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## Iran's 1st intl. gas exhibition running in Tehran

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iran's first international gas show (IRGS 2018) kicked off on Saturday at Shahr-e Aftab Complex in Tehran.

Over 70 Iranian and foreign companies are participating in this event, IRIB reported. According to the organizers, providing a stage for introducing Iran's gas industry and its potentials, facilitating communication among Iranian and foreign companies active in this area, attracting foreign investment

and improving Iran's position as an energy hub in the region as well as technology transfer are some of the exhibition's main goals.

IRGS 2018 is covering gas industry's 13 specialized sectors including drilling and exploration, gas supply, storage, distribution and transmission, technology and training, detection and evaluation, health, safety and environment and etc. and over 80 subsectors for products and services.

## Larijani doubtful Europeans can save nuclear deal

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani said on Saturday that Tehran doubts the Europeans can preserve the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

"We are holding talks with the Europeans about the nuclear deal, however, no

good prospect can be seen. It is not obvious if they can be successful in practice. There is doubt if they will succeed in settling the issue from a political view," Larijani said during a medical symposium in Tehran.

He added, "We could withdraw from the nuclear deal after the U.S. withdrawal, but the European leaders called on us to stay in it. **->2**

## Syria has right to chase terrorists out of Idlib: Russia

As the Syrian armed forces are preparing to launch a full-scale offensive to retake the northern province of Idlib, Russia says the Syrian troops have the full right to go after and hunt the terrorists out of the last stronghold of militants.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Friday the Syrian army has every right "to protect its sovereignty and to

drive out, liquidate the terrorist threat on its territory."

He also noted that talks were underway to set up humanitarian corridors in the militant-held province.

"In this area, in this de-escalation zone, there must be a separation of the armed opposition, ready for dialogue with the government, **->13**



**ARTICLE**  
**Martin Love**  
Political analyst from North Carolina

## No, it's not the strongly cruel who survive in the longer run

"The weak crumble, are slaughtered and are erased from history while the strong, for good or for ill, survive. The strong are respected, and alliances are made with the strong, and in the end peace is made with the strong."

This is a direct quote of a Twitter submission by Benjamin Netanyahu this past week. It's been copied (and condemned) by a variety of people on the Internet, and if anything has ever been written that shows the true face of the Zionist regime, this has to be it. It is fascist, and could have been written by a Nazi in Germany at the start of World War 2. "Might makes right" is apparently Netanyahu's only thought. And, it seems, the only thought of the Trump Administration Neocons, too, who are directing US foreign policies and sanction activity worldwide.

One hardly knows how to respond, practically, to such an assertion, except to wonder what this dangerous man has been smoking, but it is entirely in line with Revisionist Zionism promulgated by Vladimir Jabotinsky as early as the 1920's in Palestine. It was Netanyahu's father who was for a time secretary to Jabotinsky, and thus Israel's current Prime Minister was even as a child infused with an ideology that was anything but peaceful.

You can't teach a bad man new tricks. It's awfully clear what Iran has been up against in the Mideast since the 1979 revolution, and given the US refusal to balance its policies in the Mideast, matters have only gotten worse, especially under Trump.

One can read every day of new atrocities in Gaza and the West Bank such that it appears the Zionists want to literally wipe out any Palestinian identity. This is genocide. And Trump has withheld funds from UNWRA and also wants to reclassify the number of Palestinian refugees from about six million in the Mideast to 500,000, forcing millions to give up any notion of equity and justice. The hard-right Zionists are going for complete domination of the region along with the US, despite the fact that quite a few better thinking Jews in Israel are protesting the Likud government under Netanyahu. **->7**

## Europe able to resist sanctions on Iran, but unwilling to do: Chomsky

**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW**  
**By Javad Heirannia**

**TEHRAN** — Noam Chomsky asserts that Europe is able to resist U.S. sanctions on Iran, but will probably be unwilling to do so.

In an exclusive and yet short interview with the Tehran Times, the renowned U.S. academic also says Europe is unlikely to confront with a "very dangerous U.S."

Following is the text of Tehran Times' interview with Chomsky:

■ Some argue that the European Union law cannot protect Iran against the impact of U.S. sanctions. In other words, the law is a new version of the "Blocking Statute" that the European Union approved in 1996 to protect Cuba against U.S. sanctions. In your opinion,



how much this law is effective to protect Iran against U.S. sanctions?

A: It could be effective if the EU were willing to employ it, but that would mean a direct confrontation with a very dangerous U.S., which

Europe is unlikely to be willing to pursue.

■ Previously, in 1996, without the European support, the U.S. put sanctions on Cuba. Is Europe now able to resist U.S. sanctions against Iran?

A: It's not at all clear that Europe did not accept the Cuba sanctions in practice, whatever they may have said in words. Europe is able to resist U.S. sanctions, but will probably be unwilling to do so.

■ In Europe companies have the right to choose where to do business activities, and Europe also does not want to restrict their freedom. Does the EU can push the companies to work with Iran? How the EU can force the companies to cooperate with Iran?

A: Probably not, but the situation is unlikely to arise.

## 'It's been a horrendous year for Rohingya refugees, met with international inaction'

**By Syed Zafar Mehdi**

**TEHRAN** — It has been one year since Rohingya Muslims were forced to leave Myanmar following brutal crackdown by Myanmar military with tacit support from the government. As per conservative estimates, there are around 905,000 Rohingya refugees presently in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar, although some human rights bodies have put the figure higher.

The exodus of persecuted Rohingya from Myanmar's Rakhine state started in October 2016. Almost 200,000 of them fled to neighboring Bangladesh that time and settled in Cox's Bazar. However, in August last year, more than 720,000 Rohingya Muslims fled to Bangladesh en masse to escape persecution, murder, arson and rape.

The savagery in Rakhine was described by the United Nations as "a textbook example of ethnic cleansing". The atrocities were widely documented by human rights bodies, including gang rapes, cold-blooded killings, torture and destruction of properties belonging to Rohingya Muslims. Hundreds of Rohingya villages were

burnt down between August 25 and November 25 in a systematic ethnic cleansing.

Matthew Smith is the co-founder and chief executive officer (CEO) of Fortify Rights, a human rights organization based in Southeast Asia. He has been extensively campaigning for Rohingya refugees to raise awareness about their struggle and to mobilize global support for them. In this interview with Tehran Times, he talks about the plight of Rohingya refugees, lack of international response, abysmal conditions for their safe repatriation and insufficient humanitarian access to refugees.

Following are the excerpts:

■ August 25 marked one year since Myanmar police backed by the government authorities murdered thousands of Rohingya men, women, and children, forcing more than 700,000 to flee to Bangladesh — the fastest refugee exodus since the Rwandan genocide. How would you describe this one year for Rohingyas now putting up in Cox's Bazar refugee tents?

A: It has been a horrendous year for Rohingya. They're experiencing the worst attack in their

history and it's being met with international inaction.

■ In a blistering report, the UN investigators accused Myanmar's top generals of genocide and said they should be tried at International Criminal Court. The report said Aung San Suu Kyi failed to use "moral authority" to prevent violence and her government "contributed to commission of atrocity crimes". Why are the Western countries still standing by her?

A: Many governments regard Suu Kyi as their only pro-democratic interlocutor in the country, but that's fading. Many western governments have only weak or nonexistent relations with her now. They won't say so publicly, but many people in positions of power internationally understand well that she's a profound disappointment and part of the problem.

■ The UN Secretary General after visiting Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh last month said the horrific stories of suffering he heard from Rohingya refugees there remains vivid in his memory. What should the UN be doing to end this crisis? **->6**



**ARTICLE**  
**Abdul Mumin Giwa**  
Journalist from Nigeria

## Who is the terrorist? IMF, Buhari regime or faceless groups

I was shocked when my attention was drawn to a false claim by a faceless NGO 'Coalition of Arewa CSO for Progress and Change'. The group claimed that the Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN) paid N250 million to a person named Dr. Idris Ahmad, who is yet to be identified. The story was reported and given special coverage in the media in utter disregard of the journalistic ethics.

While this was going on, a few days later, another faceless group demanded that the IMN be declared a terror group by Muhammad Buhari regime. I was quick to notice that it was all being done as part of a sinister conspiracy against the IMN and Sheikh Ibraheem Zakzaky by same shadowy forces.

I was about to respond to the first bogus claim when the other salvo was fired. So I decided to respond to both claims through this article, to set the records straight.

Following the clampdown on the IMN, the extra-judicial killings and mass murder of its members from 12th to 14th of December 2015 by the Nigerian Army led by its chief, over thousand members of the IMN, who were unarmed worshippers made up of mostly women and children, were butchered by the Army in the most brutal manner. Their crime was attending the ceremony to celebrate the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

Initially, the story of mass killing was coming only from the IMN as the Army had taken over all the propaganda machinery. They claimed that the group blocked the way of the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and he made his way through by killing six people. They also shamelessly claimed that the IMN was after the life of the COAS but he managed to escape. In fact the COAS even went to report to the Nigerian Human Rights Commission (NHRC) that his life was threatened by the IMN.

Somehow, some questions arose that raised doubt on the army in the eyes of the public. The Army chief claimed he was blocked at a particular location and he killed six to make his way, but why did the killings persist for two days in three other different locations that were several kilometers away from the scene? **->6**

Persian Gulf Star Oil Company (PGSOC) is going to sell part of its products through running a public tender. Therefore all interested individuals and legal entities are invited to referred to PGSOC's legal and contracts department (Bandar Khamir, 13<sup>th</sup> kilometer of Bandar Abbas high way, Bandar Abbas, Iran) during office hours from September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018 until September 8<sup>th</sup> 2018 to collect the documents against submission of a letter (to be signed by managing director of the entity) containing the intention to participate in the tender and introduction of the representative for collection of such document.

(tel: **00987631310000**, postal code: **7931181183**)

**PGSOC's Public Affairs**





## MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



### Rouhani congratulates Uzbek, Kyrgyz leaders on national day

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has sent separate messages to his Uzbek and Kyrgyz counterparts congratulating them on national day.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran sees no restriction on expansion of relations in various spheres with Republic of Kyrgyzstan,” he said in his message to Kyrgyz President Sooronbay Jeenbekov.

In his message to Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the Uzbek president, Rouhani also said, “The two countries’ friendly ties are growing and I am sure that expansion of the relations will be continued within the framework of meeting mutual interests and boosting the regional security and stability.”

Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan declared independence from the Soviet Union on August 31, 1991.



### FM says Iran gives neighbors priority

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — The Iranian minister of foreign affairs has said that the Islamic Republic gives its neighbors priority over others in its foreign policy.

Mohammad Javad Zarif made the statement in a tweet on Saturday following his trip to the neighboring country of Pakistan. “Fruitful meetings in Islamabad with PM @ImranKhanPTI, Army Chief, Speaker & Foreign & Finance Ministers,” he wrote.

“In my 8th trip to Pakistan, I was honored to be the first minister received by new govt.,” Zarif added.

He concluded by saying, “Emphasis on expanding bilateral, regional & global partnership. Neighbors our priority.”



### We need new technologies: nuclear chief

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — The top nuclear official said on Saturday that Iran is in need of new technologies to develop relations with other countries.

Addressing the 34th Iran Physics Conference in Qazvin, Ali Akbar Salehi also said experts around the country should pave the way for engagement with the outside world, Mehr reported.

He also called for better living standards for experts to prevent brain drain.

“No academic would like to leave his country, except he is isolated and there is not enough ground for his scientific work and discourse.”



### U.S. waging ‘full-fledged economic war’ against Iran: envoy

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — Iranian Ambassador to London Hamid Baedinejad has said the U.S. government has officially waged a full-fledged economic war against the Islamic Republic in the hope of orchestrating a regime change.

In an article published in the Arman newspaper on Saturday, Baedinejad said the Trump administration is trying to put pressure on the Islamic Republic by fomenting discord in the Iranian society.

“No doubt should remain that such plan has a media [campaign] attached to it,” he remarked, citing Cambridge Analytica controversy as an example of the importance of social media in manipulating public opinion.



### All should pay the price to save nuclear deal: Zarif

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Saturday that in order to save the 2015 nuclear accord and benefit from it, other countries, especially the Europeans, should be willing to “pay the price”, IRIB news reported.

Speaking to reporters, Zarif said if other countries deem the deal, officially known as the JCPOA, as an important global achievement, they should be fully prepared to protect it.

He also said the U.S. not only breaks the laws, but also pressures other countries to do the same, emphasizing that resistance against such law-breaking tendency is necessary “otherwise it will cost them much more than [U.S. withdrawal from] BARJAM (the JCPOA).”



### Advisor refutes Imam Musa al-Sadr’s martyrdom

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — Hossein Amir Abdollahian, a senior foreign policy advisor to the parliament speaker, said on Saturday that there are no reliable evidence that Imam Musa al-Sadr has been martyred.

“No reliable evidence of #Imam\_Mousa\_Sadr martyrdom is at hand. Expected influential figures in #Libya & #Lebanon decisively preordain Imam’s fate and assign “active & special committee” to fulfill that vital issue,” Amir Abdollahian said in a tweet.

Sadr, a prominent Iranian-Lebanese Shia scholar, went missing with two companions on August 31, 1978, during an official visit to the Libyan capital Tripoli. He was accompanied by Sheikh Mohammad Yaqoub and journalist Abbas Badreddine.

# Foreign military attaches visit defense industry fair

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — Foreign military attaches residing in Tehran visited on Saturday an exhibition of the defense industry.

Amir Mohammad Ahadi, a senior advisor to the Iranian defense minister, said, “Our colleagues cooperate with most of the military attaches... and our efforts are in line with facilitating relations in defense area.”

He noted that Iran’s defense policies are based on interaction with other countries and helping promote international peace and security.

“The Defense Ministry’s new plans include enhancement of the power of different types of ballistic and cruise missiles, manufacturing a new generation of fighter jets and heavy and long-range



surface and subsurface vessels with various weapons systems and capabilities,” Fars news agency quoted him as saying.

On August 13 the Defense Ministry unveiled a new generation of homemade pin-pointing missile named “Fateh Mobin”. The radar-evading, tactical and pin-pointing missile is equipped with an advanced and smart explorer and is also capable of penetrating anti-missile defense shields.

In a televised interview aired on August 18, Defense Minister Amir Hatami said that the ministry under his leadership promotes missile power as first priority and air defense as second.

“Our priority in the Defense Ministry is missile power and then air defense. Along with that we focus on aerial, naval and ground power,” he said.

## Iranian, British diplomats hold talks on future of nuclear deal



**POLITICS** TEHRAN — British Minister for the Middle East Alistair Burt started talks on Saturday with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi about the future of the 2015 nuclear deal in the aftermath of the U.S. exit from the international agreement.

The U.S. quit the nuclear pact, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), despite being legally bound by it after it was signed into a UN Security Council resolution. It also reintroduced the sanctions that had been envisaged to be lifted under the JCPOA.

In a statement before his visit, Burt echoed London’s assertion to remain committed to the nuclear deal, saying,

“As long as Iran meets its commitments under the deal, we remain committed to it as we believe it is the best way to ensure a safe and secure future for the region.”

The discussions were also expected to address economic cooperation and provision of financial and monetary mechanisms that would enable continued trade between the two sides despite the implications of Washington’s decision and reimposition of sanctions, Press TV reported.

The latest regional developments as well as the case of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, who was sentenced to five years’ imprisonment for spying, were also expected to feature in the talks.

## Tehran says sacking of Hashd al-Sha’abi chief is an Iraqi issue

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — Iran says Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi’s decision to remove national security adviser and Hashd al-Sha’abi chief Fali al-Fayyadh is an internal affair which Tehran does not meddle with.

It is an internal Iraqi issue and “we do not interfere in it,” Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi said.

“For us, as a neighbor, a safe, unified, and advanced Iraq has priority over everything else,” the diplomat told Iran’s Arabic-language Al-Alam television network.

Hashd al-Sha’abi is the Arabic name for the Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF) whose forces were key in defeating Daesh (ISIS).

Alfayyadh was removed from office on Friday, with Abadi’s office stating that the decision had been taken due to his involvement in “political and partisan work”.

The decision has largely been attributed to the country’s ongoing efforts to form a new government following parliamentary elections in May.

Senior cleric Muqtada Sadr’s Sairoon bloc came first in the polls, while the Fatah (Conquest) Alliance led by Hadi al-Amiri, and Prime Minister Abadi’s Nasr finished second and third.



Before Abadi’s decision, reports surfaced alleging that Alfayyadh was working with other heavyweight political groupings to establish the largest parliamentary bloc with expected influence in the make-up of the next government.

Abadi’s office said Alfayyadh’s alleged involvement in government formation talks would undermine the performance of the country’s security apparatus.

As an apparent answer to the prime minister’s move, a number of Nasr’s leaders have made Alfayyadh their candidate for premiership, according to various media reports.

## Tehran says door not closed for dialogue with Saudis

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — Tehran has not shut the door to political dialogue with Saudi Arabia, Iran’s foreign minister said on Friday.

“Our policy is to have good relations with our neighbors, an example of which is ours with the Caspian Sea littoral states... We don’t bring out neighbors into conflict,” Mohammad Javad Zarif said in an interview with president.ir.

“What we at the Foreign Ministry have defined as the neighborhood or robust regional policy is decent; we do not seek to dominate our neighbors, yet we haven’t accepted being dominated by anyone and we will not

accept that [in the future],” the senior diplomat stated.

He voiced disapproval over some neighbors who rely on foreigners for their security.

“It is unfortunate that [some of] our neighbors have taken refuge to foreigners... Unfortunately, the current Saudi government is not seeking a solution (to settle differences), and even in some cases they are looking for tensions.”

However, Zarif praised Saudi Arabia’s treatment of Iranian pilgrims this year, describing it as a “good behavior”, hoping the amendment to usher in extended relations.

“We are ready and hope that the positive behavior that they had in Hajj to be extended to other areas of bilateral relations.”

The foreign minister went on to say that “we certainly welcome their better behavior [towards Iranian nationals] during this year’s Hajj pilgrimage, and if the Saudi government is ready to reasonably enter into a political dialogue, the Islamic Republic of Iran has never shut the door on such a negotiation.”

“We also have to admit that the Saudi government has always separated Hajj from its [political] relations with Iran, particularly in the past two years,” he concluded.

## Sherman regrets saying ‘deception is in Iranians’ DNA’

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — Wendy Sherman, the former senior U.S. nuclear negotiator with Iran, has said she regrets her offensive remarks that “deception is the Iranians’ DNA”.

“I regretted having made that statement. The statement was that deception is their DNA [the Iranians]. It was an answer to a question of a senator in a Senate Foreign Relations Committee. That led to Death to Wendy Sherman on streets of Tehran,” she said in an interview with CBS News aired on Friday.

Sherman led the U.S. negotiating team that concluded the 2015 nuclear agreement, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Back in July, Sherman said that U.S. President Trump does not understand that “Iran has a culture of resistance that equates giving in to those kinds of public threats as surrender, and they won’t surrender.”



“President Trump’s diplomatic style is to thump adversaries over the head with threats, and then after beating them up offer to sit down to talk and try and seal a deal,” Sherman told Yahoo News in an interview.

Trump withdrew the U.S. from the JCPOA in May and ordered restoration of sanctions against Iran.

## Larijani doubtful Europeans can save nuclear deal

**1 →** Iran accepted to continue the nuclear deal with the Europeans for a period of time to see if they are politically capable to resolve the issue which was a wise act [by Iran].”

On May 8, Donald Trump withdrew Washington from the nuclear agreement and ordered sanctions against Iran. The first batch of sanctions took effect on August 6.

The European Union trio – Germany, France and Britain which are signatory to the nuclear deal - are expected to present their package of proposals to Iran before the second round of U.S. sanctions takes effect in early November.

The November sanctions target Iran’s central bank and oil exports.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said on Wednesday that Iran will abandon the nuclear deal if it does not safeguard the country’s interests.

He also criticized Europe’s inappropriate behavior toward some issues such as the JCPOA and sanctions, saying that



the officials should have “skeptical view” on the Europeans’ promises.

“There is nothing wrong with ties and continuation of talks with Europe, however, while carrying on with this measure, do not pin hopes on them [the Europeans] on issues such as the JCPOA and economy,” the Leader told President Rouhani and his cabinet team.

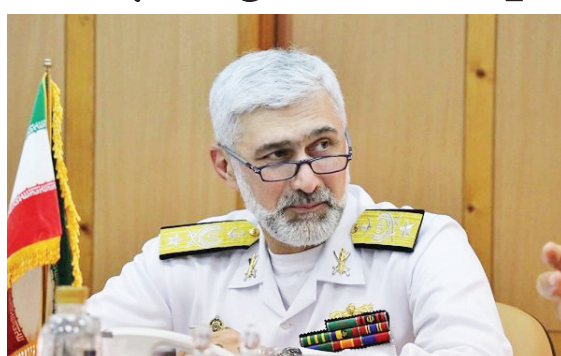
## Iranian navy to get 1300-hp engines

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — The Iranian navy will be delivered locally produced engines with a capacity of 1300 horsepower to operate its vessels, the managing director of the Marine Industries Organization said on Saturday.

The delivery will take place by March 2019, the end of the current Iranian calendar year, Rear Admiral Amir Rastegari said at a ceremony arranged to highlight technological advances made in marine industry.

According to the Mehr news agency, Rastegari also boasted that Iran has a broad range of capabilities in designing, manufacturing and repairing different kinds of vessels.

“Today, having ten offices, the Defense Ministry’s Marine Industries Organization is responsible for designing and manufacturing surface combatant, submarines, ground-effect vehicles (GEVs), hovercrafts, flying boats and fast attack crafts (FACs),” the defense official explained.



He added that there are offices allocated to designing diesel and gasoline engines as well as propelling systems. “The Marine Organization has 16 technology develop-

ment centers for various composite, steel, aluminum, smart systems and electric thrust development,” he said.

The organization also has five shipyards in the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea, Rastegari stated.

He also said the first waterjet engine will be produced by March 2019.

“The engine is used for high speed boats and it has been put on the sanctions list,” the defense official said, adding that the youth have successfully turned this challenge into an opportunity.

Also during the ceremony, the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development, the Armed Forces’ Marine Industries Organization and the Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade inked a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to design and produce 70 watercrafts.

The watercrafts will be used in offshore services and support, transportation and towing, replacing leased watercrafts.



# U.S. decision to end funding for UN Palestinian refugee agency inhumane, reckless: PLO official

## Israeli forces attack Palestinian protesters in Gaza, injure 240

By staff & agencies

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) has censured as "inhumane and reckless" a recent decision by the United States to cut some \$300 million in planned funding for the United Nations Palestinian refugee agency (UNRWA).

"The U.S. administration's decision to terminate all funding to UNRWA is a cruel and irresponsible move targeting the most vulnerable segment of Palestinian society," Hanan Ashrawi, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, said on Saturday.

She added, "The Palestinian refugees are already the victims, who have lost their homes, livelihoods and security as a result of the creation of Israel, and once again, they are being victimized by the U.S. administration in support of Israel's decades-long military occupation and impunity."

The senior Palestinian official further noted that UNRWA provides 5.3 million Palestinian refugees residing in 58 refugee camps in Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria "with a sense of hope and security through its vital services, support and opportunities for work, growth and development."

"It also provides protection for the Palestinian refugees to ensure that their rights under international law are protected and promoted," she added.

Ashrawi warned that the real outcome of the United States administration's latest "unilateral and reckless policy is the destabilization of the entire region and the creation of unimaginable suffering and hardship for the Palestinian refugees."

"With such a decision, the U.S. is destroying the very foundations of peace and stability besides taking all permanent status issues off the table, including the right of return for refugees and occupied al-Quds," she pointed out.

"Until the plight of the Palestinian refugees is resolved in accordance with international law and relevant UN resolutions, including ... United Nations General Assembly Resolution 194 (III), we call on all members of the international community to shoulder their responsibilities towards Palestinian refugees and provide the necessary support and financial assistance UNRWA needs to fulfill its mandate," Ashrawi concluded.

**Wishing away Palestinian refugees: End of US' UNRWA aid explained**

Meanwhile, the UN Palestinian refugee agency (UNRWA) calls the decision by the Trump administration to no longer commit funding "deeply regrettable" and "shocking".

UNRWA Spokesperson Chris Gunness said on Saturday that the move would affect "millions of people" including "some of the most disadvantaged and marginalized on this planet".

The U.S. State Department announced in a written statement on Friday that Washington "will no longer commit further funding to this irredeemably flawed operation."

Washington donated \$355 million to the UN agency that helps Palestinian refugees in 2016, and was set to make a similar contri-



bution this year.

**Israel welcomes end of U.S. aid for UN Palestinian refugee agency**

Elsewhere, Israel has welcomed a controversial move by the United States to cut funding to a United Nations agency supporting Palestinian refugees across the Middle East.

The U.S. announced on Friday that it has "carefully reviewed" the aid program and "will no longer commit further funding to this irredeemably flawed operation."

The decision made by the Trump administration cuts some \$300 million of planned support to the 70-year-old UNRWA.

Israel, however, supported the move that has thrown the agency into financial crisis, according to an official in the office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who was speaking on condition of anonymity.

"Consolidating the refugee status of Palestinians is one of the problems that perpetuate the conflict," said the official, "the official was quoted by AFP as saying.

Trump has formerly complained that Washington received "no appreciation or respect" for the aid it provided to the region.

He has also threatened this year to cut aid to the Palestinians over what he called their unwillingness to negotiate with Israel.

Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fled or were forced from their homes during the war that led to the creation of the Israeli regime in 1948.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas denounced the U.S. decision as a "flagrant assault" against Palestinians on Friday, said his spokesman.

UNRWA has for decades been providing health care, education and social services to Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

The Trump administration, which is preparing its own Israeli-Palestinian peace plan, separately said last week that it will cut \$200 million slated for direct U.S. aid to the Palestinian Authority. It said the budget would be "redirected" elsewhere.

The loss of funds will be hard on the Palestinians, according to Ghassan Khatib, vice

president for development and communications at Birzeit University, near the occupied West Bank town of Ramallah. But, he said, it will do little to change these people's status as refugees.

Meanwhile, a former Israeli lawmaker Einat Wilf said she would be happy to see the end of UNRWA, which she described as the major obstacle to peace in the region.

"UNRWA has allowed the Palestinian national identity to coalesce around the right to return and the undoing of Israel," she said.

An estimated five million refugees and their descendants are currently recognized as eligible across the region.

The refugees' "right of return" to their homeland has long been one of the key core issues in the long-standing Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Israel rejects the right, saying that it represents a bid by the Palestinians to destroy Israel by weight of numbers.

According to a report last month, Trump in early September will set out its policy on the issue. His administration is said to produce a report which would recognize only some half-a-million Palestinians, who should be legitimately considered refugees.

The plan, according to the report, rejects the UN designation, under which millions of descendants of the refugees are also considered refugees.

**Israeli forces attack Palestinian protesters in Gaza, injure 240**

The developments followed as at least 240 Palestinians have been injured in attacks by Israeli forces on a protest held in the Gaza Strip near the fence between the besieged enclave and the occupied Palestinian territories.

Ashraf al-Qedra, the spokesman of Gaza Health Ministry, reported that Israeli forces attacked Palestinians on Friday. The wounded include three medics and a journalist.

The spokesman added that 82 of the injured were transferred to hospital.

A 10-year-old boy and a female medic, Shorouk Abu Mesameh, were in critical condition.

Tensions have been running high near the fence since March 30, which marked the start

of a series of protests dubbed "The Great March of Return." Palestinian protesters demand the right to return for those driven out of their homeland.

The clashes in Gaza reached their peak on May 14, the eve of the 70th anniversary of Nakba Day, or the Day of Catastrophe, which coincided this year with Washington's relocation of the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied al-Quds (Jerusalem).

Israeli fire has taken the lives of more than 170 Palestinians since March 30.

On June 13, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution, sponsored by Turkey and Algeria, condemning Israel for Palestinian civilian deaths in the Gaza Strip.

Gaza has been under Israeli siege since June 2007, causing a decline in living standards as well as unprecedented unemployment and poverty.

Israel has also launched several wars on the Palestinian sliver, the last of which began in early July 2014 and ended in late August the same year. The Israeli military aggression killed nearly 2,200 Palestinians and injured over 11,100 others.

**Lana Del Rey cancels Israel concert following backlash**

Separately, U.S. singer Lana Del Rey has cancelled an appearance at a music festival in Israel next week following a backlash from fans and activists.

The surprise decision by Del Rey on Friday followed a campaign by pro-Palestinian groups calling for a cultural boycott of Israel over its occupation of Palestine.

Along with the pro-Palestinian group Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), the Palestinian Campaign for the Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI) had launched a petition urging Del Rey to pull out of the show, saying her performance would "cover up gross violations of human rights".

The petition received 14,500 signatures.

"It's important to me to perform in both Palestine and Israel and treat all my fans equally," said Del Rey, who had been scheduled to perform at Meteor festival a September festival in northern Israel.

"Unfortunately it hasn't been possible to line up both visits with such short notice.

The PACBI welcomed the singer's announcement.

PACBI is part of the wider Boycott, Divestment Sanctions (BDS) movement.

Established in 2005, BDS is a Palestinian-led international movement that calls for a boycott of Israeli goods, divestment from Israeli companies and governmental sanctions on the country in order to pressure the Israeli state to prevent human rights abuses against Palestinians.

The movement has been cited as a national security threat by the Israeli government.

In January, Israel published a list of BDS-supporting organizations whose members would be banned from entering the country.

In December 2017, New Zealand singer Lorde cancelled a performance in Israel after sustained pressure from pro-Palestinian activists and fans.

## Myanmar publishes fake photos of Rohingya crisis



The grainy black-and-white photo, printed in a new book on the Rohingya crisis authored by Myanmar's army, shows a man standing over two bodies, wielding a farming tool. "Bengalis killed local ethnics brutally," reads the caption.

The photo appears in a section of the book covering ethnic riots in Myanmar in the 1940s. The text says the image shows Buddhists murdered by Rohingya - members of a Muslim minority the book refers to as "Bengalis" to imply they are illegal immigrants. But a Reuters examination of the photograph shows it was actually taken during Bangladesh's 1971 independence war, when hundreds of thousands of Bangladeshis were killed by Pakistani troops.

It is one of three images that appear in the book, published in July by the army's department of public relations and psychological warfare that have been misrepresented as archival pictures from the western state of Rakhine.

In fact, Reuters found that two of the photos originally were taken in Bangladesh and Tanzania. A third was falsely labelled as depicting Rohingya entering Myanmar from Bangladesh, when in reality it showed migrants leaving the country.

Government spokesman Zaw Htay and a military spokesman could not be reached for comment on the authenticity of the images. U Myo Myint Maung, permanent secretary at the Ministry of Information, declined to comment, saying he had not read the book.



The 117-page "Myanmar Politics and the Tatmadaw: Part I" relates the army's narrative of August last year, when some 700,000 Rohingya fled Rakhine to Bangladesh, according to United Nations agencies, triggering reports of mass killings, rape, and arson. Tatmadaw is the official name of Myanmar's military.

Much of the content is sourced to the military's "True News" information unit, which since the start of the crisis has distributed news giving the army's perspective, mostly via Facebook.

The book is on sale at bookstores across the commercial capital of Yangon. A member of staff at Innwa, one of the biggest bookshops in the city, said the 50 copies the store ordered had sold out, but there was no plan to order more. "Not many people came looking for it," said the bookseller, who declined to be named.

On Monday, Facebook banned the army chief and other military officials accused of using the platform to "inflame ethnic and religious tensions". The same day, UN investigators accused Senior General Min Aung Hlaing of overseeing a campaign with "genocidal intent" and recommended he and other senior officials be prosecuted for crimes against humanity.

In its new book, the military denies the allegations of abuses, blaming the violence on "Bengali terrorists" it says were intent on carving out a Rohingya state named "Arkistan."

The book also seeks to trace the history of the Rohingya - who regard themselves as native to western Myanmar - casting them as interlopers from Bangladesh. In the introduction to the book the writer, listed as Lieutenant Colonel Kyaw Kyaw Oo, says the text was compiled using "documentary photos" with the aim of "revealing the history of Bengalis."

"It can be found that whenever a political change or an ethnic armed conflict occurred in Myanmar those Bengalis take it as an opportunity," the book reads, arguing that Muslims took advantage of the uncertainty of Myanmar's nascent democratic transition to ignite "religious clashes."

Reuters was unable to contact Kyaw Kyaw Oo for comment.

Reuters examined some of the photographs using Google Reverse Image Search and TinEye, tools commonly used by news organizations and others to identify images that have previously appeared online. Checks were then made with the previously credited publishers to establish the origins of those images.

Of the 80 images in the book, most were recent pictures of army chief Min Aung Hlaing meeting foreign dignitaries or local officials visiting Rakhine.

Of eight photos presented as historical images, Reuters found the provenance of three to be faked and was unable to determine the provenance of the five others.

One faded black-and-white image shows a crowd of men who appear to be on a long march with their backs bent over. "Bengalis intruded into the country after the British Colonialism occupied the lower part of Myanmar," the caption reads.

The photo is apparently intended to depict Rohingya arriving in Myanmar during the colonial era, which ended in 1948. Reuters determined the picture is in fact a distorted version of a color image taken in 1996 of refugees who had fled the genocide in Rwanda. The photographer, Martha Rial, working for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, won the Pulitzer Prize. The newspaper did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the use of its photo.

Another picture, also printed in black-and-white, shows men aboard a rickety boat. "Bengalis entered Myanmar via the watercourse," the caption reads.

Actually, the original photo depicts Rohingya and Bangladeshi migrants leaving Myanmar in 2015, when tens of thousands fled for Thailand and Malaysia. The original has been rotated and blurred so the photo looks granular. It was sourced from Myanmar's own Ministry of Information.

(Source: Reuters)

## Pro-Russia leader killed in east Ukraine

The leader of Russian-backed separatists in the Donetsk region in eastern Ukraine was killed in a blast at a cafe in Donetsk city, the separatist administration said. Russia accused Ukraine of assassinating the separatist leader, Alexander Zakharchenko, to try to unleash a renewed war in eastern Ukraine, but Kyiv said it had nothing to do with the blast and blamed separatist infighting.

Zakharchenko, who led the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic since 2014, "received injuries incompatible with life as a result of an explosion in the center of Donetsk," the separatist administration said in a statement.

Russian-backed rebels threw off Ukrainian central rule in an armed uprising after pro-Western leaders opposed by Moscow came to power in the Ukrainian capital in 2014.

A shaky internationally-brokered cease-fire has been in force since 2015, halting large-scale fighting though there are still frequent outbreaks of shooting on the front line between the separatist and Ukrainian forces.

Russia's Foreign Ministry said it had every reason to believe Kyiv was responsible for Zakharchenko's death, ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on the Rossiya-24 state television station.

Zakharova said Zakharchenko's death showed that Kyiv had decided to engage in a "bloody fight" and had passed up on its promises of seeking peace.



In Kyiv, a spokeswoman for the state Security Service, Yelena Gitylyanskaya, said the accusations emerging from Moscow about Ukraine's involvement were untrue.

"According to our information, this was the result of internal fighting which is continuing for years already between the terrorists and their Russian sponsors," she said.

Zakharchenko, a 42-year-old former coalmine electrician, became leader of the Donetsk Republic in November 2014. Other rebel leaders say he was handpicked for the role by Moscow. A vote held by separatists confirmed him in office.

who accuse each other of providing safe haven to armed fighters along the 2,600km, largely porous, border.

Pakistan has made efforts to fence the border, but has faced resistance from Afghanistan, who claims the border is disputed.

In August, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani accused Pakistan of supporting Afghan Taliban fighters who launched a five-day assault on the Afghan city of Ghazni.

Pakistani foreign office spokesperson Muhammad Faisal denied the charge, terming the complaint "spurious" and "rejecting [the] baseless allegations".

Efforts have been underway since the

election of a new government in Pakistan, led by Prime Minister Imran Khan, to reset the relationship.

In a congratulatory phone call to Khan after his election, Ghani said: "We both agreed to overcome the past and to lay a new foundation for a prosperous political, social and economic future of both countries Afghanistan and Pakistan".

At a weekly press briefing on Thursday, Pakistani foreign office spokesperson Faisal reiterated that resolve.

"There is a need to move forward for betterment of our relations," he said.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

## Pakistan closes consulate in Afghan city of Jalalabad over 'interference'

Pakistan has temporarily closed its consulate in the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad over alleged interference by the provincial governor and a lack of security, its embassy in Kabul announced.

In a letter sent to the Afghan foreign ministry, Pakistan's embassy in Kabul complained that the provincial governor of Nangarhar was "intervening" in the affairs of the consulate.

"The Embassy has requested the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan to kindly refrain the Governor from interfering in the functioning of the Consulate General," said a statement released by the Pakistan embassy

on Friday.

Pakistan also reiterated an oft-repeated request for greater security to be provided to the consulate.

According to the letter, the consulate will remain closed until adequate security arrangements were made.

In November, a Pakistani diplomat was shot dead outside his residence in Jalalabad. Last June, two Pakistani diplomats were kidnapped in Nangarhar while heading to Pakistan by road.

The closure of the consulate is the latest episode in a period of increasingly strained relations between the neighboring countries



STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	136109.7
IFX	1545.23

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	48,753 rials
GBP	54,428 rials
AED	11,437 rials

Source: mehrnews.com

COMMODITIES

WTI	\$69.80/b
Brent	\$77.64/b
OPEC Basket	\$75.72/b
Gold	\$1,20195/oz
Silver	\$14.59/oz
Platinum	\$793.05/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

South Pars platform 14C shipped toward installation spot

**E N E R G Y** **d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Platform 14C of Iran’s South Pars gas field (in the Persian Gulf), which was loaded at Sadra industrial yard in the southwestern province of Bushehr, was shipped on Saturday to be installed on its designated offshore spot.

Installation operation of this platform will be started next week and is scheduled to be finished by mid-October, Public Relations Department of Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC), which is in charge of implanting development phases of the giant gas field, reported.

Platform 14C, which is the second platform of South Pars phase 14 of development, will add 500 million cubic feet of gas per day to the capacity of the gas field.

South Pars gas field, which Iran shares with Qatar, is estimated to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world’s reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate. The field is divided into 24 standard phases.

1,400 industrial units active in Iran’s free trade zones

**ECONOMY** **d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Some 1,400 industrial units are active in Iran’s free trade zones, according to Morteza Bank, the secretary of Iran’s Free Zones High Council.

Making the remarks in a ceremony for inaugurating some infrastructure and investment making projects in Aras Free Trade-Industrial Zone in northwest of the country on Friday, the official said some huge investments have been made in Iran’s free zones over the past five years, IRNA reported.

Free zones play some significant role in development of the country, Bank noted and said, “We should help these zones be successful in economic flourishing of the country.”

In early May, the official announced that customs offices will be established in all seven free trade zones of the country by the end of current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2019).

Iran, Iraq dump dollar in bilateral trade

**ECONOMY** **d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Chairman of Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce Yahya Ale-Es’haq announced that Iran and Iraq have dumped dollar for rial, dinar and euro in their mutual financial transactions, Mehr news agency reported on Saturday.

“A part of trade between Iranian and Iraqi businessmen are done in form of bartering goods or any other agreed type of transactions,” he added.

Ale-Es’haq lamented that despite the eight-million-dollar annual trade between Iran and Iraq, money is not transferred through the banking system between the two sides.

“Iraq is Iran’s second major trade partner after China, however, Iran’s exports to it is totally different from those to China,” he said, “Petrochemicals are the major exports of Iran to China, while Iraq imports include a wide range of goods from tomato paste to construction materials, which engage a high amount of job creation.”

The relationship between Iran and Iraq has increased greatly since the downfall of



He said, “Through good cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Ad-

ministration (IRICA), customs offices were set up in three free trade zones over the past

months.”

Establishment of free trade zones in Iran dates back to Iranian calendar year 1368 (March 1989- March 1990) following the fall in the country’s oil income in the preceding year which prompted the government to promote the non-oil exports.

The first two free trade zones of Iran were established in the south of country. The first one was Kish Free Trade Zone established in 1368 on Kish Island in the Persian Gulf and the second one was Qeshm Free Trade Zone established the year after on Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz.

Some five other free trade zones have been also established in the country since then, including Chabahar in southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan Province, Arvand in southwestern Khuzestan Province, Anzali in northern Gilan Province, Aras in East-Azarbaijan Province and Maku in West-Azarbaijan Province, both in the northwest of the country.

Over 374m tons of commodities worth \$263m traded in IME in a week

**ECONOMY** **d e s k** **TEHRAN** — During the five dealing days (Saturday-Wednesday) of the past Iranian week ended on Friday, approximately 374.727 million tons of commodities worth over \$263 million were traded in Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME).

The amount and value of trades experienced 47 percent and 57 percent growth, respectively, IME Public Relations and International Affairs Department reported on Saturday.

last week, on the domestic and export metal and mineral trading floor of IME, 50,689 million tons of various products worth near \$39 million were traded.

On this trading floor, 33,000 million tons of steel, two kilograms of gold bullion, 15,000 million tons of sponge iron, 9 million tons of precious metal concentrates, 1,000 million tons of cement, 1,600 million tons of copper, and also 80 million tons of molybdenum concentrate were traded by the customers.

The report declares that on domestic and export oil and petrochemical trading floors of IME, 284,339 million tons of different



commodities with the total value of \$204.5 million were traded.

On this trading floor, 15,528 million tons of bitumen, 2,664 million tons of insulation, 80 million tons of slaps wax, 120 million tons of gases, 70,220 million tons of polymer products, 24,637 million tons of chemical products, 14,090 million tons of sulfur, 157,000 million tons of VB feed stock and 5,000 million tons of lube cut oil were traded.

Moreover, on the agricultural trading floor of IME, 38,858 million tons of various commodities worth over \$19 million were traded. On this trading floor, 38,858 million tons of wheat, 2,050 million tons of sugar as well as 8,452 kilograms of saffron were traded by customers.

Second Announcement

IN THE NAME OF GOD  
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING  
INTERNATIONAL TENDER NO. 97-06/168

**Tender Holder:**  
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

**Subject of Two-Stage Tender:**  
Purchasing HD Transmission Equipment for TV1, TV2 and TV3 Channels (Tehran IRIB Center) according to the tender documents

**Deadline of Receiving Documents:**  
As of publishing second announcement of advertisement latest by the business hour dated on **Monday September 10, 2018.**

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

**Type and Amount of Guarantee for Participating in Tender:**  
The amount of **USD 60,000** which should be in the form of extendable bank guarantee

**Time and Place of Delivering Priced Bid:**  
The sealed A, B & C packages/envelopes should be submitted within one main envelope marked with tender number no later than **15 p.m. on Saturday October 13, 2018** and submitted to the Secretariat of Commission of Tenders.

**Time and Place of Opening Envelopes**  
The date of opening envelopes A&B is at **8:30 a.m. on Monday October 15, 2018** in the office of Vice President of IRIB Planning and Financial Resources and opening of envelope C will be after technical evaluation.  
It should be noted that bidders should hold license from the authorized bodies.

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

Second Announcement

IN THE NAME OF GOD  
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING  
INTERNATIONAL TENDER NO. 97-06/167

**Tender Holder:**  
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

**Subject of Two-Stage Tender:**  
IRIB Cyberspace Portable Studio Equipment (IRIB Cyberspace) according to the tender documents

**Deadline of Receiving Documents:**  
As of publishing second announcement of advertisement latest by the business hour dated on **Wednesday September 05, 2018.**

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

**Type and Amount of Guarantee for Participating in Tender:**  
The amount of **USD 50,000** which should be in the form of extendable bank guarantee

**Time and Place of Delivering Priced Bid:**  
The sealed A, B & C packages/envelopes should be submitted within one main envelope marked with tender number no later than **15 p.m. on Saturday October 06, 2018** and submitted to the Secretariat of Commission of Tenders.

**Time and Place of Opening Envelopes**  
The date of opening envelopes A&B is at **8:30 a.m. on Monday October 08, 2018** in the office of Vice President of IRIB Planning and Financial Resources and opening of envelope C will be after technical evaluation.  
It should be noted that bidders should hold license from the authorized bodies.

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



# OPEC's August production rises: survey

OPEC's oil production for the month of March was 220,000 barrels per day higher than July volumes, a Reuters survey showed on Friday.

Oil prices bristled at the news, and started to slip off August highs. At 11:44am, WTI was trading down 0.46 percent (\$-0.32) to \$69.93, with Brent falling 0.26 percent (\$-0.20) to \$77.82. Both benchmarks are still up on the month.

The prices fell despite the fact that OPEC announced it would lift production at its meeting in June 22, saying it would reduce compliance to the production cuts to 100 percent after months and months of over-compliance and under-production which tightened the market.

Iraq is the largest overproducer, and Saudi Arabia increased production from 10.40 million bpd in July to 10.48 million bpd in August.

OPEC is struggling to offset supply

## Pakistan to renegotiate LNG deal with Qatar if any irregularity proved

Pakistan's Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Ghulam Sarwar Khan said on Wednesday that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) is actively probing the 15-year liquefied natural gas supply agreement between the Pakistan State Oil (PSO) and Qatargas in February 2016.

If any evidence of irregularity, such as a violation of the Public Procurement Regulatory rules, is found, the government would seek to renegotiate the agreement, he told The News. Speaking to this correspondent on Friday after a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Petroleum, the minister said the NAB Karachi is actively investigating the long-term LNG deal with Qatar and the award of the contract for the first LNG receiving terminal.

When his attention was drawn to the binding take-or-pay terms of the agreement with Qatargas, Sarwar argued India has previously renegotiated the off-take volumes and prices of LNG deals with Qatar, Australia and Russia. He said a petroleum ministry committee is also examining the agreement with Qatar for any other lacunae.

At a Senate committee hearing chaired on Friday by Senator Mohsin Aziz of the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf, the managing director of PSO, Imranul Haq Sheikh, said



drops in Venezuela, which once again lowered production well below its quota, from 1.42 million bpd in July to 1.38 million bpd in August. Further losses

are expected in Venezuela as it struggles under the weight of socialist leader Nicholas Maduro and a catastrophic economic situation causing thousands

of Venezuelans to flee across the border. Venezuela's compliance to the production cut deal is now 723 percent.

Iran's underproduction, largely due to restricted exports courtesy of the upcoming US sanctions, is also weighing on OPEC's overall figures, with its production falling from 3.70 million bpd in July to 3.55 million bpd in August. Further production cuts are expected in Iran as well as sanctions near.

Angola is also under-producing, this month falling to 1.38 million bpd in August from 1.42 million bpd in July.

OPEC's biggest hopes in making up for lost production in Iran and Venezuela are the cartel's biggest heavyweights, Saudi Arabia and Iraq—the latter of which is loudly chomping at the bit to increase production as OPEC has yet to determine exactly how the production increases will be divvied up between its members.

(Source: oilprice.com)

## Nord Stream 2 construction kicks off in German waters despite sanctions threat

The Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline to Europe will double Russian natural gas supplies to Germany via the Baltic Sea and reduce transit across Ukraine.

A preparatory phase of the construction work for Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline to Europe is now underway in German coastal waters despite the threat of US sanctions, the Financial Times reported, citing Alexei Miller, the CEO of the Russia's state-owned gas monopoly Gazprom.

While describing the construction in German territorial waters as "preparatory, a Nord Stream 2 spokesman said that this included the building of a connection from the landfall site in Lubmin to the offshore pipeline in deeper waters.

Simultaneously, work is continuing on an underwater trench to encase the pipeline as it runs through shallow waters close to the landfall installation.

The Russian gas pipeline to Europe will double natural gas supplies to Germany via the Baltic Sea and reduce transit across Ukraine.

While the construction of the 1,200-kilometer (745-mile) pipeline has already been approved by Germany, Finland, Sweden and Russia, Denmark's

agreement is still pending even though Nord Stream 2 asked for Copenhagen's approval for a new pipeline route that would avoid the country's territorial waters.

Because the new route would run further away from the Danish coast, in the country's "exclusive economic zone", this would make it much harder for Denmark to veto the project.

Some countries that are afraid of losing revenues from Russian gas transit, above all Ukraine, are opposed to the Nord Stream 2 venture.

The project is also facing opposition from the United States, which warns that the project is making Germany dependent on Russia. Germany has insisted that the project is entirely commercial.

During a meeting earlier this month, Russia's President Vladimir Putin and German Chancellor Angela Merkel agreed "to take measures to make sure that [the Nord Stream 2 project] is protected from possible non-competitive and illegal attacks of third countries."

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas believes that "it is simply unacceptable to try to influence European energy policy."

(Source: Sputnik)

## Danger to oil demand from trade wars may offset price boost from Iran: Reuters poll

Oil analysts cut their price forecasts for 2018 for the first time in almost a year in August, given growing concern over the impact on crude demand from escalating trade tensions, although falling supply, particularly from Iran, would likely limit losses, a Reuters poll showed on Friday.

A survey of 45 economists and analysts forecast Brent crude to average \$72.71 a barrel in 2018, 16 cents lower than the \$72.87 projected in the previous month's poll and above the \$71.96 average so far this year. The price was forecast to average \$72.58 in 2019.

U.S. crude futures were forecast to average \$67.13 a barrel in 2018, compared with \$67.32 forecast last month and an average of \$66.40 until now.

"The eventual loss of Iranian barrels is likely to match, if not exceed, the amount seen during the multi-lateral round of sanctions in 2012-2015," said Harry Tchilinguirian, global head of commodity market strategy at BNP Paribas. Supply is also at risk in countries like Venezuela, Libya and Angola, he said.

"These supply side factors presents strong upside for oil prices."

U.S. sanctions on Iran's energy sector will come into force on Nov. 4, although the country's crude oil and condensate exports are already expected to have fallen to a 16-month low in August.

The United States wants to force buyers of Iranian oil to cut their imports from OPEC's third-largest producer to nothing, after an international nuclear deal between the two nations was dissolved.

However, there is a concern among analysts that global trade disputes could undermine economic growth, which in turn may mean Asian importers' demand for crude oil declines.

The United States is embroiled in an ever-escalating trade war with multiple countries, especially China.

"Trade tensions could slow oil demand growth in Asia, likewise possible contagion of the Turkey crisis; slower demand growth would make it easier to replace Iranian barrels," said Carsten Fritsch, senior commodities analyst at Commerzbank.

Analysts said the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) would continue to adjust its crude supply to ensure the global oil market remained in balance.

Saudi Arabia will be a strong contender to fill in the supply deficit caused by Iran sanctions and tensions elsewhere in the coming months, a majority of industry experts said.

"At the moment the market is looking balanced over the fourth-quarter, assuming Iranian supply falls by around 500,000 barrels per day. The obvious upside risk is if Iranian losses are greater than this, as this would push the market into deficit over the final quarter," said ING commodities strategist Warren Patterson.

(Source: Reuters)

## Low-cost, printable solar panels offer ray of hope amid energy gridlock

An Australian physicist is leading a push to pioneer a new type of low-cost solar energy he believes could make signing up for energy accounts as straightforward as taking up a mobile phone plan.

In May last year, the University of Newcastle professor Paul Dastoor used organic printed solar cells to power screens and displays at an exhibition in Melbourne.

Less than one millimeter thick and held down with double-sided sticky tape, the panels are similar in texture to a potato chip packet and can be produced for less than \$10 per square meter.

Dastoor has been working on the technology for more than a decade, but has now begun a 200 square-meter installation – the first commercial application of its kind in Australia and possibly the world.

"The low cost and speed at which this technology can be deployed is exciting as we need to find solutions, and quickly, to reduce demand on base-load power – a renewed concern as we approach another summer here in Australia," he said.

And as Canberra is again gripped by energy policy inertia, he said the commercial pilot was an example of industry and academia "just getting on with things".

"If we reflect on where we've come from in the last decade and what we've seen in the last couple of weeks in Canberra, one of the things this project highlights is that universities and industry are coming together to just to get on with things and that's exciting."

The printed solar technology is not as efficient as the silicon-based one, and degrades much faster.

But Dastoor believes its low production and installation costs would make it competitive.

"The point of this technology is that if you look at it in terms of raw efficiency numbers, it's much lower than typical silicon cells [and] it doesn't last as long but actually those aren't the important numbers," he said.

"The question is how much does the energy cost? These materials are so cheap to make, manufacture and install that when you calculate the total cost of energy when



manufacturing at scale, it's going to give you a competitive product."

Dastoor said it would be easy for companies to sell energy "plans" for consumers to sign up in the same way they do with mobile phones.

The commercial installation was completed in a day by five employees, and a lab-size printer can produce hundreds of meters of the product in one day.

"The caveat to that is I'm obviously not sure exactly how the commercial reality will manifest, but if I was going to guess I would say that this technology is one that does not last an extremely long time [but] is also likely to improve rapidly," he said.

"Both of those factors are similar with what we faced with mobile phones [so] I think it points to a model where you will simply have all of that done for you – it will be some sort of plan with constant upgrade and replacement.

"The cost to produce it is so low and to roll out another set of solar cells is going to be extremely easy. I think over time our current picture of how we view solar energy and cells is going to fundamentally change."

The pilot installation is due to last six months, and is the final stop before the technology becomes more widely available in the next few years.

(Source: The Guardian)

## OPEC, non-OPEC seek to formalize oil policy coordination

OPEC and non-OPEC oil producers will aim to formalize their long-term cooperation later this year by approving a charter that will make possible further joint action on output, according to a draft charter.

Russia and several other non-OPEC countries have joined OPEC producers in reducing oil output since 2017 in a move that has helped raise oil prices to \$80 per barrel from less than \$30.

Moscow and Riyadh have said they want to maintain a close level of cooperation even after the oil market stabilizes and the current output reduction deal expires.

The draft charter, to be discussed by OPEC and non-OPEC minister later this year, said its fundamental


objective is to coordinate policies aimed at stabilizing oil markets in the interest of producers, consumers, investors and the global economy.

The charter also aims to promote better understanding of oil market fundamentals among participants as well as to promote oil and gas in the global energy mix for the long term.

It said ministers of participating countries shall meet once a year while experts should meet twice a year. The ministers shall propose actions including possible summits by heads of state.


The charter's secretariat will be hosted by the OPEC secretariat in Vienna but will be independent.

(Source: Money Control)



Agricultural Support Services Company

**ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER**  
**SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT**  
**55/97/12133**  
**02/09/2018**



Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture

**AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY**

Agricultural Support Services Company, hereinafter will be referred as ASSC, affiliated to Ministry of Agriculture-Jahad of I.R of Iran, is considering the purchase of the below 11 items of emulsifiers

1- 200000 Kgs Diazinon Tech 95%	7- 6000 Kgs Emulsifier FF4 or similar product
2- 30000 Kgs Padan Tech 98%	8- 8000 Kgs Emulsifier FF6 or similar product
3- 10000 Kgs Propargite Tech 90%	9- 7000 Kgs Adjuvant PAP
4- 3000 Kgs Deltamethrin Tech 98.5%	10- 5500 Kgs Epoxidized soy bean oil
5- 5500 Kgs Permethrin Tech 95%	11- 3500 Kgs termul
6- 32000 Kgs Chlorpyrifos Tech 97%	-----

and technicals, through one step international tender.

All of the qualified and interested companies are invited to receive tender documents from Saturday dated September 1, 2018 untill Sunday dated September 9, 2018 (7 working days) from our purchasing committee (9th floor , no. 1, Fourth Alley, Gandhi st., Tehran, Iran).

The bidders are requested to submit their letters of introduction, along with remittance bill of Iranian Rials 1,200,000 to ASSC's account no. 4001039704005791 with Sheba no. IR250100004001039704005791 at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran through payment order of Satna or Paya with the 30 character identification code no. 358039782263500650000000000006 will be possible.

The bidders are requested to submit their sealed and stamped envelopes containing offers latest on Wednesday October 10, 2018 at to our security office located on the 8th floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelops will be held on Saturday October 13, 2018 at 2:00 PM with the presence of bidder's representatives at our purchasing committee hall (9th floor , no. 1, Fourth Alley, Gandhi st., Tehran, Iran).

We would like to emphasize that the bid bond amount should be in cash or bank guarantee as follows:

- €66375 for Diazinon Tech 95 pct. equivalent to Iranian Rials 32400000000.
- €10755 for Padan Tech 98 pct. equivalent to Iranian Rials 5250000000.
- €3073 for Propargite Tech 90 pct. equivalent to Iranian Rials 1500000000.
- €7170 for Deltamethrin Tech 98.5 pct. equivalent to Iranian Rials 3500000000.
- €3585 for Permethrin Tech 95 pct. equivalent to Iranian Rials 1750000000.
- €10243 for Chlorpyrifos Tech 97 pct. equivalent to Iranian Rials 5000000000.
- € 768 for Emulsifier FF4 or similar product equivalent to Iranian Rials 375000000.
- € 1024 for Emulsifier FF6 or similar product equivalent to Iranian Rials 500000000.
- €420 for Epoxidized soy bean oil equivalent to Iranian Rials 205000000.
- J- €717 for Adjuvant PAP equivalent to Iranian Rials 350000000.
- k- €615 for Termul equivalent to Iranian Rials 300000000.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, YOU MAY REFER TO OUR WEBSITE [www.assc.ir](http://www.assc.ir) AND <http://iets.mporg.ir> OR CONTACT US BY PHONE NO. 00982188776325.**

**Public & International Relations Department**  
**Agricultural Support Services Company (ASSC)**



## NEWS IN BRIEF

**India's GDP grows to 8.2, ahead of China**

**INTERNATIONAL** **TEHRAN** — At a time when the inflation is rising and country's currency is getting weaker, there is some good news for India's economy. The country's gross domestic product (GDP) witnessed a sharp growth to reach 8.2 percent in the quarter that ended in June, according to official data released on Friday.

That's a significant leap from the 7.7 percent it clocked in the previous quarter, despite global trade tensions and plummeting currency. It has further widened the gap between India and other major economies, in particular China. Chinese economy grew 6.7 percent in the quarter that ended in June.

The officials in New Delhi cited an expansion in manufacturing and construction as key factors in the sharp spike in GDP, which is likely to go further up in the next quarter.

"Indian GDP growth beat most expectations in [the latest quarter] and is likely to continue expanding rapidly over the coming months," Shilan Shah, India economist at Capital Economics, said in a note. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently spoke of targeting double-digit GDP growth rate for breaking into the \$5 trillion economy, even though the disparity between rich and poor keeps growing. Ajai Shukla, a senior Indian journalist and analyst, told Tehran Times recently that the double-digit GDP growth is regarded as essential for creating the broad-based economic growth that will lift more people out of poverty.

**U.S. may sanction India for Russia defense deal**

**INTERNATIONAL** **TEHRAN** — India might also face the heat of U.S. sanctions if it goes ahead with the ambitious defense deal with Moscow and purchases sophisticated Russian arms, a top Pentagon official has said.

Randall Schriver, the Pentagon's top Asia official, this week questioned the idea that the U.S. would protect its relationship with India and not impose sanctions on it for its growing defense ties with Russia.

"I would say that is a bit misleading. We would still have very significant concerns if India pursued major new platforms and systems (from Russia)," Schriver said at a think-tank event, according to Reuters.

The U.S. has imposed sanctions on Russia and declared that any country that engages in defense or intelligence sharing with Russia could also be subject to sanctions.

India is in the final stages of acquiring S-400 long-range surface to air missile systems from Russia, a deal worth \$6bn. The agreement is expected to be signed by Russia later this year.

In June, India officially entered the ongoing global trade war by announcing retaliatory tariffs against Washington's steel and aluminum import duties, which has frayed the ties between the two countries.

**Pakistan needs \$9 billion to run economy**

**INTERNATIONAL** **TEHRAN** — The flailing economy and weakened institutions are the biggest challenges for the new Pakistani government led by Imran Khan. The newly-elected Finance Minister Asad Umar said the country needs \$9 billion to run the economic affairs.

Speaking in Senate on Friday, Umar said Pakistan was facing an adverse economic situation because of flawed policies of previous governments. "We are deliberating on (various) options. We will map out a plan over the next few days and we will share it with the parliament," he said.

"The parliament will be kept in the loop on this matter — It will be duly consulted," Umar told the Senate. Earlier he had said that the government will decide on the IMF bailout by September.

Umar also briefed the Senate about steps being taken by the new government to improve domestic economy in addition to complying with recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

Pakistan was put on the black list on FAFT recently. The FATF review would be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on September 11-12. "Complying with FATF recommendations is in our own best interest," Umar said.

**China not to deploy troops to Afghanistan**

**INTERNATIONAL** **TEHRAN** — China has denied reports that it plans to deploy troops to Afghanistan, saying the neighboring countries are engaged merely in "normal military and security cooperation."

China's Defense Ministry spokesman Col. Wu Qian said reports in Hong Kong's South China Morning Post newspaper that hundreds of People's Liberation Army soldiers are to be deployed to a base in eastern Afghanistan are "simply not true."

China shares a narrow border with Afghanistan in the remote Wakhan corridor region. Wu said China is helping Afghanistan increase its defense capabilities, particularly in the area of counterterrorism. Afghanistan's ambassador to China, Janan Mosazai, earlier this week said Beijing is helping Afghanistan set up a mountain brigade to bolster counterterrorism operations, but that no Chinese troops would be stationed in the country.

"While the Afghan government appreciates this Chinese assistance and our two militaries are working in close coordination on utilizing this assistance, there will be no Chinese military personnel of any kind involved in this process on Afghan soil," Mosazai said.

China has sought to increase its influence in Afghanistan, including in peace negotiations with the Taliban, after 17 years of U.S.-led war has destroyed the country.

# Despite recent peace overtures, India, Pakistan trade barbs over Kashmir at UN

**INTERNATIONAL** **TEHRAN** — Despite recent peace overtures and rekindled hopes, the fragile relationship between India and Pakistan, the two South Asian estranged neighbors, was again on display at the United Nations this week. The representatives of the two countries traded barbs over Kashmir during the world body's session on the 'merits of mediation'.

UN secretary general Antonio Guterres opened the debate on Wednesday by saying that mediating peace had become "increasingly complex" in the modern world. The two countries — which have been involved in four wars, many border skirmishes and military stand-offs — took the opportunity to score points over each other.

Pakistan's ambassador to the UN, Maleeha Lodhi, said India must accept a UN Security Council resolution to decide Kashmir's fate through UN-administered plebiscite. Lodhi said UN mediation in peace disputes was bound to fail "if the Security Council's own resolutions are held in abeyance, by some" — in oblique reference to India.

India's ambassador to the UN, Syed Akbaruddin, hit back strongly, naming Pakistan as "the one isolated delegation that made unwarranted references to an integral part of India". He said Pakistan was "regurgitating a failed approach, which has long been rejected".

The two sides have often confronted each other at the world body's headquarters in Geneva, with Pakistan always bringing up the issue of UN resolutions on Kashmir while India terming them redundant. Akbaruddin said that the world body was "ill-suited to perform mediation in every circumstance".

The relations between India and Pakistan have always been marked by acrimony since the partition of erstwhile British India. Both



countries claim Kashmir in full and have gone to war on multiple occasions.

There have been moments in history when the two sides came close to break the logjam over Kashmir, especially the Agra Summit of 2001.

The then president of Pakistan Parvez Musharraf had proposed what was known as 'four-point formula' to Kashmir, which, according to political observers, was, in principle, acceptable to then Indian prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. However, the deal fell through hours before the signing ceremony.

During the first two years of Narendra Modi government, the two sides again tried to bury the hatchet and open a new chapter in their relationship but the relations frayed after India accused Pakistan-based militant groups of carrying out terror attacks in India.

The accusations and counter-accusations over the years have virtually put the peace process on backburner and dialogue has been replaced by sabre-rattling and war-mongering from both sides.

The change of guard in Islamabad has again inspired optimism that the two sides

will make progress on Kashmir.

In his victory speech, the prime minister-in-waiting Imran Khan showed willingness to engage with India, and said Pakistan will walk two steps if India agrees to walk one step on Kashmir.

Akbaruddin also expressed optimism that the new political dispensation in Islamabad will work towards peace in the region.

"We hope that the new government of Pakistan will, rather than indulge in polemics, work constructively to build a safe, stable, secure and developed South Asian region, free of terror and violence."

## 'It's been a horrendous year for Rohingya refugees, met with international inaction'

**1 →** A. The UN Security Council should urgently refer the situation in Myanmar to the International Criminal Court (ICC). This will at least start the wheels of justice.

■ Thousands of Rohingya refugees have been putting up in congested camps in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazaar. The recent monsoon season has been terrible for them. How is the situation there now? Are aid agencies doing enough to mitigate their woes?

A. Bangladesh can and should do more to enable unfettered humanitarian access. Aid groups still have a difficult time working in the camps. Bangladesh should also abandon its plan to send all Rohingya refugees to a remote, flood-prone island. If the government moves forward with that plan it will instantly become a big part of the problem

■ There have been talks going on between the Bangladesh and Myanmar governments regarding repatriation of these refugees. Do you think the time is ripe for them to return home?

A. The conditions are not in place for safe, voluntary, and dignified returns. The whole discourse of returns now is a farce. Myanmar has tried to use that discourse to distract attention away from its atrocities, from genocide.



■ What has been the role of regional countries in this crisis? Do you think they should put more pressure on Myanmar government to prosecute those responsible for the ethnic cleansing of Rohingya?

A. Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) can and should do more. Malaysia has been outspoken but the

rest of the region has been pathetically silent and weak. That's inexcusable with regard to genocide. It's all of our responsibility to end and remedy these atrocities along with Rohingya.

■ The U.N. Fact-Finding Mission said the Myanmar military perpetrated war crimes in Kachin State of Myanmar, denying humanitarian aid, which resulted in avoidable deprivations of aid to tens of thousands of ethnic Kachin displaced by armed conflict. You have also published a report on it. What does it conclude?

A. We found that the authorities weaponized aid for the last seven years, depriving displaced Kachin of adequate aid. It's unconscionably and could amount to a war crime. This is even more reason for the UN Security Council to refer the situation to the ICC.

■ Do you also think Suu Kyi should be stripped of her Nobel Prize?

A. The Nobel Committee has never stripped someone of their award, to my knowledge. I don't care much about what happens to her Peace Prize. Our real concern now is whether she will reverse course and ensure accountability or continue with her discriminatory and shameful approach to genocide.

## Who is the terrorist? IMF, Buhari regime or faceless groups

**1 →** Why was the residence of the IMN leader Sheikh Zakzaky attacked? Is the punishment for blocking the COAS and his convoy by unarmed civilians mass murder and extra-judicial killing?

Being an accomplice in the crime against humanity, the Kaduna state governor Nasiru el-Rufai set up a Judicial Commission of Inquiry (JCI) to investigate the issue comprising some 'insiders' whose duty is basically to demonize the IMN using their sectarian vendetta.

The JCI issued a report indicting the Nigerian Army and revealing to the world that the Army chief killed 347, not six as he earlier claimed. It didn't stop there, in total violation of international and local laws, especially the Geneva Convention, the 347 IMN members were extra-judicially killed by the COAS and his men and were buried in a mass grave at Mando village close to Kaduna, something the Army had denied until the JCI revelation.

The leader of the IMN Sheikh Ibraheem Zakzaky, whose residence was attacked by the heavily armed soldiers, was shot at close range, with an intention to murder him in cold blood. He lost an eye in that incident and the mechanical function of a limb. His wife was also shot in the belly and both of them have been refused treatment by the Nigerian government, which is keeping them in illegal detention, in contempt of the federal high court order.

The Nigerian army had killed three of his sons before and in this incident they killed three more. The marauding soldiers blew off the head of the youngest and splashed his brains on the body of Sheikh. Not to mention the manner in which many of his followers were burned alive or thrown to the ground from story buildings or how helpless and injured persons were shot dead at close range



by the soldiers and their bodies mutilated. Can it get any more brutal and savage?

One other brutal incident was when they locked the elder sister of Sheikh Zakzaky in a room along with her son and set the room ablaze. The old woman was shouting "are you going to burn us alive" until she died. If these acts cannot be classified as 'state terrorism', then what else could be?

A lot of people escaped with critical injuries while others were lucky to escape unhurt, including my wife and children. There are thousands of witnesses out there living with the trauma and harrowing memories.

Despite all these brutalities, the IMN with its membership of about 20 million did not take the law into its hands, but sought redress through peaceful and legal means. It took the case to the federal high court where the fundamental rights of the IMN leader were enforced and an order for his release,

compensation, provision of a new residence and personal police protection was issued by the court.

The Buhari government refused to obey the court order, resulting which the IMN leader is still in illegal detention. It's been more than a year and the IMN members continue to protest peacefully.

Coming to the bogus claims of paying N250 million to some shadowy figure to indict the army, if the IMN really has that much money to pay for discrediting the army, it would have used it in catering for the thousands of widows and orphans created by the COAS and his men. It would have used it in treating those who emerged from the killings with complications. It would have used it in giving a better life to those children whose parents were murdered by the army and have to live on donations from other IMN members.

And for the wishful suggestion of declaring IMN a terror organization, I have sited acts of state terrorism perpetrated by the Buhari regime, a situation that has led the International Criminal Court in The Hague to step up its investigation on the matter. I would like the SERG or Buhari regime or the Nigerian army to site acts of terrorism perpetrated by the IMN, if any, in its over 40 years of existence.

I was shocked but certainly not surprised when these faceless groups emerged. The Army frowned at the Human Rights Watch (HRW) for calling on it to come clean on the Zaria massacre. The army has discredited the Amnesty International (AI) for speaking against its excesses.

A faceless group called Gyallesu Youths was also used to justify the government's state terrorism in Zaria. A faceless group was also used to protest in Kaduna against the IMN where the hoodlums ended up fighting at the Kaduna NUJ while sharing the proceeds after the protest. These are just a few of several state sponsored NGOs castigating the IMN.

The Buhari regime has committed horrendous crimes against humanity. It has committed genocide against a minority group simply because the president and some of his people don't share the same faith and ideology.

What has the IMN done to be termed a terror group? Is it seeking redress in courts or the peaceful street protests that are rampantly attacked by armed policemen who have killed several IMN members on the streets or is it the belief of the IMN that we are either brothers in faith or brothers in humanity, therefore we are all brothers that they call terrorism? Who then is the terrorist?

The writer is a Nigerian journalist and a member of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN)



# Security partnership with Russia is important for Europe: Italian expert

**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW**  
By Payman Yazdani

**TEHRAN (FNA)** — Commenting on recent French president's remarks, Dr. Pastori Gianluca says by emphasizing the need to engage Moscow in a 'security partnership', Macron touches an important point.

Washington's move to distance itself from the NATO military alliance and its withdrawal from international agreements has thrown light on the urgent need for Europe to take its defense and security into its own hands.

Couple of days ago the French president, Emmanuel Macron, has warned that Europe can no longer depend on the U.S. for its military defense and called for an urgent new European security policy.

"Europe can no longer rely on the United States for its security," Macron said in a foreign policy speech at what he called a "crisis moment" for European politics and global multilateralism. "It is up to us to guarantee European security."

Macron vowed to put forward new proposals in the coming months for the EU to boost defense cooperation, as well as talks with Russia on their security relationship, an issue of concern for countries on Europe's eastern edge.

To shed more light on the issue we reached out to political science associated professor of Milan Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Dr. Pastori Gianluca.

Following is the full text of our interview with him:

■ How do you assess recent remarks of the French President about the necessity of EU security independence from the U.S.?

A: Having a common foreign and security policy is a traditional European ambitions and the EU has gone a certain way on this path. The main problem is its limited military capabilities. Since the beginning of Trump's presidency, the European countries have intensified their efforts in this sense, with France and Germany assuming a leading role. President Macron's remarks fit into this framework, and aims at confirming the French leading role in the process.

■ After Trump took office in the U.S., he intensified pressure on Europeans to burden



more share of NATO costs. Since then the Europeans have made efforts to form European Army. It seems after the recent remarks of the President Macron the formation of the European Army will become more serious. What do you think of this?

A: Building a 'European Army' is a long and difficult process and Macorn's remarks can hardly affect this state of things. European countries have different visions of the problem. Some of them are not interested in increasing their defence expenditure; some others cannot do that, due to financial problems. Several NATO members think that remaining under the U.S. umbrella is still the best option. Finally, military and defence issue are a very sensitive topic for the ones who think that the EU has already reduced too much the sovereignty of its member states.

■ Is Europe basically able to be militarily independent from the U.S.? If yes, what will be the fate of NATO?

A: I do not think that a 'military Europe' could really do without NATO. Currently, only the U.S. -- either directly or through NATO -- can provide the high value assets that modern warfare needs. However, a stronger European military identity could be useful in establishing a more even relation between Europe and the U.S. However, condition sine qua non is that Europe could 'speak with a single voice', i.e. that it could have a real common position on the different issues at stake.

■ Some analysts have interpreted Macron's remarks as New Western Order. Will the West enter a new era with a new order independent from the U.S.?

A: It is several years that the international system is changing and that the U.S. is no more the 'lonely superpower'. However, imaging an international system not including them as one of its main components would be naïve. Can the EU be a part of this multipole

lar system? I think so. From many points of view, the EU is already a global player. Once again, to strengthen its role, the EU must learn speaking with a single voice, and this is a problem when its same members challenge its credibility.

■ President Macron has emphasized on the necessity of Europe security partnership with Russia. How do you assess this?

A: Russia is an important player in the current international system, as well as in important element of the European puzzle. Both international and European stability cannot do without Russia. By emphasizing the need to engage Moscow in a 'security partnership', Macron touches an important point. The main problem is having strong foundations to build this partnership on, and now these foundations still lack, largely because Moscow and Brussels do not share a common vision of the working of the international system.

## No, it's not the strongly cruel who survive in the longer run

➡ The statement above is fraught with error. For one thing, few anywhere in the world, except other Zionists, respect Netanyahu. He and his country are almost universally despised. He has no real alliances to speak of except with the US government and some among the Saudis and perhaps others in the UAE. Any kind of real "peace" is not made with the "strong" since there is no real strength in militarism and cruelty.

It was the humble and meek and long persecuted Christians, for example, who in the three centuries after Jesus felled the mighty Roman Empire as it had been. It was humble but determined Prophet Mohammad who eventually overcame his naysayers, the recalcitrant and initially disbelieving tribes in Arabia in the early 7th century, which led to the ascent of Islam, a religion of brotherhood and peace in concept at least like no other.

The one thing that might be said about the U.S. government and the Pentagon and the all the various groups that comprise the so-called "Deep State", even if is not much solace to emerging market countries like Iran and Turkey,



or to Russia and China, and to those others in the Islamic

world and Mideast who are suffering because of U.S. and Zionist actions and postures, is that they reek of complete desperation -- by doubling down on previous failures by doubling or tripling up on aggression and militancy. Perhaps these operators know they are not holding a winning hand? It's like a person in a boxing match with an adversary, but the adversary looks like the eventual winner and in desperation the loser changes the game entirely -- by drawing a gun on the unarmed opponent.

It may be that Trump is the culmination of America and Netanyahu is the culmination of the Zionist state. It hardly looks that way right now, but stranger things have happened.

It really does depend on countries like Iran, Russia, China and Turkey, and even Germany, finding effective ways to carry on business despite U.S. sanctions and threats from both the U.S. and the Zionists. Otherwise, there will be Hell to pay for a refusal to try to stand strong in spirit and at the same time, exactly what the U.S. and Israel are not in desperation -- cool headed.

## UN must probe into Saudi bombing of civilian targets in Yemen

**TEHRAN (FNA)** — Now that a new report by the United Nations has confirmed in considerable detail misdeeds by the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen, killing thousands of civilians in Yemen, raping and torturing detainees, and using child soldiers, the world body should do the next best thing: Probe.

After all, Saudi Arabia is still relentlessly bombing civilian targets in strife-torn Yemen and threatening executions of human rights activists at home. The regime is also gaining notoriety as a political outcast at the United Nations. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has not only condemned the continued attacks on civilians but also called for "an impartial, independent and prompt investigation" into some of the recent bombings in Yemen.

The bombing of civilians is more than enough to haul the Saudis and their coalition partners before the International Criminal Court for war crimes. The situation is so bad and the nature of the war so criminal and indefensible that even some members of the US Congress have called on the American military to clarify its role in airstrikes on Yemen -- and investigate whether the support for those strikes could expose American military personnel to legal jeopardy, including for war crimes.

Guterres has described Yemen as "the world's worst humanitarian crisis", with three in four Yemenis in need of assistance. So far, the UN and its partners have reached out to more than 8 million people with direct assistance this year. But this is not enough. The UN should force the Saudis to end their bombings and lift the illegal blockade. By its own account, the death

toll alone amounts to over 17,000 people, mostly civilians, since 2014.

But any drastic action against the coalition - or even an independent UN investigation - is most likely to be thwarted by Western powers, including three permanent members of the Security Council, namely the US, UK and France, which are key suppliers to the thriving multi-billion-dollar arms market in Saudi Arabia. This has to stop too. The sad fact is that these countries are complicit in Saudi war crimes and therefore should never be allowed to derail a new UN probe.

The US government officials, along with their Western allies, have a duty under International Law and International Humanitarian Law to ban the sale of weapons to Saudi Arabia, because these weapons cause innumerable civilian deaths in Yemen. The UN and numerous human rights agencies say this isn't conjecture, it's a documented fact.

Amnesty International has further documented and Western media reports have indicated that a bomb that killed dozens of children this month in a market in Yemen was made in the US. Sadly, instead of communicating to Saudi authorities that the killing of children is abhorrent, the US government is doing the inconceivable:

Despite attempts by some American officials to distance Washington from the Saudi-led carnage against the people of Yemen, new documents have revealed that the Pentagon regime plans to resume training programs for Saudi pilots. The US Air Force has put out request for information (RFI) forms, calling on contractors to come forward with pricing and availability details for training Saudi Air Force personnel. A


submission deadline of September 24 for the RFIs shows that the program is slated to begin soon.

It means what it means. President Donald Trump, who has been very supportive of the Saudis after inking a hefty \$110-billion arms deal with the oil-rich kingdom last year, is unwilling to allow any reduction of support for the Riyadh regime. It's all the reason why the international civil society should step in.

The UN and its partners are expected to do all they can to stop this murderous business between the US and Saudi Arabia. Access for humanitarian aid workers to reach people in need is critical to respond to the massive humanitarian crisis in Yemen. People need to be able to voluntarily flee the fighting to access humanitarian assistance. Because of the blockade this is yet to be the case.

Saudi Arabia, the United States and other parties to this dirty conflict must respect their obligations under International Humanitarian Law and those with influence over them at the UN must ensure that everything possible is done to protect civilians. That's the least they could do.


The UN should stop the US from providing the Saudi-led air campaign in Yemen with diplomatic protection at the UN for mid-air refuelling, intelligence assessments and other military advice. The world body knows fully well that without Washington's much-needed military and diplomatic assistance the Saudis cannot continue their murderous charge against the poorest country in the Arab world even for a day.



**N.I.O.C**  
1397.2490

**Renewal of Call for Public Tender**  
**Two - Stages Tender**

**Subject Of Tender: (Provision of 3 cargo vessels made in 1983 or there after to support Drilling projects located in Persian Gulf)**



**National Iranian Drilling Company**

**Tender Descriptions :**

The Tender Holder	Registration No. Through National Electronic Tendering System ( <a href="http://iets.mporg.ir">http://iets.mporg.ir</a> )	Tender No.	Estimated Value (Euro)
National Iranian Drilling Company	3172955	96/k-sh/33-06-5136	AED23,608,200

**Qualitative evaluation of tenders**

method	<p>Based on Article 12-3 of the Iranian Tenders Law and minimum scoring (minimum quality score is 60) made in award criterion reflected in the tenderers pre-qualification forms as attached to Tender documents .</p> <p>Possibility of providing the required services as mentioned in the Tender Documents, must be provided and stated in the Tenderer Company's statute, therefore the documents of tenderer which its statute has not this terms ,shall not be considered and evaluated .</p>
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**Purchasing & submitting of Tender documents**

Distribution of Tender documents by NIDC	Starting date for receiving (The distribution of the documents will be started one day after the publishing of second advertisement)	Last time for receiving ( ended on the following tenth day thereof)
	<b>Distribution place</b>	Contracts department- part A - first floor - operational building - Koyse Mallet - Ahvaz, Iran- 061-34146525
	<b>Submitting method</b>	Submitting one original bank fund receipt in the amount of 990,000 Iranian rials under account number 4001114004020491 in name of "NIDC incomes centralized fund" issued by I.R. of Iran central bank. Submitting formal request by Tenderer for the purpose of receiving of tender documents.
<b>Tender Envelopes Delivery Date</b>	<b>Closing date</b>	14 Days after the last time for receiving pre -qualification forms .
	<b>Delivery address</b>	Hall No. 107, 1st floor, Tender committee, operational building, National Iranian drilling company, Koyse Mallet, Ahvaz, Iran, Tel : +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569

**Tender guarantee**

Value of guarantee	Iranian Rials six milliard and eight hundred and ninety nine million (6,899,000,000) or EURO one hundred forty three thousand and seven hundred thirteen (143,713) or AED six hundred three thousand and two hundred seventy (603,270)
Acceptable	<p>Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtained activity license from the central bank of the Islamic republic of Iran.</p> <p>Submitting one original bank fund receipt under account number 4001114006376636 in name of "NIDC saving centralized account" by the central bank of Islamic republic of Iran.</p>
Type of guarantee	Tender guarantee should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one more time in ceiling of initial validity duration.
Duration of credit for quotation	

(Name of department)

Guarantee and More of this & other tenders are accessible by click on : [www.nidc.ir/http://sapp.ir/nidc.pr](http://www.nidc.ir/http://sapp.ir/nidc.pr)

تهران تایمز نوبت اول ۹۷/۰۶/۱۰ نوبت دوم ۹۷/۰۶/۱۱



# Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

## Apartment

Apt in Elahieh  
2<sup>th</sup> floor, 90 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.  
furn, elevator, parking spot  
**\$1500**

Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Zafaranieh  
330 sq.m, 4 Bdrs, master room  
fully furn, Tehran view  
lobby, balcony, spj  
diplomatic area  
**\$5500**

Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Jordan  
4<sup>th</sup> floor, 100 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.  
furn, parking spot  
**\$1200**

Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Dibaji - Farmanieh  
3<sup>th</sup> floor, 140 sq.m, luxury furn  
2 master rooms, spj, lobby nice  
balcony with flower box  
nice view, security, good light  
**\$2000**

Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Duplex Apt in Mahmoodeh  
100 sq.m, 2 Bdrs., furn, green  
yard, outdoor pool  
parking spot  
**\$1600**

Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Mirdamad  
148 sq.m, 3 Bdrs., 3 balconies fully  
renovated, parking spot  
near to subway  
**\$2600**

Ms.Diba: 09128103206

## Villa

Villa in Zafaranieh  
duplex, 564 sq.m, 6 Bdrs., fully  
furn, spj, yard, parking spot  
renovated  
**\$5500**

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 spot, servant, outdoor  
swimming pool  
**\$18000**

Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Duplex Villa in Zafaranieh  
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# Cardiovascular disease: Study finds best drugs for prevention

A large cohort study has identified which treatment combinations work best for people with high blood pressure who are at risk of heart disease. Taking both blood pressure drugs and statins might be the best choice, the researchers find.

Researchers from the William Harvey Research Institute at Queen Mary University London in the United Kingdom have recently made public the results of a large long-term study that looked at the efficiency of different treatments in keeping cardiovascular disease at bay.

A combination of blood pressure-lowering drugs and statins (which are drugs that help regulate cholesterol levels) show the best results, the experts explain.

They presented the study's results at the European Society of Cardiology annual congress, held in Munich, Germany, and they featured them in a dedicated paper now published in The Lancet.

"Patients in their mid-60s with high blood pressure were less likely to die from heart disease or stroke by age 75-80 if they had taken both calcium channel blocker-based blood pressure lowering treatment and a statin," explains Dr. Ajay Gupta.

Best preventive approach against stroke?

The scientists derived their results from the Anglo-Scandinavian Cardiac Outcomes Trial (ASCOT) Legacy study, which continued the work started by the original ASCOT.

In the new study, the investigators followed 8,580 U.K. participants who were initially recruited in 1998-2000. All of the participants had high blood pressure at baseline, as well as several risk factors for developing cardiovascular disease.

The original ASCOT study had three main aims; first, to test which of two approaches to treatment — a traditional or an innovative one — would work best for preventing heart attacks.

To do so, the team gave some participants the innovative therapy, which consisted of amlodipine and, if necessary, perindopril. These are two specialized drugs that aim to lower blood pressure.

The other participants all took the traditional treatment of atenolol (another blood pressure drug), and bendroflumethiazide (which is a diuretic used to treat hypertension), to which potassium was added on a case-by-case basis.

Since the novel approach proved effective in preventing strokes and premature death after a median period of 5.5 years, the researchers stopped the trial at that point.

The ASCOT study's second aim was to see whether people with high blood pressure who also took statins would be any more shielded against the development of coronary heart disease. The team gave this new treatment to those with hypertension and average cholesterol levels (under 6.5 millimoles per liter).

On the basis of a randomized allocation, these participants took either atorvastatin or a placebo for 3.3 years.



**'Patients in their mid-60s with high blood pressure were less likely to die from heart disease or stroke by age 75-80 if they had taken both calcium channel blocker-based blood pressure lowering treatment and a statin'**

Once more, the trial was so successful in preventing heart attacks and strokes that it ended early.

Finally, the ASCOT study also aimed to assess the overall effectiveness of the two therapies for blood pressure in individuals with hypertension and high blood pressure (reading over 6.5 millimoles per liter).

The researchers did not give statins to this group of participants over the 5.5 years during which they were involved in the study.

'These results are remarkable'

Based on the ASCOT data, Dr. Gupta and team were able to assess the effectiveness of the various treatment combinations in the long-term.

They found that the study participants who had taken amlodipine and perindopril for 5.5 years had a 29 percent lower likelihood of having died due to a stroke 10 years later, compared with the participants who followed the traditional therapy for blood pressure.

Moreover, participants with average cholesterol levels at

baseline who took a statin during the trial had a 15 percent lower risk of death due to heart disease and stroke after 16 years, compared with those who only took a placebo.

Also, the participants with high cholesterol at baseline who took their usual cholesterol-lowering treatment as well as the innovative blood pressure therapy saw 21 percent fewer deaths due to cardiovascular disease over 10 years.

"These results are remarkable. We have previously shown that statins confer long-term survival benefits after trials have stopped, but this is the first time it has been found with a blood pressure treatment."

Study co-author Prof. Peter Sever

Prof. Mark Caulfield, the director of the William Harvey Research Institute, also emphasizes the importance of the study's findings for preventive medicine.

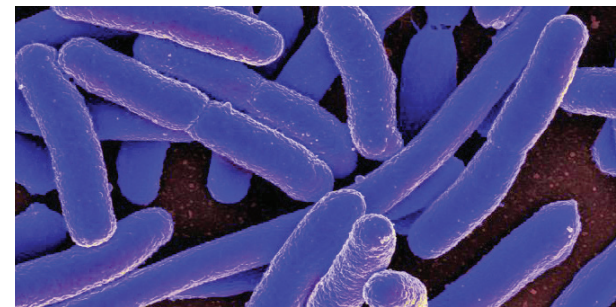
"This study confirms the importance of lowering blood pressure and cholesterol to prevent disabling and life-shortening cardiovascular disease," he notes.

(Source: Medical News Today)

## Shigella: what is the bacterial infection that caused illness of hotel guests in Egypt?

A mother and daughter who were evacuated from a hotel in Egypt following the deaths of a British couple have contracted shigella, a contagious bacterial infection, it's been revealed.

Shigella is a type of bacteria that causes shigellosis, a condition that affects the intestines and digestive system.



Officials are currently investigating the reason why couple John and Susan Cooper passed away at the Steigenberger Aqua Magic hotel in Hurghada.

While the cause of their death has not yet been officially confirmed, shigella, the condition that's infected other guests at the same hotel, can cause dysentery and other complications, which may have been contributing factors.

The mother and daughter in question were evacuated from the hotel along with 300 others following a notable rise in illnesses among hotel guests.

Symptoms of shigella can begin to appear after just a day or two once a person has made contact with the bacteria.

However, even if someone's symptoms may not be as obvious, they could still be contagious for a number of weeks after being infected.

It can be spread through contaminated food and water, and can be easily passed from person to person and off surfaces if people don't wash their hands thoroughly.

■ **What is shigella?**

Shigella infection, otherwise known as shigellosis, is an infection that's caused by a type of bacteria called shigella.

Shigella bacteria has a similar genetic makeup to E. coli bacteria, which reportedly caused many people to become ill in Canada following consumption of contaminated romaine lettuce.

Shigella is a contagious infection that causes people to experience diarrhoea.

While symptoms may appear a day or two after coming into contact with the bacteria, they can take longer to appear.

■ **What are the symptoms?**

Symptoms of shigella infection include diarrhoea, abdominal cramps and a fever.

Sometimes a person who's been contaminated may notice that their diarrhoea contains blood or mucus as well.

(Source: The Independent)

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## Cultural heritage body seeks to support craftswomen



**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization has provided low-interest loans in a bid to support craftswomen who dominate the occupation. "The loans will have an interest rate of 10 percent with six months of grace period," CHTN quoted CHHTO deputy director Pouya Mahmoudian as saying on Friday.

"Females constitute 70% of the craftspeople and many of whom are breadwinners," she stated.

Back in April, Masoumeh Ebtekar, vice president for women's and family affairs, said the administration was following up on plans aiming to give women wider roles in tourism sector.

Dozens of Iranian handicrafts have gained the UNESCO Seal of Excellence during the past couple of years.

## Get greeted by robot dinosaurs in this Japan hotel



The Henn na Hotel in Tokyo will give you the weirdest check-in experience possible. The hotel claims to be the world's first hotels staffed by robots. The reception at the Henn na Hotel east of Tokyo is eerily quiet until customers approach the robot dinosaurs manning the front desk. Their sensors detect the motion and they bellow "Welcome". The robo-dinos process check-ins through a tablet system that also allows customers to choose which language -- Japanese, English, Chinese or Korean -- they want to use to communicate with the multilingual robots.

Each room is staffed with mini-robots that look a bit like spherical Star Wars droid BB-8, and help guests with everything from changing channels to playing music.

Even the fish swimming in the lobby run on batteries, with electric lights in their articulated bodies flickering on and off as they work their way around giant tanks.

The first Henn na Hotel opened in Nagasaki in 2015, and was certified the following year by Guinness World Records as the world's first hotel with robots on its staff.

The travel agency group that operates the chain now runs eight hotels across the country, all with robots on the staff, some of them dinosaurs, but others taking a more humanoid shape.

(Source: *The Economic Times*)



### ROUND THE GLOBE

## Sundarbans National Park

The Sundarbans contain the world's largest mangrove forests and one of the most biologically productive of all natural ecosystems.

Located at the mouth of the Ganges and Brahmaputra Rivers between India and Bangladesh, its forest and waterways support a wide range of fauna including a number of species threatened with extinction.

The mangrove habitat supports the single largest population of tigers in the world which have adapted to an almost amphibious life, being capable of swimming for long distances and feeding on fish, crab and water monitor lizards.

They are also renowned for being "man-eaters", most probably due to their relatively high frequency of encounters with local people.



The islands are also of great economic importance as a storm barrier, shore stabilizer, nutrient and sediment trap, a source of timber and natural resources, and support a wide variety of aquatic, benthic and terrestrial organisms.

They are an excellent example of the ecological processes of monsoon rain flooding, delta formation, tidal influence and plant colonization.

Covering 133,010 ha, the area is estimated to comprise about 55% forest land and 45% wetlands in the form of tidal rivers, creeks, canals and vast estuarine mouths of the river.

About 66% of the entire mangrove forest area is estimated to occur in Bangladesh, with the remaining 34% in India.

(Source: *UNESCO*)

# Feel “Iranian homes” in the hands of artisans

## A walk around the 30th National Crafts Exhibition

By Afshin Majlesi

In the Information Age when smartphones and social media are ubiquitous, people may sense a cozier atmosphere while connected to the Mother Nature.

Such a gesture of reconciliation was highly promoted by hundreds of Iranian artisans at the 30th National Crafts Exhibition, which came to an end in Tehran on Friday.

Organized by the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization, the 7-day event also embraced the third edition of Khane-Irani, literally meaning “Iranian Home”, in a relatively vast pavilion ran by the private sector.

Khane-Irani made its debut at the 28th edition of the sales exhibit with a motto of embedding traditional handicrafts in modern homes.

According to its executive manager, Khane-Irani, which is run by several architects and interior designers, tries to build empathy for simple folk styles of decoration in homes.

"Exposure to handmade products for instances ones made out of wood gives people a sense of peace and tranquility," said Hoda Seraj in an interview with the Tehran Times.

"Our ultimate goal is to foster the culture of using contemporary handicrafts in homes, hotels and building projects."

"We have inaugurated a branch in Tabriz, [the capital



Khane-Irani tries to build empathy for simple folk styles of decoration in modern homes.

of northwestern East Azarbaijan province] and are making efforts to run branches in other provinces across the country," she added.

Figo Lee, a visitor from Shanghai, China, who was browsing objects at Khane-Irani told the Tehran Times: "To me as a foreigner, it seems very interesting... I have seen a lot of traditional handicrafts and they were fantastic."

Back in June, CHHTO Director Ali-Asghar Mounesan publicized a plan to run a special festival dedicated to handicrafts and ways of their usage in decorating high-rise buildings, adding "Handicrafts can benefit construction industry of the country by creating lavishly decorated structures and

apartments."

The National Crafts Exhibition put on show woodwork, illuminated manuscript, miniature, textile printing, enamel, leatherwork, handwoven products, calligraphy, traditional musical instruments, metalwork, and marquetry, amongst other lavish patchworks.

It was the second year that the event was being held concurrent with the national carpet exhibition in a bid to lure more visitors.

In addition, visitors had a chance to taste variety of traditional and regional colorful snacks and dishes typically embellished with fragrant herbs.

## Partial restoration starts on Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — The second phase of a restoration project has commenced on creamy dome of the 17th century Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque, which is one of the architectural masterpieces of Iranian architecture.

"Original tiles are to be recollected from eight segments of the dome.... they will be treated and rehabilitated before being re-installed," Fereydoon Allahyari, Isfahan province's tourism chief, said on Saturday.

The project is estimated to be completed within a year, he added.

The mosque is also very famous for having a very picturesque dome that makes extensive use of delicate cream-colored tiles, changing color throughout the day from cream to pink. Some say the sunset is usually the best time to witness the change.

The exterior panels boasts collections



A view of the Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque in Isfahan

of arabesques and floral designs that have become a signature motif of the masterpiece. The portal itself contains some stalactite-type stone carving used to decorate doorways and window recesses with rich concentrations of blue and yellow motifs.

The monument punctuates the middle of two-story arcades that are encircling the enormous Imam Square, itself a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Inside, there are thousands of mosaics that adorn the walls and its extraordinarily gorgeous ceiling that features a series of shrinking, yellow motifs, itself a masterpiece of design. Built between 1603 and 1619 during the reign of Shah Abbas I, the mosque was dedicated to the ruler's father-in-law, Sheikh Lotfollah, a revered Lebanese scholar of Islam who was invited to Isfahan to oversee construction of the Shah Mosque.

## Ancient Egyptian medical knowledge revealed by 3,500-year-old texts

3,500 years ago, a woman might have done much the same thing to find out if she was pregnant as she would today: take a urine sample and wait patiently for a chemical reaction.

A papyrus from ancient Egypt instructs a woman to pee into a bag of barley and a bag of emmer (the variety of wheat cultivated by ancient Egyptians), according to a researcher at the University of Copenhagen, who is studying the document.

"If they grow, she will give birth. If the barley grows, it is a boy. If the emmer grows, it is a girl. If they do not grow, she will not give birth," reads the text, written in a hieratic script -- the ancient Egyptians' cursive form of Hieroglyphic writing -- and dated to the New Kingdom era, sometime between 1500 and 1300 BC.

The birth prognosis, which was first translated by a Danish Egyptologist in 1939, is just one example of a large collection of ancient Egyptian papyri belonging to the University of Copenhagen, acquired by grants from the Carlsberg Foundation. Of the 1,400 papyri, a tiny proportion are medical texts, most of which have remained untranslated.

"We're dealing with the kind of material that is so incredibly rare," says Egyptologist Kim Ryholt, head of the Carlsberg papyrus collection and part of the international research collaboration translating the texts. "There's less than a dozen well-preserved ancient Egyptian medical papyri... Anything new will shed important new light."

■ **Promising new insights**

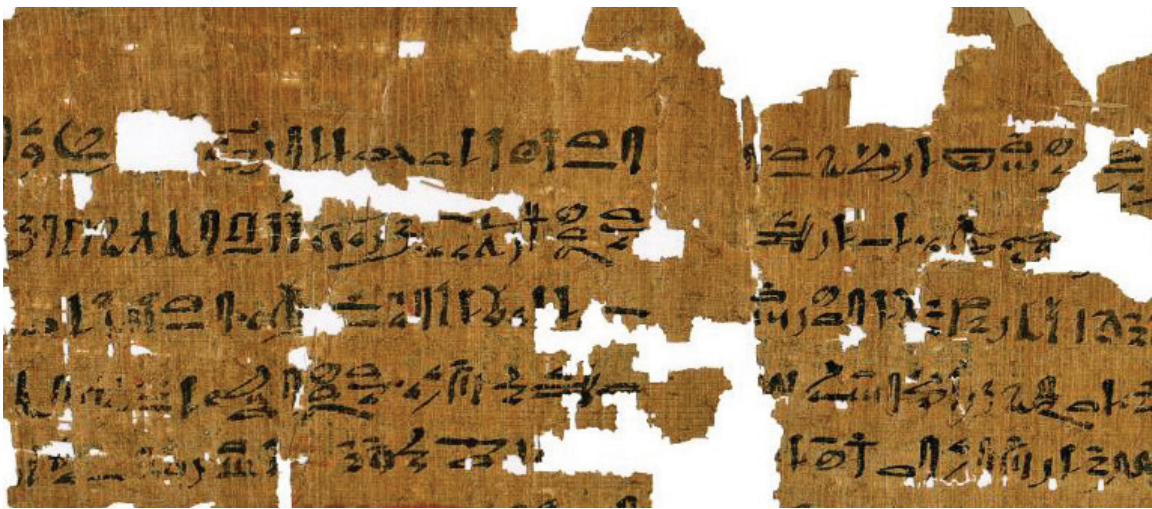
Translation is a long process. "The texts are damaged, they are written in an ancient script that few people can read, and the terminology is immensely complex," says Ryholt.

The wheat and barley test was already known from a papyrus of a similar date that is now held at the Egyptian Museum of Berlin. However, there have been other revelations since the research collaboration began in September 2017.

Until now, many Egyptologists thought that the civilization was unaware of the existence of the kidneys, but one of the translated medical texts discusses the organ, showing that their knowledge of anatomy was even more advanced than previously thought.

Other papyri include various treatments for eye diseases, such trichiasis, when the eyelashes grow inwards toward the eye. The papyrus prescribes mixing the blood of a lizard, a bull, a female donkey and a female goat, and inserting the concoction into the eye.

Sofie Schiødt, one of the PhD students analyzing the texts,



suggests that there may have been a standardized medical corpus containing tests and treatments used across ancient Egypt. But she urges caution, as the small number of papyri and the uncertainty as to where they came from geographically means that it is hard to say exactly how representative the texts are.

■ **Transmission of knowledge**

One thing is for sure, the pregnancy testing method had longevity. "We find the same test in Greek and Roman medicine, in the Middle East during the Middle Ages, and European medical traditions," says Schiødt. The test appears as late as the 1699, in a book of German folklore.

In the ancient world, Egyptian medicine was highly respected and their methods were often adopted by other cultures, explains Andreas Winkler, an Egyptologist from the University of Oxford.

"Ancient travelers to Egypt were amazed at the fact that there were doctors specializing in particular areas of medicine and their knowledge was praised," he says. "As the pregnancy test shows, it is clear that certain techniques found their ways beyond the shores of the Nile."

■ **Scientific accuracy**

Not only did the method stand the test of time, it may also have some scientific substance. According to an article published in the journal *Medical History* in 1963, researchers tested the

theory and found that in 70% of the cases, the urine of pregnant women did cause the grain to sprout. The test was deemed unreliable for predicting the sex of the children, however.

Modern scholars have attributed the test's accuracy to the high levels of estrogen in a pregnant woman's urine, which helps to stimulate growth in the wheat and barley.

So, did ancient Egyptian doctors know about hormones in urine?

"No," says Schiødt, "any idea of hormonal influences is completely non-existent." Instead, she suggests that the test's accuracy is probably down to trial and error.

Other pregnancy tests attested in Egyptian papyri were less reliable. Winkler tells of the onion test that advises inserting an onion in the vagina of a woman, and if her breath smelled like onions the next day, it meant she was pregnant.

"It's difficult to put our idea of rational, scientific medicine onto what they were doing," says Schiødt.

Ancient Egyptian medicine was grounded in religious or mythological stories and pharmaceutical remedies were aimed to expunge spirits or demons from the body, she says. So, while they recognized diseases similar to those today, the treatments can't be compared.

(Source: *CNN*)



# Scientists develop new way to remove ice buildup without power or chemicals

Researchers have found a way to prevent icing of powerlines, airplanes, wind turbines, and other surfaces with a special coating and the power of sunlight -- no heating or harsh chemicals needed.

From airplane wings to overhead powerlines to the giant blades of wind turbines, a buildup of ice can cause problems ranging from impaired performance all the way to catastrophic failure. But preventing that buildup usually requires energy-intensive heating systems or chemical sprays that are environmentally harmful.

Now, MIT researchers have developed a completely passive, solar-powered way of combating ice buildup.

The system is remarkably simple, based on a three-layered material that can be applied or even sprayed onto the surfaces to be treated. It collects solar radiation, converts it to heat, and spreads that heat around so that the melting is not just confined to the areas exposed directly to the sunlight.

## The de-icing work

And, once applied, it requires no further action or power source. It can even do its de-icing work at night, using artificial lighting.

The new system is described in the journal *Science Advances*, in a paper by MIT associate professor of mechanical engineering Kripa Varanasi and postdocs Susmita Dash and Jolet de Ruiter.

"Icing is a major problem for aircraft, for wind turbines, powerlines, offshore oil



platforms, and many other places," Varanasi says. The "conventional ways of getting around it are de-icing sprays or by heating, but those have issues."

**From airplane wings to overhead powerlines to the giant blades of wind turbines, a buildup of ice can cause problems ranging from impaired performance all the way to catastrophic failure.**

The usual de-icing sprays for aircraft and other applications use ethylene glycol, a chemical that is environmentally unfriendly. Airlines don't like to use active heating, both for cost and safety reasons. Varanasi and other researchers have investigated the use of superhydrophobic surfaces to prevent icing passively, but those coatings can be impaired by frost formation, which tends to fill the microscopic textures that give the surface its ice-shedding properties.

## Capturing the heat

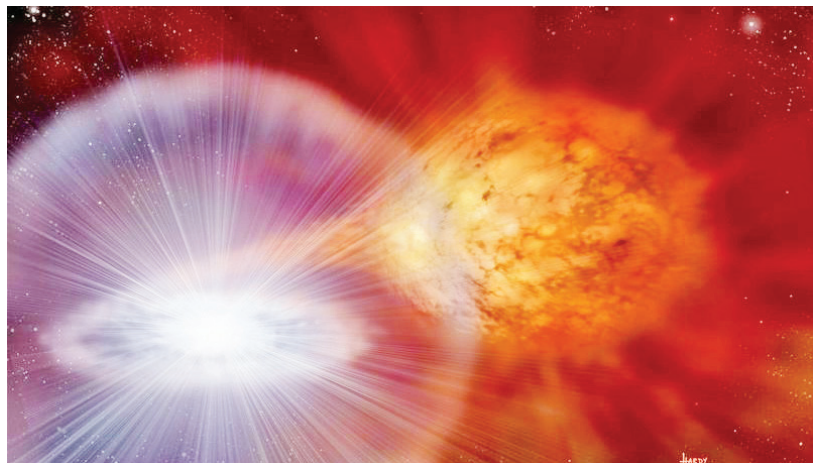
As an alternate line of inquiry, Varanasi and his team considered the energy given off by the sun. They wanted to see, he says, whether "there is a way to capture that heat and use it in a passive approach." They found that there was.

It's not necessary to produce enough heat to melt the bulk of the ice that forms, the team found. All that's needed is for the boundary layer, right where the ice meets the surface, to melt enough to create a thin layer of water, which will make the surface slippery enough so any ice will just slide right off. This is what the team has achieved with the three-layered material they've developed.

The top layer is an absorber, which traps incoming sunlight and converts it to heat. The material the team used is highly efficient, absorbing 95 percent of the incident sunlight, and losing only 3 percent to re-radiation, Varanasi says.

(Source: *Science Daily*)

## Unstable 'monster galaxy' churns out stars a thousand times faster than Milky Way



Billions of light-years from Earth, an ancient monster galaxy is churning out stars at a blisteringly fast pace 1,000 times faster than the Milky Way.

It's no surprise that monster galaxies are also called starburst galaxies due to their unstoppable nature of star formation. However, the process behind the strange phenomenon has been a mystery.

In a new study published in the journal *Nature*, researchers share a detailed anatomy chart of the chimerical galaxy COSMOS-AzTEC-1, revealing that the molecular clouds found within are extremely unstable. This volatile state is causing runaway star formation in the monster galaxy that is recorded to be 12.4 billion light-years away from Earth.

Previous research has revealed that there is a starburst within the galaxy COSMOS-AzTEC-1, so there must be an abundance of stellar ingredients. However, the nature of these gases is still unclear.

## Star formation in the galaxy

To find out more about the blisteringly rapid star formation in the galaxy, the international team of researchers, led by Ken-ichi Tadaki of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, used the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array in Chile to map the distribution and the motion of the gas within.

"We found that there are two distinct large clouds several thousand light-years away from the center," Tadaki explains

in a statement. "In most distant starburst galaxies, stars are actively formed in the center. So it is surprising to find off-center clouds."

Min Yun, co-author from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, adds that it's also impressive that they found the galaxy with a massive ordered gas disk in regular rotation that's in contrast to more chaotic models predicted.

Further investigation painted a picture of unusual instability in the gas clouds of COSMOS-AzTEC-1 with the outward pressure weaker than the inward surge of gravity.

## In the gas clouds

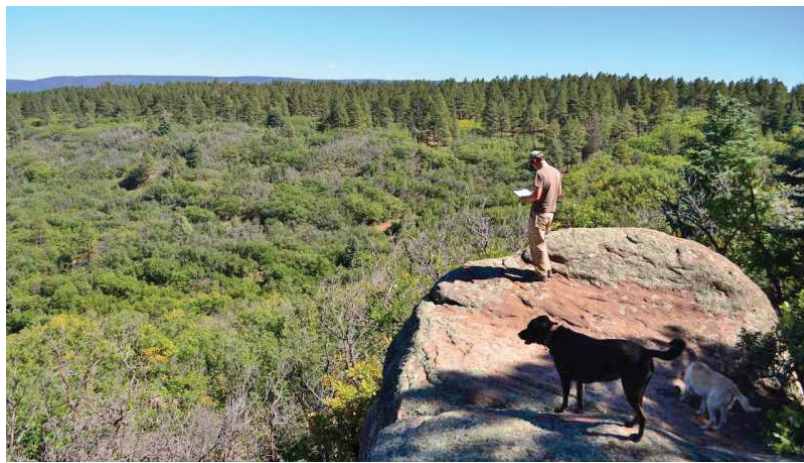
Normally, these two forces are balanced in the gas clouds until gravity eventually overpowers the pressure and it collapses, giving way to the rapid formation of stars. When these stars reach the end of their life cycle, the stars and supernova explode and eject gases, which boosts the outward pressure. In this process, a balanced state is achieved, and star formation goes on at a moderate pace.

In monster galaxies, the imbalance between the pressure and gravity creates an unstoppable factory of stars. Scientists still don't know what causes the instability, but some suggest a galaxy merger could have spurred the frenzied state.

Monster galaxies are believed to be the predecessors of current massive elliptical galaxies, so these ancient findings could shed more light on the formation and evolution of these stellar neighborhoods.

(Source: *natureworldnews.com*)

## Prehistoric changes in vegetation help predict future of Earth's ecosystems



As the last ice age came to an end and the planet warmed, the Earth's vegetation changed dramatically, reports a University of Arizona-led international research team.

The current warming from climate change may drive an equally dramatic change in vegetation within the next 100 to 150 years unless greenhouse-gas emissions are reduced, the team wrote.

"We found that ecosystems all over the globe experienced big changes," said Connor Nolan, a doctoral candidate in the UA Department of Geosciences. "About 70 percent of those sites experienced large changes in the species that were there and what the vegetation looked like."

The researchers used their analysis of how vegetation changed after the last ice age to project how much current ecosystems could change in the 21st century and beyond as global warming progresses.

## Other ecological data

The analysis required synthesizing information from published reports for 594 sites covering every continent except Antarctica. Nolan said the study is the most comprehensive compilation of vegetation and other ecological data covering the period from the height of the last ice age 21,000 years ago to the pre-industrial era.

The regions of the world that had the biggest temperature increases since the ice age also had the greatest changes in vegetation, the team found.

Knowing the relationship between temperature change and the degree of vegetation change allowed the researchers to determine how ecosystems might change under various greenhouse-gas emissions

models.

"We used the results from the past to look at the risk of future ecosystem change," Nolan said. "We find that as temperatures rise there are bigger and bigger risks for more ecosystem change."

The Earth warmed 7-13 degrees F (4-7 degrees C) since the last ice age. Climate change projections indicate the world will warm about that much "in the next 100-150 years if greenhouse-gas emissions are not reduced substantially," the authors write.

Corresponding author Stephen Jackson, director of the U.S. Geological Survey's Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Center, said, "Under the business-as-usual scenario of greenhouse-gas emissions there's a very high likelihood of large changes across all the vegetated continents."

## Carbon storage

The changes would threaten global biodiversity and derail vital services that nature provides to humanity, such as water security, carbon storage and recreation, according to study co-author Jonathan Overpeck, dean of the School for Environment and Sustainability at the University of Michigan.

"If we allow climate change to go unchecked, the vegetation of this planet is going to look completely different than it does today, and that means a huge risk to the diversity of the planet," Overpeck said.

The team's paper, "Past and future global transformation of terrestrial ecosystems under climate change," is scheduled for publication in the August 31 issue of the journal *Science*. A list of the 42 authors is at the end of this release.

(Source: *eurekalert.org*)

## NASA's Mars rover Opportunity battling to survive epic dust storm

The Opportunity rover on Mars is battling to survive during an epic dust storm, and while NASA waits for any signs of life from the robot, you can beam it your support with a digital postcard. A social media campaign is also under way support the embattled rover.

A violent dust storm has been tormenting the Red Planet since late May. What started as a localized phenomenon quickly grew into a massive storm, developing into a planet-wide event by the third week of June.



As the storm intensified, dust filled the Martian atmosphere, growing so thick that Opportunity couldn't harvest enough sunlight to recharge its batteries. As a result, the rover fell silent on June 10, likely putting itself in a sort of hibernation mode.

Thankfully, toward the end of July, the massive Martian dust storm started to subside. However, even though skies above Mars have cleared up a bit, Opportunity may still have to wait a while for the chance to recharge and communicate again with its handlers.

In the meantime, you can show your support for Opportunity's recovery by sending a digital postcard. More than 2,000 postcards from supporters around the world have already traveled to the rover, encouraging it to "wake up" and survey the Red Planet again.

You can customize your message for Opportunity here. Choose from among several beautiful Mars photos, write a brief message and send it up to Opportunity to show your support.

While there is still hope that Opportunity will power back up, there's no way of knowing what condition the rover will be in after such a long period of inactivity.

(Source: *space.com*)

## Ability to dream may be in the genes, new study finds

When mammals and birds sleep they periodically enter a mysterious phase known as Rapid Eye Movement (REM) during which the mind is as active as it is during wakefulness. REM is thought to play an important role in maintaining brain function and physical wellbeing and consolidating memories. It is also the period when most dreams occur — in humans at least.

So far, the biological underpinnings of this phase have remained poorly understood, but now, a study published in the journal *Cell Reports* has demonstrated how a key pair of genes regulate how much REM and non-REM sleep an animal experiences.

A team led by Hiroki Ueda at the RIKEN Center for Biosystems Dynamics Research in Japan found that mice which had been genetically engineered to lack two specific genes largely did not experience REM sleep.

Previous research has shown that a neurotransmitter — the body's chemical messengers which transmit signals through the brain and nervous system — known as acetylcholine and its receptors are important for the regulation of REM sleep.

Large quantities of acetylcholine are released in certain regions of the mammalian brain both during REM sleep and wakefulness. But scientists have been unable to identify which receptor or receptors — proteins which neurotransmitters can bind to, enabling communication between cells — are directly involved in regulating REM sleep.

In their research, the scientists knocked out several different genes in the mice which are responsible for the development of various acetylcholine receptors. They found that the loss of two receptors — known as Chrm1 and Chrm3 — which are common in certain brain regions, had a significant impact on sleep in the mice.

When Chrm1 was removed, the amount of REM sleep in the mice was reduced and fragmented.

(Source: *Newsweek*)

## Scientists clone virus to help stop overwhelming grape disease

A new discovery by Washington State University scientists could help grape growers roll back a devastating virus that withers vines and shrivels harvests.

Named for how it curls the leaves of infected plants, grapevine leafroll disease costs growers millions of dollars in lost vines and productivity. Until now, no one has been able to replicate one of the main culprits behind the disease, a virus called grapevine leafroll-associated virus 3 — leafroll 3, for short.

For the first time, researchers in WSU's Department of Plant Pathology have found a way to clone leafroll 3, opening the door for experiments and treatments to protect valuable Washington vineyards.

WSU research associate Sridhar Jarugula and Professor Naidu Rayapati detailed the innovation in the latest issue of *Virology*. In a three-year project partly funded by the Washington State Wine Commission, they worked with colleagues at the University of Florida's Citrus Research and Education Center to successfully replicate the virus, and are now revealing its secrets.

Grapevine leaf roll disease is spread by mealybugs and scale insects, which transmit the virus as they feed on vines. Once in a vineyard, it's nearly impossible to control, except by roguing, or uprooting and destroying infected vines.

"We need a way to manipulate this virus, tease out its genes and understand how it works," Rayapati said. The "challenge is that leafroll 3 is one of the most difficult viruses to work with," due in part to its large genome, one of the biggest among plant viruses.

(Source: *phys.org*)

## Injured fish can get better faster with help from shrimps, team discovers

Researchers discovered in a new study that cleaner shrimps not only get rid of parasites but also help heal injured fishes.

A team from the James Cook University's Center for Sustainable Tropical Fisheries and Aquaculture, led by Dr. Kate Hudson, observed the interaction between cleaner shrimps and reef fishes. They used high-definition cameras in order to record the relationship between two sea creatures.

The symbiotic relationship between cleaner shrimps and fishes was previously observed in the wild. It is already known that some species of decapod crustaceans congregate within coral reefs and set up "cleaning stations" where fishes and other sea creatures visit to get rid of parasites.

However, the dynamic relationship between cleaner shrimps and client fishes are often more complicated. Fishes are natural predators of shrimps and cleaner shrimps are notorious for eating the mucus of the injured fish.

## During a cleaning procedure

The study wanted to clarify if the cleaner fish take advantage of injured client fishes during a cleaning procedure. The scientists, instead, found that the cleaner shrimps also help heal the



wounds of their injured client fish.

"We found that shrimp did not aggravate existing injuries or further injure the fish," said David Vaughn, a Ph.D. student involved in the project.

The scientists tested the dynamic relationship between

cleaner shrimps and injured fishes in a controlled laboratory trial. They observed how the crustaceans would treat sea goldies that sustained superficial skin lesions.

"Injuries in fishes are susceptible to invasion by secondary pathogens like viruses and bacteria, and the reduction in redness by shrimp indicates that cleaner shrimp could reduce infections," Vaughn explained.

He also added that cleaner shrimps are known to reduce the stress levels of client fishes during visits, making cleaning stations a one-stop shop for creatures under the sea.

The study hopes to identify which cleaner shrimp could be used to clean parasites from farmed and ornamental fishes. They said that about 30 to 50 percent of the farmed fishes that come from Southeast Asia — the largest fish producers in the world — are lost to parasites.

Incorporating cleaner shrimp to fish farms might be able to decrease or completely eliminate the necessity for harmful chemicals used to get rid of parasites and, therefore, make the industry a little more environment-friendly.

(Source: *Tech Times*)



## Air pollution causing major reduction in intelligence, study suggests

Poisonous air estimated to cause premature deaths of 7 million people a year worldwide

In addition to having a deadly impact on people's physical health, air pollution is now also believed to be responsible for a profound reduction in intelligence, a new study indicates.

Chronic exposure to airborne particulate matter appears to cause significant falls in test scores for both language and arithmetic, with average results equating the impact of poisonous air to losing a year's worth of education.

The research was carried out in China, but is relevant around the globe, as over 91 per cent of the planet's population live in areas with dangerous air and is now the fourth-highest cause of deaths worldwide, according to the World Health Organization.

In the UK, poisonous air is estimated to claim 50,000 lives annually, and this year the European Commission referred the British government to court for breaching EU air quality rules.

The Chinese study, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, took place over four years and analyzed verbal and arithmetic tests taken by 20,000 people of all ages.

The results indicate prolonged exposure to poor air appears to cause a degradation of cognition which worsens with advancing age.

Pollution also increases the risk of degenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia, the study suggests. "Polluted air may impede cognitive ability as people become older, especially for less educated men," the authors say.

"The damage on the aging brain by air pollution likely imposes substantial health and economic costs, considering that cognitive functioning is critical for the elderly for both running daily errands and making high-stake decisions."

The negative effects of pollution appeared to have a more pronounced effect on people's verbal abilities, which the authors hypothesize is due to pollution having a stronger effect on parts of the brain necessary for verbal tests.

The combined effects of ambient and household air pollution cause about 7 million premature deaths across the planet each year, largely as a result of increased mortality from stroke, heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer and acute respiratory infections the WHO estimates.

Earlier this year a major study by researchers from Stanford University and the University of California suggested almost a quarter of child deaths in sub-Saharan Africa could be prevented by improving air quality.

(Source: The Independent)

## LEARN ENGLISH

### Closing The Deal

Mr. Smith: I'm glad you could find time to meet with me, Mr. Johnson. I can't think of a nicer environment for our meeting today, the **ambience** here is lovely!

Mr. Johnson: No problem, if possible I always combine business with pleasure. Now, let's hear more about these chocolates you're offering.

Mr. Smith: Well, as you know, I have recently become the sole **distributor** for Grangers Gourmet Bon-bons here in the United States. They're a new **manufacturer** and are looking to **break into** the luxury market. Naturally, your restaurant **sprang into** my mind immediately. I think your brand **exemplifies** many of the same **traits** as Grangers and serving these chocolates would really add to your reputation for providing elegant, luxurious, first class dining.

Mr. Johnson: Hmmm, sounds interesting. ... gourmet chocolates, where are they produced? Belgium?

Mr. Smith: Actually, the factory is located in Scotland.

Mr. Johnson: Really? I didn't think they were **known** for their luxury chocolate production...

Mr. Smith: That's what makes this such a fantastic opportunity! The government is one hundred percent supportive of creating new export markets and has guaranteed a low **tariff** for all **whole-sale** orders of over one thousand units. They've also reduced the **red tape** involved at customs as well. Here, I brought these especially for you, try one!

Mr. Johnson: Oh, thanks. Mmm, hmm, creamy texture, smooth. ...

Mr. Smith: Unique aren't they? I bet you've never tasted anything like it! Quality is assured as I personally visit the factory to make sure no one's **cutting corners** with the ingredients. Only the cr`eme de la cr`eme make it through inspection.

Mr. Johnson: Yes, very interesting flavors... Slightly spicy, very unique, that's for sure. Exactly what ARE the ingredients?

Mr. Smith: I have it on highest authority that this traditional secret recipe has been **handed down** in the Granger family for generations. I'm sure you can keep a secret. Buttermilk, cacao beans, sugar and Haggis.

Mr. Johnson: Haggis? What's Haggis?

Mr. Smith: It's a traditional Scottish delicacy: you take sheep's liver, heart and lung and stuff it inside of the sheep's stomach.

Mr. Johnson: Ah, get back to you.

Mr. Smith: Mr. Johnson? Mr. Johnson?

#### ■ Key vocabulary

**ambience:** the atmosphere of a place  
**distributor:** a person or business that sells to retail stores  
**manufacturer:** a company that makes goods  
**break into:** enter quickly  
**spring into:** to appear or come into being quickly  
**exemplify:** sets an example, a demonstration  
**trait:** a characteristic feature or quality  
**known:** famous for, easily recognized  
**tariff:** a tax or amount of money to be paid  
**wholesale:** the sale of goods in large quantities  
**red tape:** procedures required to gain bureaucratic approval  
**cutting corners:** to do something in the easiest or most inexpensive way  
**hand down:** to pass from one family member or generation to another

#### ■ Supplementary vocabulary

**joint venture:** legal entity created by two or more businesses joining together to conduct a specific business enterprise with both parties sharing profits and losses.

**venture capital:** a form of financing for a company in which the business gives up partial ownership and control of the business in exchange for capital over a limited time frame, usually 3-5 years.

**merger:** a joining together of two previously separate corporations  
**audit:** an evaluation of a person, organization, system, process, enterprise, project or product.

# Iran, Germany sign MOU to enhance insurance co-op

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed between the Social Security Organization of Iran and the deutsche gesetzliche Unfallversicherung (DGUV) (the social accident insurance of Germany) to expand cooperation on various insurance related fields.

Head of Iran's Social Security Organization Taqi Noorbakhsh and head of International Social Security Association (ISSA) Joachim Broer who also serve as the deputy director for DGUV inked the MOU in Berlin, IRNA reported on Friday.

The two officials had already discussed signing the MOU during the World Social Security Forum (WSSF) held in November 2016, in Panama.

According to the Social Security Organization's website, the MOU focuses on diverse areas including rehabilitation and hospital management, as well as sharing experience and co-running staff training courses.

The International Social Security Association (ISSA) is the world's leading international



Taqi Noorbakhsh, head of Iran's Social Security Organization (R), and Joachim Broer, head of International Social Security Association, are signing an MOU on insurance related fields

## Global warming could lead to rise in crop losses from insect damage

Rising global temperatures make insects ‘even hungrier and more numerous’

Crops lost to insect damage in northern Europe's most productive areas could double as global temperatures rise over the next 30 years, new research indicates.

Scientists forecast pestilence to soar in the area known as the "breadbasket of Europe", resulting in crop damage in 11 countries including the UK, Sweden and Ireland rising by as much as 75 per cent by 2050, even if countries meet their existing commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The study, published today in the journal Science, predicts increases in insect populations and in insects' metabolic rates, as the world warms.

"In some temperate countries, insect pest damage to crops is projected to rise sharply as temperatures continue to climb, putting serious pressure on grain producers," said Professor Joshua Tewksbury, co-lead author of the study and a research professor at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Insect damage currently reduces crop yields by 2.5 per cent. This means a 75 per cent increase in damage results in 4.4 per cent yield drop from insects. In total this would mean European wheat could see a total annual pest-induced yield losses topping 16 million tons, the study says.

Across wider Europe the study projects a 50 to 100 per cent increase in pest-induced crop losses in wheat, and across North America 30 to 40 per cent increases in losses of maize.

The research is based on estimates of a 1.7C-2C rise in global temperature – a possible scenario even if all countries meet their non-binding targets as agreed under the Paris climate agreement.

But the team warned that models assessing the agricultural effects of climate change rarely consider losses due to changing insect populations and behaviors.

In the near future a warmer climate means we should expect insects "to be even hungrier and more numerous", the study warns. "Warmer temperatures have been shown to accelerate an individual insect's metabolic rate, leading it to consume more food during its lifespan."

And while pest populations may decline in some hotter tropical areas, they are expected to increase elsewhere as



temperatures rise and new ecosystems become favorable to the insects.

The study argues that greater understanding of our crops and the ecosystems in which they function is required to ensure our food supplies.

Prof Tewksbury told The Independent: "Biological control of insect pests is successful when we have exceptional knowledge of the natural history of our crops and their relatives: where they grew, what insects ate the crops in the native range, what killed those insects. There is a lot of work to do to build that knowledge, and because our model is general – not specific to the three crops studied – we have reason to do this for all of our agricultural crops.

"That knowledge is out there to be gathered, and our inattention to this knowledge is perhaps the biggest threat to our food security."

Professor Rob Dunn of North Carolina State University's department of biological sciences told The Independent some of the main problems facing global food supplies include the narrow range of crops humans have cultivated, and the aggressive pesticides we have used on them.

He said: "The more we rely on relatively few crops (and relatively few pesticides) the faster the race with these pests and pathogens becomes. The better we will need to be at keeping up. Climate change is one more piece of this, it

speeds everything up further by moving things around and stressing plants.

"In this light, we have to be really clever and we have to know these crops and their associates really, really well. We haven't been, and we don't. We tend to know very little about the pests and pathogens of most crops, much less the species that help control them. Our databases are medieval."

Scientists seeking to resolve the issues are also hobbled by ownership of data and the lack of coherent infrastructure between existing sets of data.

Prof Dunn added: "Where the data exist they have become privatized, such that in the current system we increasingly have to depend on a small handful of companies to keep up with pests and pathogens on our behalf. That is big trouble.

"It is time for a major initiative to rethink agriculture globally, to think about how to slow down evolution, how to keep the pests better at bay, how to rely on all of wild biodiversity's benefits, and how to, at the same time, eat and grow foods, sustainably."

The study follows research indicating flying insects that crops are dependent on for pollination also face major threats.

Last year scientists warned of "ecological Armageddon" as the number of flying insects has plummeted by 75 per cent in the past 27 years, even in protected reserves in Europe.

Prof Dunn said: "Broad spectrum pesticides tend to kill insects in general, without regard to their trophic level, but they are sprayed in ways that tend to favor the most rapid evolution in the species that are most abundant and breed most rapidly. In most cases that is the pests.

"The result in such scenarios can be loss of the species we most need and hyperabundance of the species we least want.

"At the same time, we are warming, drying and changing the planet, which again tends to favor species that are abundant and good at getting from place to place – again often the pests.

"A clever society would figure out a way to favor the evolution and persistence of biodiversity overall, and particularly beneficial species, but not of the species that threaten to tear our crops back to the ground. We have not yet proven ourselves, globally, to be such a society."

(Source: The Independent)

## \$2.7b allocated to job creation in rural areas

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — A total fund of 120 trillion rials (nearly \$2.7 billion) has been earmarked for granting job creation loans to the people in rural areas nationwide, labor ministry's caretaker has said.

"Measures taken to boost job creation in rural areas, including providing facilities and generating sustainable jobs have been efficient to some extent, as rural population in some provinces of the country is on the rise," IRNA quoted Anooshirvan Mohseni Bandpei as saying on Friday.

One of the main projects is to facilitate internship courses for the educated young people in rural areas, to both help university graduated youth and provide human resources for enterprises which are active in these areas, he highlighted.

According to the aforesaid project, some 3 million rials (about \$61) is paid to interns per month, and if an enterprise attracts an intern, the government will pay the employer's insurance up to two years, he added.

He went on to say that it is scheduled to generate some 900,000 new jobs dur-

ing this year.

The deputy vice-president for rural development and deprived areas Abolfazl Razavi in late August said that while some 60 percent of migrations from rural to urban areas are caused by the lack of appropriate jobs and sufficient income for educated people, the government is intent on reversing migration, as a total of 180,000 sustainable jobs have been created in rural areas last year (March 2017-March 2018), and also some 100,000 jobs in the current year.



### ENGLISH IN USE

#### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ج

## 30% of schools in Iran dilapidated: official

Currently per capita education space per student is 5.2 percent while the standard space must be 8.4 percent which indicated that some 30 percent of schools are dilapidated, Iran's director of schools renovation, development and equipment organization has said.

Out of the 30 percent ramshackle old schools some 12 percent should be completely rebuilt and 18 percent must be retrofitted, IRNA news agency quoted Mehrolah Rakhshanimehr as saying on Monday.

Province of Khorasan Razavi, Gilan and Sistan and Baluchestan are the provinces with the highest number of tumbledown schools, Rakhshanimehr added.

### PREFIX/SUFFIX

#### “a-, an-“

■ **Meaning:** without, lack of, not

■ **For example:** His brother was an *amoral*, greedy businessman

### PHRASAL VERB

#### Do something over

■ **Meaning:** do again

■ **For example:** My teacher wants me to do my essay over because she doesn't like my topic.

### IDIOM

#### Twist someone's arm

■ **Explanation:** pressurize someone into doing something that they are reluctant to do

■ **For example:** I've twisted his arm and he'll get you some tickets.



# UAE used Israeli spyware to target regional rivals: report

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has reportedly been using an Israeli phone-hacking program to spy on several Arab figures, among them the Qatari emir, Lebanese prime minister and a House of Saud regime prince.

The New York Times reported on Friday that Israeli software company NSO Group and affiliates had actively participated in cyber-attacks on individuals sought by the UAE using the controversial Pegasus spyware to turn their smart phones into surveillance devices.

Two lawsuits have been filed against the company in Israel and Cyprus by a Qatari citizen as well as Mexican journalists and human rights activists who say they were targeted by the spyware.

Leaked emails submitted in the lawsuits show that the UAE signed a contract to license the NSO Group's spyware as early as August 2013.

The Israeli company offered a pricey update of the spyware in 2014, leading Emirati officials to demand proof of value.

They asked whether they could use the program to tap figures like Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Lebanon's current Prime Minister Saad Hariri, Saudi prince Mutaib II bin Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the kingdom's former national guard director and Abdulaziz al-Khamis, the editor of the London-based newspaper al-Arab.

Four days later, the Israeli firm sent back an email which included two recordings of Khamis' phone calls.

An Amnesty International staff member



has been targeted by Israeli-made spyware.

Pegasus infects a target's smart phone by sending a text message tempting him to click on an attached link. The user's click on the link enables governments to monitor phone calls, emails, contacts and potentially even face-to-face conversations conducted nearby.

For the UAE, the text messages were carefully tailored with "seemingly innocuous invitations like 'Ramadan is near - incredible discounts' and 'keep your car tires from exploding in the heat,'" the report said.

Israeli lawyer Alaa Mahajna said, "We are pushing to make the law catch up with

technology" and prove that tech companies "are complicit in these privacy violations."

The UAE's use of the NSO Group's spyware was first reported in 2016, when Emirati human rights advocate Ahmed Mansoor exposed an attempt to hack his iPhone. He was later arrested in 2017 for online posts and still remains in jail.

On Friday, a source at the Qatari Foreign Ministry condemned attempts to spy on the Persian Gulf tiny state officials and called on those developing spywares to abide by international law.

He also urged the international community to regulate digital activities so that

it does not turn into a breeding ground for espionage.

"This revelation reflects the serious problems the foreign-policy makers in Abu Dhabi are suffering from. It raises several questions about the roots of the ongoing Persian Gulf crisis," the source said.

"The current Persian Gulf crisis started with the hacking of the Qatar News Agency (QNA) and today these media reports indicate that the series of violations pre-date hacking of QNA and are still continuing."

Last June, the House of Saud regime, Egypt, Bahrain, and the UAE imposed a land, naval and air blockade on import-dependent Qatar, accusing Doha of supporting terrorism, an allegation strongly denied by Doha.

The Saudi regime-led bloc presented Qatar with a list of demands and gave it an ultimatum to comply with them or face consequences.

Doha, however, refused to meet the demands and stressed that it would not abandon its independent foreign policy.

Separately on Friday, a source familiar with the lawsuits, told The Daily Star that the cases were meant to expose rights violations committed by Israeli companies.

"We are asking for an injunction to stop this company and all of its affiliates from selling this product to specific countries," he said. "They [spyware companies] say they just sell systems, but there is evidence of further involvement."

(Source: Press TV)

## Korea preparing toned-down military parade

Satellite imagery shows North Korea is poised to stage another military parade amid new worries that diplomatic efforts on denuclearization are stalling, though analysts say it is unclear whether it will showcase any of the country's largest ballistic missiles.

Pyeongyang is preparing to host a number of major events on Sept. 9 for the 70th anniversary of the country's founding, including a military parade, possible visits by foreign delegations, and - for the first time in five years - a massive choreographed performance known as the "Mass Games."

Parades have long been a way for North Korea to show off its military might, and September's show comes amid sensitive negotiations over the future of the country's nuclear and ballistic missile arsenal.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un met the United States President Donald Trump in June and agreed to "work toward the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," but negotiations since then appear to have stalled with both sides increasingly criticizing the other for a lack of progress.

Based on commercial satellite imagery gathered by

Planet Labs Inc., analysts say September's military parade is likely to be very similar to one staged on Feb. 8, but so far there is no sign of the controversial intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) that are believed to be capable of targeting the United States.

"At the moment, this parade look pretty similar if not smaller than the one in February," said Jeffrey Lewis, director of the East Asia Nonproliferation Program at California's Middlebury Institute of International Studies.

Among the weapons the team at Middlebury spotted in Aug. 22 images of North Korea's Mirim Parade Training Ground are tanks, self-propelled artillery, infantry carriers, anti-aircraft missiles, and rocket launchers.

Other possible weapons arrayed on the parade ground include coastal defense cruise missiles, as well as at least six solid-fuel, short-range ballistic missiles possibly of a type first seen in February.

Analysts said that short-range ballistic missile is based on the Russian Iskander missile but also shares many features of South Korea's Hyunmoo-2 missile.

"The first 99 vehicles are identical," Lewis said.

"After that we only see another 20 or so short-range missiles. There were more on parade in February, including ICBMs."

Another analysis of the Planet Labs images, conducted by Joseph Bermudez at the Stimson Centre's 38 North website, also found no signs of ICBMs, but noted that an expanded number of heavy equipment storage shelters indicate September's parade "will likely be considerably larger than the military parade earlier this year."

If ICBMs or other large missiles are present, "they would likely remain hidden under the shelters in the heavy equipment storage area until the day of the parade," Bermudez wrote. Lewis acknowledged that there could be more weapons hidden in the sheds, but said at this point it is "just speculation."

Analysts say that so far there is no indication the parade will match the April 2017 "Day of the Sun" parade, in which Kim rolled out multiple new missile systems, helping to exacerbate rising tensions with the United States and South Korea.

(Source: Reuters)

## U.S. to move ahead with Mexico trade pact, keep talking to Canada

Contentious United States-Canada trade talks ended on Friday with no deal to revamp the North American Free Trade Agreement after the mood soured, and President Donald Trump notified Congress of his intent to sign a bilateral trade pact with Mexico.

The U.S. and Canadian trade officials set plans to resume their talks on Wednesday with the aim of getting a deal all three nations could sign.

After four intensive days of talks in Washington between Canada and the United States, the biggest sticking points were familiar ones: U.S. demands for more access to Canada's closed dairy market and Canadian insistence that a trade dispute settlement system be maintained, not scrapped as Washington wants.

"For Canada, the focus is on getting a good deal, and once we have a good deal for Canada, we'll be done," the country's foreign minister, Chrystia Freeland, told

a news conference.

All three countries have stressed the importance of NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement), which underpins \$1.2 trillion in regional trade. A bilateral deal announced by the United States and Mexico on Monday had paved the way for Canada to rejoin the talks this week.

But by Friday the sentiment turned, partly on Trump's explosive off-the-record remarks made to Bloomberg News that any trade deal with Canada would be "totally on our terms." He later confirmed the comments, which the Toronto Star first reported.

"At least Canada knows where I stand," Trump later said on Twitter.

Trump notified Congress that he intends to sign the trade pact by the end of November. Text of the deal will be published by around Oct. 1.

Ottawa has stood firm against signing

"just any deal."

Some U.S. lawmakers and business groups expressed concern about Canada's not yet being not yet part of the agreement.

"Anything other than a trilateral agreement won't win Congressional approval and would lose business support," the chief executive of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Thomas Donohue, said in a statement.

The Canadian dollar CAD= weakened to C\$1.3081 to the U.S. dollar after news of the talks' lack of a result first broke. Canadian stocks. GSPTSE remained 0.5 percent lower. Global equities were also down following the hawkish turn in Trump's comments on trade.

Following a meeting with Freeland, Mexican Economy Minister Ildefonso Guajardo said he was confident the United States and Canada would reach an agreement.

The U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Robert Lighthizer has refused to budge de-

spite repeated efforts by Freeland to offer some concessions on dairy to maintain the independent trade dispute resolution mechanism under Chapter 19 of NAFTA, The Globe and Mail reported on Friday.

However, a USTR spokeswoman said Canada had made no concessions on agriculture, which includes dairy, but said that negotiations continued.

Trump argues that Canada's hefty dairy tariffs are hurting the U.S. farmers, an important political base for his Republican party. But dairy farmers have great political clout in Canada, too, and concessions could hurt the ruling Liberals ahead of a 2019 federal election.

At a speech in North Carolina on Friday Trump took another swipe at Canada. "I love Canada, but they've taken advantage of our country for many years," he said.

(Source: Reuters)

## Erdogan labels rating agencies as 'impostors' and 'racketeers'

Turkey has accused Western credit-rating agencies of deliberately attempting to undermine the banking sector amid attacks on its currency, the lira.

Friday's scathing comments from Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his son-in-law, Finance Minister Berat Albayrak, came after two agencies, Moody's and Fitch, sounded more alarm this week about the state of Turkey's banks, citing impact of the currency sell-off.

"These rating agencies - in a way that has no precedent in the world - right after every forex attack, have weighed in and made intensive efforts to create a pessimistic view of our banks," Albayrak said in a speech in Istanbul.

He said banks' balance sheets were stronger than most of their global rivals.

Erdogan, characteristically, was more scathing.

"If they have their dollars, we have our God. They can't topple Turkey with dollars," he told supporters in the north-western province of Balikesir.

"Put this aside, leave those impostors, those racketeers. They have said a lot of things about us."

The lira has lost 42 percent of its value against the dollar this year, deepening concern about lenders' asset quality and their ability to ride out the crisis.

Drawn by lower interest rates, Turkish firms have borrowed in dollars and euros for years.

The currency slump has driven up the cost of servicing that debt and investors fear that banks could be hit by a wave of rising bad debt.

Around \$179bn of Turkey's external debt matures in the year to July 2019, according to New York-based financial



institution JPMorgan's estimates.

Majority of that - around \$146bn - is owed by the private sector, according to Reuters news agency.

Erdogan added that Turkey was taking steps to help the currency, and was seeing concrete results.

Earlier on Friday, the government said it would lower the level of withholding tax on lira bank deposits, while raising it on foreign currency deposits.

The lira firmed some one percent after the move. It was at 6.54 on Saturday morning, rebounding strongly from an overnight low of 6.8994.

■ **Erdogan's call to sell dollars**

Meantime, Erdogan has repeatedly called on Turks to sell their dollars and euros to buy lira.

Friday's move by the government was aimed at making it less attractive for investors to hold foreign-currency deposits, although it was unclear if it would work.

## Syria has right to chase terrorists out of Idlib: Russia U.S. prepared initial list of Syria targets for possible strike

➔ from terrorists of Jabhat al-Nusra and other organizations recognized as terrorist by the UN Security Council. Terrorists oppose such separation," Lavrov noted.

On Wednesday, Lavrov had described the Idlib-based militants as a "festering abscess" which must be liquidated, RIA news agency reported.

■ **U.S. initial list**

The United States has reportedly drawn up a preliminary list of facilities in Syria that could be targeted in case of a false flag chemical weapons attack in the war-torn country.

Several U.S. officials told CNN that American intelligence and military targeting experts had already compiled the list, but a decision to launch the strike has not been made.

One of the officials said that the U.S. military "could respond very quickly" to an alleged gas attack in Syria and that the initial targeting data would give the Pentagon a head start if President Donald Trump orders assault.

The U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the United States views the Syrian government military assault on terrorist-held Idlib as an escalation of the Syrian conflict.

The Syrian province of Idlib and surrounding areas are the last major enclave held by terrorists.

"The U.S. sees this as an escalation of an already dangerous conflict," Pompeo said in a post on Twitter in which he also blasted Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov for defending the operation.

Damascus and Moscow have warned that the U.S., along with Britain and France, is gearing up for a new military attack against Syria as the army prepares for a liberation operation in Idlib.

Syria and Russia also obtained evidence revealing yet another plot by Takfiri terrorists to carry out a chemical attack in Idlib and pin the blame on Damascus with the aim of justifying an ensuing Western act of aggression.

On April 14, the U.S., Britain and France launched a coordinated missile strike against sites and research facilities near Damascus and Homs with the purported goal of paralyzing the Syrian government's capability to produce chemicals.

The strike came one week after an alleged gas attack hit the Damascus suburb town of Douma, just as the Syrian army was about to win the battle against the militants there.

Western states blamed the Syrian government for the incident, but Damascus firmly rejected the accusation.

The Pentagon claimed in response that Moscow "is seeking to plant false lies about the use of chemical weapons" in Syria.

Elsewhere in their remarks, American officials told CNN that the Russians may have engaged in the buildup of naval warships ahead of a possible U.S. strike.

"By having so many ships there, the Russians can attempt to use their ship borne radars to blanket that area and 'see' any potential U.S. Tomahawk missiles coming," an official said, warning that Russian ship borne radars could cue S-400 missile systems in Syria and try to shoot U.S. missiles down.

■ **Syria resolved to liberate Idlib**

Syria's deputy foreign minister on Friday stressed that his country is determined to end the presence of terror outfits in Idlib, noting that certain Western countries continue to support militants through circulating "lies" on the use of chemical weapons.

In an interview with the Syrian TV, Faisal Mekdad censured a media misleading campaign regarding Syria's planned counter-terrorism operation in Idlib.

"If the Western forces take any reckless step, Syria will retaliate and will be not be subjugated and it will practice its self-defense right which is guaranteed by all the international laws," he said.

Mikdad further reiterated that terrorists are the ones who use chemical weapons in Syria.

(Source: agencies)

## Brazil electoral court bars Lula from presidential race

Brazil's top electoral court barred jailed former president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva from running in this year's presidential because of his corruption conviction.

The widely expected decision removes a cloud hanging over Brazil's most uncertain election in decades - though Lula's lawyers have said they would appeal an adverse decision to the Supreme Court.

"What is at stake here today is the equality of all citizens before the law and the Constitution," Judge Og Fernandes told the court in his vote to declare Lula ineligible.

Judge Admar Gonzaga, who as a lawyer worked for Lula's handpicked successor Dilma Rousseff's 2010 election, cast the decisive vote in the 6-1 decision that sealed the leftist icon's ejection from the presidential election.

Lula, Brazil's most popular politician, is serving a 12-year sentence for a corruption conviction. His Workers Party registered him as its presidential candidate for the Oct. 7 vote anyway, saying he is innocent.

Lula is ineligible for office under Brazil's "Clean Slate" law, which prohibits candidates from running if they have convictions that have been upheld on appeal.

Despite his conviction and several graft cases pending against him, Lula leads the race by a long stretch, with 39 percent of voter support, according to pollster Datafolha. His nearest rival, far-right candidate Jair Bolsonaro, has 19 percent.

Ads by the Workers Party calling on Brazilians to vote for Lula began to appear on social media on Friday, and will be shown on television as of Saturday when the race enters its final 35 days of campaigning.

A party statement said the court had bowed to the wishes of Brazil's elites to stop Lula returning to office. The court had also ignored a recommendation by the United Nations Human Rights Committee to restore Lula's political rights which he appeals his conviction, it said.

Vice-presidential running mate Fernando Haddad, a former mayor of Sao Paulo, is expected to head the ticket hoping to inherit the bulk of Lula's votes.

The party has until Sept. 17 to swap their names on the ballot, though the court gave it 10 days to make the change.

The court also ruled that Lula should not appear in the Workers Party's television and radio ads campaign until the ticket has been officially altered to remove him.

The court on Thursday had rejected another request by opponents of Lula to exclude his name from opinion polls.

(Source: Reuters)

(Source: agencies)



## Serena Williams beats sister Venus to reach fourth round

Serena Williams made light work of her older sister Venus Williams to reach the US Open fourth round in New York.

The 23-time Grand Slam champion, looking to equal Margaret Court's all-time record of 24, needed just 71 minutes to win 6-1 6-2.

The American siblings, aged 38 and 36, were playing for the 30th time - but it was not much of a contest.

Serena Williams, who had a medical timeout in the first set, will play Estonia's Kaia Kanepi in the last 16.

Kanepi, 33, dumped world number one Simona Halep out in the first round and has not dropped a set so far at Flushing Meadows. "This was my best match since I have returned," said Serena, who had time out of the game to give birth to her daughter last September. By dropping just three games, Serena earned her joint biggest victory over Venus, alongside her 6-1 6-2 win at Charleston in 2013. Venus said she thought it was her sister's best performance in their matches, because she did not "even get to really touch any balls". "I don't think I did a lot wrong. But she just did everything right," Venus told a news conference.

"Obviously, that level is definitely where she's going to want to stay during this whole tournament."

(Source: BBC)

## Jorge Mendes no longer looks after any Real players

The definitive departure of Fabio Coentrao has brought about the end of an era at Real Madrid.

Eleven years after the last time it happened, Real's first team will not have any player within the squad who is represented by agent Jorge Mendes. Gone are the days when up to five players (Pepe, Cristiano Ronaldo, Coentrao, James Rodriguez and Ricardo Carvalho) appeared on Los Blancos' payroll.

During this time, without being the direct agent, he has also participated in deals involving other players at the club, such as Angel di Maria. Real Madrid's relationship with the Portuguese representative began in the summer of 2007 when, during Ramon Calderon's presidency, the club paid 30 million euros to Porto for Pepe. After his arrival, signings of Mendes' clients was repeated 'because he always had good players at his disposal.'

In fact, Mendes does still maintain a link with the Champions League holders given the move of Rodriguez to Bayern Munich.

The relationship between those in power at the Estadio Santiago Bernabeu and Mendes is also good, and the clear and evident breakdown between the club and Ronaldo had no bearing on things with the player's agent.

In fact, Mendes met with Real president Florentino Perez at the Champions League draw on Thursday in Monaco and everything was cordial between the pair.

Mendes' initial discussions with the club began as early as 2000 when he attempted, and failed, to engineer moves to the Spanish capital for Carvalho and Deco.

(Source: Marca)

## Rafael Nadal beats Karen Khachanov to reach fourth round

Defending champion Rafael Nadal dug deep to outmanoeuvre powerful Russian Karen Khachanov and win their thrilling US Open third-round match in four sets.

Nadal, 32, was a set and a break down before fighting back to win 5-7 7-5 7-6 (9-7) 7-6 (7-3).

The Spanish top seed failed to serve out the match at 5-4 in the fourth, but recovered to take the tie-break.

World number one Nadal will play Georgia's Nikoloz Basilashvili in the last 16.

The 17-time Grand Slam champion, aiming for a fourth US Open title, needed all of his enormous will-to-win and tactical nous to see off Khachanov, who hit 22 aces and 66 winners.

The match ebbed and flowed throughout as it became one of the matches of the tournament so far.

It was Nadal's first real test after not dropping a set in his previous two matches at Flushing Meadows.

Nadal had breezed into the third round after David Ferrer, his close friend and Davis Cup colleague, retired injured in the opening round and Canada's Vasek Pospisil was swatted off in three sets on Wednesday.

This time he was pushed all the way by 22-year-old Khachanov, who showed why he is considered one of the game's rising stars. After Nadal moved into a two-sets-to-one lead, the world number 26 may have been expected to fade.

Yet he showed remarkable resolve to stop Nadal serving out at 5-4 and take the fourth set to a tie-break.

From there, Nadal regained control - although not before missing two of his five set points - to clinch victory in four hours 23 minutes.

(Source: BBC)

## Coentrao: "I was born poor, I don't care if I die poor"

On Friday, as the transfer market closed in Spain, Fábio Coentrão signed for Rio Ave, the club where he started out as a footballer.

The ex-Real Madrid player told Portuguese daily *Récord* that he felt let down by his loan spell at Sporting Clube de Portugal.

"I've waited until deadline day to receive contact from the club for whom I gave everything last season and I have not received no single phonecall.

It's sad", Coentrão explained. According to reports in Portugal, Sporting had shown some interest in taking the player for the new campaign.

Despite his deception with no word from Sporting, Coentrão is happy with the decision his has made to return to Rio Ave. "After all of this, I felt what I really needed was to be happy; I have lost a lot of money to join a club who were upfront and honest with me, and achieve happiness", he explained.

"The reality is that no amount of money can buy happiness. I was born poor, so why should I care if I die poor?"

(Source: AS)

# 10 years ago football changed forever as Sheikh Mansour finalised City takeover

In exclusive extracts from a forthcoming book chronicling the Abu Dhabi United group's 10-year ownership of Manchester City, key figures reveal the inside story of City's remarkable rags-to-riches transformation...

'I signed my contract before I saw the training ground,' recalls Vincent Kompany, who completed his paperwork a week before the takeover in an office piled high with boxes at the City of Manchester Stadium [now Etihad Stadium].

'They would drive you out there when you signed your contract, but not before!' he adds with a laugh.

City's players from that period speak about Carrington, their former training ground, with a mix of nostalgia and disbelief that a Premier League side actually trained there.

'I remember going to the toilet for the first time,' says Kompany, 'and it was two cubicles. One had a door and the other one had the door hanging off, almost. I thought, that's pretty interesting in terms of intimacy.

'There was a machine with weights where you couldn't really lift it because there was so much rust on it. If you had a gym session you'd always be at your maximum because just to move that one little weight you first had to go through all the rust. There was a punching bag that was half cut through the middle as if someone came in with a samurai sword. You had one glove to punch it, so you could develop an anomaly on one side from working out that way.' Kompany isn't done. 'And it was cold,' he adds.

According to Yaya Toure, who would join Manchester City from Barcelona in 2010 [after more than £500,000 had been spent on the Carrington facility], the state of the training ground was at odds with the club's aspirations.

'Carrington was looking like a second division facility,' says Toure. 'In the beginning, I was complaining to be honest. I was really concerned about it.

'At first when I finished training, sometimes I didn't take a shower there because I was not feeling myself, you know, and I wanted things to change.'

The midfielder was particularly struck by the sight of horses wandering past the training ground. 'It was quite funny,' he says, looking back. 'I remember I told my brother [then City defender Kolo Toure], "The club wants to achieve things. Why is it like this? Things have to change. We have to be serious".'

Long-serving Pete Bradshaw, City's Director of Infra-



structure and Estates, adds: 'We had gone through periods where it was challenging to pay the staff. We could not order stationery. We'd bring pens and pencils from home for a while.

'There were hard times and the staff that went through it, that is what they got used to. It made them prudent as well. They had to think about what they were buying.'

All of the above was an indication of City's perilous position in the build-up to the takeover.

Suddenly everything changed. 'We came back and they'd done one of those things you'd see on Extreme Makeovers or something,' recalls Kompany. 'They'd changed the whole training facility. It was all short-term, makeshift, but it looked a million dollars and it was literally two weeks, which was incredible.'

Then came the influx of new players but not everybody was

impressed, as then football administrator Brian Marwood recalls. 'I remember picking up Gareth Barry and we were in the car,' he explains. 'talkSPORT was on and the story had broken that we were signing him.

'They were absolutely caning him, saying things like, "He won't win anything at Man City, he's only going there for the money, plastic club, seen all this before, foreign owners coming in, killing the game, these guys are mercenaries".

'That was the narrative, and I said to him, "Do you want me to turn this off?" and he went "No, I want to listen to it". He said: "I'm not bothered. I'm just going to remember this, because I want to show these people they are wrong".

'That's when you know you're getting the right people, and people like Gareth were so important to where we are now.'

(Source: Daily Mail)

## Mourinho: Ronaldo will want to score on return to Man Utd



Cristiano Ronaldo will return to Old Trafford with Juventus determined to "score goals and win the match", says Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho.

The Portuguese superstar will be heading back to familiar surroundings during the group stage of the 2018-19 Champions League. United have been reunited with a former favourite in that competition before, with the five-time Ballon d'Or winner helping Real Madrid to a 3-2 aggregate victory at the last-16 stage in 2013.

Mourinho was in charge of the Blancos back then and the current Red Devils boss expects his fellow countryman to be in determined mood to find the target again on October 23. He told United's official website: "I think he [Cristiano] likes to come.

"My feeling when we played with Real Madrid here was that he was happy to come back and was happy to play at Old Trafford, but he was also happy to score and to win.

"He comes with a Juventus shirt, he went to Juventus to win the Champions

League, he comes to Old Trafford to score goals and to win the match, but Old Trafford likes him and Old Trafford will always react in a positive way to him, which is a great thing."

Before facing the considerable challenge posed by Ronaldo and Juventus, Mourinho is set to lock horns with another familiar face. United have been drawn against Derby in the third round of the Carabao Cup, with that contest set to deliver a master versus apprentice encounter as former Chelsea star Frank Lampard goes head to head with a coach he enjoyed considerable success under at Stamford Bridge.

Mourinho added on that clash: "I don't think it's strange, it's nice.

"My first generation of players at Porto and Chelsea have finished their careers and many of them have become managers.

"Frank is the first that I'm going to play against and it's not strange at all.

"He always wanted to be a manager.

(Source: Goal)

# Ceferin still looking for the right balance in European football

Back in the 1980s and earlier 1990s, a small, ramshackle ground in a Swiss lakeside city turned into an elephants' graveyard for some of the biggest names in European football.

Real Madrid were beaten there twice while Bayern Munich, Sporting and Dynamo Kiev also came away from La Maladiere defeated.

The humble ground was the home of Neuchatel Xamax, who came from nowhere to win successive Swiss championships in 1987 and 1988 before making a habit of humbling Europe's mightiest.

Neuchatel - who have just returned to the Swiss top flight following bankruptcy six years ago - were not alone as a modest club from a smaller nation enjoying continental success in the pre-Champions League era.

Dundee United, Widzew Lodz, Austria Vienna, IFK Gothenberg, CSKA Sofia and Young Boys Bern all reached the semi-finals of the old European Cup.

Malmö got to the final and Red Star Belgrade and Steaua Bucharest won it. None of those teams could dream of such progress today. The difference in spending power between most ordinary clubs and the likes of Real Madrid, Bayern Munich, Manchester City and Paris St Germain is now so great that more modest teams are often crushed when they meet them in the Champions League.

Last season, Manchester City enjoyed 4-0 wins away to Dutch side Feyenoord and Swiss champions FC Basel.



Cypriots APOEL lost 6-0 at home to Real Madrid and Besiktas were thrashed 8-1 on aggregate by Bayern Munich in a round of sixteen tie.

When Aleksander Ceferin was elected UEFA president two years ago, he said that restoring "competitive balance" was the most important issue facing him.

The Slovenian suggested salary caps, a luxury tax, squad limits and a reforming the transfer system as ways of trying to make European club football more equal.

But Ceferin admitted following the draw for this year's

group stage that progress was slow and consensus difficult to obtain. Salary caps, for example, would fall foul of the European Union.

"It's one of the biggest challenges for us," he told reporters. "We are planning some reforms but I can't tell you exactly when that will be."

One of the obstacles, he said, was persuading bigger clubs to accept a smaller slice of the cake.

"That's the challenge I'm talking out about," he said. "For me, it's quite clear that we have to find a balance. The big clubs always want to play against the big clubs; the small clubs want the dream of qualifying (for the Champions League group stage) to stay alive."

On the other hand, he said the big clubs had also begun to understand the problem.

"As much as I speak to the big clubs, it's clear to them that a competition only between the big ones will not happen and would be very boring," he said. "They understand for the development of football, they have to share some money."

Even so, a return to the romance of the old days was unlikely. Delaying the evolution of the game is the best UEFA can hope for.

"The gap between the big and small ones (clubs) is bigger and bigger, and we would be naive to think we could stop it," said Ceferin. "So let's try and slow it down."

(Source: Reuters)





# Iran volleyball beat S. Korea to win gold at Asiad



By Masoud Hossein

**TEHRAN** — Iran national volleyball team took a gold medal on Saturday at the 2018 Asian Games, bringing the nation's total gold medal count to 20.

Team Melli eased past South Korea 3-0 (25-17, 25-22, 25-21) at GBK Volleyball Indoor for their second straight gold medal.

Earlier Saturday, Chinese Taipei beat Qatar 3-1 (25-22, 25-23, 17-25, 25-16) to win the bronze medal.

Iranian athletes had previously won 19 gold medals in the Games.

Freestyle wrestlers Hassan Yazdani (86kg), Alireza Karimi (97kg) and Parviz Hadi (125kg) had also snatched three gold medals.

Greco-Roman wrestlers Mohammadali Geraei and Hossein Nouri won two gold medals in the 77kg and 87kg.

Taekwondo practitioner Saeid Rajabi also claimed a gold medal in the 80kg.

Mirhashem Hosseini also won a gold medal in the 63kg.

Erfan Ahangarian bagged a gold medal in wushu after defeating Wang Xuetao

from China 2-1 in the final match of the Men's Sanda -60kg.

Another wushu practitioner Mohsen Mohammadseifi claimed his third successive gold medal in the Asian Games after beating his Chinese rival Shi Zhanwei 2-0.

Climber Reza Alipour also gained Iran's third gold medal on Day 5.

Women's and men's kabaddi teams won two gold medals in the Games.

Weightlifter Sohrab Moradi won gold in the men's 94kg class.

Karate practitioner Sajad Ganjzadeh and Bahman Asgari claimed two gold medals in the men's +84kg and -75kg respectively.

Weightlifter Behdad Salimi won the gold medal with a total of 461kg in the men's 105kg.

Hossein Keyhani claimed a gold medal in 3000m steeplechase.

Ehsan Hadadi seized a gold medal in the men's discus throw.

The 18th Asian Games stage 465 events out of 40 sports, among which 330 events from 32 sports will feature in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The Games, attracting more than 10,000 athletes, will run through Sept. 2.

## Iran basketball fail to end title drought at Asiad



**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Iran basketball team failed to end title drought at the Asian after losing to China in the final match.

The Iranian team were defeated to China 84-72 at the Gelora Bung Karno Istora. Abudushalamu Abudurexiti, who played for the Golden State Warriors' NBA Summer League team earlier this year, scored 20 points to lead a balanced China offensive.

Former Memphis Grizzlies center Hamed Haddadi led Iran with 27 points.

Earlier on the day, South Korea claimed the bronze medal with an 89-81 decision over Chinese Taipei.

Ricardo Ratliffe had 37 points and 17 rebounds as the Koreans fought off a fourth-quarter rally by Chinese Taipei to make it to the podium.

The 18th Asian Games stage 465 events out of 40 sports, among which 330 events from 32 sports will feature in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The Games, attracting more than 10,000 athletes, will run through Sept. 2.

## Iran's table tennis player Noshad Alamiyan makes history at Asiad



**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Iranian table tennis player Noshad Alamiyan won a historic bronze medal at the 2018 Asian Games on Saturday.

Alamiyan claimed a bronze medal in the men's single at the JIExpo Hall in Jakarta, Indonesia.

He lost to Lin Gaoyuan from China 4-0 (12-10, 11-7, 11-6, 11-2) in semifinals.

Iran had not won a medal in the category since 1966 Asian Games in Bangkok, Thailand, where Houshang Bozorgzadeh claimed a bronze medal.

"This is the second singles bronze medal for Iran in 52 years. I'm so happy; many plans have been put in place to enable my country to reach this stage. It is not by chance. I have trained hard to get here, to win a medal. It was my aim, this was my goal and now I've done it; this is the best result I have ever had," Alamiyan said.

The 18th Asian Games stage 465 events out of 40 sports, among which 330 events from 32 sports will feature in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The Games, attracting more than 10,000 athletes, will run through Sept. 2.

## Iran water polo win medal after 44 years at Asiad

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Iran national water polo team ended decades of wait for winning a medal at the Asian Games.

Team Melli defeated China 16-15 on penalty shootout (8-8 in the regular time) at the GBK - Aquatic Center in Jakarta, Indonesia on Saturday.

Iran won their first medal since 1974 Asian Games, where Team Melli defeated China in the final match.

Soon after the bronze medal match, Iran captain Ali Piroozkhah announced his retirement from the sport.

The 18th Asian Games stage 465 events out of 40 sports, among which 330 events from 32 sports will feature in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The Games, attracting more than 10,000 athletes, will run through Sept. 2.



## Korea Republic's reign continues



Hwang In-beom, who was quick to send it across the face of goal but Hwang Ui-jo just failed to connect.

Korea Republic continued to press but Japan, who had shown great resilience on the road to the final, defended well and could have even taken the lead off a counter attack in the 28th minute.

Skipper Koji Miyoshi showed great

skill on the right flank to beat two Korean defenders before unleashing a shot from an acute angle but goalkeeper Jo Hyeon-woo was alert and pushed the ball to safety.

The second half saw more of the same as Korea Republic continued to press for the opening goal but as their high pace took its toll, Japan began to see

more of the ball.

Neither side, however, could find a breakthrough, forcing an additional 30 minutes.

Korea Republic, who looked the fresher of the two sides going into extra time, quickly seized control and took the lead three minutes in when Lee Jin-hyun released the ball to Son, who weaved his way past several defenders but just as he prepared to unleash a shot, Seung-woo rifled the ball into the top of the net.

Eight minutes later, Korea Republic doubled their lead as Son floated in a free-kick from the left and Hee-chan, who had earlier on Saturday sealed a loan move to German club Hamburger SV, rose unchallenged to nod home.

Ayase Ueda, who had scored two late goals for Japan in their earlier matches, pulled one back in the 115th minute when he headed in a corner but there was not to be a second goal as Korea Republic hung on to claim gold for the second successive Asian Games and fifth overall.

(Source: the-afc)

## Nottingham Forest eye Karim Ansarifard

Olympiacos could be ready to help bolster Nottingham Forest's attacking arsenal by allowing Iranian international Karim Ansarifard to join them on loan for the rest of the season.

The 28-year-old forward has been the subject of interest from both SC Heerenveen and FC Utrecht and both Dutch clubs remain keen on signing the player, who had a solid season in Greece in 2017/18, scoring 18 goals in 28 appearances.



But Ansarifard has not played yet this season for Olympiacos in the league, with his only appearances coming against Burnley in the Uefa Cup.

The forward did score from the penalty spot for Iran in the World Cup, during their clash with Portugal – and has 64 caps for his country overall, scoring 17 goals.

With Ben Brereton having departed for Blackburn in a move that will eventually be worth more than £7m to the Reds and Lewis Grabban currently sidelined with an Achilles problem, Forest are keen to add another striker to their squad.

Ansarifard is not thought to be Forest's only forward option, with the club pursuing numerous players in an effort to ensure they do make an addition.

It is possible Forest might even make more than one forward addition.

But he is believed to be among their potential targets.

Rudy Gestede remains another player Forest are interested in, but Middlesbrough are cautious about allowing any of their forwards to leave unless they bolster their own squad before 5pm.

Aitor Karanka also confirmed Forest's interest in Jermain Defoe, but Bournemouth boss Eddie Howe has said that he is not willing to allow him to leave the Cherries on loan.

Tammy Abraham was another player Forest had an eye on, but he has recently suggested that he would be happy to remain at Chelsea and fight for his place there.

(Source: Nottingham Post.com)

## FIFA lauds Iran performance in 2018 World Cup

**IRNA**— International Football Federation (FIFA) president Gianni Infantino appreciated and hailed Iran's national football team's performance in the 2018 World Cup in a letter to head of the Iranian Football Federation Mahdi Taj.

The text of the FIFA president's letter to Taj, published Saturday on website of the National Football Association, is as follows:

'I thank and appreciate receiving the letter from the Iranian Football Federation on July 10th.

FIFA delegates and participating national teams have returned home with many unforgettable memories and new friendships they have gained during their stay in Russia, and the 2018 World Cup in Russia was finest World Cup with high quality football.

I appreciate the presence of your national team in the 21st World Cup, which is the fifth Iranian national football team's presence in the tournaments. Russia's 2018 World Cup was an unforgettable football feast. Congratulations to the national football team of Iran, which participated in this tournament with a fascinating show at the Mordoya Arena Saransk Stadium, while keeping the dream of victory until the last minutes of the game. Such an achievement is undoubtedly the result of hard work, professionalism, attention to detail, as well as love and interest in football. All of this will lead to a promising and prosperous future. I wish you the best, and look forward to seeing you again next month in the 2018 FIFA Awards in London.'

## Iran-Belarus sports, tourism cooperation will improve

**IRNA** — Iran's Ambassador to Belarus Mustafa Oweisi stressed the need for promoting Tehran-Minsk ties in the fields of sports and tourism.

In a meeting with Belarusian Minister of Sports and Tourism Sergey Kovalchuk, he explained Iran's sport capacities and called for further strengthening of sport ties between the two countries.

Referring to Iran's remarkable progress in the field of sport over the past years, he described mutual cooperation and exchanging experience as valuable, saying that the two sides can share experience in the field of sports.

Recalling the ancient civilization and history of the Islamic Iran, Oweisi said that Iran boasts of diverse cultural, artistic and Islamic attractions and the two countries can also take long strides in the field of tourism.

Kovalchuk, for his part, stressed the need for friendly and all-out ties between the two countries, saying that development of sports ties between Iran and Belarus is necessary for deepening relations between the two nations.

Belarus gained independence in 1991 after the former Soviet Union collapsed.

Extra time goals by Lee Seung-woo and Hwang Hee-chan steered Korea Republic to a 2-1 win over Japan in the 2018 Asian Games Indonesia men's football final at the Pakan Sari Stadium on Saturday.

Korea Republic deserved the win, having dominated the final as they defended the gold medal won on home soil in the 2014 Games, but Japan produced a plucky performance which augurs well for their 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games preparations.

It was a highly anticipated final between two of Asia's biggest teams and the fans packed the Pakan Sari Stadium stands, having earlier witnessed the United Arab Emirates defeat Vietnam in a penalty shoot-out to claim the bronze.

Korea Republic, who had grown from strength to strength as the tournament progressed, were the quicker to settle as Japan struggled to get the ball.

Korea Republic went in search of an early goal and came agonisingly close in the seventh minute with talisman Son Heung-min releasing a square pass to



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## Geneva festival next stop for Mehr Theater Group's "Summerless"

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iranian director Amir-Reza Kuhestani's Mehr Theater Group will perform "Summerless" at the La Bâtie Festival in Geneva, Switzerland as part their European tour.

Two performances have been arranged for September 6 and 8, the group has announced.

A cast composed of Mona Ahmadi, Saeid Changizian and Leili Rashidi accompanies the troupe.



A scene from director Amir-Reza Kuhestani's "Summerless"

The play stages the relationships between members of the new generation, eager to discover the world and live in a different society, an essential show to understand the current transformations of Iranian society.

Mehr's European tour started with performances during the Festival Delle Colline Torinesi from the Italian city of Torino in June.

The troupe will next move to Germany and will go on stage in the Künstlerhaus Mousonturm, an independent production house in Frankfurt on September 26 and 27.

They will then be in Munich to go on stage at Münchner Kammerspiele on October 16 and 17.

The group will leave Germany for France to perform at the Théâtre National de Bretagne, a cultural institution in Rennes, to perform the play from November 22 to 24.

DeSingel, an international arts center in the Belgian city of Antwerp, will host Mehr for their 2018 final performances on November 28 and 29.

## Tehran center to review "The Killing of a Sacred Deer"

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Yorgos Lanthimos's 2017 drama "The Killing of a Sacred Deer" is scheduled to be reviewed during a session at Tehran's Arasbaran Cultural Center today.

Iranian critic Kurosh Jahed will attend the session, which will begin at 6 p.m.



Sunny Suljic (L) and Nicole Kidman act in a scene from "The Killing of a Sacred Deer".

Starring Colin Farrell and Nicole Kidman, the movie is about Steven, a charismatic surgeon who is forced to make an unthinkable sacrifice after his life starts to fall apart when the behavior of a teenage boy he has taken under his wing turns sinister.

## Venice Film Festival moves on gender equality, but no sign of quotas

**VENICE, Italy (Reuters)** — The organizers of the Venice Film Festival signed a pledge on Friday to work toward gender equality, hoping to mollify critics who have accused them of sidelining women filmmakers.

Venice follows other European film festivals Cannes and Locarno in pledging to get an equal number of men and women in its top management by 2020 — but it has ruled out any quota system for selecting films to compete.

Of the 21 films vying for the Golden Lion this year, only one was directed by a woman, "The Nightingale" by Australian Jennifer Kent.

The pledge does not go anywhere near what some are demanding. In an open letter to Alberto Barbera, Venice's artistic director, campaigners called for tough action to end a "rigged system which favors mainly white males".

"Alberto Barbera, will you pledge 50/50 gender equity for female directors? Will you have your team trained in Unconscious Bias?" read the letter from the European Women's Audiovisual Network and Women in Film & TV International.

The Venice Film Festival runs from Aug. 29 to Sept 8.

# Kayhan Kalhor wins Isaac Stern Human Spirit Award

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Four-time Iranian Grammy Award nominee Kayhan Kalhor was one of the two winners of the Isaac Stern Human Spirit Award at the Shanghai Isaac Stern International Violin Competition, the organizers announced last Tuesday.

The Xiaoshuijing Miao Farmers Choir from Yunnan Province in southern China was the other recipient of the award, which is annually presented in Shanghai, China.

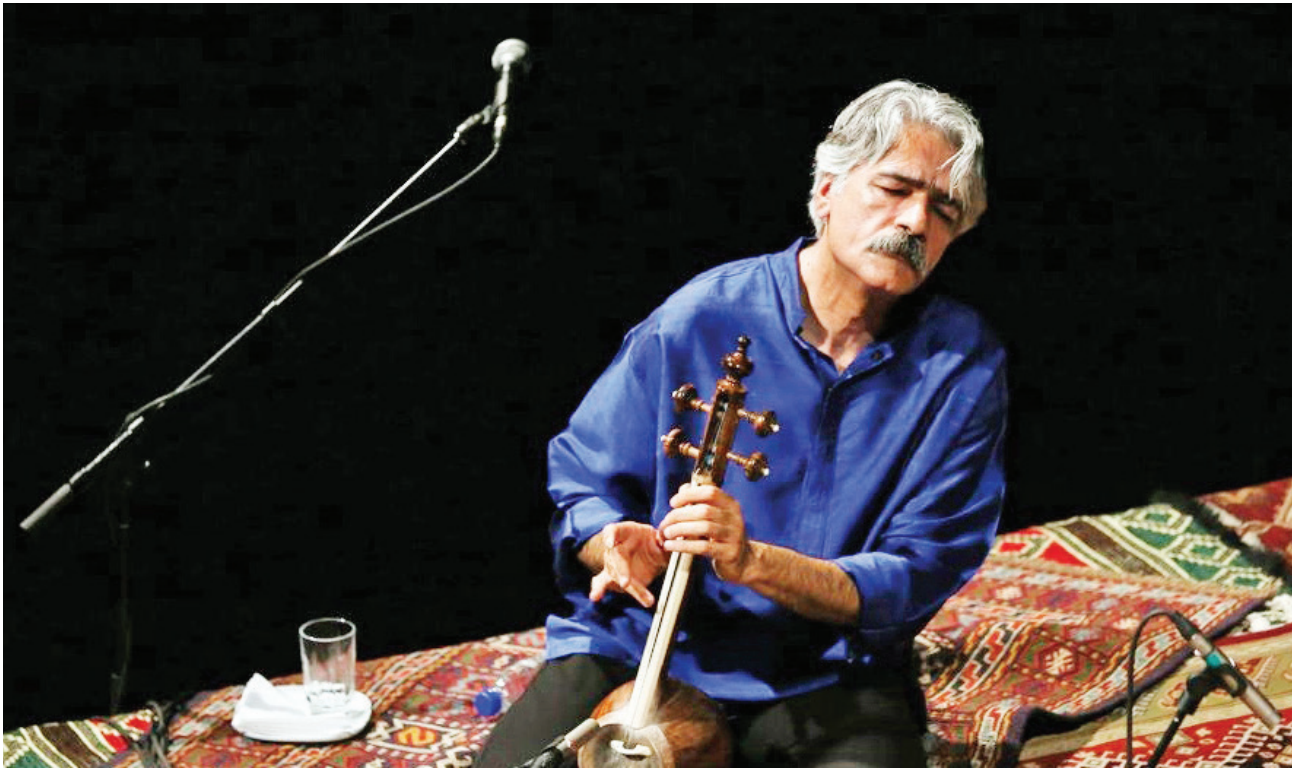
Kalhor is a founding member of the Silk Road Ensemble, a multinational collective of renowned performers and composers from more than 20 countries.

"I consider myself a cultural ambassador for my country," Kalhor told Violinist.com over the phone after the official announcement of the award.

"I will continue my mission to present Persian music to the world," he added.

This year's jury was comprised members of the Stern family, conductor Long Yu and cellist Yo-Yo Ma, who has collaborated with Kalhor in several international musical projects.

The \$10,000 award, which is split by the two recipients, was established in conjunction with the first Shanghai Isaac Stern competition in 2016 to recognize an individual or group that is deemed to have made an outstanding contribution to the understanding of humanity through the medium of music.



Iranian kamancheh virtuoso Kayhan Kalhor performs during a concert at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on May 21, 2016. (Tehran Picture Agency/Amir Farzaneh)

## Iranian cultural figures on IBBY Honor List



Iranian translator Farzad Farbod (L) and author Farhad Hassanzadeh hold their honorary diplomas during the 36th IBBY International Congress in Athens, Greece, August 31, 2018.

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Three Iranian cultural figures have been added to the Honor List of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY).

Author Farhad Hassanzadeh, translator Farzad Farbod and illustrator Nazanin Abbasi, received honorary diplomas during the 36th IBBY International Congress in Athens, Greece on Friday.

The honorary diplomas were presented by the Hans Christian Andersen jury president Patricia Aldana, the organizers have announced on IBBY website.

Hassanzadeh received the honor for his

book "Call Me Ziba" while Farbod was honored for translating British author Neil Gaiman's "The Ocean at the End of the Lane" into Persian.

Abbasi won the honor for illustrations she created for "Watch out! The Danger of an Attack by Mice and Others" written by Ali Shojaei.

The 2018 IBBY World Congress took place in Athens from August 30 to September 1 on the theme of "East Meets West".

Several hundred people attended the lectures, panel discussions, seminars and workshops held on the sidelines of the congress.

## Aretha Franklin's gospel roots celebrated at Queen of Soul's funeral

**DETROIT (Reuters)** — A Detroit church swelled with the sound of gospel music on Friday as family, friends and fans of Aretha Franklin bid rousing farewell to the Queen of Soul at a funeral that featured tributes by former U.S. President Bill Clinton and singer Stevie Wonder.

"Come on, this is a church service, lift your voice!" Bishop Charles Ellis III, the officiant, exhorted the congregation at the Greater Grace Temple, as the choir and orchestra swayed behind him.

The crowd grew louder, its ranks bolstered by the powerful voices of Gladys Knight, Jennifer Hudson, Chaka Khan, Shirley Caesar and Ariana Grande, who came to pay musical tribute to Franklin following her death on Aug. 16 at age 76.

Before the golden casket was closed at the top of a service, Franklin's body could be seen dressed in gold sequins. More than eight music-filled hours later, Stevie Wonder took to the stage to close out the ceremony with a performance of his song "As," the crowd joining him in its refrain: "I'll be lovin' you always."

"She had the voice of a generation, maybe the voice of a century," Clinton said, describing himself as a Franklin "groupie" long before he became president. Ending his remarks, Clinton held the microphone to his smartphone and played Franklin's 1968 hit "Think" over the church's speakers.

Civil rights leaders Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton were onstage to honor Franklin's contributions to black empowerment, sharing front-row seats with Louis Farrakhan, the black nationalist



(L-R) Louis Farrakhan, Al Sharpton, Jesse Jackson and former U.S. President Bill Clinton attend the funeral service for Aretha Franklin at the Greater Grace Temple in Detroit, Michigan, U.S., August 31, 2018. (Reuters/Mike Segar)

leader. Sharpton took to the pulpit to laud Franklin for providing the soundtrack of the movement, with songs such as her signature 1967 hit "Respect".

"She was a black woman in a white man's world," Sharpton said, as mourners cheered. "She was rooted in the black church, she was bathed in the black church, and she took the black church downtown and made folks that didn't know what the Holy Ghost was shout in the middle of a concert."

Franklin was recalled as both an American institution, who sang at the presidential inaugurations of Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, and as an aunt and grandmother, who took her young relatives shopping or to see Disney on Ice shows.

"Nothing sounded better to me than the way my grandma sings," Victorie Franklin said.

## Spanish museum hosts photographer Abbas Attar retrospective



Abbas Attar in an undated photo

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The Patio Herrero Museum in the Spanish city of Valladolid is playing host to a retrospective of the late Iranian photographer Abbas Attar.

Entitled "Abbas Chronicles of the World", the exhibit is a tribute to the photographer, the museum has announced.

Attar died in Paris on April 25, 2018 at the age of 74.

The exhibit showcases over 100 pictures in nine categories that cover Attar's career in photography, which spanned over 50 years.

He was a member of Sipa Press, a French photo agency based in Paris,

from 1971 to 1973. He also worked for Gamma, another French photo agency, from 1974 to 1980.

In 1981, Attar also collaborated with the Magnum Agency, an international photography cooperative owned by its photographer-members with offices in New York, Paris, London and Tokyo.

Attar lived in Paris and for years he was constantly traveling, documenting the political and social life of societies in conflict. One of his collections is dedicated to photos from the Islamic Revolution of Iran in 1979.

The exhibit opened on August 31 and will be running until October 28.

## Neil Armstrong's sons defend "First Man" against anti-American jibes

**LOS ANGELES (Reuters)** — The family of astronaut Neil Armstrong on Friday defended a new film against accusations of anti-Americanism because it does not show him planting the U.S. flag to mark the first moon landing.

"First Man," starring Canadian actor Ryan Gosling as the late astronaut, had its world premiere at the Venice Film Festival earlier this week and won rave reviews from critics, making it an early contender for Hollywood's awards season.

"We do not feel this movie is anti-American in the slightest. Quite the opposite," Armstrong's sons Rick and Mark said in a statement.

The film is not due for release until October, but reports of the missing flag-planting scene were seized on by some in the United States. Republican Senator Marco Rubio called the omission "total lunacy."

"The American people paid for that mission, on rockets built by Americans, with American technology & carrying American astronauts," Rubio added on Twitter.

"First Man" director Damien Chazelle also denied he was trying to make a political statement by omitting the specific scene of the flag planting during the 1969 moon landing. The movie does show other shots of the flag on the moon.

"To address the question of whether this was a political statement, the answer is no," Chazelle said in a statement.

But conservative activist Michael Q. Sullivan wrote on Twitter, "Leftist Canadian actor Ryan Gosling and the producers of



Director Damien Chazelle and cast members Ryan Gosling, Jason Clarke, Olivia Hamilton and Claire Foy pose for a photo at the 75th Venice International Film Festival Opening red carpet, Venice, Italy, August 29, 2018. (Reuters/Tony Gentile)

#FirstMan would have you believe this did not happen" under a photo of the U.S. flag and Armstrong on the moon.

Chazelle and Armstrong's sons said the movie's focus was on the astronaut's personal story and the challenges he faced in getting to the moon. Armstrong died in 2012.

"The filmmakers chose to focus on Neil looking back at the Earth, his walk to Little West Crater, his unique, personal experience of completing this journey, a journey that had seen so many incredible highs and devastating lows," the sons said in the statement issued with James R. Hansen, the author of the book on which the film is based.

Chazelle said the film was about "one of the most extraordinary accomplishments not only in American history, but in human history."