



Velayati to carry Leader, Rouhani's messages to Putin **2**



EU's Tusk tells Trump: 'Appreciate your allies' **3**



Iran beach soccer have a golden generation: Marco Octavio **15**



Japanese religion expert Toshihiko Izutsu under spotlight in "The Eastern" **16**

Yemen war: Swamp for Saudi and UAE



See page 7

Iran to sell maximum level of oil to counter U.S. sanctions: VP

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iranian First Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri announced on Tuesday that the country plans to sell as much oil as it can in face of U.S. sanctions, Fars news agency reported.

"Required measures have been taken by Iranian foreign policy officials and those from the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) to ease

related banking transactions," he added. Washington has been trying to stop Iran's petrochemicals, steel and copper exports, according to Jahangiri. "America seeks to reduce Iran's oil sales, our vital source of income, to zero," he said, "It would be a mistake to think the U.S. economic war against Iran will have no impact."

Second Iran Nanotech China Center opens in Guangzhou

TECHNOLOGY **TEHRAN** — The second branch of Iran Nanotech China Center (INCC) opens in Guangzhou Science City, Economic & Technological Development Zone on Jul 6.

The center aims to facilitate cooperation between Iran and China in the field of nanotechnology and to boost cooperation between Iranian and Chinese nano

companies, the Iran Nanotechnology Initiative Council (INIC) public relations office announced in a press release.

The first branch of the INCC was set up by INIC and Nanopolis Suzhou company in Suzhou on May 12, 2015.

INCC Director Saeid Sarkar, Iran's counsel in Guangzhou Khalil Shirgholami and some Iranian and Chinese officials attended the opening ceremony. **→10**

Stop killing Palestinian, Yemeni children: Iran's UN envoy

The Iranian ambassador to the United Nations on Monday called for stopping the killings of Palestinian and Yemeni children.

Gholamali Khoshroo made the remarks before a UN Security Council's meeting on "Children and Armed Conflict: Protecting Children Today Prevents Conflicts Tomorrow". Here is the full text of Khoshroo's statement:

I would like to begin by thanking the Council President, Swedish Prime Min-

ister, for organizing this open debate. I also thank the Secretary-General for his report, and appreciate the valuable inputs from the briefers.

A large increase in violations against children in 2017, as reported by the UNSG, is alarming. This underlines the necessity of redoubling our efforts to prevent the emergence of new conflicts. It indeed is the most effective way to protect children from the scourge of armed conflicts. **→2**

I doubt U.S. - North Korea negotiation will affect JCPOA: former senator

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW
By Javad Heirannia

TEHRAN — Bennett Johnston, an American politician in the Democratic Party and lobbyist who represented Louisiana in the Senate, says Washington's negotiations with North Korea "will likely take years" and it will not "affect JCPOA". "I think it will be stuck in this, 'rope-a-dope' - which is to say, continued negotiation and no great breakthroughs and no repudiation of the negotiation; just something that will take a very long time," Johnston tells the Tehran Times.

The Chairman of the American-Iranian Council also adds that "the United States has broken the agreement which it signed onto."

Following is the text of the interview:



■ What is your assessment about U.S. new sanctions on Iran? Some argue that these new sanctions will not be as effective as last sanctions that were imposed before JCPOA. What do you think?

A: The unilateral sanctions of the United

States are likely to be quite effective because of America being the largest market, and various companies will not want to risk losing access to the American market. Therefore, they are likely to go along with the sanctions even though the countries of the EU are very supportive of JCPOA and would like to see it continue. The EU cannot control their individual companies.

■ It is true that U.S. sanctions after its withdrawal from JCPOA are unilateral, but the U.S. can impose its will on other countries by imposing penalties on their corporations such as European ones so they obligate to give up Iran market. Then actually JCPOA will not fulfill Iranian goals. What is your opinion? **→7**

Yemeni forces fire ballistic missile at Saudi mercenaries' supply depots

Yemeni army soldiers, supported by allied fighters from Popular Committees, have fired a domestically-designed and -developed ballistic missile at a position of the Saudi regime-sponsored militiamen loyal to Yemen's former president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi in the country's western coastal province of Hudaydah.

A military source, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Yemen's Arabic-language al-Masirah television network that Yemeni troops and their allies launched the projectile on Tuesday noon, and that the short-range missile struck supply depots of the Saudi regime mercenaries with great precision.

The source, however, did not provide further information about possible casualties and the extent of damage caused.

Earlier in the day, the Saudi regime military aircraft had bombarded a number of residential areas across Yemen, leaving several civilians dead and injured.

At least four civilians lost their lives and seven others sustained injuries when the Saudi regime warplanes targeted two vehicles as they were traveling along a road in Zabid town of Hudaydah province.

The Saudi regime fighter jets also pounded an area in the Kitaf wa al-Boqe'e district of Yemen's mountainous northwestern province of Sa'ada, leaving three people dead.

Two civilians were also killed and a woman and a child suffered injuries when the Saudi regime aircraft hit a house in an area of Bagim district in the same Yemeni province.

The Yemeni Ministry of Human Rights

announced in a statement on March 25 that the House of Saud regime-led war had left 600,000 civilians dead and injured since March 2015.

The United Nations says a record 22.2 million Yemenis are in need of food aid, including 8.4 million threatened by severe hunger.

A high-ranking UN aid official recently warned against the "catastrophic" living conditions in Yemen, stating that there was a growing risk of famine and cholera there.

"People's lives have continued unraveling. Conflict has escalated since November, driving an estimated 100,000 people from their homes," John Ging, UN director of aid operations, told the UN Security Council on February 27.

(Source: Press TV)



Iran women's dragon boat prepare for international competition

The teams of women from all around Iran are getting ready to compete in an international race in Anzali Lagoon in the northern Iranian province of Gilan.

Dragon boat is a human-powered watercraft which has its roots in an ancient folk ritual of contending villagers, which has been held for over 2000 years throughout southern China.

The history of dragon boats in competition reaches as far back as the same era as the original games of Olympia in ancient Greece.

Saudi Arabia, the UAE footprint in Eritrea, Ethiopia rapprochement

By Fatemeh Salehi

TEHRAN — The reconciliation between Ethiopia and Eritrea after 20 years is top news in the African continent.

In a landmark visit, Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed landed in the Eritrean capital, Asmara, on Sunday, for a bilateral summit, aimed at repairing relations between the two countries. Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki warmly greeted Abiy at the airport, Eritrea's state television showed.

The visit comes a month after Abiy surprised people by fully accepting a peace deal that ended a two-year border war between the two countries. The meeting sparked hope for the halt of one of the most difficult African crises.

Eritrea became independent in 1993 after three years of war, but again the conflict between Asmara and Ethiopia in 1998 arose over disagreement on border delineation, primarily at Badme, and that was the end of diplomatic relations between the two states. However, Eritrea has a permanent delegation in Addis Ababa, representing the African Union.

Then the conflict flared into armed clashes. Although Badme was being administered by Ethiopia, with an MP and an administration, Eritrea said maps clearly showed the territory to be Eritrean and in May sent in troops to occupy the area.

From 1998 to 2000, the border wars claimed some 80,000 lives from both sides, but the Algiers Agreement ended the conflict. However, the president of Eritrea broke international law and triggered the war by invading Ethiopia, abusing the Ethiopian opposition to the verdict on the borders, taking repressive measures such as imprisoning dissidents and refraining from implementing law and adopting strict military rules.

■ **Eritrea, Ethiopia economic interests in resolving the conflicts**

Some analysts have argued that, the border conflicts had halted Eritrean affairs over the past 20 years, and all the issues were overshadowed by these clashes. The Ethiopian prime minister took the first step in resolving the conflict in June, announcing that his troops would withdraw from the Badme region and other border areas.

A high-level Eritrean delegation led by Foreign Minister Osman Saleh had earlier visited the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, last month for peace talks, a meeting that was followed by a news conference. **→7**



ARTICLE

Hanif Ghaffari
Political analyst

Decoding of EU's Approach towards JCPOA

The joint commission of the JCPOA had recently held a meeting at ministerial level with the presence of Iran and the five remaining members of the nuclear deal. In its latest statement on the recent meeting, the European Union has affirmed its commitment regarding the following objectives in good faith and in a constructive atmosphere:

- the maintenance and promotion of wider economic and sectoral relations with Iran;
- the preservation and maintenance of effective financial channels with Iran;
- the continuation of Iran's export of oil and gas condensate, petroleum products and petrochemicals;
- clear and effective support for economic operators trading with Iran, particularly small and medium sized enterprises which are the backbone of many economies; etc.

Part of this statement reads: "The participants in the JCPOA reconfirmed their commitment to the full and effective implementation of the nuclear deal. They recalled that the JCPOA is a key element of the global non-proliferation architecture and a significant achievement of multilateral diplomacy endorsed unanimously by the UN Security Council through Resolution 2231. The participants welcomed the 11th report by the International Atomic Energy Agency of 24 May confirming that Iran is abiding by its nuclear-related commitments."

It continues: "The participants recognized that, in return for the implementation by Iran of its nuclear-related commitments, the lifting of sanctions, including the economic dividends arising from it, constitutes an essential part of the JCPOA. They also noted that economic operators pursuing legitimate business with Iran have been acting in good faith based on the commitments contained in the JCPOA and endorsed at the highest level by the UN Security Council."

As we can see, the recent EU statement is a similar (and not even completed) version of the "Brussels Statement" that was issued about two months ago after Donald Trump unilaterally walked out of the nuclear deal. **→7**

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Iranian, Turkish defense chiefs stress military co-op

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — In a phone conversation on Tuesday Iranian Defense Minister Amir Hatami and his Turkish counterpart Nurettin Canikl underlined the need for continued military cooperation between the two neighboring countries to resolve regional problems.

“Annihilation of Daesh (ISIL) was an instance of regional cooperation and the result of interactions among Iran, Russia and Turkey, and this important event frustrated the Zionists and the U.S. government,” General Hatami was quoted by Fars as saying.

Hatami said Tehran welcomes expansion of cooperation between the two countries “in military sphere, defense industries and training and research to enhance the level of security-defense capabilities.”



Zarif: Iran pursuing cases of ‘illegally’ detained expatriates

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Tuesday that his ministry spares no efforts in following up on the cases of Iranian expatriates who are held “illegally” and “unjustly” outside the country at Washington’s request.

Zarif made the remarks in separate meetings with families of Iranian expatriates who have been detained in different countries. He said the detentions were some sort of hostage taking to blackmail Iran, according to Mehr.

He also voiced his gratitude to the families for their patience, reiterating the Foreign Ministry’s determination to pursue the cases through diplomatic and legal channels.



Tehran would close Strait of Hormuz in retaliation against oil embargo: MP

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Deputy Majlis Speaker Ali Motahari said on Tuesday that “Tehran’s response to U.S. threats of reducing Iran’s oil revenues to zero will be closing the Strait of Hormuz.”

Motahari lauded President Hassan Rouhani’s implicit warning to close the Strait of Hormuz as a “good threat”, saying, “The Americans are not ready for a new war in the Persian Gulf.”

In May, U.S. President Donald Trump announced that he would pull America out of a 2015 nuclear agreement with Iran and re-impose the sanctions that the deal had envisaged to be lifted.



Rouhani special envoy hands letter to Malaysian PM

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Masoumeh Ebtekar, the special envoy of President Rouhani, delivered a letter about the 2015 nuclear deal to Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad on Tuesday.

Ebtekar also congratulated Mahathir on his victory in the recent Malaysian elections, Mehr reported.

During the meeting that took place in Putrajaya, the two sides also discussed bilateral ties, regional and international matters among other issues.

The Malaysian prime minister emphasized the continuation of bilateral ties.



U.S. Iran sanctions ‘groundless’: China

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — China says it will by no means accept the U.S. unilateral sanctions against Iran and that it sees the sanctions “groundless” under international law.

“The unilateral sanctions [against Iran] should be abandoned because they are counterproductive,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying told a press conference on Monday.

“The Chinese side will continue with its efforts to uphold the outcome of multilateralism,” Hua added.

She also urged all relevant parties to stay committed to dialogue and negotiation and adopt a constructive attitude to discuss the issues of common concern.



Velayati to carry Leader, Rouhani’s messages to Putin

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Ali Akbar Velayati, a senior Iranian politician, will travel to Moscow on Wednesday to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin. Bahram Qassemi, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, said Velayati will head a delegation of diplomats from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to Moscow.

He said Velayati carries important messages from President Hassan Rouhani and the Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to Putin.

According to the spokesman, the messages are related to the United States’ walkout from the 2015 nuclear accord. The diplomat did not provide any further details.

Sanctions have turned into opportunity: defense chief

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Defense Minister Amir Hatami said on Tuesday that the U.S.-led economic and financial sanctions against Iran have turned into an opportunity, making the country more self-reliant.

“Sanction and financial threats have turned into opportunity for us, because they have led to self-reliance and strength of domestic capacities which can be a model for all other freethinking countries,” Hatami remarked.

He also said the ruling system in Iran is “people-based” and the people’s welfare is redline.

“The people’s welfare is our vital interest and redline, because the Islamic Iran has a people-based system. The armed forces... are ready to serve in line with the nation’s welfare and interests,” he said during a conference of the Defense Ministry’s senior managers.

He noted that the hegemonic system seeks



to distance the people from the establishment through a “psychological warfare”. However, the minister said, Iran has

passed various difficulties during the past 40 years and today the country is more united and integrated.

‘It is Europe’s turn to show determination to save nuclear deal’

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Kamal Kharrazi, head of Iran’s Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, said on Tuesday that it is Europe’s turn to show political determination to save the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from the JCPOA in May and plans to re-impose sanctions on Iran in two stages, first in August and then in November.

“We gave Europe the chance to show its determination in practice,” he said during a meeting with Niels Annen, a German foreign office minister, in Berlin.

Kharrazi said that Europe’s support for the JCPOA helps regional security.

Kharrazi, who was Iran’s foreign minister from 1997 to 2005, warned that the Trump administration is seeking to trigger a war in the Middle East which its consequences would adversely affect Europe.

Elsewhere, he said Iran’s benefits from the nuclear agreement must be protected otherwise there would be no reason for Iran to stay in the deal.

Iran has repeatedly warned that if its interests are not

guaranteed under the nuclear agreement it would resume its nuclear activities with a greater speed.

The Joint Commission of the JCPOA held its first meeting at the foreign ministerial level in Vienna on Friday to discuss ways to preserve the agreement.

European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini, who chaired the meeting, announced that Iran and the remaining parties to the nuclear agreement had agreed to continue negotiations, including on economic measures, over how to save the deal. It was the first foreign ministerial meeting since the U.S. quit the multilateral deal.

The nuclear deal, struck in July 2015 between Iran, the European Union, Germany and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, went into effect in January 2016. Under the agreement Iran is obliged to lower its nuclear activities in exchange for termination of sanctions.

■ **‘Iran’s commitment to JCPOA depends on European strategy’**

In a separate meeting with Joschka Fischer, former German foreign minister and vice chancellor, Kharrazi



Kharrazi (R) during his meeting with Annen in Berlin

said that Iran’s commitment to the JCPOA depends on Europe’s strategy to counter the U.S. sanctions.

Fischer said that Europe seeks to offer a package to keep Iran in the deal and counter the U.S. sanctions.

Germany, China insist support for nuclear agreement Merkel: Nuclear deal is ‘well negotiated’

Germany and China have reiterated that they are committed to the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran following the United States’ withdrawal from the multilateral agreement.

Speaking as she met with China’s Premier Li Keqiang on Monday, Chancellor Angela Merkel said the nuclear accord, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), was well-negotiated.

The Chinese premier also warned against the unforeseeable consequences if the deal falls apart, according to Reuters.

“We remain committed to the nuclear agreement. We think it was well negotiated,” Merkel said. “There is more that needs to be negotiated with Iran, but we think it is better to stay in the agreement.”

However, Merkel implied that Berlin could do little to protect international companies against punitive U.S. measures, adding that it is up to individual firms to decide



Keqiang (L) and Merkel meeting in Berlin on Monday

if they want to invest in Iran.

U.S. President Donald Trump announced on May 8 that

U.S. seeks to stop transfer of Iran’s cash out of Germany

By staff and agencies

Top Trump administration officials are working to stop Germany from allowing Iran to fly more than \$350 million in cash out of the country and back to Tehran.

The Trump administration is already working to stop the German government

from allowing this transfer following weekend reports that Iran is poised to fly around 300 million Euros out of the country. The Washington Free Beacon reported on Monday.

On Sunday Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi rejected as baseless that claim that Germany has

blocked parts of the Islamic Republic’s financial assets.

“Unfortunately a psychological war by some extra-regional states and anti-Iran groups has been waged over the past days and weeks as Iran and other parties to the JCPOA have engaged in talks over the future of the 2015 agreement,” website of Iran’s

Foreign Ministry quoted him as saying.

The freeze report came as ministers from Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia met their Iranian counterpart in Vienna Friday to provide Tehran with an economic package to compensate for U.S. sanctions that begin taking effect in August, Press TV reported.

Stop killing Palestinian, Yemeni children: Iran’s UN envoy

➔ Moreover, efforts towards preventing the escalation of current conflicts have to be intensified. In this context, the political settlement must prevail over military solution.

Likewise, by strict, consistent and non-discriminatory application of international law, all perpetrators of violations against children in armed conflicts must be held accountable and brought to justice. Exceptionalism for child killers only exacerbates the situation and further endangers the lives of our children.

If we cannot protect children today, we will fail in preventing conflicts tomorrow. It means we will face a vicious circle of increase in the number of both conflicts and the loss of children’s life.

Mr. President, UNSG’s report once again shows that unfortunately, the scale and severity of violations is seriously alarming in many places, especially in the Palestinian occupied territories and Yemen.

Throughout 2017, a large number of Palestinian children continued to be killed, injured, arrested and detained by Israeli forces. Inclusion of the exponential increase in the level of such violations during 2018 peaceful protests, puts the Israeli regime on top of the list of global child-killers.

This indicates the severity of situation and the brutality of the Israeli forces.

We condemn in the strongest possible terms all brutality of the Israeli forces against the Palestinian children.

Such acts are clear manifestations of war crimes and crime against humanity. They are carried out with total impunity. This must come to an end; and the perpetrators have to be brought to justice. Failing to do so, will only embolden Israel to kill more children.

This situation is the result of the Council’s failure in fulfilling its relevant responsibilities, due to the use of veto



This situation (in Palestine) is the result of the Council’s failure in fulfilling its relevant responsibilities, due to the use of veto power by the U.S. — an unconditional impunity extended by the U.S. to this regime (Israel).

power by the U.S. — an unconditional impunity extended by the U.S. to this regime.

Despite all atrocities against Palestinian children, unfortunately, IDF has never been blacklisted in UNSG reports. It is expected that the 2018 report put Israel on top of the list of violators of the rights of children in armed conflicts. This can bring accuracy, credibility and impartiality to that list.

“Today, enemies of the Islamic Iran seek to create dissatisfaction in the society through portraying the system’s points of strength as weakness and focusing on economic war while the Islamic system is steadfastly moving on the path of progress,” he said.

The defense chief also said that the U.S. has adopted the “tactic of causing distance between the people and the system” to harm the country after finding that it cannot reach its objectives by imposing sanctions.

He added that “external pressure and internal collapse” is another strategy of the enemies but Iran has great capacities to withstand such plots.

President Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from the 2015 nuclear deal on May 8 and plans to re-impose sanctions on Iran.

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

We call for the accountability for the war crimes against children committed by anyone, everywhere, to be in Palestine, Yemen, Myanmar or elsewhere. Adopting a selective approach in such cases is tantamount to betraying the most vulnerable people, children, whom this process is designed to protect. It also discredits UN reports and seriously damages the universality of the application of international humanitarian law. Ending this situation is indeed our common responsibility. We must responsibly fulfill this responsibility.

Rebuilding Syria after foreign-backed war remains ‘top priority,’ Assad says

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad says his top priority is the reconstruction of his country, which has been gripped by foreign-backed militancy since March 2011.

“Reconstruction is the top priority in Syria, backed up by the continued fight against terrorism,” Assad said on Monday during a meeting with Foreign Minister Walid al-Muallem and other Syrian diplomats in Damascus.

The years-long militancy has badly damaged the country’s infrastructure, including electricity and water systems, schools and hospitals, and other institutions needed for daily civilian life. In 2017, the World Bank estimated the cost of war-related losses in Syria at \$226 billion.

Assad, who has estimated rebuilding would cost \$200 billion at the very least, has insisted he would refuse Western contributions.

In an interview in June with Russia’s NTV network, Assad said the West “won’t be part of reconstruction in Syria, because very simply we won’t allow them to be part of it, whether they come with money or not.”

Assad also said in the same interview that Syria would not accept any Western money to help rebuild the country. “We have enough strength to rebuild the country. If we don’t have money, we will borrow from our friends, from Syrians living abroad.”

The Syrian leader has also stressed that he



does not think it is worth pursuing negotiations with the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump to reach an understanding over the crisis in his country.

The U.S. and its allies have been bombarding what they call Daesh positions inside Syria since September 2014 without any authorization from the Damascus government or a UN mandate.

The strikes have on many occasions re-

sulted in civilian casualties and failed to fulfill their declared aim of countering terrorism.

Damascus says the U.S. and its Western and regional allies are aiding Takfiri terrorist groups operating inside the Arab country, while the Tel Aviv regime’s military carries out sporadic strikes against Syrian government forces.

The Israeli regime, one of Washington’s top allies, has even set up field hospitals to

treat wounded militants evacuated from Syria.

Furthermore, the Syrian army has repeatedly seized huge quantities of U.S. and Israeli-made weapons and advanced military equipment from the foreign-backed militants inside Syria.

Syrian army forces have made significant advancements against Takfiri terrorists in the various parts of the country in recent months. On Monday, the Syrian head of state also said his government would focus on amending legislation, the return of refugees who fled because of “terrorism” and reactivating the stalled political process.

Over six million Syrians have been internally displaced by the conflict, while another five million have fled to neighboring countries.

A Lebanese official has said that Lebanon and Syria were working together to facilitate the return of thousands of refugees who are willing to head home.

“There are contacts with the Syrian authorities about thousands of Syrians who want to return to Syria,” Lebanon’s head of the General Security agency Major General Abbas Ibrahim told reporters on May 31.

The official did not give a timeframe for the return of refugees, but noted that some part of the plan would take place in the short term.

(Source: agencies)

EU’s Tusk tells Trump: ‘Appreciate your allies’ Trump says Putin may be easiest meeting of European trip

European Union President Donald Tusk delivered blunt message to U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday on the eve of a NATO summit in Brussels, telling him to “appreciate your allies”.

Trump has ramped up criticism of European defense spending in recent days, stressing how many EU members are failing to meet agreed targets for investments, which has raised fears the NATO summit could lead to another bust-up in the transatlantic alliance.

Speaking at a signing ceremony for a new EU-NATO cooperation agreement, Tusk used the opportunity to send a personal message to Trump, who is due to arrive in the Belgian capital later Tuesday.

“I would like to address president Trump directly who for a long time now has been criticizing Europe almost daily,” the former Polish prime minister said.

“The U.S. doesn’t have and won’t have a better ally than the EU. We spend on defense much more than Russia and as much as China,” he added. “Dear America, appreciate your allies, after all you don’t have that many.”

He concluded with a reminder that European troops had fought and lost their lives alongside Americans in Afghanistan following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

“Please remember this tomorrow when we meet at the NATO summit, but above all when you meet President [Vladimir] Putin in Helsinki. It is always worth knowing who is your strategic friend and who is your strategic problem,” he said.

Trump will meet the Russian leader in the Finnish capital on July 16. The U.S. leader again took aim at NATO and the EU on Tuesday.

“Getting ready to leave for Europe. First meeting - NATO. The U.S. is spending many times more than any other country in order to protect them. Not fair to the U.S. taxpayer. On top of that we lose \$151 Billion on Trade with the European Union. Charge us big Tariffs [& Barriers]!” he wrote on Twitter.

“NATO countries must pay MORE, the United States must pay LESS. Very Unfair!” he said in a second message.

Easiest meeting

Meanwhile, U.S. President Donald Trump Tuesday said his meeting with Russia’s Vladimir Putin may prove easier



than those with European allies, moments before departing for Brussels for a key NATO summit.

“Frankly, Putin may be the easiest of them all. Who would think?” Trump told reporters before boarding Air Force One, referring to his upcoming meeting with the Russian leader in Helsinki.

Trump also vowed not to be “taken advantage” of by the EU, who he says does not do enough to support the transatlantic alliance and takes unfair advantage of the U.S. on trade.

“It’s certainly going to be an interesting time with NATO,” he told journalists. “NATO has not treated us fairly but I think we will work something out. We pay far too much and they pay far too little.”

“But we will work it out and all countries will be happy.”

Allies are bracing for what could be one of the most hos-

tile meetings of the transatlantic group in years as Trump ramps up his criticism of longstanding European partners.

“The U.S. is spending many times more than any other country in order to protect them. Not fair to the U.S. taxpayer,” Trump tweeted earlier in the morning, calling the situation “Very Unfair!”

“On top of that we lose \$151 Billion on Trade with the European Union. Charge us big Tariffs [& Barriers]!” he added.

Trump has insisted that he will be “totally prepared” for the meeting with Putin, who on Tuesday he called “a competitor.”

“I think that getting along with Russia, getting along with China, getting along with others is a good thing, not a bad thing,” he said.

(Source: agencies)

Japan struggles to get help to victims of worst floods in decades

Japan struggled on Tuesday to restore utilities after its worst weather disaster in 36 years killed at least 155 people, with survivors facing health risks from broiling temperatures and a lack of water, while rescuers kept up a grim search for victims.

Torrential rain unleashed floods and landslides in western Japan last week, bringing death and destruction, especially to neighborhoods built decades ago near steep slopes. About 67 people are missing, the government said.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has cancelled an overseas trip to cope with the disaster, which at one point forced several million from their homes.

The premier faced some criticism after a photograph made the rounds on Twitter showing him and the defense minister at a dinner with lawmakers last Thursday, just as the rain was worsening.

Abe has seen his support rates rebound after slumping over a suspected cronyism scandal and is keen to prevent any declines ahead of a ruling-party leadership race in September.

Power had been restored to all but 3,500 households but more than 200,000 people remain without water under scorching sun, with temperatures hitting 33 Celsius in some of the hardest-hit areas, such as the city of Kurashiki.

“There have been requests for setting up air-conditioners due to rising temperatures above 30 degrees today, and at the same time we need to restore lifelines,” Finance Minister Taro Aso told reporters after a cabinet meeting.



Roads caked in dried mud threw up clouds of dust when rescue vehicles or other cars drove by.

Stunned survivors recounted narrow escapes.

“It was close. If we had been five minutes later, we would not have made it,” said Yusuke Suwa, who fled by car with his wife early on Saturday when an evacuation order came after midnight.

“It was dark and we could not see clearly what was happening, although we knew water was running outside. We did not realize it was becoming such a big deal.”

A quarter of flood-prone Mabi district of Kurashiki, sandwiched between two rivers, was inundated after a levee crumbled under the force of the torrent.

The government has set aside 70 billion yen (\$631 million) in infrastructure funds with 350 billion yen (\$3.15 billion) in reserve. Aso said, adding that an extra budget would be considered if needed.

“When necessary amounts firm up ... we would consider an extra budget later on if these funds prove insufficient.”

Japan issues weather warnings early, but its dense population means that almost every bit of usable land, including some flood plains, is built on in the mostly mountainous country, leaving it prone to disasters.

Some residents of Mabi had shrugged off the warnings given the area’s history of floods.

“We had evacuation orders before and nothing happened, so I just thought this was going to be the same,” said Kenji Ishii, 57,

who stayed at home with his wife and son.

But they were soon marooned by rising flood waters and a military boat had to pluck them from the second floor of their house, where they had taken refuge.

Hundreds of residents of Mabi were taking refuge in a school on high ground.

“Everything was destroyed and both of our cars were totalled as well,” said a woman in her forties, who was taking shelter in the gym with her brother and parents.

“We don’t know how long we’re allowed to stay here. Finding a place to live in, even if it’s temporary, is our top priority.”

Most of the deaths in hard-hit Hiroshima were from landslides in areas where homes had been built up against steep slopes, beginning in the 1970s, said Takashi Tsuchida, a civil engineering professor at Hiroshima University.

“People have been living for 40 to 50 years in an area that had latent risk, but decades went by without disaster,” he said.

“But intense rainfall has become more frequent, and the hidden vulnerability has become apparent,” he said.

Though the weather has cleared up, the disaster goes on.

A new evacuation order went out on Tuesday in a part of Hiroshima after a river blocked by debris overflowed its banks, affecting 23,000 people.

Another storm, Typhoon Maria, was bearing down on outlying islands in the Okinawa chain but it had weakened from a super-typhoon and was not expected to have any impact on Japan’s four main islands.

(Source: Reuters)

Canada extends NATO mission in Latvia to 2023: Trudeau

Canada has extended its leadership of the NATO battalion based in Latvia until 2023, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Tuesday in Riga, a day ahead of the alliance’s summit in Brussels.

Canada leads one of four battalions deployed by the Western defense alliance on its eastern flank in a deterrence and defense posture following Russia’s annexation of Crimea in 2014.

“We are ready to support our allies while facing global threats to security,” said Trudeau, adding that Canada’s current mission initially slated to expire in 2019, “will be prolonged for four years.”

“Canada will not change its attitude towards security of the Baltic countries,” Trudeau told reporters at a press conference with his Latvian counterpart Maris Kucinskis.

The Latvian premier hailed Ottawa’s decision to extend its mission as “the perfect gift to Latvia on its centenary”.

Later on Tuesday, Trudeau was due to visit some 450 Canadian troops deployed for Operation Reassurance, which is Canada’s largest sustained military presence in Europe in more than a decade.

In total, over 1,000 NATO troops from nine other alliance members are deployed in the Latvian battalion.

The other three NATO battalions are based in Estonia, Lithuania and Poland and are led by Britain, Germany and the United States, respectively.

Trudeau’s visit is the first ever by a Canadian head of government to Latvia, his office said. He now heads to Brussels for the NATO summit on July 11 and 12.

(Source: AFP)

New flotilla sets sail from Gaza in protest at Israeli siege

Another flotilla has set sail from the Gaza Strip to Cyprus in a show of protest against the Israeli regime’s crippling siege of the coastal enclave, which has been in place for more than a decade.

“The flotilla will set out at 11 a.m. tomorrow carrying sick and injured Palestinians who have been unable to travel abroad [for medical treatment] as a result of the blockade,” Bassam Manasra, a spokesman for Gaza’s National Committee for Breaking the Siege, said at a Monday press conference in Gaza City.

“We announced plans to launch another flotilla... more than a month ago and won’t back down from the decision until we meet our objectives,” Manasra said.

The first flotilla set sail from waters off Gaza on May 29, carrying Palestinian patients -- mostly those injured during the Tel Aviv regime’s military crackdown on weeks-long rallies against Israel’s occupation.

That flotilla, which was composed of a main boat accompanied by smaller boats, was swiftly intercepted and seized by Israeli navy forces. The 17 Palestinian activists aboard the vessels were also taken into custody.

Separately, a “Freedom Flotilla Coalition” has dispatched a ship to Gaza, which similarly seeks to break the Israeli siege. It has traveled thousands of miles from Scandinavian ports and was reported to be near Corsica on July 8.

Gaza has been under an Israeli siege since June 2007, which has caused a sharp decline in living standards as well as unprecedented unemployment and poverty. According to the UN, the stringent conditions threaten to render the territory uninhabitable by 2020.

Egypt closely cooperates with Israel in maintaining the siege by keeping Rafah, Gaza’s only land terminal that bypasses Israel, closed most of the time. The situation has seriously affected the Palestinian patients’ chances of seeking treatment abroad.

The Palestinian National Organizing Committee of the Great Return March has also confirmed the trip.

The committee has been organizing the Return rallies on the Gaza Strip’s border since March 30. At least 135 Palestinians, including 14 children, have been killed during the protests, which uphold Palestinians’ right to return to their homes in the lands occupied by Israel.

On May 31, 2010, Israeli commandos attacked one such flotilla, which was trying to take humanitarian aid to Gaza, in international waters in the Mediterranean, killing 10 activists onboard.

(Source: Press TV)

Swiss file WTO case against Trump tariffs

Switzerland filed a complaint on Monday with the World Trade Organization (WTO) against the United States over the tariffs imposed by the Trump administration on steel and aluminum imports.

Swiss companies exported about \$80 million in steel and aluminum products to the U.S. in 2017, according to a government statement.

Switzerland is just the latest country to file a lawsuit against the United States over the tariffs, joining the European Union, among others.

Other countries have taken steps to retaliate against the U.S. exports, prompting fears of a wider trade war.

Switzerland noted in a statement that it had sought an exemption from the tariffs.

“In order to protect Switzerland’s interests, Federal Councilor Schneider-Ammann has taken the decision to initiate WTO dispute settlement proceedings,” the statement continued. “Other WTO members affected by the tariffs, including Canada, the EU, Mexico, and Norway, have also requested consultations with the U.S.”

A request for consultations is the first step in a WTO dispute settlement case. If the WTO rules against the United States, it could authorize other parties to impose retaliation against the U.S.

Switzerland echoed other U.S. allies in arguing that the president was “unjustified” in declaring a national security reason for initiating the tariffs. Under the Section 232 U.S. law, the president may impose tariffs on imports if he determines the imports are a threat to security.

“From Switzerland’s point of view, the additional duties, which according to the U.S. have been introduced to protect national security, are unjustified,” the statement read.

(Source: The Hill)

STOCK MARKET	
TEDPIX	110849.0
IFX	1237.53
Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir	

CURRENCIES	
USD	43,010rials
EUR	50,463 rials
GBP	57,000 rials
AED	11,710 rials
Source: mehrnews.com	

COMMODITIES	
WTI	\$74.10/b
Brent	\$78.98/b
OPEC Basket	\$74.50/b
Gold	\$1,252.70 /oz
Silver	\$16.07/oz
Platinum	\$847.80/oz
Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com	

NEWS IN BRIEF



CERA FAIR 2018
hosting over 200
companies

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The 25th edition of Iran’s International Exhibition of Ceramic Industries (CERA FAIR 2018) kicked off on Tuesday at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds, IRIB reported.

The four-day exhibit, which is hosting 200 Iranian and foreign companies, lays a proper ground for finding new exports markets and recognizing the potentials of tile and ceramic industry as well as attraction of investment and promotion of entrepreneurship.



Iran’s crude steel
production grows
22% annually

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iran’s annual crude steel production increased 22 percent in 2017, while the world’s production improved by six percent in the said time, Iranian Industry Minister Mohammad Shariatmadari announced on Tuesday.

“Iran produces 34 million tons of steel per year and is aimed at producing 55 million tons of the product by 2025,” he said, “To hit the target, Iran is in need of attracting €8 billion of investments, and also making €6.5 billion of investments in railway sector and €4 million of investments in power sector.”

“The country exports 9 million tons of crude steel per year and plans to improve the figure up to 15 million tons by 2025,” IRNA quoted him as saying.

As Iranian Deputy Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Jafar Sarqini announced in mid-June, 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.

Mario Draghi: ECB’s
monetary easing has been
‘very effective’

The Eurozone’s top central banker has said policymakers’ aggressive monetary easing, including its landmark quantitative easing program, has been “very effective” and will boost growth and inflation by 1.9 percentage points between 2016 and 2020. Mario Draghi told the European Parliament on Monday: “Our measures are playing a decisive role in bringing inflation back on track to reach a level that is below, but close to, 2 percent over the medium term. However, we need to be patient, persistent and prudent in our policy to ensure that inflation remains on a sustained adjustment path.



“The bank plans to stop expanding the €2.4tn program in December, and from September will buy €15bn in bonds each month, half of the €30bn it is buying at the moment. It has held its deposit rate — now minus 0.4 percent — below zero since the middle of June 2014 and rates are expected to remain on hold until September 2019. While the European Central Bank will stop buying new bonds, it is expected to reinvest the proceeds of securities that it has already bought under QE,

a program that began in March 2015.

Draghi will now face questions from lawmakers on the region’s economic outlook. The ECB president called on the EU to lead “by example” and support multilateralism and global trade, which he described as “cornerstones of growing economic prosperity over the past seven decades.” “To be successful on the outside, the EU requires strong institutions and sound economic governance at home.”

(Source: Financial Times)

Sanctions on
Iran costing Total
a “big deal”

ENERGY **TEHRAN** — U.S. **d e s k** sanctions on Iran may complicate Total’s attempts for selling some of its assets in Britain’s North Sea that could fetch a total of \$1.5 billion, Reuters reported quoting four banking and industry sources.

According to the report, France’s Total is set to sell a third of its stake in Laggan Tormore gas field along with other oil and gas assets in North Sea.

The divestment will include stakes in a

number of small fields including Golden Eagle, in which Total has a 32 percent stake, as well as Dumbarton (30 percent), Bruce (43 percent) and Keith (25 percent).

However, since Bruce, Keith are adjacent to Rhum field, which is 50 percent owned by Iran’s national oil company, any deal for the Bruce and Keith fields is likely to be complicated.

London-listed Serica Energy, which agreed to acquire stakes in Bruce, Keith



and the adjacent Rhum field from BP last year, is seeking a waiver from the U.S. government to allow it to operate Rhum as Washington prepares to re-impose

sanctions on Tehran.

Without a waiver, the field will have to shut down, leaving Bruce and Keith holding little value, the sources said.

NIGC supplies power plants with 285mcm of gas per day

ENERGY **TEHRAN** — National Iranian Gas **d e s k** Company (NIGC) has been supplying the power plants in the country with 285 million cubic meters (mcm) of gas per day since the beginning of summer, Mehdi Jamshidi Dana, the dispatching director in NIGC, announced.

The official said that this amount of gas meets the whole need of power plants for fuel, Shana news agency reported on Tuesday.

In order to expand cooperation with the Energy Ministry



and also with Iran’s Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution Management Company (known as Tavanir) for generation of more electricity, NIGC has made necessary coordination and planning for supplying more gas to the power plants, the director further noted.

He put the amount of gas supplied to the country’s power plants at over 67.5 billion cubic meters in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20, 2018) and said that this amount has been more than 90 percent of the power plants’ need for duel.

Germany and China sign deals, lobby against U.S. trade tariffs

German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang stressed their commitment to a multilateral trade system Monday in the wake of Washington’s decision to impose widespread tariffs, saying it was to everyone’s benefit.

Speaking in Berlin after the two countries signed deals worth 20 billion euros (\$23.6 billion), Li told reporters the projects demonstrated how nations could work together.

In addition to multiple joint cooperation projects between governmental agencies, companies like BASF, BMW, Volkswagen, Daimler, Siemens and Bosch announced deals and partnerships.

“Free trade plays a strong leading role for both sides and for the world economy,” Li said through an interpreter in the Berlin chancellery.

On Friday, U.S. President Donald Trump

imposed 25 percent tariffs on \$34 billion of Chinese goods in response to complaints Beijing steals or pressuring companies to hand over technology. China announced retaliatory tariffs on a similar amount of U.S. goods.

Trump has also imposed tariffs on aluminum and steel imports that include the European Union, and has threatened additional tariffs on products like automobiles, singling out Germany in particular.

Bavaria-based automaker BMW has already been caught in the middle of escalating trade strife between the U.S. and China, saying Monday it would have to raise prices on SUVs it builds in the U.S. that it exports to China, after Beijing raised the import tax on cars from the United States to 40 percent from 15 percent.

“We have a lot of direct investment in

the United States of America, we have a lot of direct investment in China,” Merkel said.

“You do not want to give Jeff Bezos a seven-year head start.”

“It really is a multilateral interdependent system that at its best most likely is really a plurilateral win-win situation when we stick to the rules.”

She also applauded China for relaxing rules on foreign investment, saying that it was important to see “the market opening in China in this area is not only words, but is also being followed by deeds.”

In one deal finalized on Monday, Chinese firm CATL announced that it would build a factory in the German state of Thuringia to build batteries to supply to BMW for use in electric cars.

BMW said it had agreed to purchase 4 billion euros worth of batteries, with 1.5



billion euros of sales in Germany and 2.5 billion in China.

Merkel said the company brings a product and technology to Germany that wasn’t previously available.

She added, however: “If we could do it ourselves, I’d also not be sad.”

(Source: CNBC)

Foreign funds keep pouring into China despite Yuan’s jitters

The sharpest decline of China’s yuan since a turbulent devaluation in 2015 hasn’t fazed international bond funds, suggesting their diversification flows will be a useful stabilizing force for the nation’s policy makers.

“The falling yuan is a concern, but as long as it’s not in a severe downtrend, it’s not the biggest consideration when we’re investing in local-currency bonds in China,” said Manu George, director of fixed income at Schroder Investment Management Ltd. in Singapore, in a view echoed by other market participants.

June saw the yuan’s biggest monthly drop against the dollar since 1994, yet overseas investors poured the most into China’s domestic bonds in almost two years. The contrast is a testament to foreign demand for exposure to the country’s \$12 trillion bond market, the world’s third-largest. China has steadily opened to international investors in part to provide a balance against domestic pressures to ferret money out.

The sustained inflows are also important for China’s borrowing costs, because overseas investors have replaced domestic banks as the dominant marginal player in the government bond market this year. Their purchases have helped lower the yield on China’s 10-year notes by the most in Asia -- and among emerging markets more broadly.

■ Stability pledge

While the yuan’s slide from mid-June stoked speculation China’s leadership was turning to depreciation as a weapon against U.S. President Donald Trump’s protectionist trade moves, the country’s monetary authorities have pledged a stable currency. It was little changed at 6.6148 per dollar at 3:19 p.m. in Shanghai, after jumping the most since January on Monday.

Rather than getting spooked as in 2015, when China was battling against fears of an economic hard landing, market players this time around see a weaker yuan as part of a supportive monetary stance that should prove good for bonds. And with the trade battle threatening to curb growth, Chinese policy makers also have cause to go easy on financial deleveraging, which has hammered the corporate debt market.



“Allowing yuan depreciation is part of a directed policy of easing,” said Pierre-Yves Bareaud, chief investment officer for emerging-market debt at JPMorgan Chase & Co.’s asset management unit in London. “We don’t think this has parallels to the drop in 2015. Policy makers are fully in control and anchoring the situation.”

■ Central banks

Ji Tianhe, a China strategist at BNP Paribas SA, went so far as to expect that “some investors would deem the depreciation a buying opportunity, as the slide creates room for future appreciation.”

Central banks have probably also been key to the inflows, said Becky Liu, the Hong Kong-based head of China macro strategy at Standard Chartered Plc. She noted that official demand takes more of a long-term view. The yuan has been rising in allocations since it won official reserve-currency status from the IMF in 2015.

Not all has been so rosy for China’s assets. Foreigners initially jumped into domestic stocks newly available in MSCI Inc.’s international indexes from the start of last month, but inflows have tailed off in the past three weeks as the yuan slid.

UK economy perks up slightly as BoE nears rate decision

Britain’ economy picked up a bit of speed in May after slowing in early 2018, according to official figures that are likely to give the Bank of England more confidence about raising interest rates next month.

A new monthly reading of gross domestic product showed the world’s fifth-biggest economy grew by 0.3 percent in May from April.

That was up from growth of 0.2 percent in April and in line with the forecast in a Reuters poll of economists, marking the strongest growth since November, the Office for National Statistics said on Tuesday.

Sterling fell against the dollar after the data, which showed a mixed picture of the economy. Growth came mostly from the dominant services sector while factory output disappointed.

But Cathal Kennedy, an economist at RBC Capital Markets, said the figures should sup-

port expectations that the BoE would raise rates in August.

“The gradual momentum into May really backs up what the Bank has been saying of late. We have seen a bounceback from the first quarter,” he said.

BoE Governor Mark Carney and other top officials at the central bank opted not to raise rates in May because of the early 2018 slowdown.

Instead, they decided to wait for signs the weakness was temporary and caused by unusually cold winter weather rather than a sign of broader problems before Britain’s exit from the European Union next year.

However, upheaval in the government of Prime Minister Theresa May — battling to keep her grip on the ruling Conservative Party, which is split over Brexit — could yet affect confidence among employers, a potential new hurdle for the BoE.

Britain’ economy grew by 0.2 percent in the three months to May, as expected, after stagnating in the three months to April.

In annual terms, the economy was 1.5 percent bigger than in May last year, the ONS said.

The BoE’ rate-setting committee is expected to raise rates by 25 basis points to 0.75 percent — only its second rate increase in more than a decade — on Aug. 2, according to a Reuters poll of economists.

The ONS said the warm weather and spending around the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle helped the economy.

Britain’s services industry grew 0.3 percent month-on-month in May, slowing from an upwardly revised 0.4 percent in April.

Over the three months to May, growth in services — which makes up 80 percent of economic output — picked up speed to

0.4 percent from 0.2 percent.

But industrial output fell unexpectedly in May by 0.4 percent on the month, hit by the shutdown of the Sullom Voe oil and gas terminal.

Manufacturing growth also disappointed, rising only 0.4 percent on the month — less than half the growth rate expected in the Reuters poll.

May capped the weakest three months for British factories since December 2012.

There was better news from construction, which had struggled in the bad weather of early 2018. Output jumped 2.9 percent in May, far exceeding expectations and marking the first growth in the sector since December.

Separate data showed Britain’s deficit in goods trade during May was broadly unchanged from April at 12.362 billion pounds (\$16.37 billion).

(Source: Reuters)

Oil prices rise as looming Norway strike adds to disruptions

Oil prices rose on Tuesday on escalating concerns over potential supply shortages, with Brent crude leading the way as hundreds of oil workers in Norway were set to strike later in the day.

Brent crude added 55 cents, or 0.7 percent, to \$78.62 per barrel by 0638 GMT, following a 1.2-percent climb on Monday.

U.S. light crude futures were up 47 cents, or 0.7 percent, at \$74.32.

Hundreds of workers on Norwegian oil and gas offshore rigs are due to strike on Tuesday after rejecting a proposed wage deal, a move which will likely affect the production of at least one field, Shell's Knarr.

That potentially adds to disruptions in other oil producers amid tensions in the Middle East.

The United States says it wants to reduce oil exports from Iran, the world's fifth-biggest producer, to zero by November, which would oblige other big producers to pump more.

Saudi Arabia, fellow members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and allies including Russia agreed



last month to increase output to dampen price gains and offset global production losses in countries including Libya.

The market has grown concerned that if the Saudis offset the losses from Iran, that will use up global spare capacity and leave

markets more vulnerable to further or unexpected production declines.

"The bottom line becomes the available spare capacity within OPEC ... and the markets have started to focus on that," said Victor Shum, vice-president for energy at IHS markets in Singapore.

"It is likely that concern will support prices all through the summer, while demand continues to be strong during the summer peak," he said.

Libya's national oil production fell to 527,000 barrels per day from a high of 1.28 million bpd in February following recent oil port closures, the head of the National Oil Corporation said in a statement on Monday.

In Canada, an outage at the 360,000-barrel per day (bpd) Syncrude oil sands facility reduced flows into Cushing, Oklahoma, the delivery point for U.S. futures.

Money managers raised their bullish bets on U.S. crude in the week to July 3, the U.S. Commodity Trading Commission said on Monday.

(Source: Reuters)

U.S. sanctions could add \$50 to oil prices

The oil industry might not be able to produce enough oil to meet global demand in a few years' time.

To be sure, much of the oil world is focused on the supply fears in the near-term. The outages in several OPEC nations, plus the tightening noose on Iran from the U.S. government, could lead to a supply shortfall towards the end of this year, a hole so big that Saudi Arabia could struggle to fill it, even if it burned through much of its spare capacity.

But over the long-term, there are also questions about the global oil industry's ability to supply enough oil to the market.

It isn't the same "peak oil" theory as yesterday, but there certainly seem to be echoes of that argument bubbling up the surface once again. While the world isn't running out of oil, there could be a shortage of cheap oil by the early part of the next decade. The majors have cut spending on exploration and development so drastically that there will be a dearth of new large-scale projects coming online in the next few years.

And the new hyper-focus on profitability

at the expense of growth, a mantra pressed upon oil companies by restive shareholders, could keep supply constrained.

The IEA has repeatedly warned over the past few years that U.S. shale growth would likely plateau in the 2020s, which means that the world would be right back to where it started – dependent on oil-producing nations in the Middle East. There are some shale boosters that see nothing but sunny days ahead for U.S. shale, but a lot of other market watchers see shale flattening out in the next decade before entering into an extended period of decline. After that, as the IEA has argued, the Middle East will once again be the supplier of last resort.

The problem is that the supply crunch might be so severe that Saudi Arabia won't be able to come to the rescue.

"Something like shale oil...it is not going to really create a major dent in total global supply requirements up until 2040," Saudi Aramco's CEO Amin Nasser said in an interview with the Financial Times. "Everybody needs to do his share...We will contribute, but how much we will contribute?" he said,

a recognition that Saudi Arabia won't be able to do it alone.

U.S. shale growth over the past decade has been so explosive that it helped crash oil prices in 2014. But the supply surge masks "chronic underinvestment," Sanford C. Bernstein & Co. analysts wrote in a note last week. The investment manager said the newfound focus on profitability, which has led a long list of oil and gas companies to deprioritize growth, could create the conditions for a major supply crisis.

"Investors who had egged on management teams to reign in capex and return cash will lament the underinvestment in the industry," the analysts wrote. "Any shortfall in supply will result in a super-spike in prices, potentially much larger than the \$150 a barrel spike witnessed in 2008."

Of course, for many, this is a problem for another day. The oil market is arguably facing a supply crisis right now. Until recently, the oil market assumed a loss of about 0.5 mb/d from Iran because of U.S. sanctions. But statements from the U.S. government about "zero

tolerance" towards Iran could mean that those losses will end up being much higher. Just by shifting the supply outages from 0.5 to 1 mb/d would translate into an oil price increase of about \$8 to \$9 per barrel, according to Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

"We estimate that every million b/d shift in [supply and demand] balances would push the oil price by \$17/bbl on average. So based on those assumptions, we estimate zero Iran exports could push oil up by \$50/bbl if Saudi caps out. We expect in this game of chicken, someone will blink before that happens."

In other words, if Saudi Arabia is unable to plug the deficit, the U.S. would likely have to back down on its "zero tolerance" policy towards Iran. The oil market is too tight, and the supply gap would be too large. Cutting Iran exports by that much, in an increasingly tight oil market, would send prices skyrocketing, something that the Trump administration probably won't be able to stomach. If Trump proceeded, a price spike of that magnitude would lead to a meltdown in demand.

(Source: oilprice.com)

Do not blame OPEC, oil producer group says of Trump criticism

The president of OPEC defended the oil producer group on Monday against U.S. President Donald Trump's recent demands for higher oil output, saying OPEC does not shoulder the blame.

"OPEC alone cannot be blamed for all the problems that are happening in the oil industry, but at the same time we were responsive in terms of the measures we took in our latest meeting in June," Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries President Suhail al-Mazrouei told Reuters in an interview in Calgary, Alberta.

"I feel OPEC is doing its part."

Trump has accused OPEC in recent weeks of driving gasoline prices higher and stepped up pressure on U.S. ally Saudi Arabia to raise supplies to compensate for lower exports from Iran.

Washington has warned that it will impose sanctions on foreign companies that do business with Iran, in an effort to cut Iran's exports of crude oil and condensates to zero from over 2 million barrels per day.

Mazrouei said OPEC was willing to listen to major oil-producing countries, including the United States.

OPEC agreed in June on a modest increase in oil production starting in July after its leader, Saudi Arabia, persuaded arch-rival Iran to cooperate, following calls from major consumers to curb rising fuel costs.

Global oil prices have climbed steadily this year, helped by rising demand, and topped \$80 per barrel in May for the first time in 3-1/2 years.

Mazrouei, who also serves as energy minister of the United Arab Emirates, said OPEC member crude producers had enough capacity to handle any unforeseen global supply disruptions. OPEC is seeking a balance between supply and demand, not targeting a crude price, he said.

The UAE alone has 400,000 to 600,000 barrels per day of additional capacity, he said.

Mazrouei said he did not anticipate needing to call any extraordinary meeting of OPEC member countries before a scheduled meeting in December.

The OPEC president is in Canada during its annual Calgary Stampede, a rodeo that serves as the year's biggest oil-industry networking party. Mazrouei is scheduled to speak on Wednesday to a business group that promotes stronger trade ties between Canada and the UAE.

(Source: Reuters)



LONGINES®



SARMAN Co.

1832 Dr. Shariati Ave. Next to Pol-E-Roomi Tehran IRAN
Tel.: +98 21 226.137.52

Longines DolceVita

The migration dilemma

By Peter Singer

Political leaders who want to act humanely towards asylum-seekers and other migrants now face a moral dilemma. Either they pursue border control that is strict enough to undercut public support for far-right parties, or they risk allowing those parties to gain more power — and challenge the West's most fundamental values.

The most heart-rending media story of the past month featured children crying after being separated from their parents at the border between the United States and Mexico. U.S. President Donald Trump, after initially defending the separations, yielded to public pressure and signed an executive order ending it. In Europe, too, immigrants made headlines as the ship Aquarius, carrying 629 rescued would-be immigrants, was turned away by Italy's new populist government, as well as by Malta. That formed the background to a European Union meeting in Brussels, which hammered out a compromise on how to protect Europe's borders and screen arriving migrants.



Less than three years ago, when more than 100,000 asylum seekers were arriving at the EU's borders every month, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said: "The fundamental right to asylum for the politically persecuted knows no upper limit." She added that this applies also to "refugees who come to us from the hell of a civil war."

Merkel followed those words with action. In 2015, Germany registered 890,000 asylum seekers, and over the 18-month period from September 1 of that year, accepted more than 600,000 applications for asylum. To integrate so many newcomers from very different cultural backgrounds was obviously going to be a difficult task, but Merkel famously proclaimed, "Wir schaffen das" (We can do it). No act by any German leader, not even Willy Brandt's spontaneous decision in 1970 to kneel before a memorial to the heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, has more decisively distanced Germany from its racist past.

Last month, on the day before the Brussels meeting, Merkel spoke very differently, telling the German parliament that Europe faces many challenges, "but that of migration could become one that determines the fate of the European Union."

The reasons for this shift in emphasis are obvious. Less than two months after Merkel championed the unlimited right to asylum, Poland's voters put the anti-immigrant Law and Justice party in power. The following year, British voters chose to leave the EU, and Trump was elected.

The trend continued in 2017. Austria's snap election in May led to a coalition government that includes the far-right Freedom Party. In September, Germany's federal election resulted in an eight-point swing against Merkel's Christian Democratic Union, and the anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany, which had never before won a seat in the Bundestag, became the country's third-largest party.

This year, Italy's general election in March led to a coalition government in which the far-right League party's Matteo Salvini — who, as interior minister, refused safe harbor to the Aquarius — appears to be the dominant figure. Finally, and most predictably of all these results, Viktor Orbán, Hungary's authoritarian anti-immigrant prime minister, was returned to office, retaining his Fidesz party's control — in coalition with the Christian Democratic People's Party — of a two-thirds parliamentary majority.

Migration played a role — possibly a decisive role — in every one of these results. That is tragic, not just for would-be immigrants, but for the world. We all respond to the cries of the children separated from their parents by Trump's immigration policies. We cannot yet hear the cries of the children who will go to bed hungry because rich countries' failure to tackle climate change has dried up the rains needed for their parents to grow the crops to feed them.

Neither those children nor their parents will be able to claim asylum in the countries responsible for climate change. The UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees defines refugees as those unable or unwilling to return to their country because of a well-founded fear of persecution on the grounds of "race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion." There is no requirement to take economic refugees, and those who wrote the Convention did not think about climate-change refugees.

It is too early to tell how much harm governments that are hostile to immigrants — and skeptical about climate change, the EU, and the United Nations — will eventually cause. But we can already see, in the trade wars that the Trump administration has initiated, the effects of increased nationalism. The populist governments in Hungary and Poland are changing their countries' constitutions in ways that undermine democracy. Trump will not be able to amend the U.S. Constitution, but his appointments to the Supreme Court will change the way it is interpreted, which may amount to the same thing.

The number of immigrants arriving in Europe without permission has now fallen back to pre-2015 levels, so we might hope for a return to pre-2015 politics, too. But, in politics, perception is everything, and the recent Hungarian and Italian elections suggest that the decline in immigrant numbers has not yet had any impact.

Political leaders who want to act humanely toward asylum seekers and other aspiring immigrants now face an awful moral dilemma. Either they go far enough toward stricter border control to undercut public support for far-right parties, or they risk losing not only that battle, but all the other values threatened by anti-immigration governments as well. In the context of Europe's turbulent last three years, Merkel's 2015 statement exemplifies both the inspirational value of proclaiming rights to be inviolable, and why, in the last resort, rights must have a limit.

(Source: Project-Syndicate)

Why Saudi Arabia's powerful crown prince still needs his father

By Bruce Riedel

A year after King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud made his son Mohammed bin Salman crown prince, the 32-year-old remains dependent on his father's legitimacy and credentials to be the heir apparent. Prince Mohammed has polarized the House of Saud more than any figure in more than half a century.

Last summer, the king removed Prince Mohammed bin Nayef from the No. 2 position in the kingdom with no explanation and elevated his son. Nayef had successfully defeated al-Qaeda in Saudi Arabia, foiled terrorist attacks in the United States and Europe, and survived numerous al-Qaeda assassination attempts. Since his removal from the line of succession, he has been under house detention and all of his communications are being monitored. He has little access to outsiders, and his bank accounts were frozen last November.

The Nayef wing of the Saudi royal family has dominated the Ministry of the Interior since the 1970s. It's an enormous bureaucracy filled with people who owe their jobs to the Nayef clan. Security sources say its morale has declined since he was removed.

Numerous sources have now confirmed that another senior prince has been under detention since last fall's wave of arrests of senior officials from the royal family and other prominent families in the kingdom. Most of those arrested were never charged with any crimes and were released only after paying extortion money.

Prince Turki bin Abdullah is the seventh son of the late King Abdullah. No charges have been filed, and he has been denied access to legal counseling. He is allowed only brief phone calls to immediate family. His former chief of staff, Maj. Gen. Ali al-Khatani, was reportedly tortured to death. Turki's cousin has also just been arrested.

Turki was born in 1971. He became a pilot in the Royal Saudi Air Force and was promoted to squadron commander. His father made him deputy governor of Ri-



yadh province and then governor in 2014. He built the Riyadh metro. The Riyadh governorate is the most important in the kingdom because most royals live in it. The governor has access to all the dirt on the royal family — a source of huge power. Prince Salman was governor for 50 years before becoming crown prince.

Turki's detention is producing tension in the family. The king's half brothers, Ahmed and Muqrin, have privately urged for the release of Turki. They were rebuffed, which is very unusual in the House of Saud. Turki is the most senior royal still in prison. His brother Miteb bin Abdullah was arrested last November but released later after paying up. He had been the Saudi National Guard commander — the post his father had held since the 1960s. Turki is the CEO of the King

Abdullah Foundation, which is worth \$20 billion.

The Ministry of the Interior and the Saudi Arabian National Guard are the two most powerful security institutions in the kingdom. Indeed, they have no rivals. Both are the critical power brokers in the capital and the holy cities. They control the guns that matter in Saudi Arabia. Among the others still under detention is a prominent member of the bin Laden family and Prince Mohammed's former economic adviser.

The only precedent for such a family struggle in the modern history of the kingdom was in the 1950s and 1960s. Then, King Saud — the successor to the founder of the modern kingdom, Abdul Aziz Al Saud — alienated his brothers with his corruption and malfeasance.

As long as King Salman is on the throne, the chance of an inside-the-family coup is unlikely.

Power, not Brexit, is behind Boris Johnson's decision to quit

By Martin Kettle

Boris Johnson's resignation turns Theresa May's manic Monday from a crisis about Brexit policy into a crisis about the Conservative leadership. The resignation is not about the former. It is about the latter. David Davis resigned overnight because he disagreed with May's policy on customs and trade links with Europe. Johnson has now followed him because he wants to become prime minister. Davis resigned on an issue of principle; Johnson resigned on an issue of self-interest.

That does not mean it will happen. Johnson is damaged goods in large parts of the Conservative party. Many will be delighted to see him go. He has been a second-rate foreign secretary. He bottled the issue on Heathrow, preferring to spend the day in Kabul rather than to vote the way he had said he would on the third runway. He has praised Donald Trump, even as the U.S. president set about destroying global rules and alliances. He has lost some of the allure that he once had as the Heineken Tory who could reach parts of the electorate that other Tories couldn't. In some parts of the party he is now an embarrassment. In a recent poll of Tory members on May's successor, Johnson polled fourth,



The foreign secretary's self-regard is incontinent, but Theresa May has the support of a clear majority of her party.

behind Sajid Javid, Michael Gove and Jacob Rees-Mogg.

The one thing that has not changed, though, is Johnson's ambition. He may have a second-class mind and character, but he has a first-class ego. Even after he pulled out of the last leadership contest in 2016, he continued to see himself as a political figure above the prime minister and above the party. He can't help himself in this respect. It's simply the way he is. His self-regard is incontinent, just like Trump's.

The threat to May is now severe. But it is not necessarily fatal. She faces a torrid next few hours in the House of Commons and then in a private meeting with Tory MPs. She has many cards in her hand, not least the support of a clear majority of her party at Westminster. A display of strong leadership may enhance her status, not diminish it still further. The public likes strong leaders who take their divided party by the scruff of the neck and tell them home truths. Whether May has the ability to do this will be pivotal too.

The question today, however, is whether the Brexiteers have now made the Conservative party ungovernable. The coming days will decide on that.

(Source: The Guardian)

Trump is a threat to EU security and prosperity

Boosting resilience means higher defense outlay and cutting the current account surplus

By Wolfgang Münchau

Important as the future of the eurozone and a solution to the migration crisis may be, neither are at the top of my to-do list for the EU right now. In the very short term, the single most important problem the EU needs to confront is Donald Trump. The U.S. president poses a clear and present threat to the EU's military security and economic prosperity. The goal should not be to appease him but to address the EU's biggest weakness: lack of resilience. The two priorities I would set, therefore, would be tackling the low levels of defense spending and the eurozone's large current account surplus. Germany plays a central role in both, but the issue will need to be addressed EU-wide. Three of the largest EU member states — Germany, Italy and Spain — have made no efforts to meet the target they agreed to at the NATO summit in 2006, to raise defense spending to 2 per cent of gross domestic product. Germany spent 1.22 per cent last year, Italy 1.13 per cent and Spain 0.92 per cent. Germany's fiscal plan even foresees a fall in the defense spending ratio over a four-year period. There are two standout reasons to raise defense spending in Germany — neither to do with Trump. First, the crippled Bundeswehr needs it.

Years of spending cuts degraded the armed forces' hardware to the point that only a small number of fighter aircraft are combat-ready. Second, if the EU ever were to construct a serious defense capability, it would require that Germany, Italy and Spain all spend their fair share. The same goes for the balance of trade. The large and still rising current account surplus is making the EU vulnerable to U.S. trade tariffs and sanctions. The eurozone's current account surplus was up to 3.9 per cent



of GDP in the first quarter from an average of 3.5 per cent in 2017. Such a high surplus makes the eurozone susceptible to mercantilist trade tariffs, such as Trump's threatened additional duties on European cars.

Volkswagen has already said it will shift capacity to the U.S. in response to the tariffs; Harley-Davidson is moving motorbike production out of the U.S. after being targeted with further duties by the EU in its retaliatory moves. But Harley-Davidson is a midget compared with the VW Group. If Trump's narrow goal is to raise the net production of cars in the U.S. — as opposed to maximizing consumption — he will succeed even though

there will, of course, be an economic cost to pay. So what should the EU do? The bloc could offer talks to reduce the 10 per cent tariff on imported cars if other countries do the same — what is also known as a pluri-lateral trade agreement. It is hard to occupy the moral high ground in a debate on tariffs if you are busy imposing them yourself. I doubt, however, that such a proposal would satisfy Trump — if the immediate objective is to see fewer German cars on Fifth Avenue. The heavy lifting would have to come from a shift in macroeconomic policies. Germany is the main source of the eurozone's current account surplus. The German political class,

If the EU ever were to construct a serious defense capability, it would require that Germany, Italy and Spain all spend their fair share.

In 1958, Saud had been on the throne for five years when Egypt's charismatic President Gamal Abdel Nasser exposed Saud's role in a botched attempt to assassinate Nasser. Using the humiliation as a tipping point, Saud was stripped of all his powers by his brother Crown Prince Faisal but not forced to abdicate. Five years of family struggle then ensued before Saud was finally sent into exile and Faisal became king.

Today the family is divided deeply. As long as King Salman is on the throne, the chance of an inside-the-family coup is unlikely. Salman has legitimacy. He is also not brain dead or incapacitated. He is more involved and important than the Western media suggests. He gives his son "air cover," as one senior official told me. If he lives another decade, a lot may change. If he died tonight, all bets are off.

Assassination is also a possibility. Faisal was assassinated. There are numerous reports that the crown prince was the target of an assassination attempt in April. He was out of the public eye for almost a month afterward. The whole episode is mysterious but points to the state of uncertainty in the kingdom. The crown prince is said to be obsessed with his security.

The crown prince's signature foreign policy initiative is the war in Yemen. The Saudis and their allies are hoping that the battle for the key Yemeni port of Hodeidah will break the 3½-year-old stalemate in the war. Saudi Arabia's Operation Golden Victory in Yemen is a desperate attempt to get out of a quagmire that is costing Saudi Arabia a fortune, has put millions of Yemenis on the edge of starvation.

Ironically, it was another war in Yemen 55 years ago that was the last straw in King Saud's undoing. Faisal used Nasser's 1962 intervention in Yemen to oust Saud for good and consolidate his own power. Saud flew off to exile in Cairo and Athens, never to return to the kingdom.

(Source: Al Monitor)

together with the economic establishment, have been in denial for a decade. Berlin is littered with shelved reports on macroeconomic imbalances.

Emmanuel Macron, the French president, wasted almost a year persuading German chancellor Angela Merkel to endorse what ended up as a disappointing list of eurozone reforms. He should have spent his (now fast-windling) political capital persuading her to focus on the current account, and in particular on domestic investment, and on boosting defense spending. These two targets — an increase in EU defense spending and reducing the current account surplus — would be mutually reinforcing: if you do not offset the additional outlay elsewhere, a rise in defense spending would bear down on the current account via the fiscal deficit. The EU could even suspend defense spending from the fiscal criteria. The problem is not the fact of a eurozone current account surplus, but its size. A reduction from 4 per cent to 2 per cent would make a big difference. And there is no intrinsic economic or military logic in the 2 per cent defense spending-to-GDP target. As we have seen in the eurozone, numeric targets have their downsides. What a European defense strategy really requires is a credible financial and political commitment from all its members. If Trump wants to reduce the U.S. commitment to NATO or impose car tariffs before the U.S. midterm elections in November, there is little the EU can do to stop him. But it can develop a strategy to make itself more robust. If it cannot agree to do even that, we should not be surprised that people start asking each other the question: "What is the point of the EU?" And from there, it is a short step to seeking alternatives.

(Source: FT)

Yemen war: Swamp for Saudi and UAE

By Farzad Farhadi

TEHRAN — The war the Saudi-UAE-U.S. coalition launched on March 26, 2015, against Yemen has not achieved its goals. In addition to the casualties of its forces and its mercenaries, the war costs the UAE about \$ 1.3 billion per month or \$16 billion a year. This war has increased its impact on the UAE, its economy and its manpower more than ever.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) even extended this month compulsory military service for Emirati nationals from 12 to 16 months. Meanwhile, the escalation in the conflict has meant a large and growing number of civilian Saudi and UAE casualties, and global opinion is turning against the coalition. The recent UAE assault on the Yemen port city of Hudaydah has achieved nothing, and the Emiratis have been forced to reduce their operations.

■ The UAE's armed forces in Yemen

The UAE has three types of forces in Yemen: first, the UAE troops, and then Yemeni mercenaries who are commanded by Emirati forces and finally mercenaries from other countries that the UAE has hired to fight. The UAE has not announced the number of their troops in Yemen but reports indicate that about 1,500 troops and soldiers from the UAE Special Forces are directly involved in the war and training allied mercenaries. Hundreds of UAE soldiers forces have been killed in Yemen since 2015, according to reports. The emirates have also deployed and trained more than 35,000 Yemenis. They are recruited through tribal sheikhs. The Emiratis just in Aden employed 14,000 people while 2,000 were hired in Abyan, 3000 in al-Mahriya, and 2000 in Socotra to go to war with the military and popular committees in Yemen.



Mercenaries from Latin America, Australia, South Africa, El Salvador, Chile and Panama and Colombia have been deployed by the UAE. They are engaged in torture and field executions, in addition to fighting against the army and popular committees in Yemen. These mercenaries might receive \$530 a month in their own countries, but the Emiratis give them more than \$2,800 per month.

According to Yemen Net, African mercenaries fight alongside Brigadier General Tareq Saleh, the nephew of slain President Ali Abdullah Saleh, on the western coast of Yemen. They include forces from Sudan, Somali, Senegal, Uganda, Chad, Kenya and Eritrea. These mercenaries have been trained in the Hadramaut desert and are based in a camp between Zobab and the port of Al-Muqa in western Yemen.

Mercenaries from the countries of East Asia, including Filipinos, Bangladeshis, Afghans, Chechens and Pakistanis, have been hired by the UAE and Saudi Arabia. In addition to military missions, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Filipino mercenaries are used in Yemen's logistical and other services, many are working in hospitals and kitchens of the Saudi-led coalition.

Emiratis use former prisoners, bandits and gangs in the war against the army and Yemeni popular committees and spy agencies. Takfiri and Salafi mercenaries also serve Emiratis.

Latin American mercenaries may receive a monthly salary of \$2,000 to \$3,000 dollars while in their own countries they do not receive a salary of more than \$400 a month.

The cost of it all for the UAE is enormous, an estimated \$16 billion annually. This is

apart from the cost of 30 Emirati fighter jets and the UAE military vessels in the Red sea contributing to the Yemen war.

The UAE and its allies in southern Yemen have secret prisons, maybe 18 in all, according to Arabic 21. Americans have been involved in interrogation at these prisons, too. They are run by the UAE or by Yemeni forces created and trained by the Persian Gulf nation. Human Rights Watch has uncovered the detention of scores of men and even some children.

The secret prisons are located on military bases, basements of villas and even inside a nightclub. Some detainees have been transferred to the Emirates. Two thousand detainees have been registered in secret prisons in the UAE. More than 400 prisoners have disappeared after being detained in al-Muqa in southern Yemen. In Aden, more than 1,500 people have been detained and many of them have disappeared.

Yemenis, meanwhile, are concerned about the UAE's dominance over Bab al-Mandab, oil-rich regions and also by the spread of al-Qaeda and Takfiris.

The war since 2015 has been a burden on the UAE's economy. The Yemeni war has turned into a financial black hole that has forced tax increases and duties on UAE citizens and residents. Emirate's authorities have moved to the Reserve Fund. Budget deficits have mounted. Life in the UAE, especially in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, has become increasingly expensive, and these two cities may be the most expensive places in the world to live. The war has also hit the UAE's investments, and increased inflation.

The Yemeni war daily imposes more on Emiratis and the Saudis. Yemen has become an obvious impediment to UAE and Saudi prospects. The two countries have placed themselves in a quagmire.

Saudi Arabia, the UAE footprint in Eritrea, Ethiopia rapprochement

➔ Eritrea and Ethiopia are among the least developed countries in the Horn of Africa. Although the Ethiopian economy has grown significantly in recent years, the Eritrean economy was suffering and had dropped to a record low. Analysts believe that although realization of peace between the two states is in the interest of both, Eritrea's economy will enjoy a greater benefit of the rapprochement.

In addition, the peace talks can attract foreign investors to Eritrea. The end of "state of war" will help Ethiopia solve its problem of not having a sea passage, because after the independence of Eritrea overlooking the Red Sea in 1993, the issue aroused for Ethiopia.

The war between the two countries has caused much difficulty for Ethiopian trade through the ports of Eritrea and the Red Sea, and this peace will help rebuild economic activities to the time prior to conflicts.

At first glance, it seems as if the two countries realized the necessity of bilateral relations, but the fact is there was involvement of foreign countries in the peace talks. Some believe that Washington, an ally of Ethiopia, does not require the country to adhere to the border agreement.

Perhaps the U.S. has come to the conclusion that it is time to make a new alliance as Djibouti, located in the vicinity of Ethiopia and Eritrea, has allowed China to build a military base on its territory. So, given the geopolitical developments



in the Red Sea and the Chinese military presence in the United Arab Emirates, America sees its interest in improving relations with Eritrea.

■ Saudis and Emiratis footprint in African conflicts

In general, the African continent is of great importance to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, and these two countries have set their strategic interests on the continent. In many cases, Riyadh and Abu Dhabi have benefited from the support of their African allies in regional conflicts. For example, they have called on African countries, to cut off relations with Iran and Qatar or to engage in military aggression in Yemen in their support.

The poor African states, relying highly on Saudi and Emirati

donations, bow down to the two Arab states' demands. Out of fear of losing alliance and leaving a positive image on the world, Riyadh and Abu Dhabi acted as a mediators in the built up tensions among African states, namely Eritrea and Ethiopia. That would also fulfill their objective of preventing the African states side with Iran or Qatar.

In recent years, Eritrea has improved relations with Saudi Arabia and the UAE has too set up a military base in southern harbor of Eritrea.

Riyadh and Abu Dhabi, both Ethiopia's allies, played an active role in Ethiopian prime minister's decision to negotiate with Eritrea with their financial sponsorship.

The unprecedented and controversial trip of Abu Dhabi's crown prince to Ethiopia last month, in the light of the agreement between the two African states, as they poured in \$3 billion was a proof of the UAE push in the two states peace talks.

In any case, it appears that the Arab states of the Persian Gulf and, above all, the UAE and Saudi Arabia are making attempts to establish a new regional system based on which the security of the Persian Gulf region is tied to the security of the Horn of Africa region, and for the same reason strengthening their foothold on the African continent and, in appearance, pursuing peace and reconciliation among its political and economic allies.

Decoding of EU's Approach towards JCPOA

➔ European authorities emphasized that Iran should benefit from the deal's interests in areas such as banking and oil sales. Now, while about two months has passed since the conclusion of the Brussels statement, European officials are still standing at the start of the trail. The European Union has deliberately avoided designing a legal, economic, and executive mechanism for fulfilling its claimed goals for Iranian oil and gas sales and maintaining economic relations with our country. In a telephone call with Hassan Rouhani, the Iranian president, German Chancellor Angela Merkel stressed that the EU package of proposals is merely about the major topics, and negotiations has yet to be continued over the details. The main question is, given the meaningful delay of European authorities in presenting the details of the package, how can we be determined about the resumption of these negotiations with the European authorities?

The truth is, the United Europe doesn't intend to simply provide Iran with guarantees required for the fulfillment of its obligations under the nuclear deal. Since 2003, Europe has repeatedly violated its obligations in Sa'adabad negotiations, Paris talks, and even the Vienna negotiations (which led to the signing of the JCPOA). Attempting not to normalize the Iranian banking relations with Iran, the absolute cooperation with the Obama and



Trump governments in the JCPOA joint committees, the acceptance of Trump's four demands regarding the change of the nuclear deal and ... are among the Europeans violations of the nuclear deal. Under such circumstances, it's clear that Europe doesn't intend to turn its «commitment to the JCPOA» into «objective assurances» for its fulfillment. From the outset, the united Europe hasn't considered the JCPOA as an «independent and legal variable». On the contrary, it considers it as a «means» and

«dependent variable». European countries are well aware that providing a guarantee for their commitment to the nuclear deal will prevent their possible compromise with the United States. This is one of the main reasons for the European troika's delay in providing the necessary guarantees for maintaining the nuclear deal. Contrary to its allegation of being committed to the JCPOA, the EU continues to use the nuclear deal as a means to deal with Washington in improving the transatlantic relation.

any action towards nuclear weapons and enrichment, stops its ballistic missile program and stops the actions in Syria and elsewhere which the United States calls state-sponsored terrorism. The administration states that if Iran was willing to do this they would completely release all sanctions and welcome Iran into the community of nations. This would be a very difficult step for Iran to take. I understand however that this is what the administration has said, and while it may be unlikely for Iran to do that, it is also a solution to the economic difficulties in Iran.

■ Given new developments regarding JCPOA, what is your prediction about this agreement?

A: It is just impossible to say. The United States has made its position clear and I think they will stick to it. What the reaction of Iran will be is impossible to know. I would love to see our relationship with Iran normalized, but I understand how difficult that might be for Iran to agree to.

■ Will negotiations with North Korea affect the JCPOA?

A: I doubt that North Korea will affect JCPOA. The negotiations with North Korea will likely take years. I think it will be stuck in this, "rope-a-dope" - which is to say, continued negotiation and no great breakthroughs and no repudiation of the negotiation; just something that will take a very long time.

Iran oil removal to take Saudi Regime, oil market into unknown

TEHRAN (MNA) — Reuters market analyst John Kemp has warned against the consequences of Iran's oil removal from the global markets.

MNA republishes the Reuters market analyst's article published on July 9. The text of the article is as follows:

The United States wants to eliminate all Iran's crude oil exports from November, and is relying on Saudi Arabia and other OPEC and non-OPEC members to fill the gap in supplies.

"Our goal is to increase pressure on Iran by reducing to zero its revenue from crude oil sales," a senior State Department official told a news briefing this month. "We are working to minimise disruptions to the global market, but we are confident that there is sufficient global spare oil production capacity," Brian Hook, the director of policy planning, said on July 2.

"We are not looking to grant licences or waivers broadly on the re-imposition of sanctions, because we believe pressure is critical to achieve our national security objectives." But if the United States succeeds in reducing Iran's crude exports close to zero from November, in line with its stated policy, Saudi Arabia would have to raise its production to unprecedented levels to cover the loss.

And it would leave the global market tighter than at any time since the oil shocks of 1973/74 and 1979/80, with resulting upward pressure on prices.

■ ZERO EXPORTS

The administration has not been clear about whether sanctions will apply just to crude or will include condensates ("Briefing with an Iran diplomacy update", State Department, July 2).

But assuming sanctions apply only to crude, the global market would still need to replace more than 2 million barrels per day (bpd) of Iranian exports from the start of November.

According to the latest information from the Joint Organisations Data Initiative (JODI), Iran exported between 2.1 million and 2.2 million bpd of crude between January and April.

The question is where will the replacement barrels come from?

The International Energy Agency estimates OPEC members held 3.4 million bpd of spare capacity at the end of May, while their non-OPEC allies had no more than 330,000 bpd ("Oil Market Report", IEA, June 2018).

Saudi Arabia accounted for almost two-thirds of the reported OPEC spare capacity (2.02 million bpd), with smaller volumes held by Iraq (330,000 bpd), United Arab Emirates (330,000 bpd) and Kuwait (220,000 bpd).

Russia accounted for most of the non-OPEC spare capacity (roughly 250,000 bpd) with little or no available spare capacity in the other non-OPEC allies.

Other agencies and market analysts put the spare capacity figures for OPEC and non-OPEC members significantly lower than the IEA, which implies the market is even tighter.

But using the IEA's figures, it is clear Saudi Arabia would have to replace most of the Iranian barrels lost as a result of sanctions. The kingdom would need to increase production and exports by at least 1 million bpd to cover the total loss of Iranian barrels.

The required increase would be even higher if other OPEC and non-OPEC countries struggle to raise their output or more production is lost as a result of problems in Venezuela and Libya.

■ SPARE CAPACITY

In theory, there is sufficient spare capacity in Saudi Arabia and other countries, but it would leave the global market with less than 1 million bpd of capacity left to meet all other contingencies. In practice, some analysts think the market could be much tighter, with sanctions essentially using up all the spare capacity worldwide.

The IEA estimates Saudi Arabia could raise production to just over 12 million bpd and sustain it at that level for an extended period.

Saudi Arabia has already used some of its spare capacity to increase production by 458,000 bpd, from 10.03 million bpd in May to 10.49 million bpd in June.

The figures were contained in a communication from the kingdom to the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.

But according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the kingdom has not produced more than 10.42 million bpd on an annual basis (2016) or 10.63 million bpd in a single month (July 2016) in the last 20 years.

Saudi Arabia has reported roughly similar production numbers to JODI, with output peaking at 10.72 million bpd in November 2016.

It is possible the kingdom could lift production by another 1.3 million-1.4 million bpd beyond anything it has ever produced before but at the moment there is no way of knowing for certain.

■ PUMPING FLAT OUT

Some observers question whether such high rates of production could be implemented quickly and sustained for any length of time. Maximum production would require opening the chokes on existing wells and bringing previously shut-in wells back into service.

Boosting production this way might risk a decline in oilfield pressure that could result in long-term damage to the reservoirs.

Some spare capacity might require drilling new wells within existing fields, in which case it is not strictly speaking spare capacity at all.

And it is not clear whether the pipelines, processing plants and export terminals have enough capacity to handle 12 million bpd because such high flow rates have never been tested.

Saudi Arabia could boost volumes supplied to the market by releasing some of its domestic crude stocks as well as raising field production, but stock releases would only ever be a short-term measure.

Domestic crude stocks have already fallen by 95 million barrels since their peak in October 2015, according to government data submitted to the JODI.

Domestic stocks had been drawn down to 234 million barrels at the end of April, the lowest level since November 2011.

Most of the remaining inventories are required for operational reasons, including as feedstock for the country's growing refinery capacity, as well as ensuring smooth flow of oil from the fields onto tankers.

If Saudi Arabia needs to replace Iranian barrels, most of the increase will have to come from more pumping rather than stock releases, and it would require producing more oil than Saudi Arabia has ever pumped before.

Stringent sanctions on Iran will take both Saudi Arabia and the oil market into the unknown.

I doubt U.S. - North Korea negotiation will affect JCPOA: former senator

➔ A: Obviously if the sanctions are effective it would not achieve those goals.

■ U.S. announced that the other countries should cut importing oil from Iran until November. If Iran could not export its oil do you think it will stay in the agreement?

A: It is impossible for me to know whether Iran will stay within the agreement. Clearly the United States has broken the agreement which it signed onto. However, the risks to Iran from breaking the agreement would be one of increased sanctions and perhaps even military confrontation.

What the administration obviously wants to do is to have a complete agreement with Iran in which Iran stops

Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

Apartment

Amazing Apt in Zafaranih
7th floor, 279 sq.m, 1 master room
3 Bdrs., fully furn balcony, nice
view, pkg
lobby man, spj, elevator
green garden, renovated
\$6000 negotiable
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Manzariyeh
8th floor, 215 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.
fully furn, parking, spj
gym saloon, fire place, elevator
balcony, storage
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Jordan
4th floor, 100 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.
furn, parking
\$1200

Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in new Building in Niavaran
2th floor, each floor one apt each
Apt 300 sq.m with
4 Bdrs., balcony, furn &
unfurn, lobby, spj, good access to
highway
\$7000
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Vanak
115 sq.m, 2 Bdrs., almost new
modern furn, balcony, parking
\$2000
Suitable for Foreigners
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Villa

Villa in Ajudaniye
2 floors, 315 sq.m & 300 sq.m
furn, equipped kitchen swimming
pool, sauna
parking, gym
\$4000

Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Nice Villa in Elahieh
1000 sq.m built up, 2600 sq.m
land, 6 rooms, renovated
green garden adjacent to river
parking, servant, outdoor
swimming pool
\$18000

*Suitable for
Residency & Embassy*
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Palace in Tajrish/ Elahieh
duplex, 7000 sq.m land, 2200
sq.m built up, 8 Bdrs. renovated
unbelievable garden
water fall, spj, parking completely
renovated

big saloon, **\$30000**
*Suitable for
Residency & Embassy*
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



Holder of

ISO 9001:2008

ISO 10004:2012

ISO 10002:2014

From Oxford Cert Universal

**Best Consultation
Best Services, Best Result**

Intl. Department Manager "Tina 09128103205"

Tel: 22662452-8, Fax: 22667173

Hot Line: 28141

info@parsdiplomatic.com

www.parsdiplomatic.com

Building & Office

New Whole Building in
Jordan Elahieh
2 block, 10 Apts total, 25 rooms
Tehran view, roof garden, outdoor
pool located in roof, cozy
place, parking, lobby
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Whole Building in Jordan
floors, 780 sq.m totally 6
bedrooms, 6 parking, unfurn 12
almost new, gathering room CCTV
camera, **\$10000**
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Whole Building in Zafaranih
19 apt & each apt 200 sq.m with
3 Bdrs., one penthouse with 5
rooms, pkg, 4900 sq.m built up
6900 sq.m land, semi furn
*Suitable for
Residency & Embassy*
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
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Nice Office in Jordan
300 sq.m, renovated, parking
full of foreign companies, lobby
good access to highway
\$10000
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Ideal Offers

Office in Valiasr
from 250 sq.m up to 7000 sq.m
commercial office, ready for
renting to foreign companies
lobby, parking lot
good access to highway
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Offer in Shariati
170 sq.m, 3 Bdrs., sauna
pool, jacuzzi, nice & clean furn, **\$2500**
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Suite in Elahieh
40 sq.m, good access
\$1500
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Elahieh
2th floor, 270 sq.m, 4 Bdrs
luxury furn, small balcony, spj
small garden, diplomatic
\$4500
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Kamranieh
270 sq.m, 4 Bdrs., luxury furn
nice balcony, green space view
swimming pool
\$3500
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Zafaranih
220 sq.m, 3 Bdrs., fully furn very
quite & cozy, parking, spj
\$2700
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 سروس، 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

Farmanieh (\$2800) 200sq.m, 3bdrs pkg, & Fully Furn	Sa'adat abad 150sq.m, 3bdrs F.F (\$1800)	Darrou Villa (\$6000) 1500sq.m, 5bdrs, yard S/p, S, J, S/q, F.F
Velenjak (\$3200) 220sq.m, 3bdrs S/p, S, J, F.F	Jordan Apts (\$1400) 2bdrs, S/p (\$2400) 3bdrs, S/p	Vanak office (\$35 per sq.m) 700sq.m, 2storey

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

maharaja
Indian Restaurant

**FIRST INDIAN RESTAURANT
IN IRAN**

PRIVATE PARKING LOT

Jahan Hotel (Exelsior) – Rahimzade Alley – Taleqani
Crossroads – Valiasr St. Tel: 66476855

Exquisite Building Located in the Best Part of Tehran

"SAADABAD"

**1,200 sq.m, Appealing Land in
4 Separate Apts.**

With a unique indoor swimming
pool and one floor industrial
equipped kitchen

Suitable for Embassy

Foreign Residency & Companies

Tel: 0912-8574808

TASHRIFAT REAL ESTATE

We give service with a difference... We care!

✓ **Long & Short term rentals**

✓ **Purchase Properties**

**FURNISHED - UNFURNISHED
Villa-Apartment-Office-Building**



Mr. Shahin
Nobody does it better

09121081212

Since: 1987

با شاهین سریعتر به نتیجه می رسید

مالکین محترم املاک مسکونی و اداری شما را جهت اجاره به خارجی نیازمندیم

Tel: 22723121

E-mail: tehranfirstchoice@gmail.com

**SATISFACTION
GUARANTEED**



Taj Mahal Hotel & Indian Restaurant



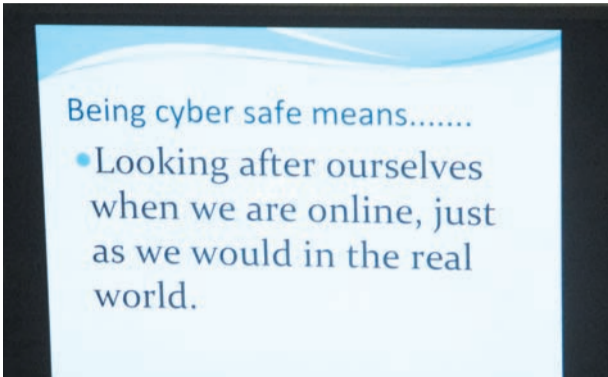
Mahi Mahi Gilaki Restaurant

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

Learn how sites can use your information

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. Such sites have breached the walls of the corporate firewall, are a part of our most important smartphone apps, are a vital tool for any serious job search, and are the new way to connect with current and new friends.



But using social networking tools and sites seems to be in direct conflict with another important principle of using the Internet -- protect your identity from identity theft. Participating in online social networking sites leaves a trail of personal information that can make stealing your identity a whole lot easier.

Social network sites are typically free to use which means they are making their money by advertising to you. And that means they are collecting information about you. Is your information shared with outside companies and partners? What information can third-party plug-in software, such as Facebook Applications, use from your profile or page content? Review the site's privacy policy and watch closely the privacy settings you can control.

There is currently a lot of M&A activity in the social networking software industry. A significant part of what an acquirer buys when acquiring a social networking company is the community of users on the site. Your account, including personal information, trades hands from the old company to the new one as part of the transaction. Privacy statements on sites like Digg discuss situations like this. The new owners may have new and different plans for using the information contained in the site. Changes in privacy policies may follow an acquisition. Watch for this when you hear about an acquisition and always read notifications about changes to privacy terms, acceptable use policies and user agreements.

(Source: networkworld.com)



A checklist for your startup

The pre-startup checklist requires one to undergo a process of self-evaluation that will help answer the question, 'Am I prepared to start a business?' If more people considered the following four issues, there would likely be a higher success rate in future startups.

■ Set up a website

Get your website up and running as soon as possible. Today, it's necessary for credibility. Even if your product is not yet built, you can start with company information.

Time is of the essence when it comes to getting your website up and running. If you want to snag your share of the market, you must act quickly. Today, creating a website isn't something you



should probably do, it's something you must do. Whether you do it yourself -- the affordable option -- or outsource the design and build to a freelancer or agency, it's still worth understanding the key steps that are involved in the process.

If you don't already have some sort of online presence, you need to act quickly. You are losing out to the competition. Consider your website your online storefront. Even a simple storefront is better than no storefront. At least this way people will be able to find you.

(Source: smallbiztrends.com)



What does the term “open source” mean?

Open source software is software with source code that anyone can inspect, modify, and enhance.

“Source code” is the part of software that most computer users don't ever see; it's the code computer programmers can manipulate to change how a piece of software -- a “program” or “application” -- works. Programmers who have access to a computer program's source code can improve that program by adding features to it or fixing parts that don't always work correctly.

What's the difference between open source software and other types of software?

Some software has source code that only the person, team, or organization who created it -- and maintains exclusive control over it -- can modify.

Only the original authors of proprietary software can legally copy, inspect, and alter that software. And in order to use proprietary software, computer users must agree (usually by signing a license displayed the first time they run this software) that they will not do anything with the software that the software's authors have not expressly permitted.

(Source: opensource.com)

Second Iran Nanotech China Center opens in Guangzhou

1→ WTOIP, the Chinese entrepreneurial resource-sharing platform with focus on intellectual property, Guangzhou municipality and chamber of commerce cooperate with Iran in establishment of the center.

China is prominent in nanotechnology and Iran is also on top in nanotechnology worldwide, Sarkar said during the event.

“According to our platform, industry men, merchants and researchers are connected to each other,” he said.

At the ceremony, the director of SME Bureau of Guangzhou Municipality Huadong Ye talked about new material as one of the focus industries of Guangzhou with competitive advantage.

The establishment of INCC Guangzhou Office is expected to impel the development of new materials and the construction of international technology & innovation hub in Guangzhou, as a strategic move to strengthen a comprehensive Sino-Iranian partnership, he said.

He announced that the Industry and Information Technology Commission of Guangzhou Municipality and the SME Bureau of Guangzhou Municipality will spare no efforts to support INCC Guangzhou Office.

At the ceremony, Senior Vice President of WTOIP Edmont Rao also talked about opportunities brought by the center for Chinese nano industry.

New opportunities provided for us by establishment of the center with strengthening global connection between Guangzhou nanotechnology active groups with innovators from other parts of the world, he said.

“In this way, we get more introduced with Iran's potentialities in nanotechnology,” he said.

Signing for strategic cooperation on China (Guangzhou)-Iran Nonmaterials Science and the Symposium on



Promoting Industrialization of Innovative Technologies in China (Guangzhou) and Iran also held on the sidelines of the event.

The Guangzhou Economic & Technological Development

Zone, as the core industrial base station of new materials in China, encompasses more than 400 enterprises in the sector, forming up a strong and inter-connected cluster covering polymer, metal and IT materials.

Big tech should take the lead on climate change

At Collision, which calls itself “North America's fastest-growing tech conference,” former United Nations climate chief Christiana Figueres threw down a challenge to tech titans: move the world from incremental to exponential action on climate change.

The digital tech sector is the wild card in fossil-fuel escape plans. Disruption of the global economy is on the way through AI, Internet of Things, big data, biotech, and more. But it is far from clear whether this will drive greenhouse gas emissions up or slash them in half. The climate conversation with tech entrepreneurs and leaders needs to change for three reasons.

First, the technology sector gets it. Tech titans are already on course to carbon neutrality. Apple has committed to adopting a 100 percent circular economy throughout its supply chain. Alphabet claims it is now the world's largest corporate purchaser of renewable energy. And Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg are investing a billion dollars in clean energy solutions.

Second, the technology sector gets how to harness the power of exponentials better than any other economic sector on Earth. And we need this expertise right now. More later.

Third, and most significantly, the biggest influence the tech sector can have is not on its own emissions or even those of its suppliers -- it is, after all, just 2-2.5 percent of global emissions. Tech titans are the interface with global consumers and citizens. On a daily basis, Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, Facebook, and Microsoft influence the behavior of billions of people -- the world's middle classes and the world's businesses.

This conversation about consumer emissions has only just begun, but the timing is ideal because of recent growth and innovation in various sectors of the economy.

Consider the food industry: in the last year, Amazon acquired grocery giant Whole Foods and Alibaba took a chunk of supermarket giant Sun Art Retail Group. Their intention is clear: they plan to disrupt the food sector in the next few years. But the food system accounts for around 24 percent of greenhouse gas emissions.

Behavioral change -- driven by digital technology -- to plant-rich diets would drastically cut emissions, while reducing obesity and pollution. Indeed, the segment driving the biggest growth in vegetarianism and even veganism is eCommerce. There is a major opportunity to help consumers meet their own goals to improve health and deeply cut emissions.

In the manufacturing industry, companies like HP are betting big on 3D printing and fabrication. They believe that even China,



Behavioral change—driven by digital technology—to plant-rich diets would drastically cut emissions, while reducing obesity and pollution. Indeed, the segment driving the biggest growth in vegetarianism and even veganism is eCommerce.

the world's factory, has the potential to be profoundly changed by the exponential growth in this nascent industry within a decade. Imagine if this disruption brought with it carbon neutral or even carbon-positive solutions -- products that store more carbon than they emit. Let's go further and imagine the potential benefits if “carbon positive” became the default setting for all design and engineering tools produced by Autodesk and other design companies. They in turn would encourage construction companies to use greener alternatives to cement and other materials. Manufacturing and buildings make up 27 percent of global greenhouse gases, so there is great potential for improvement in these sectors.

In the finance sector, Chinese fintech giant Ant Financial recently launched Ant Forest, an app that encourages users and their social networks to reduce their carbon footprint through gamification. Within a year it had 220 million users. By 2018, more than 300 million people, or over one fifth of the Chinese population, had signed up. This has led to over 10 million new trees planted and 1.2 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions avoided due to behavior changes.

■ From Moore's law to the carbon law

As a simple rule of thumb, the world needs to halve emissions every decade globally until

2050. In a paper I coauthored and published in the journal Science, we call this exponential decay curve the Carbon Law, after Moore's Law. The first halving is relatively easy and can be done with existing technology. Indeed, in 2017, solar photovoltaics grew 32 percent in a year, followed by wind power at 10 percent despite a drop off in investment. With this technological diffusion rate, the world will be close to fossil fuel freedom by 2050. The next decade will be critical for climate action.

The tech sector did not keep pace with Moore's Law by accident. Companies cooperated -- producing industry-wide technological roadmaps every few years -- to stay on track. These roadmaps systematically laid out challenges and milestones, broke down barriers, and sought out opportunities. The result? In the 1960s, chips had just a few hundred transistors, while today, a chip with 30 billion transistors can safely rest on the tip of your finger.

Now we need an exponential roadmap -- combining technology, behavioral change and policy -- to guide the world to reach a carbon positive global economy by 2050. The first roadmap must focus on the initial sprint to the first halving over the next ten years.

I am working closely with Figueres and her team at Mission 2020 to build a coalition of technology leaders to drive exponential

action ahead of the major Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco in September. Our team is working to reinvent the roadmap with our friends at MapLauncher. Roadmaps often lack interoperability -- they even reduce access to data -- and are difficult to update. We're going to bust that right open. Roadmap in hand, we can keep better track of shifts in policy and behavior and set goals and milestones for the future.

■ A compass for the tech sector

This conversation must include a mature discussion on ethics. Should these platforms nudge consumers at all, or should they remain strictly “neutral”? Users of Facebook and Google are already being targeted by advertising and marketing campaigns, weaponized through the use of personal data. This is deliberate manipulation of consumers and citizens. It is now high time to explore the ethics of this practice and align platforms to genuinely support individual and societal goals.

Tech titans are grappling with a profound new responsibility. Mark Zuckerberg recently told Congress, “Facebook's mission is about giving people a voice and bringing people closer together. Those are deeply democratic values, and we're proud of them. I don't want anyone to use our tools to undermine democracy.” Yet this is exactly what is happening.

With climate change, the world is facing an existential crisis, and through the Paris Agreement it has decided on a course of action. These phenomenally powerful social media tools can be used more effectively to help enable the world to achieve these essential societal goals: people do not mind being nudged if their goals are aligned with those of the nudger.

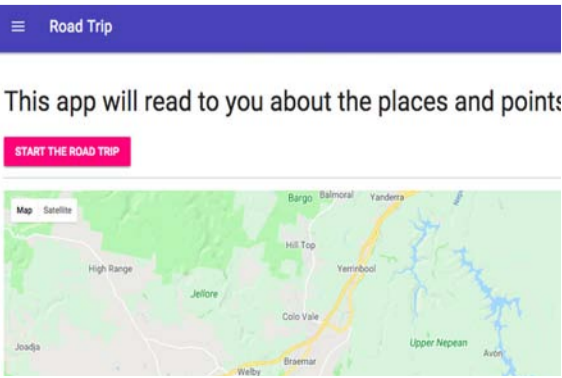
In short, tech can provide a system-wide enabling environment -- from mapping tools showing how cities can become car-free, to nudging shoppers towards healthy, low-carbon food choices, to community mobilization.

What if the default settings for mobile phones promoted exercise, healthy eating, and sustainable transport? What if Facebook, Google, and others priced advertising for healthy and low-emitting products more favorably than other products? What if they displayed healthy and low-carbon products more prominently than others? What if apps that drive down emissions were favored over those that drive emissions up?

The next decade is critical for the planet. The global economy will transform. We have the perfect opportunity to kickstart global cooperation for exponential change at the Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco this summer. As they say, the best way to predict the future is to create it.

(Source: singularityhub.com)

App reads Wikipedia to teach you about the cities you're driving through



“I made [the app] for myself, because I frequently drive through places and was thinking it would be nice to learn more about my environment while I have nothing better to do sitting behind the steering wheel,” Ubl told The Verge.

However, the system isn't perfect -- according to comments on the initial Twitter posts, some people in Vienna, Virginia were read articles about Vienna, Austria -- and people in Cambridge, New York heard about Cambridge in the United Kingdom, most likely because these are the first articles that pop up when one looks up these city names on the site.

As Ubl mentioned in the Twitter post, he's welcoming patches to fix these (and any other) issues.

(Source: theverge.com)

Researchers generating electrical power from waste heat

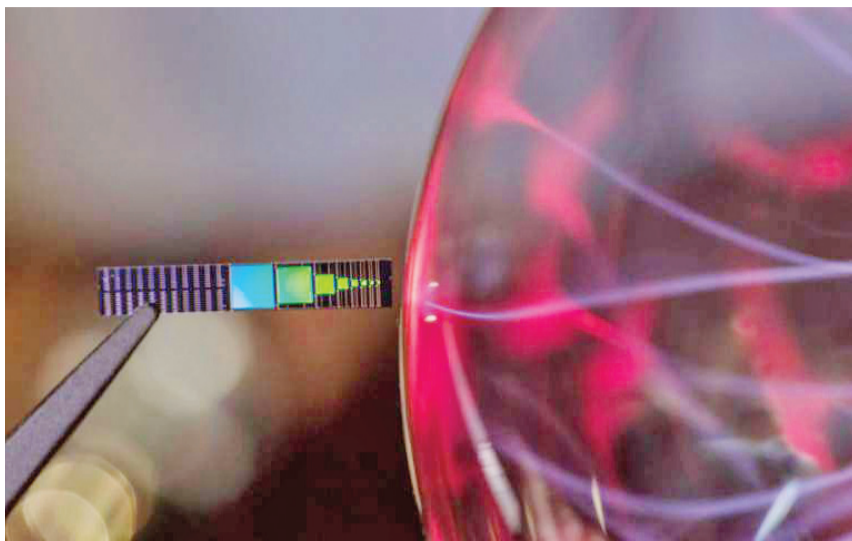
Directly converting electrical power to heat is easy. It regularly happens in your toaster, that is, if you make toast regularly. The opposite, converting heat into electrical power, isn't so easy.

Researchers from Sandia National Laboratories have developed a tiny silicon-based device that can harness what was previously called waste heat and turn it into DC power. Their advance was recently published in Physical Review Applied.

"We have developed a new method for essentially recovering energy from waste heat. Car engines produce a lot of heat and that heat is just waste, right? So imagine if you could convert that engine heat into electrical power for a hybrid car. This is the first step in that direction, but much more work needs to be done," said Paul Davids, a physicist and the principal investigator for the study.

"In the short term we're looking to make a compact infrared power supply, perhaps to replace radioisotope thermoelectric generators." Called RTGs, the generators are used for such tasks as powering sensors for space missions that don't get enough direct sunlight to power solar panels.

Davids' device is made of common and abundant materials, such as aluminum, silicon and silicon dioxide -- or glass -- combined



in very uncommon ways.

Smaller than a pinkie nail, the device is about 1/8 inch by 1/8 inch, half as thick as a dime and metallically shiny. The top is aluminum that is etched with stripes roughly 20 times smaller than the width of a human hair. This pattern, though far too small to be seen by eye, serves as an antenna to catch the infrared radiation.

Between the aluminum top and the silicon bottom is a very thin layer of silicon dioxide. This layer is about 20 silicon atoms thick, or 16,000 times thinner than a human hair. The patterned and etched aluminum antenna channels the infrared radiation into this thin layer.

■ The infrared radiation

The infrared radiation trapped in the

silicon dioxide creates very fast electrical oscillations, about 50 trillion times a second. This pushes electrons back and forth between the aluminum and the silicon in an asymmetric manner. This process, called rectification, generates net DC electrical current.

The team calls its device an infrared rectenna, a portmanteau of rectifying antenna. It is a solid-state device with no moving parts to jam, bend or break, and doesn't have to directly touch the heat source, which can cause thermal stress.

He added, "We've deliberately focused on common materials and processes that are scalable. In theory, any commercial integrated circuit fabrication facility could make these rectennas."

That isn't to say creating the current device was easy. Rob Jarecki, the fabrication engineer who led process development, said, "There's immense complexity under the hood and the devices require all kinds of processing tricks to build them."

One of the biggest fabrication challenges was inserting small amounts of other elements into the silicon, or doping it, so that it would reflect infrared light like a metal, said Jarecki. "Typically you don't dope silicon to death, you don't try to turn it into a metal, because you have metals for that."

(Source: eurekaalert.org)

Scientists defy 'force of nature' to unlock secrets of Hawaii volcano

Dressed in heavy cotton, a helmet and respirator, Jessica Ball worked the night shift monitoring "fissure 8," which has been spewing fountains of lava as high as a 15-story building from a slope on Hawaii's Kilauea volcano.

The lava poured into a channel oozing toward the Pacific Ocean several miles away. In the eerie orange nightscape in the abandoned community of Leilani Estates, it looked like it was flowing toward the scientist, but that was an optical illusion, Ball said.

"The volcano is doing what it wants to ... we're reminded what it's like to deal with the force of nature," said Ball, a geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey.

■ Field measuring

Scientists have been in the field measuring the eruptions 24 hours a day, seven days a week since Kilauea first exploded more than two months ago. They are a mix of USGS staff, University of Hawaii researchers and trained volunteers working six-to-eight-hour shifts in teams of two to five.

They avoid synthetics because they melt in the intense heat and wear gloves to protect their hands from sharp volcanic rock and glass. Helmets protect against falling lava stones, and respirators ward off sulfur gases.

This is not a job for the faint hearted. Geologists have died studying active volcanoes. David Alexander Johnston, a USGS volcanologist was killed by the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens in Washington State. In 1991, American volcanologist Harry Glicken and his French colleagues Katia and Maurice Krafft were killed while conducting avalanche research on Mount Unzen in Japan.

Ball, a graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo, located in upstate New York near the Canadian border, compared Kilauea's eruptions to Niagara Falls.

■ Downloading radiometer data

Kelly Wooten, a geologist and volcanologist at Hawaiian Volcano Observatory (HVO) is downloading radiometer data on rim of Halema'uma'u Crater in Kilauea Volcano,

Hawaii, U.S., December 19, 2008. Picture taken on December 19, 2008.

"It gives you the same feeling of power and force," she said.

Kilauea, which has been erupting almost continuously since 1983, is one of the world's most closely monitored volcanoes, largely from the now-abandoned Hawaiian Volcano Observatory at the summit. But the latest eruption is one of Kilauea's biggest and could prove to be a bonanza for scientists.

Ball and the USGS teams are studying how the magma - molten rock from the earth's crust - tracks through a network of tubes under the volcano in what is known as the "Lower East Rift Zone," before ripping open ground fissures and spouting fountains of lava.

They are trying to discover what warning signs may exist for future eruptions to better protect the Big Island's communities, she said.

(Source: Reuters)

Oxygen levels on early Earth rose, fell several times before great oxidation

Earth's oxygen levels rose and fell more than once hundreds of millions of years before the planetwide success of the Great Oxidation Event about 2.4 billion years ago, new research shows.

The Jeerinah Formation in Western Australia, where a UW-led team

found a sudden shift in nitrogen isotopes.

"Nitrogen isotopes tell a story about oxygenation of the surface ocean, and this oxygenation spans hundreds of kilometers across a marine basin and lasts for somewhere less than 50 million years," said lead author Matt Koehler.

Earth's oxygen levels rose and fell more than once hundreds of millions of years before the planetwide success of the Great Oxidation Event about 2.4 billion years ago, new research

from the University of Washington shows.

The evidence comes from a new study that indicates a second and much earlier "whiff" of oxygen in Earth's distant past -- in the atmosphere and on the surface of a large stretch of ocean -- showing that the oxygenation of the Earth was a complex process of repeated trying and failing over a vast stretch of time.

■ Search for life

The finding also may have implications in the search for life beyond Earth. Coming years will bring powerful new ground- and space-based telescopes able to analyze the atmospheres of distant planets. This work could help keep astronomers from unduly ruling out "false negatives," or inhabited planets that may not at first appear to be so

due to undetectable oxygen levels.

The "production and destruction of oxygen in the ocean and atmosphere over time was a war with no evidence of a clear winner, until the Great Oxidation Event," said Matt Koehler, a UW doctoral student in Earth and space sciences and lead author of a new paper published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

■ In favor of oxygenation

"These transient oxygenation events were battles in the war, when the balance tipped more in favor of oxygenation."

In 2007, co-author Roger Buick, UW professor of Earth and space sciences, was part of an international team of scientists that found evidence of an episode -- a "whiff" -- of oxygen some 50 million to 100 million years

before the Great Oxidation Event. This they learned by drilling deep into sedimentary rock of the Mount McRae Shale in Western Australia and analyzing the samples for the trace metals molybdenum and rhenium, accumulation of which is dependent on oxygen in the environment.

Now, a team led by Koehler has confirmed a second such appearance of oxygen in Earth's past, this time roughly 150 million years earlier -- or about 2.66 billion years ago -- and lasting for less than 50 million years. For this work they used two different proxies for oxygen -- nitrogen isotopes and the element selenium -- substances that, each in its way, also tell of the presence of oxygen.

(Source: Science Daily)

New world record for direct solar water-splitting efficiency

Hydrogen will play a central role as a storage medium in sustainable energy systems. An international team of researchers has now succeeded in raising the efficiency of producing hydrogen from direct solar water-splitting to a record 19 percent. They did so by combining a tandem solar cell of III-V semiconductors with a catalyst of rhodium nanoparticles and a crystalline titanium dioxide coating.

Teams from the California Institute of Technology, the University of Cambridge, Technische Universität Ilmenau, and the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems ISE participated in the development work. One part of the experiments took place at the Institute for Solar Fuels in the Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin.

Photovoltaics are a mainstay of renewable-energy supply

systems, and sunlight is abundantly available worldwide -- but not around the clock. One solution for dealing with this fluctuating power generation is to store sunlight in the form of chemical energy, specifically by using sunlight to produce hydrogen. This is because hydrogen can be stored easily and safely, and used in many ways -- whether in a fuel cell to directly generate electricity and heat, or as feedstock for manufacturing combustible fuels.

■ Splitting water

If you combine solar cells with catalysts and additional functional layers to form a "monolithic photoelectrode" as a single block, then splitting water becomes especially simple: the photocathode is immersed in an aqueous medium and

when light falls on it, hydrogen is formed on the front side and oxygen on the back.

For the monolithic photocathode investigated here, the research teams combined additional functional layers with a highly efficient tandem cell made of III-V semiconductors developed at Fraunhofer ISE. This enabled them to reduce the surface reflectivity of the cell, thereby avoiding considerable losses caused by parasitic light absorption and reflection.

"This is also where the innovation lies", explains Prof. Hans-Joachim Lewerenz, Caltech, USA: "Because we had already achieved an efficiency of over 14 percent for an earlier cell in 2015, which was a world record at the time."

(Source: phys.org)

TOSE'E TAAVON BANK, Leading Bank in Supporting Sustainable Rural Employment Plan

Hojjatollah Mahdian Chairman of the Board of Directors and CEO of TOSE'E TA'AVON Bank said that his bank has taken giant steps in the field of generation of sustainable rural employment, the Public Relations Dept. of the bank reported.

He put the share of bank in generation of sustainable rural development at 20 billion rials.

Given the situation of unemployment in the country, the National Sustainable Rural Employment Plan was approved by the Iranian Parliament and notified by the government dubbed 'Hope and Prudence'.

320,000 billion rials worth of credits has been predicted in 2018 Budget Bill in materializing sustainable rural employment plan, he said, adding, "under the Plan, over



120,000 billion rials worth of facilities has been allocated by the National Development Fund of Iran (NDFI), internal resources of Tose'e Ta'avon Bank, Bank Keshavarzi, Post Bank and OMID Entrepreneurship Fund for the generation of comprehensive employment.

With the planning made in this regard, 20,000 billion rials worth of facilities at 4 to 10 percent interest will be paid by the bank for the generation of new employment opportunities (rural and nomad).

Implementation of a plan to support sustainable rural employment plan has been put atop agenda of the bank, he said, adding, "paying facilities within the framework of the plan is considered as a suitable opportunity for the generation of employment in rural and nomad areas."

AYANDEH BANK, Forerunner in Implementing Production Boom Plan

AYANDEH BANK managed to stand at the first rank among privately-funded banks in the field of implementation of Production Boom Plan in the country, the Public Relations Dept. of the bank reported.

According to the evaluation made by the Interior Ministry since 2017 up to May 21, 2018, the bank got the lion's share among

other private banks in terms of amount and the number of facilities paid.

Boosting domestic production, focusing on subject of employment, meeting financial needs of industrial and production units especially Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) have been put atop agenda of the bank, the report added.

Accordingly, the bank has thus far managed to meet financial demands of entrepreneurs and industrialists in the country.

In addition to establishing dynamism and interaction with the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade, the bank has unilaterally managed to identify the qualified and eligible customers in line with meeting their demands.

In this regard, the bank has paid the amount of 8,460 billion rials worth of facilities to Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs).

The management of the bank has tried to materialize most of its economic objectives by the yearend, the Public Relations Dept. of the bank concluded.

World's oldest color discovered in rocks deep beneath Sahara Desert: study

An international team of scientists discovered the oldest color in the geological record in rocks beneath the Sahara desert: the bright pink pigment aged 1.1 billion years old.

Nur Gueneli, from The Australian National University, said the ancient pigment was extracted from marine black shales of the Taoudeni Basin in Mauritania, West Africa. The bright pink color is believed to be more than half a billion years older than other prehistoric pigments.

The fossils from where the archaic bright pink was discovered appeared to have a variety of colors. The fossils were originally green and then became blood red to deep purple in their concentrated form. When the fossils were diluted, their final form revealed the bright pink pigment in an oil form.

Upon analysis, Gueneli said the ancient pigment resulted from molecular fossils of chlorophyll that were processed by ancient photosynthetic organisms that once ruled the oceans. To give context, the molecular fossils the team found were 10 times older than a Tyrannosaurus rex would have been.

The discovery of the ancient bright pink pigment could offer new insights into why it took 4 billion years before the first animal life evolved on Earth.

Their analysis revealed that the rocks contained molecules of ancient organisms known as the cyanobacteria. Gueneli explained these microorganisms once dominated the base of the food chain in the oceans a billion years ago. This meant that all organisms at the time were feeding on the cyanobacteria.

Earth is approximately 4 billion years old. More sophisticated life forms, however, began appearing 600 million years ago.

It was previously thought that the lack of oxygen may have prevented larger creatures to thrive shortly after life started on Earth. The discovery of the ancient bright pink, however, can change this narrative.

(Source: Tech Times)

Milky Way: New method pins down our galaxy's mass

Astronomers now have a much better idea of just how much the Milky Way weighs.



When it comes to measuring the mass of a galaxy like the Milky Way, a bathroom scale won't do, of course. Instead, astronomers have to study how the galaxy reacts gravitationally with other objects orbiting it. By charting how surrounding satellite galaxies and stellar streams move, researchers can estimate the size of our own spiral galaxy.

The recent study put a slightly different spin on this tried-and-true method. Instead of focusing on orbiting objects' position or velocity, the researchers turned their attention to the objects' angular momentum. This characteristic is more stable, team members said.

"Think of a figure skater doing a pirouette," study lead author Ekta Patel, a graduate student in the University of Arizona's astronomy department and Steward Observatory, said in a statement. "As she draws in her arms, she spins faster. In other words, her velocity changes, but her angular momentum stays the same over the whole duration of her act."

Patel and her team used 3D models of nine of the Milky Way's 50 known satellite galaxies, comparing their measured angular momentum to a simulated universe of 20,000 host galaxies resembling our own. They calculated the Milky Way's weight at 960 billion times that of the sun.

But that doesn't mean our galaxy hosts nearly a trillion stars.

Astronomers think that stars, gas, dust and other "normal" stuff make up just 15 percent of the universe's mass; the rest is locked up in mysterious dark matter, which cannot be observed directly.

Dust off your spiral arms and fatten up your bulge -- it's time to tap into your inner galaxy to test your smarts about the Milky Way. Our home in space is a strange and wondrous place that scientists are still trying to figure out.

(Source: space.com)

Nightmare bug can kill a healthy person in days, research team finds

Klebsiella pneumoniae isn't always dangerous. But when it is, it's pure nightmare fuel.

Outside of its happy home in the gut the bacterium can cause a bunch of problems, not least the flesh-destroying horror that is necrotizing fasciitis, capable of killing a perfectly healthy person within days. As if that's not enough, there's a strain we really need to watch out for. Usually K. pneumoniae is right at home as an enteric bacterium floating around lazily inside the human digestive tract, occasionally showing up in the mouth or on the skin.

It's not exactly uncommon as far as bacteria go, and typically makes itself known as a common hospital infection in people who are already suffering a kick to their immune system.

But then, a rather aggressive variety of the bacterium was found emerging in Taiwan in the 1980s. One that didn't require the host to be sick and resulted in brain and liver abscesses and necrotizing fasciitis.

Unfortunately the hypervirulent strain of K. pneumoniae (hvKp) doesn't exactly wave a colored banner announcing its arrival. Until now there's been no way to tell whether a garden variety K. pneumoniae infection is a souped-up hvKp strain in disguise, at least until the damage is done.

So researchers propose using the next best thing; a test for chemical markers that can tell the two apart.

Thomas Russo is head of the Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of Buffalo. Together with researchers from around the world, Russo found a combination of microbial name-tags buried in the hvKp's DNA that could be used to reliably identify it.

(Source: sciencealert.com)

Iranians use of herbal medicine increases by 1.5 percent

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** – The amount of herbal medicine consumption in Iran has increased by 1.5 percent, head of the natural products department at Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has said.

Natural and herbal medicines constitute 4 percent of the total amount of medicines used in the country, Nasimonline quoted Mahnaz Khanavi as saying on Tuesday.

People's willingness to use natural and herbal medicines has increased in recent years, she noted.



Referring to recent statistics released at the end of [Iranian calendar year of] 1396 (March 2017-March 2018), she noted that the amount of herbal medicines consumed in the country increased by 1.5 percent last year compared to a year before.

The Ministry of Health and the Food and Drug Administration's policies are aimed at moving towards the use of natural or herbal medicines instead of synthetic drugs, she concluded.

According to the World Health Organization Traditional (WHO) herbal medicines are naturally occurring, plant-derived substances with minimal or no industrial processing that have been used to treat illness within local or regional healing practices. Traditional herbal medicines are getting significant attention in global health debates.

Medicinal plants still form the basis of traditional or indigenous health systems and are reported by WHO to still be used by a majority of populations in most developing countries.

WHO has adopted a strategy to promote traditional medicines between 2014 and 2023 to support member states in developing proactive policies and implement plans to strengthen the role of traditional medicine in the health sector.

Traditional remedies have long been used by the people, especially in rural Iran, and most households even in urban areas store herbal petals, essences, powders and extracts to provide relief for different kinds of ailments.

Iranian traditional medicine dates back more than 3,000 years. Persian polymath Avicenna's 'Book of Healing' and 'Canon of Medicine' are the most authoritative sources in this field.

LEARN ENGLISH

Protest!

A: This is Action 5 News reporter Sarah O'Connell reporting live from Washington, D. C. where a **protest** has **broken out**. Thousands of angry citizens are protesting against the proposed **bailout** of the auto manufacturing industry! Sir, sir.

B: Yeah, yeah, we are here because we feel this is an **injustice**! The financial irresponsibility of big business has to stop! We're here to show the government that we don't like the way that they're spending our tax.

A: Sir, but what exactly is making everyone so angry?

B: It's an absolute **outrage**. Sarah, the US government wants to give twenty-five billion dollars of taxpayers' money to the auto industry. These are companies that have been **mismanaged** and are now nearly bankrupt.

A: I see. But, many supporters of the bailout argue that it could help save the jobs of millions of hardworking Americans.

B: That may be true, and I for one don't want to see anyone lose their job, but how can these CEOs ask for a bailout when they're making millions of dollars? And then they **have the nerve** to fly to Washington in private jets!

A: Good point. This is Sarah O'Connell reporting live from Washington D. C., back to you, Tom.

■ Key vocabulary

protest: an event where people gather together to show disapproval of something

break out: start suddenly

bailout: the act of saving a company from money problem

injustice: an unfair situation

outrage: something that is morally wrong

mismanage: manage badly

have the nerve: dare to

■ Supplementary vocabulary

placard: sign people hold at protests, usually a piece of cardboard on a stick

rally: public meeting in support or opposition of something

demonstration: event where people gather together to show that they support or oppose something

demonstrator: people who go to a demonstration or protest

opponent: a person who opposes something or someone

proponent: person who supports someone or something

(Source: irlanguage.com)



Every action has a reaction. We have one planet; one chance.

Expert believes Iran's water shortage can be tackled

ENVIRONMENT **TEHRAN** — While water scarcity has become

a serious issue in Iran, it is still possible to tackle it, an Iranian professor of cross-cultural environment management at the Phoenix University has said.

Considering the current situation, discussing water management and finding solutions is required more than ever, Saeed Pourali said.

Excessive groundwater and surface water withdrawals, along with continuous droughts, has reduced groundwater levels, resulting in depletion of rivers, lakes and wetlands, Pourali said.

In addition to climate change, lack of proper use of modern sciences coupled with lack of attention to warnings by officials about water shortage have aggravated the situation, Khabaronline quoted Pourali as saying on Sunday.

If water scarcity is not resolved urgently, its impacts will soon bring heavier and irreparable damage to all sectors in the country, he stated, warning the harmful consequences caused by lack of proper planning would gradually affect the entire country.

Pourali further explained that some experts are very disappointed due to the lack of proper water management over the last few decades, believing that this situation is irreversible and water will no longer be available in Iran

He said this means that over the last few decades "we have lost the time for preventing water shortage and raising public awareness" and suddenly "we want to come up with a solution to fight it".

To address the issue, Pourali suggested, the only way is to listen to the advice of those who are specialized in climate change and are familiar with the latest climate and water technologies.

Referring to water transfer or water rationing as strategies to counter water shortage, he said that such plans are band-aid solutions, which may not be fully compatible with the long-term plans required to deal with the problem.



A view of Zayandeh Rud River in Central province of Isfahan; the river dried out completely after several years of seasonal dry-outs.

Long-term planning requires scientific studies, top level managerial decisions, and strict supervision, he explained.

"The most important factor in proper decision making for short-term solutions is seeking advice from experts. So, implementing plans based on personal opinions and political considerations, being unscientific, would generally exacerbate the situation and harm the entire country.

"For instance, purchasing water from neighboring countries for agricultural purposes, not only carries considerable costs, but also threatens national interests and act against self-sufficiency policies.

"Water shortage in Iran can still be managed by proper planning, long-term follow-up assessment, and creating a culture of moderate consumption in the country."

Pourali went on to say that cultural aware-

ness about moderate use of water can begin from households including saving water during brushing, bathing, and dish washing, and can be spread to industry and agriculture by employing methods such as drip irrigation, greenhouse cultivation, etc.

Such cultural approaches can change water consumption patterns in case of water shortage, especially in industrial and agricultural sectors, Pourali said, adding that such approaches have been practiced and lasted for centuries in drought-ridden areas such as Africa and can be implemented in Iran as well.

Elsewhere in his remarks he noted that in addition to proper water consumption methods, scientific and advanced methods such as generating clouds, cloud seeding, and attracting rainfalls should be taken into consideration.

Iran to launch 100-day water and wetland scheme



ENVIRONMENT **TEHRAN** — A 100-day environmental scheme

with the theme of "water and wetlands" will be launched in Iran, an official at Department of Environment (DOE) said on Sunday.

Following the success of "no waste" scheme [a 100-day scheme promoting waste segregation and less waste generation], the DOE plans to launch another 100-day scheme focusing on water and wetlands nationwide, Jila Aqaei said.

Launched on December 22, 2017, the no waste scheme went into force during winter and lasted until spring. It was aimed at raising awareness and fostering a sense of responsibility in the community about waste management with the notion of "starting with ourselves".

Referring to the initiation of short-term schemes with environmental themes, Aqaei

stated that the 100-day scheme will be completely drawn up by July 13.

A document for the second 100-day campaign has been prepared in a collaboration between DOE's public participation and public education offices, she said.

The DOE is responsible for devising the scheme and monitoring its implementation and provincial departments of environments are the executive arms of the DOE, Aqaei added.

Developing and producing various contents on water-related issues and engaging the public and related NGOs to address the challenges such as water shortage are some subjects of the aforesaid campaign, she explained.

The scheme also aims to educate the public to reduce water consumption by involving them in identifying and solving water shortage, she concluded.

Iran to manufacture relocatable tent-like structures for emergency situations



SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — Helal

d e s k Textile Company, affiliated to Iran's Red Crescent Society, will manufacture large, relocatable tent-like structures, also known as Rubb Hall, for emergency situations, the company CEO Zaher Rostami has said.

Rubb Hall is a commercial name for such tents. They are usually made of aluminum frames, with steel tension wires and polyester skins. They typically come in sections so the length can be determined by the number of sections employed. A common standard size is an area of 200 square meters.

In humanitarian aid situations, Rubb Halls are often used as warehouses for storing items such as food and medicine. They are also used for providing temporary emergency shelter for large

numbers of people.

Rubb Halls are flexible, durable and portable. They can be easily moved around or quickly relocated to another site, providing fast, flexible and durable shelter solutions.

The Rub Halls which are planned to be manufactured in Iran are petty specious and provide an area of 240 square meters, Rostami said, adding they are 5.5 meters high and weigh 2.5 tons.

He went on to say that the structures are stormproof and can be used in emergency situations caused by natural or unnatural disasters.

Despite its enormous weight the structures are easy to erect and can be easily taken down after the operations, he added.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ع

Bill on children's rights to be brought before Majlis: MP

After months of discussions the bill on rights of children will be brought before Majlis [Iranian parliament], MP Mohammad Reza Badamchi has said.

"Finally after days of putting in considerable effort in legislative group of Majlis we have managed to bring the bill on children's right before the parliament," Badamchi wrote in Persian on his twitter account on Thursday.

"We keep on following up on the subject to stop violation against children's rights and child abuse, most importantly sexual abuse," the MP added.

PREFIX/SUFFIX

“-logy, -ology”

■ **Meaning:** knowledge or collection

■ **For example:** Our **biology** requires us to breathe air.

PHRASAL VERB

Hold something against somebody

■ **Meaning:** to continue to dislike someone or not forgive them because of something bad they have done in the past

■ **For example:** You can't still hold no grudge against him, surely?

IDIOM

Business as usual

■ **Explanation:** after an unpleasant or unexpected event, everything is continuing in a normal way, in spite of the difficulties

■ **For example:** It was business as usual at the supermarket the day after the hold-up.

Erdogan names son-in-law as finance chief

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has named his son-in-law as the country's finance minister after being sworn in to another five-year term.

The appointment of Berat Albayrak, who had served as energy minister since 2015, appeared to rattle the markets.

Erdogan, who was re-elected last month, vowed to "propel our country forward" with his sweeping new powers.

But his opponents fear that his new role as executive president will destroy Turkish democracy.

Erdogan's new position marks a transition away from a parliamentary system and the office of prime minister, which has been in place since the foundation of the modern Turkish republic 95 years ago.

It allows him to appoint ministers and vice-presidents and intervene in the legal system.

After taking the oath of office in parliament on Monday, Erdogan told guests at the presidential palace in the capital, Ankara, that Turkey was "making a new start".

"We are leaving behind the system that has in the past cost our country a heavy price in political and economic chaos," he said.

For 95 years, Turkey was a parliamentary



republic, its Grand National Assembly the heart of power. No more. From Monday, it is a presidential republic under its omnipotent leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Having won re-election, he has now become head of the executive, controlling the army and intelligence agency, able to issue decrees and choose most senior judges.

To his supporters, it is a stronger political

system. To his opponents, it is one-man rule and the death of Turkish democracy.

Erdogan is now the country's most powerful leader since Ataturk: modern Turkey's secular founding father, who saw Turkey as part of the west.

But President Erdogan has put religion at the heart of the country and has distanced it from the West. Few European leaders at-

tended his inauguration - only those from Hungary and Bulgaria - with most from Africa and the Middle East: a sign of his geopolitical realignment.

Erdogan is the arch polarizer and views today are again divided. For some, it is the coronation of a new Turkey. For others, it's the dismantlement of Ataturk's republic.

Following news of the appointment of Erdogan's son-in-law, the Turkish lira lost more than 2% of its value.

It also emerged that Mehmet Simsek, a former banker at Merrill Lynch who acted as deputy prime minister in Turkey's previous government, will not hold a position in the new cabinet.

In another key change announced by Erdogan on Monday, military chief Gen. Hulusi Akar was named as the new defense minister.

Meanwhile Mevlut Cavusoglu remains in his post as foreign minister.

Last month Erdogan was re-elected with 53% of the vote. He has presided over a strong economy and built up a solid support base.

But he has also polarized opinion, cracking down on opponents and putting some 160,000 people in jail.

(Source: BBC)

All 12 boys and football coach rescued from cave

All 12 boys and their coach who became trapped in a flooded Thai cave more than a fortnight ago have been rescued, the Navy SEALs announced Tuesday, completing an astonishing against-the-odds rescue mission that has captivated the world.

The Thai SEALs and elite foreign divers extracted the final batch of four boys, plus the 25-year-old coach, on Tuesday afternoon via a perilous escape route that required them to squeeze through narrow, water-filled tunnels.

"All 12 'Wild Boars' and coach have been extracted from the cave," the SEALs said in a Facebook post.

"All are safe," they added, signing off with what has become their trademark "Hooyah" to celebrate the successful extractions of the other boys over the previous two days.

The 12 boys, aged from 11 to 16, and their coach, ventured into the Tham Luang cave in mountainous northern Thailand on June 23 after football practice and got caught deep inside when heavy rains caused flooding that trapped them on a muddy ledge.

They spent nine harrowing days trapped in darkness until two British divers found them, looking gaunt but otherwise offering smiles to the divers and appearing to be in remarkably good spirits.

But the initial euphoria at finding them dissipated as authorities struggled to devise a safe plan to get them out, with the shelf more than four kilometers deep inside the cave and the labyrinth of tunnels leading to them filled with water.

Authorities mulled ideas such as drilling holes into the mountain or waiting months until monsoon rains ended and they could walk out, with the rescue chief at one point dubbing the efforts to save them "Mission Impossible".



With oxygen levels in their chamber falling to dangerous levels and monsoon rains threatening to flood the cave up above the ledge where the boys were sheltering, rescuers decided on the least-worst option of having divers escort them out through the tunnels.

The escape route was a challenge for even experienced divers. The boys had no previous diving experience so the rescuers trained them how to use a mask and breathe underwater via an oxygen tank.

One fear had been that they would panic while trying to swim underwater, even with a diver escorting them.

The death of a former Thai Navy SEAL diver who ran out of oxygen in a flooded area of the cave on Friday underscored the dangers of the escape route.

The ups and downs of the rescue bid entranced Thai-

land and also fixated a global audience, drawing support from celebrities as varied as U.S. President Donald Trump, football star Lionel Messi and tech guru Elon Musk.

Now they are out, concerns are set to focus on the physical and mental toll of the ordeal.

Experts warned that drinking contaminated water or otherwise being exposed to bird or bat droppings in the cave could lead to dangerous infections.

They also said counseling would be needed to deal with the psychological trauma of spending so long not knowing whether they were going to survive.

But there were some promising initial signs.

Medical chiefs reported on Tuesday morning that the eight boys rescued on Sunday and Monday were in relatively good mental and physical conditions.

"All eight are in good health, no fever... everyone is in a good mental state," Jedsada Chokdamrongsuk, permanent secretary of the public health ministry, said before all 13 had been rescued.

Nevertheless, the boys would remain in quarantine in hospital until doctors were sure they had not contracted any infections from inside the cave.

Even before the final rescues, tributes began for the courage of the boys and their ability to survive the ordeal.

"I cannot understand how cool these small kids are, you know? Thinking about how they've been kept in a small cave for two weeks, they haven't seen their mums," Ivan Karadzic, who runs a diving business in Thailand and has been involved in the rescue mission, told the BBC. "Incredibly strong kids. Unbelievable almost."

(Source: AFP)

UN: 1 in 4 children live in country of conflict or disaster

A quarter of the world's children — about 535 million — are living in a country affected by conflict or disaster, the head of the United Nations children's agency said on Monday.

Henrietta Fore told a Security Council meeting on children and armed conflict that it is "almost beyond comprehension" that one of every four young people are caught in that situation.

She pointed to children and young people whose lives are being shattered by conflicts, including in Yemen, Mali and South Sudan. She also cited youngsters recruited to fight, killed by a land mine or an attack on their school, and "losing hope not only in their futures, but in the futures of their countries."

Sweden, which holds the Security Council presidency this month, organized the open meeting on the theme "Protecting Children Today Prevents Conflict Tomorrow"

and sponsored a resolution unanimously adopted by the 15 members to strengthen UN actions to ensure the care and safety of youngsters.

"We are not doing nearly enough to protect our children," Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven, who presided at the meeting, said, stressing that "350 million children are affected by armed conflict today."

The resolution states for the first time that children recruited or caught up in armed conflict should be treated primarily as victims, he said.

It urges all countries "to consider non-judicial measures as alternatives to prosecution and detention that focus on the rehabilitation and reintegration for children formerly associated with armed forces and armed groups."

Lofven said the resolution also for the first time makes the point that the needs and

vulnerabilities of girls and boys are different and stresses that access for all youngsters to education and physical and mental health care is essential.

It also sets out a framework to reintegrate children associated with armed groups or armed forces into society, which "places children as part of the solution, not part of the problem," he said.

The United States Ambassador Nikki Haley told the council that "more than 60 percent of people in conflict-affected countries are under the age of 25." In countries like Afghanistan, an entire generation has never lived in peace, she said.

She stressed the importance of education as "a way to recover from conflict and prevent it in the future," warning that children who grow up uneducated, unskilled and resentful "will be prime targets for recruitment by extremists and armed groups."

Virginia Gamba, the UN special representative for children and armed conflict, said she is "profoundly shocked" by the more than 21,000 violations of children's rights in 2017 recently reported by the UN, a significant increase from 2016.

"The majority of these despicable acts were perpetrated by armed groups although government forces and unknown armed actors played an important part," she said. "Each and every one of them led to unspeakable suffering for children, families and entire communities."

Gamba said the level and severity of the latest violations demonstrate the need for united action "to change the tide of history," including by focusing on prevention and reintegration "to break cycles of violence" against children.

(Source: AP)

Saudi, French defense chiefs sign agreement on protecting classified data

Riyadh and Paris have signed a military agreement on protecting classified information amid criticisms of France's support for the Saudi regime's bloody war against impoverished Yemen.

The agreement was signed by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and French Defense Minister Florence Parly in the Red Sea coastal city of Jeddah, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported on Monday.

Bin Salman, who also serves as the Saudi defense minister, and Parly reviewed areas of bilateral cooperation, especially military ties, as well as regional developments.

The meeting and the signing ceremony were attended by senior officials from both countries, including Saudi military chief of staff General Fayyad bin Hamed al-Ruwaili and Francois Gouyette, the French ambassador to Riyadh.

The French defense chief's visit to Saudi Arabia follows a trip in April by bin Salman to Paris, where the two countries signed 20 major economic deals worth \$18 billion.

Growing Paris-Riyadh military ties come amid international outcry over the Saudi-led deadly military aggression against Yemen, which has killed or injured over 600,000 civilians since its onset in March 2015, according to the figures released by the Yemeni Ministry of Human Rights.

French President Emmanuel Macron has come under pressure from rights groups to scale back ties with the Saudi-led coalition over its brutal war against the people of Yemen.

According to a recent YouGov poll, 75 percent of French people want Macron to suspend arms exports to countries involved in the war on Yemen, including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

France, the world's third-biggest arms exporter, counts Saudi Arabia and the UAE among its major purchasers. France's biggest military firms, including Dassault and Thales, have major contracts in the Persian Gulf.

Riyadh and Paris have signed a military agreement on protecting classified information amid criticisms of France's support for the Saudi regime's bloody war against impoverished Yemen.

The agreement was signed by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and French Defense Minister Florence Parly in the Red Sea coastal city of Jeddah, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported on Monday.

Bin Salman, who also serves as the Saudi defense minister, and Parly reviewed areas of bilateral cooperation, especially military ties, as well as regional developments.

The meeting and the signing ceremony were attended by senior officials from both countries, including

Saudi military chief of staff General Fayyad bin Hamed al-Ruwaili and Francois Gouyette, the French ambassador to Riyadh.

The French defense chief's visit to Saudi Arabia follows a trip in April by bin Salman to Paris, where the two countries signed 20 major economic deals worth \$18 billion.

Growing Paris-Riyadh military ties come amid international outcry over the Saudi-led deadly military aggression against Yemen, which has killed or injured over 600,000 civilians since its onset in March 2015, according to the figures released by the Yemeni Ministry of Human Rights.

French President Emmanuel Macron has come under pressure from rights groups to scale back ties with the Saudi-led coalition over its brutal war against the people of Yemen.

According to a recent YouGov poll, 75 percent of French people want Macron to suspend arms exports to countries involved in the war on Yemen, including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

France, the world's third-biggest arms exporter, counts Saudi Arabia and the UAE among its major purchasers. France's biggest military firms, including Dassault and Thales, have major contracts in the Persian Gulf.

(Source: Press TV)

Jeremy Hunt replaces Boris Johnson as British Foreign Secretary

British Prime Minister Theresa May has appointed Jeremy Hunt as the new Foreign Secretary, following Boris Johnson's resignation from the job amid deep divisions over Britain's departure from the European Union (EU) or Brexit.



Hunt, who served as the health secretary, was assigned to his new role late on Monday hours after Johnson handed in his resignation letter to May.

Johnson's departure came a day after David Davis, the British minister in charge of Brexit negotiations, also stepped down in protest of May's new Brexit strategy that pointed to a more "business-friendly" deal with the EU.

May is holding a meeting of her new-look cabinet on Tuesday, following a forced reshuffle in the aftermath of the resignations.

Johnson, a polarizing figure and a former mayor of London, was a leading spokesperson for the campaign calling for Britain's departure from the EU in advance of a June 2016 referendum.

He has always supported a so-called "hard Brexit", which supports relinquishing access to the bloc's single market in exchange for full border control.

In his resignation letter, Johnson wrote: "Brexit should be about opportunity and hope. It should be a chance to do things differently", adding "that dream is dying, suffocated by needless self-doubt".

I am proud to have served as Foreign Secretary. It is with sadness that I step down: here is my letter explaining why.

Earlier on Monday, the prime minister's office also announced the appointment of Dominic Raab as Brexit secretary, replacing Davis.

The two resignations have left May badly exposed and raised questions over whether she will stand firm in her commitment to pursuing a "business-friendly" Brexit, or will be faced with more resignations and calls to quit herself.

May, the leader of the Conservative party, believed she had secured a hard-won agreement with her deeply divided cabinet of ministers on Friday to keep the closest possible trading ties with the EU.

But it soon began to unravel when Davis resigned late on Sunday and launched a no-holds-barred attack on her plan, calling it "dangerous" and one which would give "too much away, too easily" to EU negotiators, who would simply ask for more.

On Monday, May defended Friday's deal, which would allow for some ties between Britain and the EU.

"This is the Brexit that is in our national interest. It is the Brexit that will deliver on the democratic decision of the British people," May told parliament.

"It is the right Brexit deal for the people."

May has been trying for months to solve internal issues within the ruling Conservatives about which course to take before Brexit takes effect on March 29, 2019.

Two years ago, Britain shocked the world by narrowly voting to withdraw from the EU after a fevered referendum campaign that sharpened regional divisions and exposed deep distrust between voters and the political establishment.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

Trump request for long-term detention of migrant children denied

A United States federal judge has rejected the government's request to allow long-term detention of migrant and refugee children, a setback for President Donald Trump's executive order that ends his practice of separating parents and children at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Los Angeles U.S. District Court Judge Dolly Gee dismissed as "dubious" and "unconvincing" the U.S. Justice Department's arguments to modify the 1997 Flores settlement that says children can only be held in immigration detention for up to 20 days.

The government made the request in June to allow it to keep underage migrants and refugees in detention alongside parents, after a public outcry over its tactic of separating children from parents who entered the United States in between official ports of entry.

The Trump administration has come under widespread criticism for its "zero tolerance" towards immigrants and refugees. It is estimated that more than 2,000 children remain in detention and separated from their families.

One asylum seeker from Brazil, who spoke to Al Jazeera last week, said it had been more than a month since she had seen her son, after being separated while crossing the border in May.

There have been other reports of parents being deported to their home countries without their children.

Last month, a judge in California ordered the U.S. government to reunite parents with children under the age of five by July 10, and all other children by July 26.

But on Monday, a government lawyer said only about half of 100 immigrant and refugee children under age five will be reunited with their parents by Tuesday's deadline. At a court hearing, Justice Department lawyer Sarah Fabian said 54 children younger than five would be reunited with parents by the end of Tuesday, and the number could increase depending on background checks.

Fabian acknowledged the government wouldn't meet the deadline for all the children, citing a variety of reasons, including that the parents of some of the youngsters had already been deported.

She told the judge that once parents and children were reunited, they would likely be released from immigration custody.

The judge directed the government to file a detailed accounting of the reunification process and scheduled a hearing for Tuesday at 11am (18:00 GMT).

Lee Gelernt, a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union, which brought the case, said he did not think the government was complying with the reunification order.

(Source: agencies)

It’s official: LeBron inks four-year contract with Lakers

LeBron James made his seismic move to the Los Angeles Lakers official on Monday when the three-time NBA champion posted a photo of himself smiling alongside his freshly-signed four-year, \$154 million contract. The news of the contract signing, like the July 1 announcement the 33-year-old would part ways with the Cleveland Cavaliers for Los Angeles, was announced on Twitter by Klutch Sports, the agency that represents James.

The photo showed the four-time MVP smiling alongside Klutch Sports’ founder Rich Paul and Lakers GM Rob Pelinka.

“This is a great day for the Lakers organization and Lakers fans all over the world to welcome LeBron James,” team president of basketball operations Magic Johnson said in a statement on Monday. “LeBron James is special.

He is the best player in the world. He loves to compete and is an awesome leader who is about winning and making sure that his teammates are successful,” said the former Lakers great, who was instrumental in landing James.

“The Lakers players are excited to have a teammate who has been to nine NBA Finals. It’s a huge step closer to returning the Lakers to the playoffs and to the NBA Finals.”

The signing kicks off the “LAbron” era in Tinsletown as the world’s best all-around player begins work restoring the storied Lakers franchise to glory.

The Lakers, who dominated the NBA in the 1980s behind the brilliance of Johnson and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and again in the early 2000s with Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O’Neal, have missed the playoffs the last five seasons.

James will join a promising but unproven core of young players including 20-year-old Lonzo Ball, 22-year-old Kyle Kuzma and 23-year-Josh Hart.

(Source: Reuters)

So easy for Serena as she rolls into quarter-finals

Seven-times champion Serena Williams prevailed in a Centre Court mothers’ meeting on Monday, roaring past Russian qualifier Evgeniya Rodina into the Wimbledon quarter-finals.

The 36-year-old American was untroubled in a 6-2 6-2 victory — her 90th singles match win at the All England Club.

Rodina, who like Williams combines a tennis career with motherhood, looked overawed at first as she went 3-0 down.

She steadied herself, though, and had a break point when Williams served at 4-2, but her chances were few and far between as her opponent continued to charge through a draw blown wide open by an exodus of seeds.

Rodina left the court for a few minutes at the end of the first set but when she returned Williams continued her domination with an early break in the second.

With her easy power game in sync Williams looked serene as she cruised to victory to set up a clash with Italy’s Camila Giorgi, the fifth unseeded player she will have faced in a dream draw on her Wimbledon return.

“I faced a thousand and three seeds in my life, so I’m okay wit that,” Williams responded when asked if she would have preferred stiffer tests.

None of the top eight women’s seeds have reached the quarter-finals for the first time since seedings were introduced in 1927 — although Williams’ 25th seeding is misleading.

(Source: Euronews)

Fernando Torres signs for Japan’s Sagan Tosu

Former Liverpool, Chelsea and Spain striker Fernando Torres has signed for Japanese side Sagan Tosu.

His Atletico Madrid contract ran out this summer and was not renewed, with his final appearance as a 90th-minute substitute in the Europa League final defeat of Marseille.

The Spaniard, 34, rejoined his boyhood club in 2014 after a loan at AC Milan.

The World Cup and European Championship winner was part of Chelsea’s Champions League-winning team in 2012.

He scored 126 goals in 314 matches in an eight-year spell in English football, including four years with Liverpool when he scored 81 times in only 142 games.

“I have had offers from France, Germany and even one from Spain but at no point did I ever think about going to another European team,” Torres said on Tuesday.

“I wanted a new challenge in a completely different place.”

(Source: BBC)

All 12 Thai boys, coach rescued from cave

Thai navy SEALs say all 12 soccer players and their coach have been rescued from a flooded cave, ending an ordeal that lasted more than two weeks.

The SEALs posted on their Facebook page Tuesday that the rescue operation was successful, after earlier posting that the first player of the day was out of the cave at 4:06 p.m. local time.

“We are not sure if this is a miracle, a science, or what. All the thirteen Wild Boars are now out of the cave,” the SEALs wrote, referring to the name of the soccer team.

A medic and three Thai navy SEALs had stayed with the boys on a small, dry shelf deep in the flooded cave and are due to come out as well.

Cheers erupted at a local government office where dozens of volunteers and journalists were awaiting news of whether the intricate and high-risk rescue mission had succeeded. Helicopters taking the boys to a hospital roared overhead.

Chiang Rai Gov. Narongsak Osatanakorn had said earlier Tuesday that the day’s effort might take longer than the previous two rescue missions, but the final four players and coach were out of the cave within 10 hours of the operation’s start. The first day took 11 hours.

(Source: Soccernet)

Southgate forced England to face up to Iceland debacle



There has been a relentless positivity and forward-looking tenor to England’s approach to this World Cup but before the adventure in Russia began, manager Gareth Southgate forced his players to confront a nightmare from the past.

Two years ago England crashed out of the European Championship in the first knockout round with a 2-1 defeat by Iceland after an abysmal performance.

The result against the tiny Scandinavian country, who had clearly been hugely undervalued, was a humiliation for a proud football nation that appeared to have badly lost its way.

England looked drained of all inspiration and confidence and their manager Roy Hodgson quit on the spot. The pundits laid into the players, lambasting their attitude.

“They are all pampered, they’re all headphones and you can’t get anything out of them,” said former player turned analyst Chris Waddle.

The group of players getting ready to face Croatia on Wednesday in the World Cup semi-finals may play, sound and look a completely different team to the one which left France in shame. However, nine of the 14 players who featured in that game in Nice are part of Southgate’s squad.

A further two players — Jordan Henderson and John Stones - were sat on the bench watching the nightmare unfold.

Midfielder Dele Alli, one of those who underperformed in that defeat, certainly hasn’t forgotten the emotions.

“Straight after that game you want the floor to eat you up. You want to hide and not come out of your room. You want to forget about it and lock yourself away,” he said.

Such was the impact of that loss and the criticism it provoked, it must have been tempting for Southgate to tell his players to put that experience out of their minds.

However, shortly after taking over the England team, Southgate made the players sit down and watch a replay of that horror show.

“It was the first time we relived it,” Alli said. “You don’t want to watch it back, but we knew how important it was, going into the World Cup, that we had to go back through it to come out stronger.”

■ Turning point

Southgate’s mantra of “playing with freedom” certainly appears to have been drawn from that bitter experience where England looked frozen by fear.

With England a win away from their first World Cup final appearance since 1966, it is clear that the Iceland loss marked not just a low point for the Three Lions but a turning point.

“After the Iceland game we knew things needed to change

Angry Ukraine fans deluge FIFA’s Facebook page with posts



Ukraine supporters have flooded the Facebook page of football governing body FIFA

with over 158,000 comments, most saying “Glory to Ukraine”, after it fined Croatia’s assistant coach for a video in which he used the same slogan.

FIFA hit Ognjen Vukojevic with a 15,000 Swiss franc (11,385.69 pounds) fine and a warning after he and Croatian defender Domagoj Vida said “Glory to Ukraine” in a video posted after Croatia beat Russia in a World Cup quarter-final on Saturday.

Both men have played for Ukrainian club Dynamo Kiev. Croatia’s Football Federation later sacked Vukojevic from the national team’s coaching staff. Relations between Ukraine and Russia remain highly charged following Moscow’s 2014 annexation of Ukraine’s Crimea region and its backing for a separatist rebellion in eastern Ukraine. Some Ukrainian politicians have called on countries to boycott the soccer World Cup, which Russia is hosting.

By Tuesday afternoon, FIFA’s Facebook page had over 157,000 reviews from users giving it the lowest one-star rating, most less than 48 hours old and including the phrase

“Glory to Ukraine!”. Some added “Glory to Croatia!” and “Shame on FIFA!”

FIFA did not immediately comment on the posts. “Support for Russia means support for annexation and military aggression. Shame on you!” posted a user who gave his name as Vadim Ermilov from Kiev.

“Please answer my question: why can a football player not express his attitude towards what is going on in the world?” asked another user, Oleg Nazarov from Ukraine’s Kremenchuk.

Ukraine’s national team did not qualify for the World Cup.

The country’s football authority and some Ukrainian politicians have voiced support for Vukojevic, who FIFA said on Monday had apologised for his actions.

“‘Glory to Ukraine’ is a commonly used greeting in Ukraine ... (and) should not be interpreted as an act of aggression or provocation,” the Football Federation of Ukraine said in a statement on Sunday.

Croatia face England in the World Cup semi-finals in Moscow on Wednesday.

(Source: Mirror)

Eight players who could return to the Spain set-up under Luis Enrique



■ Ander Herrera

Considered as one of the outstanding players in his position in the Premier League, Herrera has never been able to hold down a place in the national team set-up.

■ Sergi Roberto

The 26-year-old stepped up at Barcelona under the coaching of Luis Enrique and his versatility, being able to play at both central midfield and right-back, led to him almost making the 23-man squad for Russia.



“Feel the power of dream at 2018 World Cup”

and there have been a lot of changes since that moment,” said midfielder Eric Dier, who was substituted at halftime in the game.

“It was a moment where we knew we were extremely disappointed and we knew we couldn’t let that happen again and we wanted that to change. We knew that we could only make amends for that moment here at this World Cup and nothing else would fix what happened then,” he said.

■ ‘Long process’

Dier says there have been a multitude of changes and many were aimed at dealing with the problems and weaknesses that were exposed by the Iceland defeat.

“That is what we’ve been trying to do. Two years is a long period. It has been a long process since then and a lot has changed. We’ve put everything in place. We’ve learned from our mistakes, which is the most important thing, and we’ve made things right,” he said.

The result has been a rekindling of the relationship between England fans and their team that few could have foreseen after the Euro 2016 debacle.

“We’ve seen the way the country has got behind us and the happiness we are giving out and it’s fantastic to be a part of,” said Dier.

(Source: Reuters)

Juventus chief Agnelli travels to Greece to meet Ronaldo



Juventus president Andrea Agnelli travelled to Greece on Tuesday to meet Cristiano Ronaldo as the Portugal star’s proposed €100 million (\$110m) transfer from Real Madrid nears completion, a source has told ESPN FC’s Gabriele Marcotti.

Ronaldo is on a postseason break in Greece following the end of a campaign that saw him help Madrid to a third straight Champions League title and then captain his country at the World Cup in Russia.

Italian outlet Gazzetta dello Sport first reported that Agnelli had taken a private jet from Pisa to the Greek city of Calamata on Tuesday, and a source has confirmed to ESPN FC that the Juventus boss has made the trip to meet Ronaldo to finalise the deal.

Gazzetta dello Sport also reports that Juve coach Massimiliano Allegri and Ronaldo spoke on the phone last Friday.

Allegri has won four straight Serie A and Coppa Italia doubles in as many years since replacing Antonio Conte as Juve coach, although he has yet to get

his hands on the Champions League -- a trophy the Italian club last won in 1996. They have been beaten in two finals in the past four seasons, with Ronaldo’s Real prevailing in Cardiff in 2017 and Barcelona beating them in Berlin in 2015.

Ronaldo sparked speculation over his future in Spain when, just moments after the 3-1 Champions League final victory over Liverpool on May 26, he spoke about his time at the club in the past tense, saying: “It has been very nice being at Real Madrid.”

Three days later, a source close to Ronaldo told ESPN FC that all options were on the table regarding his future, before subsequently insisting that he was not considering a move out of Europe.

The lengthy case brought against him by the Spanish tax office -- which, according to sources, was settled last month when the former Manchester United player agreed to pay a total of €18.8m -- is another reason cited for his desire to leave Spain.

(Source: ESPN)

■ Javi Martinez

He had been part of the national team set-up since 2010, featuring in both the World Cup and European Championship victories of 2010 and 2012 respectively, yet his influence dwindled under Lopetegui.

■ Marc Bartra

The Lazio midfielder was very close to going to the World Cup after an exceptional six months at Betis, after having joined from Borussia Dortmund, but ultimately he missed out and will hope for a better chance under Luis Enrique.

■ Luis Alberto

The Lazio midfielder has only played one game with the national team, but he was outstanding in Serie A last season, scoring 11 goals and registering 14 assists in 34 league games, so he’ll feel he deserves another chance.

■ Jose Callejon

Another of Serie A’s best players, who scored 10 goals and recorded 10 assists last season for Napoli, has been unable to gain a regular place in the national team squad and has never played at a tournament with Spain.

(Source: Marca)

Iran beach soccer have a golden generation: Marco Octavio

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Marco Octavio Simoes Barbosa says Iran beach soccer have a young players who have the potential to shine in the future.

The Brazilian coach is holding a training camp for Team B. Octavio believes that the Iranian young players have the potential of replacing the veterans.

“In my opinion, Iran have a golden generation who can guarantee Team Melli’s future. There is no guarantee for the main players to be invited to the national team for the upcoming events. We will invite the best 12 players to Team Melli,” Octavio said in an interview with Iran Football Federation’s website.

“We have a golden generation at the moment and have won eight title championships during the past years in Asian and intercontinental events. We have also moved up in the world ranking, however that’s not enough since we have the potential of achieving more,” the Brazilian coach added.

“We need to strengthen Iran beach soccer league. Also, I believe that the beach soccer stars have to play in different clubs to keep the balance between the teams,” he stated.

“We are concentrating on two upcoming events. First, we are preparing for the Intercontinental Beach Soccer Cup Dubai which will be held in late October and then we take part at the AFC Beach Soccer Championships (the competition that serves as the Asian Qualifiers for the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup),” Octavio concluded.



Saman Ghoddos snubs Chinese Super League

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Östersund midfielder Saman Ghoddos has dismissed the idea of going to the Chinese Super League, saying he has plenty of years in front of him.

Östersund Post had reported that the Iran international midfielder has been linked with Chinese football teams but Ghoddos says he would rather join a European football team.

“I have offers from Chinese teams but I don’t think about money right now.

I’m so young to join Chinese Supper League. Undoubtedly, money is important, but not enough to get away from what I’ve done since I was young when I have taken the steps in the right direction. I will continue to do that,” Ghoddos said.

“My favorite League has always been La Liga, but I also consider the Premier League or Bundesliga. My agents and Daniel Kindber (Östersund chairman) know which league is better for me,” the Iran international midfielder told Fotbollskanalen.

The 25-year-old player had been also linked with move to English teams Wolves, QPR, Fulham, Swansea City, West Bromwich Albion and Brighton & Hove Albion and LaLiga outfit Celta Vigo, following his impressive Europa League displays against Arsenal.

Ghoddos represented Iran national football team in three matches against Morocco, Spain and Portugal as a substitute in the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

He is under contract with ÖFK until 2020.

Arsenal complete move for Sampdoria midfielder Lucas Torreira

Arsenal have completed the signing of Sampdoria midfielder Lucas Torreira in a deal reported to be worth €30 million.

The deal was finalised after Torreira flew in to London following Uruguay’s exit at the World Cup in Russia, having helped his country reach the quarterfinals.

Torreira gives Arsenal a natural ball-winner who can help shield the back four effectively -- a type of player they have missing recently.

“In Lucas Torreira, we have signed a young player who is a very bright talent in the game,” Arsenal head coach Unai Emery said in a statement. “A midfielder with great quality, I have enjoyed watching his performances for Sampdoria in the past two seasons, and we all saw him do very well for Uruguay in the World Cup. He is a young player already with good experience, but who wants to keep on growing.”

However, it remains unclear whether Torreira will be available for the start of the Premier League season. Arsenal said



he will join the squad in “early August” after a mandatory post-World Cup break.

Arsenal said Torreira will take over the No. 11 shirt, which was recently vacated by Mesut Ozil when he switched to No. 10 following

Jack Wilshere’s departure.

The Uruguayan emerged as one of the top holding midfielders in Serie A over the last two seasons and has been compared to both Chelsea’s N’Golo Kante and Paris

Saint-Germain’s Marco Verratti.

The signing is also another step toward shoring up a defensive unit that struggled badly last season under Arsene Wenger, with Arsenal having already signed veteran right-back Stephan Lichtsteiner on a free transfer from Juventus, Borussia Dortmund centre-back Sokratis Papastathopoulos and Bayer Leverkusen goalkeeper Bernd Leno.

The 22-year-old Torreira has been a crucial part of Sampdoria’s midfield for the past two years, starting a total of 71 Serie A games.

His speed should fit in well with Emery’s plans to deploy a more aggressive press when Arsenal are without the ball, and his ability to link defence and attack should help fill part of the void left by Santi Cazorla’s and Jack Wilshere’s departures.

However, he joins a crowded central midfield at the Emirates, with Granit Xhaka, Aaron Ramsey, Mohamed Elneny and Ainsley Maitland-Niles also fighting for playing time.

(Source: ESPN)

Freed from cave, but doctor’s orders bar Thai boys from World Cup final

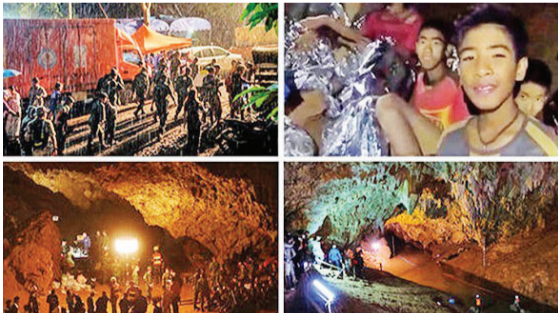
The eight young footballers rescued from a cave in Thailand after more than two weeks underground are unlikely to be able to take up an offer to attend the World Cup final in Moscow, doctors said Tuesday.

The plight of the boys has prompted an outpouring of support from across the footballing world, from Brazil legend Ronaldo to England’s John Stones and Argentinian superstar Lionel Messi.

The emaciated and dishevelled “Wild Boars” were found after nine days of no contact on a small, muddy bank surrounded by water several kilometres inside the Tham Luang cave in northern Thailand.

All had come from football training when they first went into the cave on June 23, and were wearing football shirts when they were found -- one wore an England top, another the colours of Real Madrid.

Images of the desperate group went viral, prompting



FIFA boss Gianni Infantino to invite them to the July 15 showpiece in a gesture of solidarity from the footballing world and a dream to most teenage football fans.

But doctors poured cold water on the idea, saying

the boys are in good shape but going through a slow and careful recovery that will see them stay in hospital for a week.

“They can’t go, they have to stay in hospital for a while,” Thongchai Lertwilairatanapong, of the public health ministry, told reporters Tuesday when asked about the offer to attend Sunday’s match.

“They’re likely to watch it on television,” Jedsada Chokdamrungsuk, permanent-secretary of the Ministry of Public Health. The boys were still far from being rescued at the time the offer was made and as of Tuesday afternoon only eight had been freed as the complex mission entered its final stage.

So far no major health problems have been detected but parents will only be able to visit the first four boys using protective gear and after a period of 48 hours.

(Source: AFP)

Mata targets Spain recall under Luis Enrique

Juan Mata is hoping a strong season at Manchester United will help him regain a place in the Spain team that is now led by Luis Enrique.

On Monday, former Barcelona boss Luis Enrique was announced as the full-time replacement for Julen Lopetegui, who was sacked on the eve of the World Cup following his decision to coach Real Madrid next season, despite having a contract with the national team. A 2010 World Cup winner and 2012 European champion, Mata only featured once for Spain under Lopetegui, in a 2-2 friendly draw with England in November 2016.

“I will do everything in my power to return to the national team,” the 30-year-old midfielder, who has scored 10 goals in 41 appearances for Spain, said to Marca. “I hope the new coach will count on me because I’m going to do everything possible to go back. I would love to help Spain become champions again.”

Mata, who joined United from Chelsea in January 2014, made 36 starts in all competitions for the Red Devils last season, including 23 in the Premier League.

“I now return to work [with United] and I hope this is a passionate season, a good one

for me and for my team,” head said. The aim is to win the Premier League and do a good job in the Champions League, but above all to continue to enjoy playing football. This is my eighth year in English football and I consider myself a privileged person.”

Mata is a fan of Spain’s new coach, who guided Barca to nine trophies in his three campaigns in charge of the first team, including a treble in his first season at the helm.

“He fits the profile because he has played for the national team and because of his coaching career,” the former Valencia star said of the 48-year-old manager. Spain

struggled in the past three tournaments.

At the World Cup in Russia, La Roja finished top of their group after a win against Iran and draws against Portugal and Morocco. They lost 4-3 on penalties following a 1-1 draw with Russia in the round of 16. Spain had suffered a group stage exit four years earlier in Brazil and lost to Italy in the Euro 2016 round of 16.

“We all know what happened with the coach and to the national team at the World Cup in Russia. Now is the time to rest and try again,” Mata said.

(Source: Soccernet)

Iranian archers scoop three medals in 2018 Asia Cup

Press TV — Iranian archers have displayed fine performances at the 2018 Asia Cup-World Ranking Tournament, Stage III in Chinese Taipei, and managed to collect three medals at the event.

On Tuesday, the Iran men’s compound team of Esmail Ebadi, Amir Kazempour and Nima Mahboubi emerged victorious 229-228 in their first contest against opponents from Vietnam at the Taipei Stadium.

The Iranian sportsmen then took on Indian rivals and defeated them 228-227 to book a place in the final competition.

They conceded a 236-239 defeat to representative from South Korea though, and received the silver medal.

The Iranian women’s compound team, consisting of Minou Abedi, Parisa Baratchi and Raheleh Farsi, also clinched a silver.

Earlier in the tournament, the Iran’s compound mixed pair of Ebadi and Abedi clinched a bronze medal, when they faced opponents from Vietnam and triumphed over them 152-147.

The 2018 Asia Cup-World Ranking Tournament, Stage III kicked off on July 9, and will run through July 12, 2018.

Omid Ebrahimi joins Qatar’s Al Ahli



TASNIM — Esteghlal defensive midfielder Omid Ebrahimi has joined Qatari football club Al Ahli.

Al Ahli SC, also known as Al Ahli Doha, signed the Iranian player on a one-year contract.

Omid Ebrahimi was discovered by Amir Ghalenoei in 2011. He started his career in Esteghlal Dargahan. He joined Sepahan in 2010 after spending the previous season at Shahrdari Bandar Abbas in the Azadegan League.

Ebrahimi’s first competitive appearance came in the Iran Pro League match against Rah Ahan on 27 July 2010, where he played the full 90 minutes.

On 10 June 2014, Ebrahimi signed a two-year contract with Esteghlal. He spent an excellent career in Blues of the Capital and was selected as the best midfielder of Persian Gulf Pro League in 2015–16 and 2016–17 seasons.

Ebrahimi played against Morocco, Spain and Portugal in Group B of the 2018 World Cup.

Esteghlal has negotiated with Sepahan midfielder Ali Karimi as a replacement for Ebrahimi.

Mehdi Taj gets Infantino’s invitation to attend World Cup final

PLDC — Mehdi Taj, the President of the Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI), has received an invitation from FIFA President Gianni Infantino to attend the final match of FIFA World Cup 2018.

The match will be held at Moscow’s Luzhniki stadium on July 15. “On behalf of the international football community, I would like to invite you to attend the 2018 World Cup final in Moscow as our guest,” Infantino added.

Iran national football team participated at the 2018 World Cup but failed to book a place in the next stage from Group B with four points.

Iran beat Morocco 1-0, lost to Spain 1-0 and drew 1-1 with Portugal.

Gareth Bale still set for Real Madrid talks

Gareth Bale’s agent has told ESPN FC the player is set for talks with new Real Madrid coach Julen Lopetegui about his future with the European champions.

Reports in Spain claimed that Bale had scrapped plans to meet with club chiefs because of Cristiano Ronaldo’s potential move to Juventus and Lopetegui replacing Zinedine Zidane.

Bale voiced frustration about his lack of regular games following his match-winning display in the Champions League final victory over Liverpool in May.

AS claimed a planned meeting between Bale’s agent Jonathan Barnett and the club’s hierarchy had been cancelled, but ESPN FC has been told that the report is “wrong” and that a meeting will still take place.

Barnett said that his client will “speak to the [new] coach [Lopetegui] and we will go from there.”

Bale faces competition from Isco, who knows Lopetegui well from his time with Spain’s national team, while Lucas Vazquez and Marco Asensio were also named in La Roja’s squad for this summer’s World Cup.

Bale is under contract at the Bernabeu until the end of the 2021-22 season, having signed a six-year deal in October 2016.

Although regularly linked with a return to the Premier League throughout his five seasons in Spain, he has always dismissed the idea publicly until last season.

(Source: Soccernet)

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.eshterak.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



Iranian films line up for Bosnian festival

A R T **TEHRAN** — Three Iranian films will be screened in the various sections of the 4th Viva Film Festival in Bosnia and Herzegovina during September. “Sultan’s Territory” by Ruhollah Molavi will be competing in the Environmental films category.

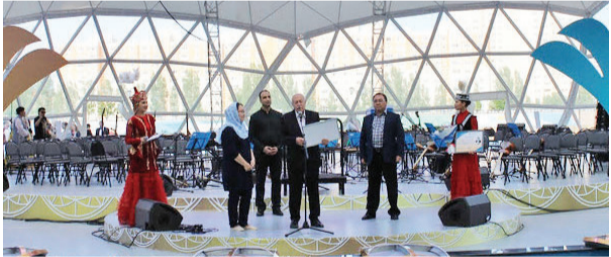


Bahram Pustinduz in a scene from “Sultan’s Territory” by Ruhollah Molavi

The documentary is about Bahram Pustinduz, a hunter that scares or kills birds threatening planes flying at Tehran’s Mehrabad Airport. “Hoomaeta” by Fariba Najafi will also be screened in this section. The film is about a group of missing, thirsty, wounded soldiers on the battlefield that look for water. The Tour Films category will screen “Flag” by Mohammad-Hadi Esfandiari. The short documentary traces the chalipa motifs in the life of Qashqai nomads in Iran. “A Beautiful Woman” by Seyyed Sajjad Musavi will be competing in the Religious Films category. The short drama is about Ziba, a beautiful young woman is in court with her daughter dreaming of a new life. The Viva Film Festival will take place in Sarajevo and 11 other cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina from September 12 to 16.

Iranian orchestra performs in Astana

A R T **TEHRAN** — An Iranian Orchestra of national instruments conducted by Ali-Akbar Qorbani gave performances at the Serper Festival of Folk Orchestras in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan last week. Maestro Farhad Fakhreddini, the former conductor of the National Orchestra was also accompanying the orchestra, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance announced in a press release published on Tuesday.



Maestro Farhad Fakhreddini makes a speech at the Serper Festival of Folk Orchestras in Astana.

The Iranian orchestra gave a performance on the first and last days of the festival on June 3 and 5. During the closing day performance, Fakhreddini was honored on stage by Abdrakhmanov Saken Seytkalievich, the initiator of the festival and director of the State Academic Philharmonic of Astana. He called Fakhreddini a great man whose orchestra gave significant performances at the festival. He hoped to see Fakhreddini more often in his country. Fakhreddini, for his part, hoped to participate in the national ceremonies of the city more often and see more celebrations in the coming years. Astana celebrated the 20th anniversary of transferring the capital from Almaty to Astana on July 6. Iran’s performances were carried out based on a memorandum of understanding signed between Iran and Kazakhstan during August 2017 when Kazakhstan’s Minister of Culture and Sports, Arystanbek Mukhamediuly, paid a visit to Tehran.

NEWS IN BRIEF



“Due Day” to compete in American Brainwash Movie Festival

A R T **TEHRAN** — “Due Day” by Midia Kiasat will be competing in the 24th Annual Brainwash Movie Festival, a drive-in/bike-in/walk-in movie event, taking place in Oakland, California on July 13, 14, 20 and 21. The English-language film “Due Day” depicts a death angel who goes to one of the victims but the story does not go as it is supposed to. Each show will feature a different lineup of weird, unusual and just plain great movies.

Japanese religion expert Toshihiko Izutsu under spotlight in “The Eastern”

A R T **TEHRAN** — Japanese expert on religions Toshihiko Izutsu who is most famous for his studies on Islam is the subject of Iranian filmmaker Masud Taheri’s latest documentary “The Eastern”. In a press release published on Monday, Taheri said that the documentary has recently been completed. “Toshihiko Izutsu is an expert on Islam and the Holy Quran who not only is popular among the Iranian academic community but also is renowned in other Islamic countries such as Turkey, Egypt, Lebanon and Malaysia,” he said. “He had high regard for oriental traditions and religions such as Islam, Taoism and Buddhism, and made great efforts to create unity among them,” he added. The documentary puts its main focus on this issue, Taheri noted.

Over 60 academics and cultural figures from across the world such as Professor Hermann Landolt of the Institute of Ismaili Studies in the UK and academic Toshio Kuroda comment on Izutsu in the film. The film is scheduled to be screened in Iran, Japan and Canada. Izutsu (1914–1993) was Professor Emeritus at Keio University in Japan and author of many books on Islam and other religions. He was fluent in over 30 languages, including Arabic and Persian, taught at the Institute of Cultural and Linguistic studies at Keio University in Tokyo, the Iranian Institute of Philosophy in Tehran and McGill University in Montreal, Canada. In 1958, he completed the first direct translation of the Holy Quran from Arabic to Japanese. The first indirect translation had been accomplished a decade prior by Okawa Shumei.



A poster for “The Eastern”, a documentary directed by Masud Taheri about Japanese expert on religions Toshihiko Izutsu

Iran Cinema Celebration cancels award ceremony over economic climate

A R T **TEHRAN** — The organizers of the Iran Cinema Celebration announced on Tuesday that the winners of the gala will be announced without any award ceremony due to the current economic climate in the country. “The decision was made by the organizers based on the current situation of the country, which has encountered cultural and economic problems, and we felt we must do our share,” Iranian House of Cinema director Manuchehr Shahsavari said during a press conference. “We are passing through days filled with sorrow, and considering our deep patriotic feelings, we decided to hold the celebration with good film judgment but avoid any big ceremony,” he explained. “This was a hard decision for us because we were supposed to enjoy a good day but this is a group decision,” he said. Actor Ali Nasirian, the president of the



Iranian House of Cinema director Manuchehr Shahsavari elaborates on the 20th Iran Cinema Celebration July 10, 2018. Actor Ali Nasirian is also seen in the photo. (Meh/Maryam Kamyab)

20th edition of the Iran Cinema Celebration, also hoped that the celebration would be held with the best way possible filled with kindness and friendship. “We must avoid any unfriendly behaviors. These types of celebrations are held to promote peace and friendship,” Nasirian said. Cinematographer Turaj Mansuri, the secretary of the policy-making council of the Iran Cinema Celebration, also present at the event, said that no decision has been made on how to hold the celebration, adding, “There have been different propositions such as announcing the winners through the media or live on TV, however, our main goal is to reduce expenses” The Iranian House of Cinema organizes the celebration annually to commemorate Iran’s National Day of Cinema on September 12. However, this year the date coincides with the Muharram mourning season, and the exact date of the gala will be announced later.

Drake’s “Scorpion” shatters global records with one billion streams

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — Canadian rapper Drake shattered records with his new album “Scorpion”, which became the first to score one billion streams in its first week and also debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 album charts. Drake’s record company, Republic Records, said the 31-year-old musician, who was the biggest seller in 2016, was the first artist to reach one billion plus streams globally across all platforms in one week of release. The previous record of almost 700 million streams was set in May by Post Malone’s “beerbongs & Bentleys.” According to data on Monday from Nielsen Music, the 25-track double album “Scorpion” sold some 731,000 units in the United States for the week, making the soul-baring record the biggest seller of 2018 by far. The Billboard 200 album chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album). “Scorpion” also gave Drake seven songs in the top 10 Billboard Hot 100 singles charts, Billboard said on Monday, led by “Nice for What.” That beat a record of five simultaneous songs by The Beatles in 1964 when the British band was at the



Drake with his many awards at the 2017 Billboard Music Awards in Las Vegas, Nevada, U.S., May 21, 2017. (Reuters/Steve Marcus)

height of its fame. “Scorpion” made headlines on its June 29 release because Drake confirmed long-standing rumors that he had fathered a son, but he did not name the mother. Streaming services in 2017 became the recording industry’s biggest single revenue source, overtaking sales of physical albums and digital downloads. Rap officially surpassed rock in 2017 as the biggest music genre in the United States. “Scorpion” is a joint release on Warner Bros. and Universal Music-owned labels OVO Sound, Young Money Entertainment, Cash Money Records and Republic Records.

Incredibles 2 film shows fantastic vs the ordinary, says actress Holly Hunter

LONDON (Reuters) — The plot of the new Incredibles movie features a heroine whose life swings between high adventure and humdrum normality, American actress Holly Hunter, who plays Helen, otherwise known as Elastigirl, said on Monday. Hunter was speaking after the British premiere of “Incredibles 2” at London’s British Film Institute on Sunday, where she was joined on the red carpet by co-star Samuel L. Jackson, who plays the character Frozone. The film features a family of superheroes who also have an ordinary family life. “People really want the fantastic and they recognize the (ordinary). They recognize the fights and the stresses and the tensions and the bickering and the fussing and the challenges and the competition that we see with this family,” Hunter told Reuters on Monday. Elastigirl becomes a poster girl for superheroes who are outlawed. She juggles family life with a full-time job as well as fighting the evil ‘Screenslaver’. Hunter said “having it all” was a difficult concept to live up to as a career woman and mother. This is recognized



Actor Samuel L. Jackson poses for photographs with characters from the film as he arrives at the UK premiere of “Incredibles 2” in London, Britain July 8, 2018. (Reuters/Simon Dawson)

in writer-director Brad Bird’s film. “Most women have some conflict with leaving family and a lot of men feel some insecurity about being the primary caretaker,” she said. “She will leave it all in one second to run back home if she thinks that Mr. Incredibile can’t do it.” Hunter believes the changes in equality and diversity in Hollywood is “not a trend” but a “renaissance” though more is needed to be done. “Incredibles 2” is out in UK cinemas on July 13.

Movie producer Weinstein pleads not guilty

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Movie producer Harvey Weinstein pleaded not guilty on Monday to charges of sexually assaulting a woman in 2006, the third criminal sex assault case brought against him, and his attorney said he expects further charges to follow. More than 70 women, mostly young actresses and other women employed in the movie business, have accused Weinstein of sexual misconduct, including rape, in a series of incidents dating back decades. The accusations against Weinstein sparked the #MeToo movement that has seen hundreds of women publicly accuse powerful men in business, politics and entertainment of sexual harassment and abuse, lifting a shroud that had long shielded such behavior. Dressed in a dark suit and tie on Monday, the 66-year-old co-founder of the Miramax film studio was brought handcuffed into a Manhattan courtroom to face the latest charges. New York state Supreme Court Justice James Burke rejected prosecutors’ request to order house arrest for Weinstein, allowing him to remain free on the \$1 million bail that has been in effect since he pleaded not guilty in



Film producer Harvey Weinstein arrives at Manhattan Criminal Court in New York City, U.S., July 9, 2018. (Reuters/Lucas Jackson)

June to charges he assaulted two other women, one in 2004 and one in 2013. Weinstein was subdued throughout the hearing, pleading “not guilty” and responding “yes, sir” when the judge told him

to stay away from his accusers. He walked to the courthouse with a copy of “A Talent for Trouble,” the 1997 biography of “Ben-Hur” film director William Wyler, according to CNN. “Mr. Weinstein is not a predator, he is not a rapist and I believe when this case is over we will ultimately see him to be exonerated,” defense attorney Benjamin Brafman told journalists after Monday’s hearing. Brafman said that prosecutors may file additional charges against Weinstein. Prosecutor Joan Illuzzi said the number of Weinstein accusers “shows the breadth of the criminality here.” Earlier charges included two counts of rape and one count of criminal sexual act. Weinstein was charged after a months-long investigation by the New York Police Department. After Weinstein was accused, his eponymous company Weinstein Co fired him and filed for bankruptcy, and he was expelled from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Through his company and Miramax, Weinstein won plaudits and awards for movies including “Shakespeare in Love,” “Pulp Fiction,” “Sex, Lies and Videotape,” “The Crying Game” and “The King’s Speech.”