian, cross-ethnic alliance to speed up forming the next government and to agree on common points that guarantee the interests of the Iraqi people,” said Sadr during a news conference in Najaf on Saturday.

Sadr further called for a wider alliance including all components of the country's society to form an inclusive government.

The alliance between Abadi's Victory Alliance and Sadr's Alliance towards Reforms, (Marching Towards Reform/Saairun/Saairun/Forward) is the latest in a series of deals among Iraqi political leaders.

Abadi and Sadr both called on the leaders of other blocs to meet and “agree on the coming steps” in order to sooner form an inclusive Iraqi government.

“I affirm that this alliance is not in contrast to any other alliances either of the two lists have previously entered into with other blocs, rather, it flows in the same direction and same principles,” said Abadi.

On Jun 12, Sadr and head of the country's Badr Organization Hadi al-Amiri announced a political alliance between their parties.

Sadr's Saairun bloc won 54 out of 329 seats in the Iraqi parliament. The Fatah (Conquest) alliance, led by Badr Organization Secretary General Hadi al-Ameri, and Abadi's al-Nasr coalition finished second and third with 47 and 42 seats, respectively.

The announcement came a few days after Abadi ordered the creation of a high-powered commission to look into the alleged irregularities in the parliamentary elections. An official statement said a recent cabinet meeting chaired by the premier had named the Iraqi anti-graft chief as the head of the commission.

The statement further suggested that hackers may have manipulated the election results.

At the time, Sadr rejected calls for an election rerun, warning Iraqis about breaking out of a possible “civil war.”

Over 7,000 candidates contested the 329 seats in the parliament that will choose a new president, prime minister and government in Iraq.

This is the fourth such polls since the 2003 U.S. invasion that led to a sharp rise in sectarian tensions and ensuing terror-related violence in the country.

The next prime minister will face the huge task of rebuilding a country shattered by the war against ISIL and the U.S. invasion. (Source: Press TV)

Torture, state terrorism and Ethiopia's transformation

8→ In the “war on terror”, the then Ethiopian government found a convenient validation for its authoritarian practices and deplorable human rights record. It is no wonder Meles Zenawi, the former prime minister and the architect of this police state, described the “war on terror” as “something of a godsend”.

It was these fundamentally inhuman practices of the former Ethiopian government and the consistent and widespread use of systematic torture by police and security forces that Prime Minister Ahmed finally acknowledged, recognized, and named as state terrorism.

What does this mean for Ethiopia?

Ahmed's admission of guilt, in the name of the Ethiopian regime, is highly consequential - especially for those subjected to torture and gross human rights abuses in the hands of the very state that was supposed to protect them.

The prime minister's admission that the government has failed in its fundamental duty of care when it engaged in terrorist acts to preserve the privilege of the few is quite therapeutic for torture victims and his heartfelt apology can go a long way in healing the corrosive effects of their trauma.

For the Ethiopian society in general, Ahmed's admission that the army and security agencies were used as instruments of domination set the stage for a new era of hope and optimism.

The admission is also legally significant. Although the Ethiopian regime's consistent and widespread use of torture had always been well documented, the government has always denied such accusations. Ahmed's admission would impose a legal responsibility on the Ethiopian government to investigate those crimes and prosecute individuals responsible for the abuses.

However, Ethiopia may also need to start much broader and robust processes to reckon with its divisive and often violent past. Whatever institutional form these processes might take, the country should find a way to come to terms with its past.

Whatever the long-term historical and political significance, Ahmed's admission of state terrorism and official torture is a triumph of courage in the face of adversity.

Although Ethiopia's incipient transition took shape in the crucibles of the popular struggles of the last three years, Ahmed played a vital role in transforming the country's political landscape. Since assuming office less than three months ago, the prime minister had remarkable success, particularly in promoting unity and healing the divided and highly fractious country.

At the June 23 rally called to support his vision of change and transformation and attended by thousands of Ethiopians of all political persuasion, the prime minister expressed his determination to bring about durable social and political change in the country.

■ Changing political direction

In thanking those who paid the ultimate price to change the political direction in which Ethiopia was going, he said, “they could have lived without us but we could not live without them.”

Ahmed was rushed off the stage as a grenade went off and killed a few people. Speaking after the attack, the prime minister described it as a deliberate, planned, and studied act by those who have the means to stage it.

Ahmed has been uncommonly courageous. He has taken his reform agenda to areas that were thought off-limits, to the powerful security agencies and the army.

While confronting the grim political and economic realities facing the country, Ahmed is challenging all Ethiopians to imagine and perceive their country and region differently. He tells stories of hope and transformation not just about Ethiopia but also the greater Horn of Africa region.

The prime minister's admission of state sanctioned terrorism and torture came at a time that his popularity is soaring.

Bold, dynamic, and outward looking, he has managed to draw support from a wide cross-section of the Ethiopian society. Across the country, he is being regarded as a symbol of liberation of the self and others, a new light guiding Ethiopia's renewal and transformation.

(Source: aljazeera.com)

Russia’s team doctor hits out at doping suggestions after perfect World Cup start

Russia’s team doctor has rejected the claim that it would be possible for players from the host nation to violate anti-doping regulations during the World Cup.

United States Anti-Doping Agency chief executive Travis Tygart told the Guardian this week that it would be “naive” for anybody to believe that Russia couldn’t attempt a repeat of the state-sponsored doping scandal that marred the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi.

Russia have already qualified for the knockout stages of the World Cup, winning their opening pair of matches in style.

The Russian side has run further than any other over the first two games and fresh controversy has been cast over the national team after a sensational report from the Mail on Sunday claimed that Russia’s Sports Ministry covered up a positive drug test from one of the players who was initially named in their World Cup squad, swapping out the player’s urine for a clean sample. The player, named by the publication as Ruslan Kambolov, failed to make the final squad for the tournament.

But Russia’s team doctor, Eduard Bezuglov, has played down any accusations of corruption by insisting that the players have provided 300 clean samples to Fifa, Uefa and the Russian anti-doping agency Rusada in the year leading up to the World Cup.

“I’m ready to bet on a bottle of milk that the English have not given samples as often,” Bezuglov told Russian media, as translated by the Guardian.

“So people should focus on themselves and have nothing to fear.”
(Source: Joe.co.uk)

Wimbledon to decide on Williams seeding



Seven-time champion Serena Williams will learn if she will be seeded for Wimbledon after a meeting on Tuesday.

The former world number one made her comeback in March after giving birth last year and is 183 in the rankings.

Williams, 36, was not seeded at the French Open, where an injury curtailed her Grand Slam return before her fourth round match. The American believes players returning from pregnancy should have protected seedings as well as protected rankings.

“The seeding order follows the WTA ranking list, except where in the opinion of the committee a change is necessary to produce a balanced draw,” the All England Club said last month.

The seeding meeting is due to take place on 26 June.

Wimbledon runs from 2-15 July.

Meanwhile, the United States Tennis Association president Katrina Adams has told the New York Times players coming back from pregnancy will be taken into consideration when deciding seedings for the US Open.

“It’s the right thing to do for these mothers that are coming back,” said Adams.

“We think it’s a good message for our current female players and future players. It’s OK to go out and be a woman and become a mother and then come back to your job, and I think that’s a bigger message.”

She added that seedings for the tournament would be revised “if pregnancy is a factor in the current rankings of a player”.
(Source: BBC)

France’s Tolisso understands Australia performance cost him starting spot



Midfielder Corentin Tolisso admitted he under-performed in France’s opening victory against Australia and was not surprised to be benched for their second Group C game at the World Cup.

Tolisso, whose performances in warm-up games and with Bayern Munich earned him a spot in the starting 11 at the expense of Blaise Matuidi, made too many errors in France’s 2-1 win against the Socceroos. Matuidi came in for the second match, a 1-0 victory against Peru, as France showed better coordination in midfield and pressed their opponents more efficiently.

“I wasn’t surprised to start on the bench against Peru,” Tolisso told a news conference on Sunday, two days before France take on Denmark in their final group game. France have already qualified for the last 16 and they will top Group C if they avoid defeat in Moscow. “I saw my performance against Australia and the fact that Blaise got to play after that is totally understandable,” Tolisso added. “If he had played like I have played I would have hoped to start the following game.”

France have yet to impress but they are the only pre-tournament favourites with a perfect record.

“Everybody would like us to put on a show every time but the truth is all the teams are hard to beat,” he said.

“We’d love to win every match 5-0 but to be honest, 1-0 is the same, it’s three points.”

(Source: Mirror)

Serbia chief accuses FIFA of ‘brutal robbery’ after Swiss defeat



The head of the Serbian Football Association has accused governing body Fifa of showing bias against his country at the World Cup in Russia.

Slavisa Kokeza says Serbia were victims of a “brutal robbery” during Friday’s loss to Switzerland, accusing Fifa of “directing” officials to work against them.

“We will send a protest to Fifa today,” Kokeza told the BBC on Saturday. A Fifa spokesman confirmed a letter of protest had been received but that no further comment would be made.

Kokeza was unhappy a German referee had been appointed for a game involving Switzerland, claiming the move influenced some decisions, most notably the failure of the match official and video assistant referee (VAR) to award a penalty when Aleksandar Mitrovic was wrestled to the ground by two Swiss players.

“I do not think this is only about VAR, but that the whole thing was directed by the people who appoint referees,”

Kokeza said. “We all know too well that more than half of Switzerland’s population is German.

“Technical staff, players, people in Serbia, they are all disappointed and frustrated because of injustice some people at Fifa came up with.”

Asked how he wanted Fifa to respond, he replied: “It is clear to Europe and the world that Serbia was brutally robbed. I do not expect Fifa to take action in order for this brutal robbery not to happen again, because, I repeat, it was all directed.”

Kokeza also criticized the ‘double eagle’ celebration given by Switzerland’s two ethnic Albanian goalscorers during Friday’s match, describing the actions as “scandalous and shameful”.

Granit Xhaka and Xherdan Shaqiri made the gesture, which is a nationalist symbol representing the double-headed eagle on Albania’s national flag.

Both players’ families are from Kosovo, where a Serbian

crackdown on the Albanian population only ended with Nato military intervention in 1999.

Shaqiri also wears boots displaying the Swiss flag on one heel and the Kosovan flag on the other.

“It deserves to be condemned by the whole football world,” Kokeza added. “It was not the only provocation by the Swiss players. One sufficient detail was the football boots of one of their players - the boots had a flag of a non-existing country displayed on them.

“We expect Fifa to impose sanctions against the players who acted against rules of Fifa and fair play, as well as against the national association of the country they play for.”

Fifa confirmed on Saturday that disciplinary proceedings had been opened against Xhaka and Shaqiri, as well as the Serbian FA for the conduct of their fans, and Serbia head coach Mladen Krstajic for alleged statements made in the aftermath.

(Source: BBC)

Swede Durmaz subjected to race hate storm after Germany loss



Sweden substitute Jimmy Durmaz was subjected to a storm of racial hatred and threats on social media after giving away the free kick that led to Toni Kroos’s late winner for Germany in their Group F World Cup clash on Saturday.

The stream of abuse on the 29-year-old’s Instagram account began almost as soon as the ball hit the back of the net and his team mates jumped to his defence with striker and fellow substitute John Guidetti praising his colleague.

“He ran and fought the whole game, it’s unlucky - it’s completely idiotic to subject him to hate for that,” Guidetti told reporters.

Durmaz, who was born in Sweden to Assyrian parents who had emigrated from Turkey, played down the abuse.

“It’s nothing I’m bothered about,” Durmaz said. “I’m here proud and representing my country.”

The Swedes looked like securing a draw until Kroos struck deep into stoppage time to secure a 2-1 win and emotions boiled over after the final whistle as an angry Sweden coach Janne Andersson accused German officials of taunting his side.

Sweden substitute Pontus Jansson said he had lost his temper with the Germans but accepted they had ultimately regretted their actions.

“Some of them celebrated in a disrespectful way in my opinion. There was a lot of feelings, we had just let in a goal and lost the game, so it was pretty sour,” Jansson said.

“Maybe there was unnecessary anger (from me), but they apologised afterwards so it’s just a case of accepting it. There were a lot of feelings in the heat of the moment.”

The Swedish tactic of closing down the centre of defence and allowing the Germans space on the wings looked like paying off until Kroos’s late goal and they now need to recover and beat Mexico to be sure of advancing to the second round.

“In the dressing room we said we have everything in our own hands,” Jansson said. “Obviously we’re angry and sad but we need to reload and do it in the next game.”

Sweden play Mexico in Ekaterinburg on June 27.

(Source: Euronews)

Granit Xhaka & Xherdan Shaqiri face bans over goal celebrations



Granit Xhaka and Xherdan Shaqiri could face punishment for their use of an Albanian nationalist symbol to celebrate their goals in Switzerland’s dramatic 2-1 World Cup win over Serbia on Friday.

The pair, both of Kosovar-Albanian heritage, turned the Group E meeting in Kaliningrad on its head in the second half, each scoring to earn Switzerland victory after Aleksandar Mitrovic’s early opener.

Xhaka, whose father was imprisoned in the former Yugoslavia after protesting for Kosovan independence, celebrated his second-half equaliser by locking his open hands together at the thumbs and ‘flapping’ his fingers. The gesture resembles – and is understood to be a reference to – the two-headed eagle on Albania’s national flag.

Shaqiri, who was born in Kosovo and plays with the Kosovan flag stitched into his boots, celebrated in the same manner after scoring a 90th-minute winner.

The celebrations run the risk of inflaming tensions between ethnic Albanians and nationalist Serbs in Kosovo and beyond. Kosovo’s Albanian-majority political in-

stitutions declared independence from Serbia in 2008. A decade on, Serbia still does not recognise Kosovo’s independence.

Xhaka and Shaqiri could face punishment from Fifa, world football’s governing body, if their celebrations are deemed to be displays of political symbols. Jovan Surbatovic, the general secretary of the Football Association of Serbia, said on Saturday that the organisation intends to write a complaint to Fifa regarding the matter.

Shaqiri put his reaction to his late winner down to ‘emotion’. “I think in football you have always emotions,” the Stoke City forward said. “You can see what I did and I think it’s just emotion. I’m very happy to score this goal. It’s not more. I think we don’t have to speak about this now.”

“You should never mix politics and football. It’s clear that emotions show up and that’s how things happen,” he said. “I think we all together need to steer away from politics in football and we should focus on this sport as a beautiful game and something that brings people together.”

(Source: Independent)

Euphoric Germany to make more changes against South Korea



“Jerome Boateng is suspended and Sebastian Rudy broke his nose. We will need a couple of days to recover. Rudy could potentially play on Wednesday but we will need to wait and see.”

Boateng’s absence is especially bitter for the Germans with fellow central defender Mats Hummels having missed the Sweden game with a neck injury.

Loew said he was hopeful Hummels, who has not trained

in the past days, would be back in time for the game against South Korea to partner Antonio Ruediger.

“Mats is likely to play and if he does then we have another option in defence,” said the coach.

Loew’s unusual lineup on Saturday did not include playmaker Ozil, who had played 26 consecutive matches at World Cups and Euros. His lacklustre form against Mexico, however, and the furore caused ahead of the tournament by a picture he took with Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan had worked against him. It is unlikely he will start, with Germany needing to be as agile and aggressive against the Koreans as they were against Sweden.

Apart from Reus, who should again be in the starting 11, chances for a spot are also big for Julian Brandt, the attacking midfielder who has twice come on as a substitute to give much-needed impulses. He also hit the post with a missile minutes before Kroos scored the winner on Saturday.

“The cards are being shuffled again for the last game,” said Germany team manager Oliver Bierhoff. “Our deep bench will help us in this case.”

(Source: Reuters)



“80 Million People,
One Nation, One Heartbeat”

By Masoud Hossein

SARANSK, Russia – It would be fairly hard, but not impossible, for Iran to progress further the 2018 World Cup. It all depends on Iran’s Team Melli overcoming Ronaldo-spirited Portugal at the Mordovia Arena, Saransk.

One scenario could be that on Monday Iranians take to the streets to celebrate their national team progress to the Round of 16 for the first time. However, everybody knows how good Portugal are. We all also know full well what awaits us in case Team Melli beat

Can miracle happen for Iran?



© Tehran Times/ Mehran Riaz

the European giants.

Team Melli were on the verge of making history against Spain on Wednesday, but an accidental goal poured cold water on Iranians’ hopes. Now, there is another opportunity for Carlos Queiroz’s side to make a splash in the most prestigious sporting event in the world.

Iran, as Asian number one team, have the potential to defend the continent’s pride in Russia, where the four other Asian teams will probably fail to book a place in the next stage.

Having drawn in Group B, which features the four talented teams, Iran have so far met expectations, beating

African champions Morocco and losing to tournament’s favorites Spain by one goal. Football-mad Iran have not previously experienced such a big moment, and this is a golden chance for them to just “Do It”.

The laws of aerodynamics suggest that the bumblebee can’t fly. But forget the laws, the bumblebee flies. Football is not mathematics and the Iranian team knows it can make history against Portugal.

After sanctions imposed on Iran, the nation needs hope to go on and football can act as a gleam of hope that no matter how tough life gets, there will be light at the end of tunnel.

Against the odds, Queiroz steers Iran to new heights

Iran coach Carlos Queiroz has taken three different nations to the World Cup finals but in his current role, he has confronted problems beyond the realm of sports.

The Mozambique-born Portuguese has been hailed as “brilliant” and “difficult”. And he does not mince words himself when talking about others.

Iran’s match against Portugal – whom Queiroz managed in the 2010 World Cup – in Saransk on Monday could be another marker in his career.

Handed a tough Group B featuring heavyweights Spain and Portugal as well as Morocco, Iran played heroically against Spain on June 15 and only succumbed to a late goal.

If they summon up a similar performance against Portugal, they will make the knockout rounds.

Queiroz has built Iran into an Asian powerhouse in the face of adversity. The talent pool is limited and he has made a point of bringing in players from the Iranian diaspora.

The geopolitical challenges are also



formidable.

The West considers Iran a rogue state and the Islamic Republic, still under the sway of conservative leaders, has suffered years of international sanctions. The country is embroiled in regional wars and an international deal over its nuclear

programme is in danger of unravelling.

Friendlies have been hard to come by and travel can be a problem. Just before the tournament Nike even declined to supply boots to the team over concern this was breach of U.S. sanctions.

Many have wondered why Queiroz,

who enjoyed glory days as assistant manager to Alex Ferguson in two spells at Manchester United, would have taken the job in the first place.

But he has stuck at it for seven years, despite a few walk-outs and reconciliations, and this is the second time in a row he has taken Iran to the World Cup finals.

The team impressed in Brazil 2014 with a dogged display against Argentina, only going down to a late Lionel Messi goal.

He also stewarded South Africa to the tournament in 2002, but left in a dispute before the finals, and Portugal in 2010. The latter campaign ended in the last 16 and he lost his job.

But the thought of facing his native country’s national side – the current European champions – and a Cristiano Ronaldo who has bagged four goals in two games, does not appear to phase him.

“Portugal have a national side called Cristiano Ronaldo and a group of players who run after him,” he has said.

(Source: Thee Star Online)

Iran basketball suffer second loss against Serbia

TASNIM — Iran national basketball team were defeated against Serbia national team 85-62 in their second friendly match as part of preparation for the 2018 Asian Games.

Iran had already defeated the Serbian clubs Zemun 76-45 and Radnicki 65-48 last week and lost to Serbia national team 83-66 on Friday.

Team Melli are preparing for the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The 2018 edition of the Asian Games will be held from August 18 to September 2.

China are the most-decorated basketball team in Asian Games, winning the title seven times, followed by South Korea and the Philippines with four titles each.

Iran became runners-up in the previous edition, losing to host South Korea in the final match.



Portugal looks to Ronaldo to overcome gritty Iran

By Sudipto Ganguly

SARANSK, Russia (Reuters) — Cristiano Ronaldo has scored Portugal’s all-four goals in the World Cup so far and the European Champions will be heavily dependent on the talismanic forward to see them through against a stoic Iran side in their final Group B match on Monday.

Ronaldo’s hat-trick in the 3-3 draw against Spain gave Portugal a vital point while an early headed strike, which made him Europe’s all-time top international goal scorer, against Morocco proved enough to bring home three points.

Portugal and Spain, who take on already ousted Morocco, are on four points and need a draw from their respective matches. But Iran are a point behind with three and must beat Portugal to progress.

The European sides will not only aim for victory but will also try to outscore each other with the top spot in the group set to be decided on goal difference.

The 33-year-old Real Madrid forward’s individual brilliance has glossed over Portugal’s dour performances in their first two matches and Fernando Santos’s side have mostly appeared like a one-man team.

In 26 matches competitive matches since Santos took over in September 2014, Portugal have won 20 and lost twice, with one of those being a penalty shootout defeat by Chile in the 2017 Confederations Cup. Of those 20 wins, 10 have been by a single goal and most of the others were

against weaker opponents.

They lost the ball numerous times against Morocco which left Santos unimpressed.

“We have to look at this, we lost control of the game,” Santos said. “We misplaced a lot of passes, we lost confidence... it was inexplicable.

“If in a match against players like they have, if you don’t have the ball, they wear you down and you get into trouble.”

On Monday, Portugal’s players will meet a familiar face in the opposition technical area in Iran coach and compatriot Carlos Queiroz, who coached the side from 2008 to the South Africa World Cup in 2010.

The stability and pragmatism of Queiroz’s seven-year reign, which will come to an end after the tournament with the Portuguese deciding to quit, has firmly established Iran as Asia’s number one team.

Iran benefited from a late own goal by Morocco to get their World Cup off to a winning start in St. Petersburg but then lost 1-0 to Spain in a hard-fought match in Kazan.

Stopping Ronaldo from scoring will be the team’s primary objective, while young Sardar Azmoun will lead the attack hoping to take the side past the group stage for the first time.

Queiroz has declared the Portugal match as the most interesting and important match in his seven years with Iran.

“We go for it, with great belief and great determination to try to win the game,” Queiroz said. “When we arrived, no-one gave us a chance, but we still fight for our dreams.”



Iran tougher than Portugal: Jordi Alba

Spain left-back Jordi Alba believes Iran proved to be tougher opponent than a Ronaldo-inspired Portugal.

Spain edged past brave Iran on Wednesday in Group B of the 2018 World Cup.

“I think we controlled the match [against Iran], but it is true they generated danger with the play of the disallowed goal and a header at the far post,” Barcelona left-back Alba said.

“In that respect I can understand how those doubts that are so much talked about are generated. Honestly, inside the dressing room we did not see it that way. But all opinions are respectable,” he added.

“Portugal came to us three times: a dubious penalty, a foul that Cristiano put away incredibly and a mistake [by goalkeeper David de Gea],” he added.

“We were totally superior to Portugal and we deserved much more than them. But this is a World Cup. People may think that Iran is not at that level, but it made life more complicated for us than Portugal.

“We have four points, which is the important thing we have to look at. You always have to correct things, but this is a World Cup and we are seeing what happens every day in almost every game,” Alba concluded.

(Source: Marca)



Mame Thiam will extend contract with Esteghlal on Monday: Report

PLDC – Esteghlal Senegalese striker Mame Thiam will reportedly travel to Tehran on Monday to extend his contract with the Iranian giant.

The Senegalese joined Iran’s Esteghlal in February and helped the team advance to the 2018 AFC Champions League quarter-final.

Thiam had been linked with move to Kuwaiti club Al Kuwait and Saudi Arabian giant Al Hilal.

Now, the Iranian media reports suggest that Thiam will travel to Tehran on Monday to pen a new contract with Esteghlal.

Esteghlal is preparing to win the Iran Professional League (IPL) title after six years under coaching of Winfried Schaefer. The IPL will kick off on July 26.



Daneshvar top-ranked in world cadets blitz chess c’ships

Press TV — Junior Iranian male chess player Bardiya Daneshvar has put on commendable performances at the second edition of Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE) World Cadets Rapid and Blitz Championships in Belarus, and claimed the top place overall.

Daneshvar garnered 8 points from nine games to snatch the gold medal in the blitz division of the competitions at the Palace of Sport in the Belarusian capital city of Minsk.

The second edition of FIDE World Cadets Rapid and Blitz Championships opened on June 22, and will finish on June 24, 2018.

A total of 747 young chess players from 27 countries are taking part in the event.

The tournament is played using the Swiss system with 9 rounds. If a player does not have an existing FIDE rapid or blitz rating, then his/her classical rating is used, where applicable.

The time control for the rapid championships is 10 minutes plus 5 seconds per move increment from white’s first move. The time control for the blitz championships is 5 minutes plus 2 seconds per move increment from white’s first move.



Enrique Caceres chosen to officiate Iran v Portugal match

Paraguayan referee Enrique Caceres will be the man in the middle for Iran’s match against Portugal.

The Iranian national football team will face Portugal in Group B of the 2018 World Cup in Saransk on Monday.

Team Melli will advance to the competition’s next stage for the first time in its history with a win over Portugal.

Furthermore, Uzbekistan well-known referee Ravshan Irmatov will take charge of Spain’s clash with Morocco in the same group.

He has most recently refereed Croatia’s thrashing of Argentina.



(Source: FIFA)

INTERNATIONAL DAILY
www.tehrantimes.com

■ Managing Director: Ali Asgari

■ Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Ghaderi

» Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
editor@tehrantimes.com

» Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000

» Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051450

» Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807

» Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603

» www.eshtarak.ir Distributor: Padideh Novin Co.

Tel: 88911433

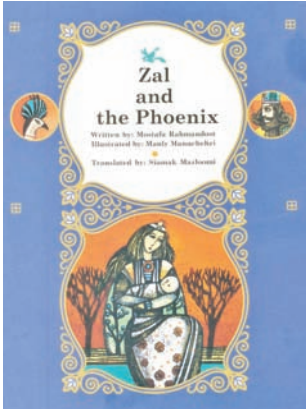
» Webmaster: webmaster@tehrantimes.com

» Printed at: Rooztab - ISSN: 1017-94

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran
P.O. Box: 14155-4843
Zip Code: 1599814713

“Zal and the Phoenix” published in English

CULTURE **TEHRAN** – “Zal and the Phoenix” written by Iranian children’s book author Mostafa Rahmandust based on a story from Ferdowsi’s epic masterpiece Shahnameh (The Book of Kings) has been published in English. Siamak Mazlumi is the translator of the book published by the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA), the publisher announced on Sunday.



Front cover of the English version of “Zal and the Phoenix” by Mostafa Rahmandust.

Sam and Zal, Simorgh and Zal, the return of Zal, and Zal and Rudabeh (Zal’s sweetheart). The illustrations have been created by Manly Manuchehri. In 2015, the Persian version of the book was inscribed on the Honor List of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) for its illustrations.

The book has been published for Nameye Namvar, a book series that dedicated to Shahnameh stories abridged for children. The story of Zal (Rustam’s father) is one of the biggest tragedies in the Shahnameh. The story begins with the father’s desire to have a son and when the baby is born, they see that he is an albino (zal in Persian also means albino). The king of Iran, Sam thinks his son is a fiend and orders that he be taken to the jungle and killed.

Phoenix (Simorgh) is composed of five acts describing Zal’s different stages of life; the birth of Zal, Sam and Zal, Simorgh and Zal, the return of Zal, and Zal and Rudabeh (Zal’s sweetheart).

Tehran galleries to set up art fair

A R T **TEHRAN** – Two Tehran galleries have established an art fair that is said to be a prelude to an international art show in the future.

The art fair titled “Teer Art” has been co-founded by the Dastan Basement Gallery and Asar Gallery, the organizers announced in a press release on Sunday.

Ava Center located in the Qeitarieh neighborhood will host the first edition of the exhibition, which is scheduled to open on Tuesday with displaying collections from ten galleries in Tehran.

Seven panel discussions on various topics will also be organized on the sidelines of the fair that will run for five days. Shirin, Mohsen, Etemad, Khak and Tarrahan Azad are among the galleries that will be participating in the art fair.

Movies from Iran line up for Cyprus festival

A R T **TEHRAN** – Four films from Iran are competing in the 13th Cyprus International Film Festival, which is currently underway in the cities of Nicosia and Paphos.



A scene from “Red Peace” by Rahim Tufan.

“Wander about Me” by Ghazaleh Soltani, “Retouch” by Kaveh Mazaheri, “Red Peace” by Rahim Tufan and “Haven” by Hesam Eslami have been selected to be screened in various sections of the festival, which opened on Saturday, the organizers announced. Some of the filmmakers are in Cyprus to attend Q&A sessions being arranged after each screening. Films from Bulgaria, Poland, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Iceland, India and several other countries are competing in the festival, which will run until July 1.

Shahnameh illustrations inspire collection of glass paintings

A R T **TEHRAN** – A group of artists have created a collection of glass paintings featuring large size copies of illustrations from a rare copy of the Shahnameh, the masterpiece of Persian poet Ferdowsi.

The group led by Marzieh Sadat Kamanian first carried out restorations on the illustrations, which remained, and then afterwards the collection was born, announced the Sadabad Cultural-Historical Complex that will host an exhibition of the collection from June 27 to July 4.

The collection composed of 19 glass paintings each measuring 40X70 centimeters, and Yasaman Siavashi, Fatemeh Kahlui and Masumeh Karimian are the members of the group.

The rare copy of the Shahnameh was scripted and illustrated during the Timurid period (ca. 1370-1507). The copy is preserved at the Majlis Library Museum and Documentation Center.

The copy enjoys a series of special illustrations with bright beautiful colors that feature a unique style of Persian miniature painting.

Several exquisite copies of the Shahnameh were scripted and illustrated under the Timurid dynasty, which was founded by Tamerlane, the Turkic ruler of Central Asia who lived from 1336 until 1405.

One of the copies is the Shahnameh of Baysunqur that was inscribed on UNESCO’s Memory of the World Register list in 2007.

The copy was made in 1430 for Prince Baysunqur (1399-1433) who was the grandson of Tamerlane.

The Shahnameh of Baysunqur is kept in the library of Golestan Palace in Tehran.



A page from a copy of the Shahnameh of Baysunqur

Rome’s MAXXI reviews works by Iranian female filmmakers

A R T **TEHRAN** – MAXXI – Museum of Arts of the XXI century in Rome is reviewing movies from three Iranian female filmmakers.

Films by Rakhshan Bani-Etemad, Narges Abyar and Aida Panahandeh have been selected to be screened during Three Women, Another Iranian Cinema, a program that opened at the museum on Saturday, the museum has announced.

“Breath” and “Track 143” by Abyar, “Under the Skin of the City” by Bani-Etemad and “Israfil” by Ida Panahandeh were screened on Saturday and Sunday.

The directors attended the Q&A sessions held after the screenings of the movies. “May Lady” and “Tales” by Bani-Etemad will go on screen today.

MAXXI is the first Italian national institution devoted to contemporary creativity. The building located in Rome’s Flaminio quarter is a major architectural work designed by Zaha Hadid.



This combination photo shows Iranian filmmakers Narges Abyar (L), Rakhshan Bani-Etemad (C) and Aida Panahandeh.

“Stuber”, Matt Damon-Christian Bale film land high-profile summer release dates from Fox

LOS ANGELES (Hollywood Reporter) – “Stuber” stars Kumail Nanjiani and Dave Bautista, while Damon and Bale are teaming up for a film on a 1966 racecar championship battle between Ford and Ferrari.

Kumail Nanjiani and Dave Bautista’s action comedy “Stuber” and James Mangold’s upcoming “Ford vs. Ferrari” movie are getting some major summer release dates.

20th Century Fox announced Friday that “Stuber”, a comedy about an Uber driver who picks up a cop hunting for a killer and is pulled into his investigation while seeking a five-star rating, has been dated for May 24, 2019.

The as-yet-untitled “Ford vs. Ferrari” film, about the team of American engineers and designers that Henry Ford II pulled together to defeat dominant racecar company Ferrari at the 1966 Le Mans World Championship, will open on June 28, 2019. Christian Bale and Matt Damon are set to star.

“Stuber”, written by Hot Dog scribe Tripper Clancy,



Noam Galai/WireImage; Noam Galai/WireImage

will be directed by Michael Dowse (Goon) and produced by Jonathan Goldstein and John Francis Daley. Jake Wagner and Nick Thomas are executive producing, while

Jeremy Kramer is overseeing for the studio.

“Ford vs. Ferrari” is set to be helmed by Mangold (Logan), who is also writing with screenwriters Jez and John-Henry Butterworth “Edge of Tomorrow, Get On Up”. Chernin Entertainment “Red Sparrow” is producing.

In other dates set by the studio Friday, “Spies in Disguise”, an animated feature starring Will Smith and Tom Holland, has been moved from a April 19 to September 13 release date in 2019. The film, an odd-couple comedy, is based on the short “Pigeon: Impossible”. Nick Bruno and Troy Quane (will co-direct and Fox Animation, Blue Sky and Chernin Entertainment are producing.

“Death on the Nile”, the sequel to 2017’s Hercules Poirot mystery “Murder on the Orient Express”, meanwhile, has been moved from November 8 to December 20, 2019. Nile will also be based on the original Agatha Christie mystery of the same name, and will again put Orient scribe Michael Green in the scenewriter’s role, while Kenneth Branagh is expected to return as director.

Ornate NYC theater, used for years as a gym, to be restored

NEW YORK (AP) — For years, Long Island University’s basketball team played in the theater as early as mid-2019.

The Paramount opened in 1928 with the silent film “Manhattan Cocktail” and a live variety show. At the time, it seated over 4,000 people and was one of the largest theaters in New York.

While the exterior was a drab art deco office building, the interior was opulent. Fountains with goldfish greeted dressed-up theatergoers. The wall fountains, plaster decorations, and velvet draperies transported visitors into a French Baroque fantasyland. It also featured cutting-edge technology of the time, including a basement cooling system that was a precursor to air conditioning and a color organ that cast light onto the walls to match the mood of the performances.

The architects overseeing the renovation said they are taking inspiration from the combination of technology with classic architecture. Fontillas, a partner with H3 Hardy Collaboration Architecture, said it will “have a little bit of that razzle dazzle that was back in the day, but with a contemporary feel.”

But the most inspiring feature may be the legacy of the performances that have echoed through these halls. The theater was instrumental in introducing jazz to Brooklyn, hosting Duke Ellington and his orchestra in 1931. Ella Fitzgerald, Bing Crosby, Buddy Holly, Fats Domino, Chubby Checker and Jackie Wilson all played here as jazz evolved into rhythm and blues and rhythm and blues evolved into rock and roll.

They will remove the basketball court and bleachers to create space for 3,000 seats. Plans also include an “iconic” theater entrance with a lighted marquee, an LED system for mood lighting and a state-of-the-art sound system.

BSE Global, which is leading the renovation project, first announced it in 2015 and planned construction for last fall. But it was delayed it until the end of



Chuck Zlotnick/CTMG and Marvel Unlimited

LOS ANGELES (Hollywood Reporter) — Tom Holland revealed on Instagram Saturday that “Spider-Man: Far From Home” is the title of the upcoming sequel to “Spider-Man: Homecoming”. Holland also continued the fun he’s been having on social media, noting that following the events of “Avengers: Infinity War”, the idea of a Spider-Man sequel seems rather impossible. (If you’ve seen it, you know why.)

The Far From Home title reflects that this will be the first Spider-Man solo movie to take the wallcrawler out of New York and put him in other parts of the world, such as London.

Sony and Marvel Studios’ “Spider-Man: Far From Home” opens July 5, 2019 and will be the first Marvel Cinematic Universe

movie to follow “Avengers 4”, which opens two months earlier. Homecoming director Jon Watts, who returns for the sequel, told THR last year that the film would see Spider-Man dealing with the fallout from “Infinity War”.

“Spider-Man: Far From Home” also stars Jake Gyllenhaal as the classic Spider-Man villain Mysterio. The film is written by Chris McKenna and Erik Sommers. “Spider-Man: Homecoming” earned more than \$880 million worldwide and helped solidify Holland’s version Peter Parker as a Marvel fan favorite.

Next up, Marvel Studios has “Ant-Man” and “The Wasp” out July 6. It’s followed by Captain Marvel on March 8, 2019, leading up to May’s Avengers 4, which follows the cliffhanger ending of “Infinity War”.