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Tehran summit stresses co-op until terrorists routed in Syria

Russian President Putin (L) and his Turkish counterpart Erdogan (R) attended a trilateral summit on Syria in Tehran on Friday. The meeting was hosted by President Rouhani (C).

Amir Hatami: Iran, China share common interests and threats

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — In a meeting with his Chinese counterpart Wei Fenghe in Beijing on Friday, Iranian Defense Minister Amir Hatami said that Iran and China share common interests and also face common threats. "The two countries have common interests and threats and can expand cooperation in this framework," Hatami remarked.

The Iranian defense minister also said

U.S. unilateral actions threaten international peace and security.

Hatami said that insecurity in one region can spread to other parts in the world.

The brigadier general also called for expansion of Iran-China cooperation.

For his part, Wei said that China is ready to expand cooperation with Iran.

Upon his arrival in Beijing on Thursday, Hatami told reporters that Iran-China defense ties are "strategic". ➔2

Two terror cells dismantled in western Iran

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — In a statement on Friday, the Intelligence Ministry announced that it had dismantled two terrorist cells in Kermanshah province, western Iran.

"Two armed terrorist cells which had illegally crossed into Iran were dismantled by intelligence forces in the western prov-

ince of Kermanshah during two ambush operations," the statement read, Mehr reported.

Two days after the assassination of Hassan Maleki, commander of the traffic police in Ravansar City in Kermanshah province on August 14, the intelligence forces arrested 12 members of a terrorist group related to this case, it added.

Iraq: Protesters torch government buildings in Basra

By staff & agencies

Angry demonstrators in Iraq's port city of Basra have set government buildings on fire after returning to the streets to continue deadly protests over corruption and lack of better public services.

Hundreds of people flooded the streets of Iraq's second-biggest city on Thursday,

and set fire to the headquarters of the local government, the ruling Islamic Dawa Party (Islamic Call Party/ʿIzba Al-Daʿwa Al-Islamiyya), the Supreme Islamic Council and the Badr Organization.

Some of the demonstrators also set on fire the offices of the Asaib Ahl al-Haq (League of Righteous People/Khazali Network), ➔13



ARTICLE

Hamid Bayati
Tehran Times journalist

Did Trump deceive Macron again?

Speaking at a meeting of EU Foreign Ministers in Vienna, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian's remarks on the necessity of holding missile and regional negotiations with Iran surprised many of his addressees!

While the fate of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is ambiguous as a result of the United States' withdrawal from the nuclear deal, and also the European officials' delay in presenting their package of proposals, the French Foreign Minister emphasizes on holding talks with Iran on regional and missile issues!

Le Drian said: "Iran must respect the fundamentals of the JCPOA [nuclear deal] and I think that is the case, but Iran cannot avoid discussions, negotiations on three other major subjects that worry us -- the future of Iran's nuclear commitments after 2025, the ballistic question and the fact there is a sort of ballistic proliferation on the part of Iran... and the role Iran plays to stabilize the whole region. We must talk about these three subjects, Iran must be aware of this and that's the message I send to them from Vienna."

Indeed, what does Le Drian's words mean? Is it merely another role-playing by the French officials? Or should we look for other factors behind these statements? Accordingly, there are some points that need to be taken into consideration:

Middle east/ Europe/ Americas

The fact is that France has long been regarded as "an emissary of Trump", though Le Drian has insisted that it's not true. This is while he has taken a firm line on Iran's missile program and regional interventions that mirrors the rhetoric from Washington.

Besides, a review on Le Drian's statements shows that agreements were made between France and the United States to form an opposition to Iran's policies. Meanwhile, in 2017, Macron and Trump started a "joint and comprehensive" move, in a fully coordinated manner, to change the JCPOA.

On this basis, Macron was committed to provide the ground for holding missile negotiations with Iran, and also for making the so called sunset clauses included in the text of the deal permanent. These were the French men duties. Now, apparently, the JCPOA is about to be destroyed as a result of the U.S. pulling out of the deal. ➔7

Russian, Turkish presidents meet Leader

Ayatollah Khamenei says Iran and Russia can 'contain' U.S.

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan met separately on Friday with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Tehran.

The meetings took place after the two presidents attended a trilateral summit on Syria in Tehran with their Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani.

In the meeting with Putin, the Leader said cooperation between Iran and Russia in Syria has truly manifested a "leading example" and a "very good experience" of mutual cooperation.

Ayatollah Khamenei said Tehran and Moscow can extend their cooperation globally on other issues as well.

"One of the areas that the two sides can cooperate with each other is containment of America, because America is a danger to humanity," the Leader suggested, adding there is a "possibility of containing America".

Ayatollah Khamenei cited the course of developments in Syria as a "successful example" of containing the United States.

The Leader went on to say that it is for 40 years that the U.S. is attempting to "uproot" the Islamic Republic, but during these years Iran has grown powerful "more than 40 times" and this by itself shows a successful example of containing Washington.

For his part, President Putin criticized the U.S. for creating problems in financial trade, saying by creating restrictions in financial exchanges the U.S. is committing a "strategic mistake" because it would undermine trust in the U.S. dollar and weaken it.

Putin also said Europeans just pay lip service



to protecting the 2015 nuclear deal, adding in practice they obey the U.S. because they are dependent on Washington.

Islamic power bloc

During his meeting with the Turkish president, Ayatollah Khamenei said today unity among Muslim states is the most pressing issue.

The Leader said unity and cooperation among Muslim states will "surely help resolve the problems facing the region" and it is due to this reason that the United States is "worried" about the unity among Muslims and formation of an "Islamic power bloc".

U.S. worried about formation of Islamic power bloc, Leader says in meeting with Erdogan

Ayatollah Khamenei also called Iran and Turkey two "decent" and "powerful" countries in the region who seek "common wishes" for the Islamic world.

In view of such shared interests it is necessary to deepen political and economic ties, the Leader remarked.

The Leader also praised Erdogan's stance toward the sufferings of the Rohingya community in Myanmar. Ayatollah Khamenei also told Erdogan that "the issue of Palestine is important and it must not be forgotten even for a moment."

For his part, Erdogan said the situation in the region is "critical" and expressed hope that problems facing the regional countries would be solved through cooperation between Islamic states.

The Turkish president also criticized the behavior of the West toward "independent Muslims states", saying this entails friendship and solidarity among Muslim nations especially between Iran and Turkey.



REPORT

Ramin Hossein Abadian
Mehr News Agency
Journalist

Tripartite summit in Tehran; Idlib operation and the end of terrorist crisis in Syria

Tehran hosted a tripartite summit with the presidents of Turkey, Russia and Iran on September 7, 2018. According to many observers, the summit result can determine the fate of Idlib in the northwest of Syria.

The fate of Idlib is still uncertain, awaiting the tripartite summit with the presidents of Turkey, Russia and Iran in Tehran, where the leaders of the three countries make a final decision on the future of the Idlib and the opposing militant groups.

Iranian, Russian and Turkish authorities met in Tehran on Friday to discuss various issues among which was Syria's Idlib as Damascus is getting ready for an operation to end domination of armed and terrorist groups.

Since 2017, widespread coordination between Moscow and Tehran, as the most prominent Damascus allies, and Ankara has emerged as advocates of the Syrian case, which has led to the Astana talks a year and a half ago with important decisions on crisis reduction in Syria. The Tehran summit was held when the Syrian army is ready for operations, and while the West has started its own moves.

Syrian affairs analysts and observers believe these talks and their results can affect the start of the Um Almaarek (fate of Idlib) and the zero hour of the Syrian military operation, and thus there is high likelihood of an operation post the summit.

Damascus insists on dominating its entire territory, and the Russians are determined to get rid of Tahrir al-Sham's and has urged Turkey to find a solution, especially since the Tahrir al-Sham group has been a major obstacle to the ceasefire and peace process in Syria.

The Russians continue to send drone from Idlib to their air base in Hamim. Moscow does not find the current situation and security conditions with its demands in Tartus and Latakia. Meanwhile, Turkey, concerned about the wave of displaced people from the battle of Idlib has strengthened its forces on the border with Syria. Turkey has a widespread political and military impact on Idlib. ➔7



Gilan hosts national mat weaving festival

Iranian craftswomen weave traditional baskets during a national mat weaving festival in Fashtakeh village, northern Gilan province, on September 6, 2018.

Matting is the art of weaving or plaited strips of organic fibers into mats which are cool and suitable to the hot tropical climate.

Raw material for crafting mattresses and basketry, which are dominantly lengthy dried leaves, are prevalent in many regions across the country.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



‘Unaware we are in war condition’: cleric

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — A Tehran Friday prayer leader says U.S. President Donald Trump has said that “we are seeking to conquer the Middle East”, but Trump and his companions will soon take this wish to the grave, Mehr reported.

Addressing worshippers, Ayatollah Mohammed Emami Kashani said the venal, wrong-headed U.S. president has said “the day I entered the White House, I asked how long it will take to conquer the Middle East.”

Emami Kashani further said the U.S. and Zionist regime are waging a war against Iran “but it seems we are not aware we are in war conditions.”



Iran, allies agree to end terror in Idlib: Zarif

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Friday that while President Donald Trump is busy humiliating U.S. allies with “little games”, Iran and other responsible actors have agreed to end terrorism in Syria’s Idlib.

“As @realDonaldTrump destroys US credibility & humiliates his ‘allies’ with ‘little games’, we’re delighted to engage with responsible powers today in Tehran to further move towards political solution in #Syria. Agreed to work to end terrorism & avoid human suffering in #Idlib,” Zarif tweeted.

It came as the presidents of Iran, Russia and Turkey met at a key summit in Tehran to discuss key issues of interest, mainly a planned Syrian operation to retake Idlib.



Americans well aware of Iran’s defense power: general

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Deputy Coordinator Ali Fadavi has said the United States is not capable of waging a war against Iran, noting that the Americans are well aware of Iran’s defense power.

“During the four decades after the Islamic Revolution, the Americans have taken many measures against our country, not out of strength but out of fear,” Brigadier General Fadavi said, Tasnim reported on Friday.

“However, they have realized that taking military action would never work, and that’s why they are waging an economic, psychological war,” he stated, adding that the Islamic Republic will turn the threats into opportunities.



Iran to exceed past uranium enrichment levels if JCPOA fails

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — A senior Iranian nuclear energy official said on Wednesday that Tehran is ready to enrich uranium beyond previous levels in case the remaining parties to the 2015 nuclear agreement fail to salvage it.

Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi said that the country “will reach even more advanced levels” of uranium enrichment if the other parties leave the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Press TV reported, citing IRIB.

He also said that the Islamic Republic’s nuclear activities are moving forward at a favorable pace.



Ambassador calls for closer Tehran-Islamabad ties

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Mehdi Honardoost said on Wednesday that Iran and Pakistan as two important neighbors in the region should make more efforts to enhance mutual cooperation. Honardoost said cooperation among important regional countries like Iran, Pakistan and Turkey can create a great alliance in this geopolitical and sensitive region with huge material and human resources, IRNA reported.

He added that what is important in geopolitics of Pakistan is its role in regional considerations and the foreign policy of the country is based upon this.



U.S. pursuing pressure campaign against Tehran in India

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis were on an official visit to India with a top agenda priority of pressuring New Delhi to stop buying Iran’s oil.

A senior U.S. State Department official, who was not named in reports, said on Thursday that American and Indian officials were engaged in “very detailed conversations” to persuade India to stop oil imports from the Islamic Republic, Press TV reported.

“We’re asking all of our partners, not just India, to reduce to zero oil imports from Iran, and so I’m confident that will be part of our conversation with India,” the official said.

Tehran summit stresses co-op until terrorists routed in Syria

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan who had gathered in Tehran on Friday for a trilateral summit on Syria issued a joint statement reaffirming their respective countries’ determination to continue cooperation until full eradication of terrorist groups in Syria.

Following is a summary of the statement issued at the end of the Tehran summit:

The parties reaffirmed their determination to continue cooperation in order to ultimately eliminate Daesh, al-Nusra Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with al-Qaeda or Daesh, as they have been designated as terrorists by the UN Security Council.

They also emphasized their strong and continued commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic as well as to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and highlighted that they should be respected by all.

They also stressed their conviction that there could be no military solution to the Syrian conflict and that it could only end through a negotiated political process.

The trio also urged the need to support all efforts to help all Syrians restore their normal and peaceful life and to alleviate their sufferings. In this regard, they called upon the international community, particularly the United Nations and its



humanitarian agencies, to increase their assistance to Syria. They also highlighted the need to create conditions for the

safe and voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their original places of residence in Syria.

Leader: Enemy has waged media war to create anxiety, doubt in society

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Thursday called on the Iranian nation and officials to refrain from creating an atmosphere of despair and disappointment and a sense of having reached a deadlock.

In a meeting with the chairman and other members of the Assembly of Experts, Ayatollah Khamenei said, “Those wishing the Iranian nation ill have put a media and propaganda war on their agenda in parallel with an economic war, therefore criticisms should be out of goodwill and aimed at reformation,” the leader.ir reported.

He expressed his gratitude over the reports presented in the meeting and pointed to the importance and urgency of national unity and formation of public opinion in this direction.

Pointing to the enemies’ plots against the Islamic Republic, he said, “Despite all [their] hostile measures, such as the military attack in Tabas, the imposition of an eight-year war, the downing of a passenger plane and economic blockade, they have not achieved anything, and now the Islamic establishment is like a virtuous tree with firm bases that is bearing fruit and growing.”

The Leader said the problems Iran is facing is because it had chosen to move against the general current of the hegemonic powers and the domineering system.

“If under any condition and arrangement, the people, particularly the elite, neglect the conditions and status of the establishment, we will certainly suffer blows,” he added.

On economic issues, Ayatollah Khamenei said, “Today, the Islamic establishment is facing an all-out economic war that is being led from a war room and with absolute precision and full attention; however,



alongside this war, an important media and propaganda war is also underway, which is neglected most of the time.”

He stressed that the media war existed in the past, but it has grown more intense. “According to the intelligence at our disposal, the U.S. and Zionist regime’s espionage services have set up establishments for this media war and are seriously planning and endeavoring to contaminate the society’s thinking atmosphere with the financial help of the Qaruns of the region around us.”

The objective of this media war, he said, is to create angst, despair, disappointment and a sense of deadlock, make people skeptical toward each other and toward the government and exaggerate the number and magnitude of the economic woes in the mind of the society.

■ **‘We don’t expect anything other than wickedness from the enemy’**
Ayatollah Khamenei also pointed to the issues concerning gold coins, foreign currencies and national currency

“Today, the Islamic establishment is facing an all-out economic war that is being led from a war room and with absolute precision and full attention; however, alongside this war, an important media and propaganda war is also underway, which is neglected most of the time.”

Idlib should be ruled by Syrian government: Jaber Ansari

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Hossein Jaber Ansari, a top aide to Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, has said that Idlib is part of the Syrian territory that should be ruled by the Damascus government.

“A number of fundamental principles should be observed about Idlib. First, terrorists should be cleaned out in this region. This region is the focal point of al-Nusra Front forces who are known as terrorist by all countries and international bodies and confrontation with them is legitimate. The second principle is that Idlib is part of Syria’s territory, and like other regions in the country, it should be ruled by the central government,” he said in a televised interview aired late on Thursday.

He added, “In addition to these two principles, the third principle, which is very important for Iran, is the humanitarian side of the issue due to presence of two to three million Syrians in this region. This humanitarian issue should be considered in any solution regarding Idlib.”

Commenting on claims about use of chemical weapons in Idlib by the Syrian government, he said Western countries and certain countries in the region are not happy with the ongoing developments in Syria and thereby they have launched a psychological warfare in this regard.

“It is obvious that the Westerners use the issue of chemical attacks as tool to reach their political objectives to prevent an end to the Syrian crisis, and they may repeat using this

tactic,” he noted.

He also said the trilateral Friday summit in Tehran involving Iranian, Russian and Turkish presidents discusses the latest developments in Syria and the necessary cooperation between the sides.

The summit meeting in Tehran is in line with the continuation of the Astana talks aimed at bringing an end to the conflict in Syria.

Jaber Ansari, Iran’s point man for the Syria talks, said the Astana talks are aimed at ending the Syrian conflict, adding the talks will continue until the crisis is completely resolved.

The summit in Tehran took place at a time that Syria is preparing to purge Idlib from terrorists.

Rouhani: U.S. should leave Syria in favor of peace

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani said on Friday that the United States should leave Syria as soon as possible because its presence there has been detrimental to the peace process in the country.

“It is absolutely clear that America is present in Syria illegally and is only fueling aggression and supporting the Apartheid Zionist regime [there]. Hardly any positive role can be expected (from the U.S.) in the Syrian (peace) process. [The U.S.] presence only exacerbates problems, and hampers the achievement of sustainable peace in Syria,” Rouhani emphasized during a trilateral summit on Syria in Tehran with his Russian and Turkish counterparts, Vladimir Putin and Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The summit took place as the Syrian government is preparing an assault on the last stronghold of terrorists in northwest Idlib province.

Rouhani said that the civilian population in Idlib should not suffer during counter-terrorism operations.

“The only goal in Syria and the region can only be peace, but to achieve sustainable peace, a serious fight against terrorism is inevitable,” the Iranian president noted.

Friday’s talks marked the third time the leaders have come together to negotiate the Syrian conflict.

■ **Putin: Terrorists in Idlib taking provocative moves to use chemical arms**
During the meeting, Putin stated that terrorists in Idlib are engaged in provoca-

tive acts which involve chemical weapons.

“The remaining groups of extremists [in Syria] are currently concentrated in the de-escalation zone in the province of Idlib. Terrorists are making attempts to disrupt the ceasefire; moreover, they are carrying out and preparing various kinds of provocations, including using chemical weapons,” Putin stated.

Idlib, home to some 3 million people, remains largely in the hands of terrorists. The area is controlled by a coalition of extremists, including al-Qaeda affiliate like Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS).

Russia has urged Turkey to rid Idlib of the jihadists, which have launched attacks on the Russian Hmeimim airbase.

Erdogan, for his part, said that Ankara is

“extremely annoyed” by the United States’ support for Kurdish YPG in Syria.

Erdogan urged his counterparts at the summit to agree to a cease-fire. “There are many civilians in Idlib. We must be careful,” he said. “If we can make a cease-fire here today, I believe that this will be one of the most important steps of the summit.”

He added, “We don’t want Idlib to be turned into a ‘sea of blood’... we should find a reasonable solution to the Idlib issue.”

He also noted that it is possible to relocate militants, who attack the Russian Hmeimim airbase, from Idlib province to other areas.

“We believe that we can try to remove these elements, which bother our Russian friends and pose a threat to Hmeimim, to more remote places,” Erdogan said.

Amir Hatami: Iran, China share common interests and threats

1 → “Leaders of the two countries insist on bilateral strategic cooperation which requires consultations,” the Iranian defense chief remarked.

Hatami noted that the relations have always been good and given the current regional developments, it is essential

to expand ties.

Elsewhere, he said that his visit to China was aimed at preparing the grounds for the implementation of a pact signed between the countries’ defense ministers in 2016.

According to Press TV, the two countries signed an agree-

ment to boost defense and military cooperation in Tehran in November 2016. According to then Iranian defense minister Hossein Dehqan, the pact aimed at boosting cooperation on long-term strategic interests as well as countering the growing threat of terrorism exhibited by groups such as Daesh.

Saudis still refuse to allow plane to take Ansarullah to Geneva peace talks

Yemen's Ansarullah (Houthi) movement says the scheduled peace talks are still on hold as the House of Saud regime is still refusing to allow its delegation to fly to the Swiss city of Geneva.

A delegation from Yemen's former government of the Saudi regime-allied fugitive Yemeni President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi threatened to leave if Ansarullah delegation does not arrive within 24 hours.

Former government's delegation, led by ex-foreign minister Khaled al-Yamani, arrived in Switzerland on Wednesday to attend the talks brokered by the United Nations to push for peace in the country and bring the years-long crisis to an end.

Yamani told reporters in Geneva that "it will take a decision within a few hours whether to continue in Geneva or to withdraw."

The Saudis, however, are "still refusing to give permission to an Omani plane" to land at the Yemeni capital Sana'a and take the delegation to Geneva, Ansarullah said on Thursday.

It posted a statement on Yemen's official SABA news agency, saying the Ansarullah need to "ensure the safety of the delegation" and require a guarantee that they would be allowed to return "smoothly" to Sana'a airport.

The United Nations envoy to Yemen Martin Griffiths had to postpone the talks due to delay in the arrival of the Ansarullah delegation.

"He continues to make efforts to overcome obstacles to allow the consultations to go forward," Griffiths's office said in a statement, adding that he remained "hopeful" the Ansarullah would attend the talks.

The UN envoy said the talks — the first since 2016 — are meant to be trying to build trust between the two parties.

■ Ansarullah will attend Geneva talks 'if demands are met'

Hameed Assem, part of the Ansarullah delegation that was supposed to fly to Geneva, told Al Jazeera on Friday that the three demands from the Ansarullah included "transport of wounded rebels to Oman, repatriation of rebels who have already received treatment there and a guarantee that the Houthi delegation attending the talks in



Geneva would be allowed to return to the rebel-held capital Sana'a after the talks end".

Hamza al-Kamali, a spokesperson for the Yemeni government, added that the flight to take the Ansarullah to Switzerland was given clearance three days ago.

One source in the Yemeni government delegation in Geneva told Reuters news agency that if the Ansarullah did not leave Sana'a "by 12pm" [09:00 GMT] on Friday, "I think the government delegation will decide to leave".

The Ansarullah -run Saba news agency defended the group's absence, reporting that the Saudi regime-led alliance was "refusing to give required authorizations to an Omani plane in the capital Sana'a to transfer the [Ansarullah] delegation to Geneva".

The news agency reported that the Ansarullah "blamed the UN for failing to secure the authorizations from the alliance which controls Yemen's airspace".

Mohammad Abdul-Salam, the Ansarullah main spokesman who has previously held secret talks with the Saudi regime-United Arab Emirates (UAE) alliance in Oman, also blamed the UN, saying it should "speak to the Americans", who he claimed control Yemeni airspace.

The Saudi-UAE alliance has controlled Yemeni airspace since March 2015.

The last UN-backed peace negotiations for Yemen were held in Kuwait two years ago.

The talks continued for several months but no constructive results were reached due to serious differences between rival parties.

■ 37 Saudis injured in Yemeni missile attack on military camp

Elsewhere, in a rare announcement, the House of Saud regime has admitted that at least 37 people have been injured in a Yemeni missile attack carried out in response to the regime's military aggression against the impoverished neighbor.

The Yemeni army and popular committees backed by the Ansarullah movement fired the missile at a Saudi National Guard camp in the southern province of Najran on late Wednesday.

Saudi regime officials said they had "intercepted" the missile and the injuries were caused by shrapnel, Saudi regime-owned news channel Al Arabiya reported on Thursday night.

According to the report, 23 of the injured were taken to hospital while the remaining 14 were treated on site. The debris also damaged

19 cars and 15 buildings.

Dozens of people were evacuated as a result of the attack, the report added.

The latest strike by Yemeni forces brings the tally of missile attacks to 185 since the beginning of the war in March 2015, the Saudi regime coalition says, adding that at least 112 people have been killed in the attacks. This is among the very few official figures that Riyadh has allowed to be released on its own death toll throughout the war.

■ Yemen alarmingly facing growing cases of malnutrition

With the devastating impact of the ongoing campaign led by the House of Saud regime in Riyadh against the impoverished country of Yemen, there has been a constant rise in the cases of malnutrition there, many of them life-threatening.

The Saudi-backed coalition war on the poorest Arab state has unleashed a humanitarian and economic crisis on the already impoverished country.

Thousands have been killed in the Saudi regime-led invasion, and the country has been pushed close to the edge of famine. A cholera outbreak, resulting from the devastation of Yemen's health infrastructure, has also claimed more than 2,000 lives.

Saudi regime war has also pushed the impoverished nations to the edge of famine.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) this week urged both sides to "take a first step towards ending a conflict that has brought severe pain and humanitarian suffering to the Yemeni people".

Now entering its fourth year, the war has pushed more than 22 million people to seek humanitarian assistance.

According to United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 11 million children, a number greater than the entire population of Switzerland, need humanitarian assistance every day.

The Saudi regime war has also effectively put Yemen under siege by blocking all major aerial and maritime gateways to the country, worsening a severe shortage of food and medicine that has led to widespread famine and disease outbreaks.

(Source: agencies)

166 skulls found in mass grave in Mexico's Veracruz

Authorities in Mexico have found at least 166 skulls in a mass grave site in the eastern state of Veracruz.

Jorge Winckler, state attorney general, said on Thursday that investigators discovered the remains in 32 graves in the central part of Veracruz, following an August 8 tip from an unidentified person.

"Aside from human remains, we have found more than 200 items of clothing, 114 pieces of identification, as well as different accessories and personal items," Winckler said.

He did not reveal the precise location of the burial pits, citing the safety of personnel still working at the site.

The bodies were buried there at least two years ago, Winckler said. He did not rule out finding more corpses.

Veracruz, an important trafficking route for drug gangs moving narcotics north towards the US border, has long been racked by bloody wars between drug cartels.

Some 3,600 people have gone missing in the Gulf Coast state since 2006, when Mexico deployed its army to fight the country's powerful drug cartels, causing a record spike in violence.

More than 200,000 people have been murdered, including a record 28,702 last year.



Another 37,000 people are reported as missing.

The latest mass grave site wasn't the biggest burial pit found in Veracruz, Holman said, noting investigators found more than 250 skulls in unmarked graves in March last year.

Winckler called on residents whose family members have disappeared to come forward to for DNA testing in the hope

shedding light on the identity of the remains.

Authorities used drones and ground-penetrating radar to locate the pits and began digging about a month ago.

They released photographs of investigators combing through the thick vegetation at the site, wearing white protective suits and gloves.

Lawlessness in Veracruz spiked under former governor Javier Duarte, who governed the Gulf coast state for President Enrique Pena Nieto's Institutional Revolutionary Party until 2016.

Two former state police chiefs and a string of ex-officials have been charged with running hit squads that abducted and presumably killed unwanted individuals during Duarte's administration.

Duarte himself is in jail awaiting trial on allegations of involvement with organized crime and siphoning off millions of dollars during his tenure, and prosecutors recently added charges of ordering the hit squads to "disappear" his enemies.

"These forced disappearances were not only carried out with his knowledge but under his orders," they said in June.

He denies any wrongdoing.

(Source: agencies)

Four dead, including gunman, in U.S. bank shooting

A gunman opened fire in a bank building in the United States city of Cincinnati on Thursday (Sep. 6), killing three people and sending terrified bystanders diving for cover, before police shot and killed him.

Gun shots rang out just after 9 am at the high-rise headquarters of Fifth Third Bank, a regional financial institution in Ohio's third-largest city.

Five people were shot, some multiple times, and one victim died at the scene while two others succumbed to their injuries in hospital.

Police identified the gunman, felled in a shootout with officers, as 29-year-old Omar Perez. He was not immediately determined to have any connection to the bank, according to detectives. "There may be a possibility that there's some mental health issues involved here," Cincinnati Police Chief Eliot Isaac told a news conference, cautioning that the investigation was in its early stages.

Police believe Perez was armed with



some 200 rounds of ammunition and a legally-bought 9mm semi-automatic handgun when he entered the lobby of the 30-story building, Isaac said.

Several officers arrived within minutes

of the first emergency calls and four of them shot the suspect, killing him at the scene.

The building the gunman targeted was said to have strict security, and it wasn't clear how he was able to get in.

"Per Fifth Third Bank, the shooter was not an employee of Fifth Third," police spokeswoman Tiffany Hardy said via email.

The quickly-responding police were credited with preventing wide scale carnage.

Witnesses told local media they heard as many as 20 gunshots.

One unnamed construction worker told WLWT television that he saw two victims being brought out in the aftermath, including one woman in a blood-soaked shirt.

Bank employees sheltered in situ for an hour or more as officers swept the building and cordoned off several downtown city blocks.

It was the latest in more than 200 mass shootings in the U.S. this year alone, with previous incidents often leading to mostly fruitless calls for gun control reforms.

In June, a gunman killed five and injured two at The Capital Gazette newspaper offices in Annapolis, Maryland.

(Source: AFP)

Trump slams anonymous New York Times op-ed writer as 'gutless coward'

The United States President Donald Trump has again slammed the "gutless coward" who wrote an explosive, anonymous article on the New York Times that has plunged Trump's presidency into its worst crisis yet.

Invoking national security concerns, Trump said on Thursday the "failing" newspaper should reveal the official's name, before encouraging reporters to investigate the matter.

"The latest act of resistance is the op-ed published in the failing New York Times by an anonymous, really an anonymous, gutless coward," Trump told supporters at a rally in Billings, Montana.

"Nobody knows who the hell he is, or she," Trump said, adding: "Unidentified deep state operatives who defy voters to push their secret agendas are truly a threat to democracy itself."

In an interview that is slated to be aired on Friday on Fox News, Trump said the Times never should have run the piece.

"Well, number one, the Times never should have done that, because really what they've done is virtually, you know, you could call it treason, you could call it a lot of things, but to think you have somebody in all of the Cabinets -- so many people, as you know," Trump said.

The White House has been shaken by a fevered hunt for the senior official who declared, in an unsigned article for The New York Times published on Wednesday, that senior officials were quietly working within the Trump administration to frustrate the president's "worst inclinations."

In one eye-opening passage, the anonymous writer says cabinet members initially considered invoking the 25th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which provides for

the president's removal if he is "unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office."

On the internet and in Washington, rumors are going around about who the author might be, prompting nearly every cabinet-ranked member of the government to deny it was them.

The manifesto followed the release of excerpts from a bombshell book by Watergate reporter Bob Woodward, who portrayed Trump's White House as an out-of-control "crazytown."

The Woodward book, "Fear: Trump in the White House," reported that senior aides lifted documents from the Oval Office desk to keep the president from acting on his impulses, reinforcing the assertions in the Times article.

(Source: agencies)

Brazil presidential candidate in serious condition after stabbing



The leading candidate in Brazil's presidential election is in a serious but stable condition after being stabbed at a campaign rally, doctors said.

Jair Bolsonaro, 63, was stabbed in the city of Juiz de Fora, about 200km north of Rio de Janeiro, on Thursday.

The far-right presidential candidate underwent emergency surgery for a wound in the abdomen and could take two months to fully recover, said Dr. Luiz Henrique Borsato, who operated on the candidate.

"His internal wounds were grave and put the patient's life at risk," Borsato said.

Bolsonaro is expected to spend at least a week in hospital, he added. Videos shared on social media showed Bolsonaro, whose agenda includes cracking down on crime in Latin America's largest country, being carried through a crowd by his supporters when he is suddenly stabbed with a knife to the lower part of his stomach. The attacker was arrested immediately.

He was identified as Adelio Bispo de Oliveira, 40, who said he was "carrying out a divine mission, a mission from God", according to Luis Boundens, head of a union of federal police officers.

Oliveira was affiliated with the left wing Socialism and Liberty Party from 2007 to 2014, the party said in a written statement, in which it repudiated the violence.

Authorities are investigating the suspect's mental health, police said. Bolsonaro is the frontrunner in the first round of the presidential elections next month with 22 percent support, according to a poll published by the Institute of Public Opinion and Statistics (IBOPE), a private media company in Brazil.

It was the first public opinion poll since former president and popular leftist, Luiz Inacio (Lula) da Silva, was barred from running by Brazil's electoral court on September 1.

Lula, who was previously leading the opinion polls, is currently serving a 12-year prison sentence for fraud related to a corruption scandal.

Bolsonaro, described as a right-wing nationalist and populist, has caused a number of controversies in recent years with comments in 2015 that he didn't believe men and women should not receive equal pay because women become pregnant and a number of "homophobic" comments.

Under Brazilian campaign laws, Bolsonaro's tiny coalition has almost no campaign time on government-regulated candidate ad blocs on TV and radio.

That means he relies on social media and raucous rallies around the country to drum up support. If Bolsonaro is not able to go out in the streets, it could jeopardize his campaign.

But Flavio Bolsonaro, the candidate's son, said early on Friday outside the hospital where his father was treated that he was conscious and the attack was a political boost.

"I just want to send a message to the thugs who tried to ruin the life of a family man, a guy who is the hope for millions of Brazilians: You just elected him president. He will win in the first round," he said.

Bolsonaro's rivals in the race expressed outrage at the attack. Fernando Haddad, who will likely replace Lula as the Workers Party presidential candidate, said the stabbing was a "shame" and a "horror."

President Michel Temer and Bolsonaro's electoral rivals Ciro Gomes, Marina Silva, and Geraldo Alckmin all condemned the violence.

Haddad has also been charged with corruption and came in last with six percent in the Ibope poll, which, however, also found that a third of Brazil's population is undecided. Brazil's first round of voting will take place on October 7.

(Source: agencies)

Rescuers continue search for survivors after Japan quake

Rescue workers have continued to search for survivors after a powerful earthquake triggered landslides on Japan's northern island of Hokkaido.

At least 16 people were killed and dozens are missing, feared trapped in mud and debris from Thursday's landslides.

Around 1.6 million homes on Hokkaido remained without power on Friday, after the 6.7-magnitude quake damaged a thermal plant that serves the region.

Thousands of rescuers, including troops called up from the Self-Defense Forces, joined the effort, searching through debris and handing out emergency water supplies.

In the small, rural town of Atsuma, more than 20 people were still missing on Friday after landslides wrecked and buried houses.

"We've heard there are people still stuck under the mud, so we've been working around the clock but it's been difficult to rescue them," a Self-Defense Forces serviceman in Atsuma told public broadcaster NHK.

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said the government would "make an all-out effort to save lives" and urged residents to remain cautious amid forecasts for more bad weather in the coming days.

"Please give your sympathy to people who spent a dark night in fear, and do everything you can to restore electricity as soon as possible," Abe told an emergency cabinet meeting on Friday.

Abe also warned residents to "exercise extreme caution" amid forecasts for more rain, which could cause further landslides, while officials warned of the dangers of more quakes.

"Large quakes often occur, especially within two to three days [of a big one]," said Toshiyuki Matsumori, in charge of monitoring earthquakes and tsunamis at the meteorological agency.

The quake struck as Japan was recovering from a typhoon which hit the Western part of the country on Tuesday, killing 11 people, injuring hundreds and closed the regional airport.

(Source: agencies)

STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	137714.2
IFX	1579.93

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	48,880 rials
GBP	54,243 rials
AED	11,436 rials

Source: isna.ir

COMMODITIES

WTI	\$67.88/b
Brent	\$76.71/b
OPEC Basket	\$75.18/b
Gold	\$1,201.75/oz
Silver	\$14.22/oz
Platinum	\$788.60/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

NEWS IN BRIEF



Tehran hosting intl. poultry, livestock exhibition

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The 17th International Exhibition of Poultry, Livestock, Dairy, and Related Industries (IRANPLEX 2018) is being held in the Iranian capital from September 6 to 9, IRIB reported.

As reported, some 230 Iranian companies and 30 foreign exhibitors from 10 different countries are participating in this year's event to showcase their latest products and findings in different fields including production, research, machineries, equipment, related services, veterinary medicine and vaccination, and etc.

The exhibition is held at the Tehran International Permanent Fairgrounds.



54 Iranian companies attending 60th Damascus Intl. Fair

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Some 54 well-known Iranian companies are taking part at the 60th Damascus International Fair, Iranian ambassador to Syria told IRNA.

Calling the running exhibition a good chance for Iranian companies, Javad Torkabadi said that participating in Rebuild Syria project is a good opportunity for major Iranian private sector companies, active in industrial, construction, and infrastructure sectors, to showcase their capabilities.

The 60th Damascus International Fair is being held in the Syrian capital on September 6-15. Some 1700 domestic and foreign companies from 48 countries are participating in the event. The fair has been held annually since 1954.

As Director General of Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) of Iran's Arabic-African Affairs Office Farzad Piltan announced that Iranian firms also plan to participate in Rebuild Syria Exhibition which is going to be held on October 2-6, 2018.

Iran can assist Syria in developing military equipment alongside efforts for the reconstruction process in the war-stricken country, Iranian officials say. Iran's private sector has high enough capacities to help the Syrian people and government in the reconstruction process, they believe.

We must face China together, new U.S. envoy to Brussels tells EU

The United States and the European Union must overcome their trade disputes and stand up to China's "economic aggression" together, U.S. President Donald Trump's new ambassador to the European Union said on Friday.

Gordon Sondland, a hotel magnate who was sworn in on June 30, said in an opinion piece for Politico Europe that Washington and Brussels needed to seize the new momentum created by a July agreement to avoid U.S. tariffs on European cars.

"I see real opportunities for the transatlantic relationship to be a force that curtails Chinese economic aggression and unfair trade practices," Sondland said, citing concerns such as Chinese overproduction, state subsidies and rules requiring foreign companies to share their know-how with Chinese firms.

"We all share an interest in seeing China offer greater market access and eliminate unfair trade practices, and together we can insist China take the necessary steps to allow its economy to operate more fairly," Sondland said, striking a constructive tone despite recent EU-U.S. tensions.

Trump's decision to pull out of the Iran nuclear accord, his imposition of tariffs on EU metals exports and his insistence that European allies increase military spending and lower import tariffs have overturned long-standing, warm transatlantic ties.

Despite Trump's tariffs on European exports, Brussels shares Washington's concern about China's closed markets and what Western governments say is Beijing's domination of global trade through state intervention and subsidies.

However, the European Union and the United States differ on how to force Chinese reform, such as the removal of barriers to foreign investment.

(Source: euronews)

Iran, India push for expanding bilateral co-op in ports, transport

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — In a meeting on Thursday, Iranian Minister of Transport and Urban Development Abbas Akhoundi and Indian Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari stressed the need for further expansion of mutual cooperation.

In the meeting the officials discussed different important areas of cooperation, including the necessity of going through with the agreements on the development of the Chabahar port and resolving all

technical problems over the next one to three months.

"Indian side had investment in Chabahar port and we are moving towards utilization of the Chabahar port," Indian agencies quoted Akhoundi as saying, adding that the handing over of the port should be done "during one month. We have done everything".

The two sides also emphasized the necessity of forging banking relations between the two countries by providing easy-to-work schemes and mechanisms



Iranian Minister of Transport and Urban Development Abbas Akhoundi (L) shaking hand with Indian Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari during a meeting in New Delhi on Thursday.

using rupees and rials.

"We have already moved one step forward...We should introduce a banking channel to India, which we already did it and it fortunately has been formally accepted by the Indian side", Akhoundi said. He noted that India has also introduced a

banking channel, which has been approved by Central Bank of Iran (CBI).

Finally, Gadkari committed himself to hold talks with all involved Indian commercial and economic organizations and to resolve all technical issues, especially in the banking sector.

68,000 production units active in Iran

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iranian Deputy Industry Minister Mohsen Salehinia said that there are about 80,000 production units in the country, of which 68,000 units are active, IRNA reported.

Of the mentioned number, 90 percent are small industrial units, six percent are medium-sized industrial units and four percent are large industrial units, the official said.

The deputy minister further said that some 195 trillion rials (about \$4.6 billion) of facilities were paid in the framework of production thriving plan to 28,202 enterprises in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20, 2018).

Some 4,600 small and medium-sized units are under construction in industrial estates of the country, Sadeq Najafi, the managing director of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO), announced last month and put the physical progress of constructing these



units at over 70 percent.

The official further said that when these units start operation 74,000 new jobs will be created in the industrial estates.

Najafi has previously announced that through supportive measures taken by the government, some 201 industrial units that had stopped their activity resumed their operation during the first quarter of current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21).

Referring to the 350 trillion-rial (about \$8.13 billion) facilities with 10-percent interest rate allocated to the small and medium-sized entrepreneurs (SMEs), the official said these facilities should be paid to the units that can continue their activity.

He also announced that 36 Iranian SMEs attracted above \$2.3 billion of foreign investments during the previous Iranian calendar year.

South Pars platform 14C installed on offshore spot

ENERGY **TEHRAN** — Platform 14C of Iran's South Pars gas field (in the Persian Gulf), which had been loaded at Sadra industrial yard in the southwestern province of Bushehr on September 1, was installed on its designated offshore spot on Wednesday, Shana reported.

The 2,200-ton structure, which is the second platform of South Pars phase 14 of development, will start operation soon, adding 500 million cubic feet of gas per day to the capacity of the gas field, Public Relations Department of Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC), which is in charge of implementing development phases of South Pars, reported.

The project for implementing phase 14



has already achieved 82 percent progress, according to the operator of this phase.

Hamidreza Masoudi also said that phase 14 enjoys the most Iranian technical and engineering capabilities among the similar projects.

IMO secretary general to arrive in Tehran today

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — International Maritime Organization (IMO) Secretary General Kitack Lim will arrive in Tehran on Saturday to attend a ceremony to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the organization, as announced by the head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO).

Mohammad Rastad said IMO's secretary general visiting Tehran is a good opportunity to introduce Iran's maritime capabilities to the world, PMO news portal published.

This is an important maritime event in Iran and it shows the great maritime status of the country as Iran is among the 20



countries in the world in terms of ownership of the ships and vessels, the official noted.

The World Maritime Day theme for 2018 is "IMO 70: Our Heritage – Better Shipping for a Better Future", as published on the organization's website.

Trump suggests trade battle with Japan



U.S. President Donald Trump speaks during a news conference with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Palm Beach, Florida, in April.

U.S. President Donald Trump has suggested to The Wall Street Journal that he will take on Japan next in his fight to cut trade deficits with trading partners, according to a column carried on the paper's online edition Thursday.

Citing a phone call he received from Trump, James Freeman, a columnist for the paper, wrote that the president "described his good relations with the Japanese leadership but then added: 'Of course that will end as soon as I tell them how much they have to pay.'"

Trade is likely to be a major topic when Trump meets Prime Minister Shinzo Abe around Sept. 25 on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly.

Even if Trump wraps up negotiations with Canada, Mexico and Europe, "the trade uncertainty won't necessarily end," Freeman wrote. "It seems that he is still bothered by the terms of U.S. trade with Japan."

During the call, he wrote, the president sounded "still very focused on eliminating

trade deficits with America's trading partners," in line with his "America First"

China's Iranian crude imports seen to have peaked at 874,000 b/d in Aug.

China's crude imports from Iran are likely to have peaked in August at 874,000 b/d ahead of the looming re-imposition of U.S. sanctions in November, according to S&P Global Platts' trade tracker cFlow.

The last record high was in April 2014, at 803,000 b/d, data from China's General Administration Customs showed.

The imports in August included barrels directly shipped to China and a VLCC cargo that offloaded in Myanmar and was reportedly sent via the China-Myanmar pipeline to a refinery in southwest China.

The arrivals last month took inflows from Iran over January-August to 165.57 million barrels, 72% of total Iranian crude imports of 229.99 million barrels over full year 2017, cFlow data showed.

"It is unlikely the inflows will rise further in the rest of the year and the record [volume imported] in August was probably because of Chinese buyers' intention to take as many Iranian barrels as possible ahead of the re-imposition of U.S. sanctions in November," a Hong Kong-based analyst said.

Chinese buyers have likely loaded 17.42 million barrels or 581,000 b/d of crude from Iran in August for September delivery, in-

cluding one VLCC cargo to Myanmar, cFlow showed. The volume was 14.1% lower than the average 676,000 b/d recorded over the first eight months of the year.

Most Iranian crude imported to China is consumed by Chinese refineries, with the balance saved in bonded storage rented by the state-owned National Iranian Oil Company.

China is expected to remain the biggest buyer of Iranian crude despite the sanctions, as Beijing has often said that business between the two countries will run as normal despite U.S. sanctions.

"The company's business will be hurt if it has to suspend imports from Iran," an executive with Sinopec said last week, adding the company was in talks with relevant parties to mitigate the risks.

Sinopec is the biggest refiner in the world by capacity and throughput, absorbing around two-thirds of China's crude arrivals from Iran. It bought around 149.83 million barrels of Iranian crude oil in 2017, accounting for 8.6% of its total crude throughput, according to filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

(Source: Platts)

Gold up as dollar slips against yen on trade jitters

Gold steadied on Friday as the dollar slipped versus a currency basket despite fears over looming China-U.S. trade tariffs, and as investors turned their attention to U.S. payrolls data due later.

The public consultation period for proposed U.S. tariffs on an additional \$200 billion of Chinese imports ended at 0400 GMT Friday. Tariffs could go into effect at any moment, though there is no clear timetable.

The dollar has gained considerably from global trade tensions but slipped off two-week highs this week, helping gold stabilize. A weaker dollar makes dollar-priced gold cheaper for non-U.S. investors.

"I'm struggling to (see) how the dollar could extend gains from here. Other central banks are becoming hawkish, the pound could come back up and the euro, once the ECB starts tightening. Gold is due for a rally," said Fawad Razaqzada, analyst at FOREX.com.

Spot gold edged up 0.1 percent to \$1,201.04 as of 1020 GMT, after it hit a near one-week high on Thursday at \$1,206.98, and was headed for a third straight session of gains.

U.S. gold futures rose 0.2 percent to \$1,206.70 an ounce.

The dollar lost ground against the safe-haven yen and Swiss franc after a report suggested U.S. President Donald Trump would next take up trade issues with Japan. Battered emerging market currencies also recovered their poise.

"The stronger yen versus the dollar is leading to some buying in gold ... The recent low of around \$1,160 in August is really the bottom in gold for now," said Yuichi Ikemizu, Tokyo branch manager, ICBC Standard Bank.

Elsewhere, investors will be closely watching a U.S. employment report due later in the day for clues on the pace of interest rate hikes. The payrolls report is expected to show a robust rise of 191,000 jobs.

Gold has tumbled about 12 percent from a peak of \$1,365.23 in April, though present levels have invoked a lot of physical buying in Asia, traders and analysts said.

Spot silver was up 0.2 percent at \$14.1 per ounce.

Platinum fell 0.5 percent to \$786.70, while palladium rose 0.6 percent to \$980.90.

(Source: CNBC)

Oil steady as U.S. crude inventories fall, products gain

Oil prices steadied on Friday as a rise in stocks of refined petroleum products offset a big fall in U.S. crude inventories to the lowest level since 2015.

Brent crude futures edged down 10 cents to \$76.40 a barrel by 0917 GMT. U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures lost 3 cents at \$67.74 per barrel.

U.S. commercial crude oil inventories fell by 4.3 million barrels to 401.49 million barrels in the week to Aug. 31, the lowest since February 2015, U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) data showed on Thursday.

But sentiment suffered due to a rise in refined product stocks coupled with relatively weak demand for fuel during this summer's U.S. driving season - when consumption normally peaks.

Gasoline stocks rose by 1.8 million barrels, while distillate stockpiles, which include diesel and heating oil, climbed by 3.1 million barrels, the EIA said.

"(Gasoline) stocks ... are now 3.5 percent above the year-ago level. More worryingly, the surplus to the five-year norm now stands at 5.4 percent, the highest since June 2017," Stephen



Brennock of London brokerage PVM said. "This bears all the hallmarks of a disappointing summer driving season. As a

result, the alarm bells are now ringing that a gasoline glut will persist for the foreseeable future," he added.

On the supply side, U.S. crude oil production last week remained at a record 11 million barrels per day (bpd), a level it has largely been at since July.

Outside the United States, U.S. sanctions against major oil producer Iran are fuelling expectations of a tighter market towards the year-end.

"The main driver of oil prices, in our view, remains the reimposition of U.S. ... sanctions against consumers of Iranian oil," Standard Chartered said this week.

"We have cautiously subtracted only 500,000 bpd from Iranian supply, assuming its production at 3.3 million bpd for 2019 and 2020," SEB Markets commodities analyst Bjarne Schieldrop said.

Saudi Arabia will need to keep production between 10.5 million bpd and 10.7 million bpd to the end of 2020 "to prevent oil prices from spiraling higher", he added.

Washington has indicated it may offer temporary sanction waivers to allied countries that are unable to cease imports immediately from Iran.

(Source: Reuters)

Mexico's next president says historic oil auctions will continue



Mexico's next president said he will continue with oil auctions in the first signs that he is backtracking on plans to scale back the country's historic 2014 energy reforms.

"We are preparing the rescue plan for the oil industry that will consist of producing more crude oil soon, and we will need these companies that have experience, most of them national companies," President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador told reporters on Thursday in Mexico City. "We are already preparing tenders for the drilling of wells, and we are getting ready because we are going to launch those tenders from the first days of December."

Lopez Obrador said he will travel to his home state of Tabasco on Saturday to meet with representatives from oil companies. The meeting will take place with his pick for energy minister Rocio Nahle and the next chief executive officer of Pemex, Octavio Romero, according to a spokesman for Lopez Obrador who asked not to be identified, citing internal policy.

Lopez Obrador didn't provide the dates for bid rounds, leaving it unclear whether auctions will immediately be held in December or whether the process of auctioning will restart then. Mexico's National Hydrocarbons Commission plans to hold auctions for more than 40 blocks and Pemex farm-out deals on February 14.

The leftist leader had previously indicated that future oil auctions, which have lured some of the world's biggest oil companies, could be suspended or canceled as his government seeks to strengthen Pemex and focus on expanding refining capacity. He has also said that more than 100 oil contracts already awarded to companies such as Royal Dutch Shell Plc, Exxon Mobil Corp and BP Plc are being reviewed.

Pemex's crude oil output has declined every year since 2004, which Amla has pledged to turn around with an additional 75 billion pesos (\$3.9 billion) for exploration and production investment.

(Source: Bloomberg)

Russia's huge natural gas pipeline to China nearly complete



Gazprom's Power of Siberia natural gas pipeline from Russia to China is 93 percent complete, the Russian gas giant said in an update on its major projects.

A total of 2,010 kilometers (1,249 miles) of pipes are laid for the Power of Siberia gas pipeline between Yakutia and the Russian-Chinese border, or on 93 percent of the route's length, Gazprom said in a statement.

The natural gas pipeline is expected to start sending gas to China at the end of 2019 and its completion is among Gazprom's top priorities.

The two-string submerged crossing of the Power of Siberia pipeline under the Amur River is 78 percent complete, and the Atamanskaya compressor station adjacent to the border is also under construction, the Russian company says.

Gazprom has a 30-year contract with CNPC for the supply of an annual 1.3 trillion cubic foot of natural gas via the infrastructure.

This year, Gazprom plans to invest nearly

\$3.2 billion (218 billion Russian rubles) in the pipeline project, up from the \$2.3 billion (158.8 billion rubles) investment last year, according to Russia's TASS news agency.

Gazprom and CNPC have also discussed another pipeline from Russia to China via the western route—the so-called Power of Siberia 2 pipeline—that would source gas from Western Siberian gas fields, but little progress has been made regarding the specifics of this project.

Gazprom is dominating gas supplies to many European markets while it vies to meet the surging Chinese natural gas demand as the country is in the middle of a massive switch from coal-fired to gas-fired heating in millions of homes.

Although Chinese companies are looking to boost domestic natural gas production, local production won't come even close to meeting surging demand, and China is expected to increasingly rely on gas imports.

(Source: oilprice.com)

U.S. shale boom begins to cool

The US shale oil industry is slowing as logistical challenges including labor costs and a lack of adequate pipeline capacity pile up, the chief executives of some of the largest production and oilfield services companies have warned this week.

Evidence is accumulating that the boom in the industry that began two years ago is cooling off, particularly in what has been its incandescent center, the Permian Basin of western Texas and eastern New Mexico.

At a Barclays conference in New York this week, the chief executives of Schlumberger and Halliburton, the world's largest and third-largest listed oilfield services companies, both highlighted a slowdown in the number of new wells being brought into production. Jeff Miller, chief executive of Halliburton, talked about a "decrease in customer urgency" that had put pressure on the prices the company could charge in several parts of the U.S.

Along with project delays in the Middle East, he added, the slowdown would cut 8-10 cents from Halliburton's third-quarter earnings per share, which had been expected to be about 52 cents. Halliburton's shares closed almost 6 percent lower after Miller's statement on Wednesday.

Paal Kibsgaard, his counterpart at Schlumberger, similarly warned that the North American market for hydraulic fracturing had "already softened significantly more than we expected" in the third quarter. The Permian Basin in particular, he said, faced challenges that he expected to "have a dampening effect on production growth, wellhead prices and investment levels in the coming year".

On Thursday morning shares in Weir Group, a UK engineering company, fell 7 percent in early trade after it warned of a "considerable softening" in U.S. demand last month, and some "deferrals" on orders from oil and gas companies. The company makes the pumps that



are used in the shale industry for hydraulic fracturing: pumping a mix of water, sand and chemicals into wells at high pressure to open cracks in the rock and release the oil and gas.

The shale industry has slowed even though U.S. benchmark crude has for most of the past four months been above \$65 a barrel. Executives have highlighted the problems caused because much of the increase in activity during the industry's upturn in the past two years has been concentrated in the Permian Basin.

Rising costs for labor and equipment, difficulties in disposing of the unwanted water and natural gas produced alongside the oil, and above all a shortage of pipeline capacity for taking crude from the wilds of west Texas to refineries and export terminals along the Gulf of Mexico coast have undermined the economics of oil production in the region.

Bill Thomas, chief executive of EOG Resources, one of the largest U.S. exploration and production companies, told the Barclays conference: "When you're focused on one basin, one play, it gets very difficult to continue high rates of growth."

"The rebound in the U.S. shale oil industry since 2016 has been remarkable, raising the country's crude

production by 1.5m barrels a day in the 12 months to July. Industry executives are now debating whether the slowdown is just a necessary pause for breath, or a sign that the headlong growth of the past couple of years could be gone for good.

Kibsgaard argued that there might be a more fundamental problem with the Permian than the logistical difficulties causing the present slowdown. He emphasized the increasing prevalence of "child" wells, drilled close to older "parent" wells, and showed analysis from Schlumberger suggesting that they delivered lower production, when adjusted for their length and the weight of sand used in hydraulic fracturing to bring them into production. He concluded: "This suggests that the Permian growth potential could be lower than earlier expected."

Miller of Halliburton, however, was more upbeat about the long-term outlook for U.S. oil and gas, saying that despite the immediate problems, "we are still in the early innings of a strong North America cycle".

Thomas said EOG's expectation for the Permian Basin was "probably a little bit more subdued on growth than most people would have it".

He added: "It'll grow certainly for the next few years, but it'll grow at a slower pace every year and won't be the thing that's going to destroy oil prices again because it's going to grow so fast."

However, Trisha Curtis of Petronerds, a research group, said that even if Kibsgaard was right about slowing productivity, that simply set up a spur for fresh innovation in the industry.

"People have kept saying 'this is a problem the industry can't solve', but somehow the industry has always found a way," she said. "That is the challenge, but it is also the opportunity."

(Source: Financial Times)

produced about 500,000 bpd before the civil war that broke out in 2014.

South Yemen has been rocked by violent protests in the last two weeks after the Yemeni rial lost more than half its value against the U.S. dollar since the start of a civil war in 2015.

Al-Bahseeni and other southern officials back the protesters and accuse Hadi's government of mismanagement.

(Source: Reuters)

OPEC crude oil production rises to 32.89m bpd in Aug. as cuts unwind: Platts survey

OPEC's crude oil production in August, not including newest member Congo, rose to a 10-month high, with Iraq surging to record output and Libya recovering from militia fighting, more than offsetting Iran's slide as the sanctions-hit country struggles to keep its customers, according to the latest S&P Global Platts survey.

The 15 members of OPEC pumped 32.89 million barrels per day (b/d) in the month, the survey found. Taking away Congo, which joined the organization in June, OPEC's August output of 32.57 million b/d is the highest since it produced the same amount in October 2017, as it unwinds supply cuts that have been in place since January 2017.

Pressure from U.S. president Donald Trump to moderate oil prices, plus fears of an overtightening market due to U.S. oil sanctions on Iran that go into effect in November, prompted OPEC and 10 allies to agree June 23 in Vienna to reduce over-compliance with their cuts and increase output by 1 million b/d in the months ahead.

The 12 OPEC members with firm quotas achieved 115 percent compliance in August, according to Platts calculations. Libya and Nigeria are exempt, while Congo has yet to be given an allocation.

Iranian production has already begun to suffer in advance of the sanctions, falling to 3.60 million b/d in August, according to the survey.

Platts Analytics estimates that some 1.4 million b/d of Iranian oil is expected to leave the market by November.

Meanwhile, Iraqi production swelled to 4.68 million b/d in August, up 110,000 b/d from July and the highest recorded in the 30-year history of the Platts OPEC survey, as exports from both the country's southern port of Basra and through the Turkish port of Ceyhan saw increases.

Saudi Arabia, OPEC's biggest producer and the world's largest crude exporter, pumped 10.49 million b/d in August, the survey found. That is far above its quota of 10.06 million b/d under the supply cut agreement, but below the 10.8 million to 11 million b/d that it had signaled it would produce at the June meeting. Kingdom officials have said demand for Saudi crude has yet to require such levels of production just yet, but added that they stand ready to supply the market as needed.

Libya rises, Venezuela falls

Libya added the most barrels in August within OPEC, as output recovered to 940,000 b/d with the lifting of force majeure in July on loadings from the country's eastern ports, which had been blockaded for about a month by a militia group, as well as the ramping up of production from the Sharara field after the kidnapping of some workers there in mid-July was resolved.

Libyan production in July was 670,000 b/d, the lowest it had been since April 2017.

Nigeria increased its production by 70,000 b/d in August, according to the survey, with loadings up in the month.

Venezuela continued its production decline, as output slumped to 1.22 million b/d in August, a year-on-year plunge of 680,000 b/d, the survey found. The country is in the throes of an economic crisis that has impaired its ability to maintain its oil facilities, pay workers and afford diluent to produce its extra heavy crude from the Orinoco basin. August output was also affected by a tanker collision at the Jose terminal late in the month that led to its shuttering for repairs.

But a settlement reached August 20 with ConocoPhillips over \$2 billion owed to it by Venezuelan state oil company PDVSA provides some hope that the country's crude exports could rise in the weeks ahead. ConocoPhillips had been seeking to seize PDVSA's assets in the Caribbean under an international court ruling which had severely impaired the Venezuelan company's ability to export crude.

The Platts OPEC figures were compiled by surveying OPEC and oil industry officials, traders and analysts, as well as reviewing proprietary shipping data.

(Source: Platts)

First Announcement



N.I.S.O.C

Invitation For Prequalification

TENDER NO. : **08-21-9540013**

National Iranian South Oilfields Company(NISOC)intends to purchase the following goods

Description	Quantity.
HSL (AN ULTRA WT.CMT.ADDITIVE)FOR OIL WELL CEMENT,IT FUNCTIONS AS A FLUID LOSS CONTROL ENITANDER.IT INCREASE THE COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH OF CEMENT,IT HAS VERY SPECIFIC SURFACE AREA WHICH RESULTING IN SLURRY STABILITY & ZERO FREEE WATER SHOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH ALL API CEMENT &TO BE PACKED IN WATER-PROOF MULTI-WALL BAGS PALLETIZED ON REINFORCED PVC PALLETES. SHRINK COVERED NOTE: MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEETS(MSDS) IS ESSENTIAL FOR TECHNICAL EVALUATION MANUFACTURE,TRADE MARK(ORDER MESC) NO. (PRODUCT/EXPIRY) DATE.MSDS TO BE MARKED ON BAGS METAL STRAPPED(2 NUMBERS HORIZONTALY& 2 NUMBERS VERTICALLY) REF HALLIBURTON(S&S-4(HSL)) OR APP.EQUVALENT	01 Items including 2000 BG. IN 22 LB (10 KG) BAGS

Vendors who intend to participate in the A/M tender are requested to send their resume & tendency letter via fax/ mail to the following address not later than 14 days after the second announcement. The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide a bid bond of Euro 20,603 / Rls 1,000,000,000 in favor of NISOC. Iranian vendors shall submit their resume Acc. to forms Nos. 01, 02 and 03 which are available at www.shana.ir and www.nisoc.ir

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
Bldg NO 104, Material procurement Management Complex
Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site) Ahvaz, Iran

Tel.fax No.: **+98-61 -34457437**

Public Relations

www.shana.ir

www.nisoc.ir

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روزنامه: تهران تایمز نوبت اول ۹۷/۶/۱۷ نوبت دوم: ۹۷/۶/۲۰

The sheer, despicable hypocrisy of Saudi Arabia



By Anthony Harwood

In typical fashion, Saudi Arabia's response to this week's UN report claiming it may be responsible for war crimes in Yemen is full of bluster.

How dare the human rights experts make 'false allegations' that the Riyadh-led coalition has targeted civilians, restricted humanitarian aid and carried out arbitrary detentions, it says. This despite all evidence to the contrary.

Whether it's air strikes on school buses killing dozens of children or the bombing of ships carrying humanitarian aid as they wait at a harbor entrance, the truth is plain to see.

With 6660 civilians killed, 10,563 injured, 1.1 million hit by cholera and 22 million in need of aid, the war in Yemen is the world's biggest humanitarian crisis.

But when you consider these stark facts it is hard not get riled by one thing which stands out from the Saudi rebuttal just for its sheer audacity.

The statement expresses "surprise for the report's disregard of the great humanitarian role played by the coalition states in Yemen, and the huge humanitarian assistance it has provided in order to alleviate the suffering of the Yemeni people."

Hang on, if you hadn't spent the past three years bombing the country back to the Dark Ages, there would be no need for any of the humanitarian aid which you are so proud of.

It's a bit like a reckless motorist who willfully causes carnage on a motorway expecting a pat on the back for picking up the medical bill afterwards.

The UN report found that coalition air strikes — armed with British and American firepower — have hit residential areas, markets, funerals, weddings, detention facilities, civilian boats and medical facilities.

Not only this but the UN's Group of Experts "have reasonable grounds to believe that individuals in the government of Yemen and the coalition may have conducted attacks in violation of the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution that may amount to war crimes."

Time after time the Saudi authorities — who profess to uphold international law and human rights — throw their toys out of the pram when they are accused of flouting it.

You can see it in their over-the-top response to criticism from Canada about their continued incarceration of women's rights activists.

You can see it in their brass neck claims not to be pirating transmissions of the World Cup, Champions League, Premier League, Formula One or any other passing sporting event whose broadcast rights are owned by rival Qatar — despite all evidence to the contrary.

But this month's prize for sheer hypocrisy must surely go to both Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, who for a year have been blockading Qatar, accusing the tiny Persian Gulf state of supporting terrorism, which Doha denies.

For there is new evidence from an Associated Press investigation that the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen has actually been negotiating, paying and helping Al-Qaeda, the terror group behind the 9/11 attacks.

So, a months-long offensive, Operation Swift Sword, was portrayed as a victory in the mountainous province of Shabwa for Emirati and Yemeni fighters over Al-Qaeda forces which had dominated the region for three years.

The UAE ambassador to Washington, Yousef al-Otaiba, said the triumph would "disrupt the terrorist organization's network and degrade its ability to conduct future attacks."

What wasn't revealed was how weeks earlier the two sides had reportedly negotiated for trucks full of masked Al-Qaeda terrorists to quietly leave the area. About 200 Al-Qaeda fighters received payment, with one getting £20,000 (\$26,000). Some have even joined the coalition side.

This is the same Yousef al-Otaiba who repeatedly accuses Qatar of funding terrorism.

It led to Doha's ambassador to the U.S., Sheikh Meshal bin Hamad Al-Thani, saying: "For now, we must pose urgent questions to the UAE and Saudi Arabia: How can they in good faith give arms, safe passage and financing to terrorists? What are the terrorist groups doing with all of these funds and weapons?"

For now, a list of people who may be responsible for war crimes in Yemen has been passed to the UN high commissioner for human rights.

The UN report also urged the international community to "refrain from providing arms that could be used in a conflict" — a reference to America and Britain, who have been arming the Saudi-led coalition.

The plane that flew for an hour over the market in Dahyan, northern Saada, before launching its deadly payload killing 40 children on the school bus was armed with a U.S.-made 500lb laser-guided MK82 bomb.

For the perpetrators to say the Saada attack was a "legitimate military operation carried out in accordance with international humanitarian law" is despicable, and the UN is right to call out those responsible.

And as long as the U.S. continues arming the coalition with the types of Lockheed Martin weapons used on that school bus, and the UK rolls out the red carpet at every opportunity for Saudi Arabia, we too will be complicit in the carnage they cause. (Source: Newsweek)

The 'steady state' is shirking its obligations

If the president is unfit to serve, the anonymous op-ed authors have a duty to their country to come forward publicly

By Bradley P. Moss

The recent publication in The New York Times of an anonymous op-ed by a "senior official in the Trump administration" brings into sharp relief the extent to which various members of the Trump administration are not just knowingly working to curb the president's recklessness, but are doing so based in part upon the belief that those impulses are the result of something deeper and more fundamentally unstable about the man himself.

I long had assumed the president was prone to childish tantrums and had little time and less inclination to understand the mechanics of governance. I was nonetheless skeptical of the legitimacy of concerns about his mental or psychological health, especially when assessed from afar. Such concerns should never be haphazardly invoked. The op-ed, though, claims that a cadre of senior appointees—which it dubs the "steady state"—has taken it upon itself to steer the government through choppy waters of erratic presidential behavior. Despite having good reason to doubt the president's ability to fulfill his duties, it suggests, these officials are leaving an unstable individual in a position of unparalleled power so that they can achieve specific policy objectives.

And the op-ed is far from the only evidence that this is the case. Several other anonymous "senior White House officials" have leaked to media outlets such as Axios that they have privately admitted to one another that the president is "unstable, and at times dangerously slow." These reports repeatedly point to "adults in the room" protecting the government from a president whose stability they personally question.

There is a logic behind supporting officials who stay in an administration to ensure the president's recklessness is kept in check. That logic, however, cannot and should not override the constitutional system of government Americans ultimately hold most dear. President Donald Trump — warts, foreign interference, and even potential criminal collusion notwithstanding — is the duly elected chief executive. He received the necessary votes from the Electoral College. He took the oath of office as president of the United States. He is the constitutional head of the executive branch.

My message to the "steady state" is simple: If you truly believe what you say about the president's purportedly erratic, unstable, and antidemocratic behavior, your obligation is not to stand by and do the dirty bureaucratic work behind the scenes. Your obligation to the country, and to the Constitution, is to come forward, publicly, and inform both Congress and the American public of exactly what you have seen.

This is probably not the most popular opinion among at least some of my fellow Never Trumpers. I have been vocal and clear in my concerns about the policy choices advanced



Several other anonymous "senior White House officials" have leaked to media outlets such as Axios that they have privately admitted to one another that the president is "unstable, and at times dangerously slow."

by the president, his capacity to competently handle foreign diplomacy, and his profound disregard for equal application of the rule of law. More than once I have said — as have other Never Trumpers — that the president appears to be out of his depth on issues of policy substance, and that the Trump administration appears to be advancing its goals in spite of him rather than under his direction. The president's continued interference with, and attempted disruption of, the ongoing special-counsel investigation into alleged Russian collusion is particularly appalling and reflects his view that he can treat the Justice Department similar to how he used his legal "fixers" in his private life.

But those concerns don't justify what these officials describe. If the president is not mentally, physically, or psychologically fit to continue serving, or if he has engaged in reckless behavior in conflict with his oath of office, there are

remedies built into our Constitution that are designed for this moment. There is the removal procedure of the Twenty-Fifth Amendment — and there is impeachment. Those are the lawful means by which a president can be removed from office prior to the completion of his term.

It is unlikely that either remedy would be pursued at this moment, especially with the midterm elections a mere two months away. That is neither here nor there. It is the right of our duly elected representatives in Congress to decide whether such a drastic step should be taken. It is not the right of anonymous senior administration officials, no matter how noble or well-intentioned they are in their efforts, to engage in the equivalent of an administrative coup d'état so they can maintain their temporary grip on government power and authority.

(Source: The Atlantic)

'We are experiencing an epochal shift': Ischinger

In a DER SPIEGEL interview, former German Ambassador to Washington Wolfgang Ischinger says that U.S. President Donald Trump is endangering the world order. For Germany, the epochal shift amounts to no less than a loss of identity.

By Britta Sandberg & Mathieu von Rohr
■ Mr. Ischinger, was there a single moment when you realized that the old world order was slipping?

A: Absolutely. It was in February 2007, the year before I took over the chairmanship of the Munich Security Conference. Vladimir Putin was speaking in Munich and in an extremely aggressive tone, he called into question the U.S. claim to leadership. I was sitting in the audience and, behind me, a journalist said: This is going to change the world. It was a turning point, the beginning of something new.

■ "The World in Danger" ("Welt in Gefahr") is the title of your new book. How bad is the situation?

A: We are experiencing an epochal shift. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the situation has never been as dangerous as it is today. Primarily because mutual trust has vanished. We can only see the rough outlines of what the new political age will look like. There is Russia's new role, China's expansion, violent conflicts around the world such as the war in Syria, the consequences of which we in Europe have particularly felt. A once reliable partner like Turkey is faltering, and we have experienced significant instability even within the European Union. But no politician has unsettled the world to the degree Donald Trump has. Since he entered office in January 2017, the entire liberal world order seems to be in danger.

■ Is Trump destroying the West with his rhetoric?

A: If it were only actions that mattered in foreign policy, I would be more sanguine. Because the U.S. is still doing more for NATO than all the rest of us put together. Unfortunately, the current situation isn't the only thing that matters. Words do too. And Trump's words act like poison to the cohesion of the West. The West needs a symbol, and that is what we have lost under Trump. And because we Germans finally became embedded in the West after a long journey over the last 70 years, it is a particularly painful loss, almost a loss of identity - much worse than for the French or the British.

■ Can't we just wait until Trump is gone?

A: The scar that will result will be difficult to heal. Things will never be quite the same



as they used to be.

■ Why not?

A: Because Trump isn't to blame for everything. Even Barack Obama was no longer willing to take care of everything. For decades, Germany was able to outsource its security. This relatively harmonious relationship between the superpower and its voluntarily subordinate European partners is coming to an end and will not return in its erstwhile form. And it's not a bad thing that a process of emancipation has begun. Trump is forcing us to grow up.

■ But have the Germans understood that they must change their role in this new world?

A: A lot of what the German government is doing is correct, but it isn't enough. Ever since Konrad Adenauer (Germany's first postwar chancellor), there have been two cornerstones of German politics: The European project and the trans-Atlantic bond, the EU and NATO.

It is imperative that we invest more in these two cornerstones. The EU will cost more if we expect it to protect its external borders. And if we want to preserve NATO, then it is misguided for us to act with gentlemanly nonchalance as though we never agreed to the 2-percent goal (of increasing defense spending to 2 percent annually). We have an example to set. We are the largest, most substantial and most prosperous country in Europe. The strategic challenges we currently face are so significant that it is misguided to treat the balanced budget as some sort of holy grail to which all else is secondary.

■ Many politicians have demanded that

Germany take on more responsibility in the world and spend more money on defense. But the Germans themselves are deeply skeptical of such a course.

A: I don't share your view. There was a public opinion survey taken recently by (the pollster) Allensbach. It found that more Germans are prepared to accept greater defense spending than we had actually thought. The mood among voters is not such that the government would be punished were it to do more to protect Germany and fulfill its alliance obligations. But it is necessary to explain convincingly why such a step is in our interest and that we are not just doing it because Trump told us to.

■ Do you really believe it is possible to convince the Germans to become a military power again?

A: It's not about Germany becoming a power, it's about whether and how to push through European interests. We have to learn the lessons of the Syrian conflict. The acceptance of the refugees has cost us many billions of euros and has permanently changed the political landscape -- and unfortunately not for the better. What did we actually do to contain this conflict when such a thing was still possible? What did we do when large numbers of refugees first began arriving in Italy? Not much! The German government looked away at the time and more than anything, did all it could to avoid getting involved. Such an accusation is unavoidable, and now we are paying for it in the form of our helplessness in the face of the current drama.

■ Do you believe Germany is dodging

its responsibility?

A: When the strongest country, namely Germany, limits itself in the fight against Islamic State to shooting a few photos over Syria with a reconnaissance plane while leaving it to Denmark, with a population of just 5 million, to send a few real warplanes, then something isn't right. Germany often only does the bare minimum. That is not a recipe for leadership.

■ France and Great Britain are more practiced in taking on a global role. Is Germany even able to practice global politics?

A: It's not about transforming Germany into a global political actor, but about developing the EU to the point where it can resolutely and credibly defend the interests of its more than 500 million citizens.

■ What steps should the EU take to increase its foreign policy credibility?

A: If we don't abandon the principle of consensus on European foreign policy decisions and finally move to majority decision-making in this area as well, the EU will never become a respected foreign policy actor. The best example for how we might be able to do that is what European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker recently achieved in Washington. Because of the European treaties, he has the say when it comes to European trade policy. He was able to tell Trump: I represent 500 million Europeans, we are a trade power, even larger than the U.S., so let's now make a deal.

■ Do you expect German Chancellor Angela Merkel to leave a legacy on this issue?

A: In Emmanuel Macron, she has a French partner who has called for joint progress on EU reform. If we don't take the initiative now to create a Europe that can protect itself from internal and external threats, then we will have missed a huge opportunity. One that won't come back right away. Macron is not a panacea, but I view him as a great opportunity because he has given us the chance to think boldly together.

■ What do you think the German government should do in the face of Trump's frontal attacks on Germany?

A: I would double the number of German diplomats in Washington and in the German consulates in the U.S. Funding for public relations in the U.S. should be massively increased, together with the numerous German companies there. Far too rarely do Trump voters in Kansas or Idaho hear positive stories about the friendly and hard-working Germans who have created so many jobs in America.

(Source: Spiegel)

U.S. to pay price for leaving JCPOA, pressing EU: SIPRI chief

TEHRAN (Tasnim) — The director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said the U.S. would pay a price in the long run for unilaterally withdrawing from the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers despite the EU's opposition.

"In the longer term, the U.S. will pay a price for unilaterally breaking out of the JCPOA and attempting to press the EU into implementing a policy it opposes. However, that is the longer term and this U.S. administration does not seem much focused on longer term considerations," Dan Smith told Tasnim.

Dan Smith has a long record of research and publication on a wide range of conflict and peace issues such as nationalism, identity politics, armed conflicts, ethics of intervention, gender aspects of conflict and peace building. In recent years, his work has broadened to encompass other contemporary issues such as the relationship between climate change and insecurity, peace and security issues in the Middle East and global conflict trends. Smith has served four years in the UN Peace-building Fund Advisory group, two of which (2010–2011) were as Chair. He has lived most of his adult life in the UK with a 10-year spell in Norway. He has traveled professionally to more than 60 countries.

The following is the full text of the interview:

■ On August 23, the European Commission adopted a first package of €18 million for projects in support of sustainable economic and social development in the Islamic Republic of Iran, including €8 million assistance to the private sector. High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini said, "Since the renewal of the EU-Iran relations as a result of the Iran nuclear deal, cooperation has developed in many sectors. We are committed to sustain it and this new package will widen economic and sectoral relations in areas that are of direct benefit to our citizens". What do you think about the package? How much could this help Iran?

A: It is important that the EU is seeking



Trump's diplomatic maneuvers can always surprise observers but at present, it seems unlikely that new talks would quickly produce a viable compromise.

ing ways to support the continuation of the JCPOA. I am encouraged that they are trying to follow fine words with the right deeds. This is an encouraging first step. I hope it is not the only action the EU takes because by itself it is not nearly enough to make a real difference for Iran.

■ U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo

recently named senior policy adviser Brian Hook as special representative for Iran in charge of "Iran Action Group" to coordinate Trump's pressure campaign on the Islamic Republic following Washington's withdrawal from an international nuclear deal with Tehran. What's your take on the action group?

A: It is not at all clear what the effect of

the Action Group will be. The U.S. administration's policy has been set and the Group's main mandate will be to ensure it is carried out. However, pressure can be put on U.S. allies in different ways with different degrees of regard for their sensitivities. Whether the Action Group will make things easier or harder for the EU over the U.S.-Iran relationship is hard to tell.

■ President Trump's national security adviser John Bolton said on August 22 that the Europeans have to make a choice between the U.S. and Iran in observing American sanctions. How much do you think Europe could resist?

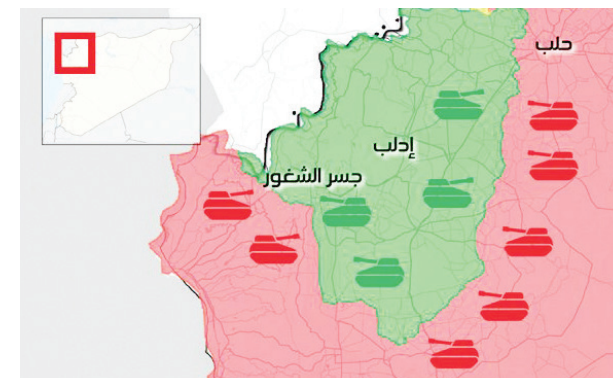
A: EU trade with the U.S. is far, far greater than EU trade with Iran. Therefore, if pushed to a choice, relations with the U.S. will take priority. This is especially true for businesses and the EU can only do a limited amount to press European companies to continue trading with and investing in Iran. Things are complicated, however, by the current round of so-called "trade wars"; if EU relationships with the U.S. deteriorate significantly, there might be more room for maneuver for the EU in relation to Iran.

In the longer term, the U.S. will pay a price for unilaterally breaking out of the JCPOA and attempting to press the EU into implementing a policy it opposes. However, that is the longer term and this U.S. administration does not seem very focused on longer term considerations.

■ Do you believe that new round of talks between Tehran and Washington could change anything given to the fact that other parties of the JCPOA have remained committed to the deal?

A: President Trump's diplomatic maneuvers can always surprise observers but at present, it seems unlikely that new talks would quickly produce a viable compromise. Several rounds of talks might be required before a workable agreement could reproduce. It would be worth making that effort if at all possible

Tripartite summit in Tehran; Idlib operation and the end of terrorist crisis in Syria



➔ So far, the summit's details have not been posted but the Tehran summit might decide to create a security belt in Idlib with the aim of protecting the borders of Turkey and Russian bases and dealing with the Jabhat al-Nusra Front.

It is undeniable that Damascus wants Idlib under control of the Syrian government, and does not consider the long-term solution that Turkey seeks to satisfy the Tahrir al-Sham group. Moscow, however, has a similar view of the Syrian government. The intense Russian and Syrian airstrikes on the outskirts of Idlib are proof that Moscow and Damascus do not have much patience.

As Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov stated, "Our patience about Idlib is not indefinite."

Damascus and its allies can care less about Trump threats on invading Syria, if they begin to carry out an operation. According to some analysts Iran, Russia and Turkey have come to believe that the battle of Idlib is decisive in setting the stage for solving the Syrian crisis.

It is undeniable that Damascus wants Idlib under control of the Syrian government, and does not consider the long-term solution that Turkey seeks to satisfy the Tahrir al-Sham group. Moscow, however, has a similar view of the Syrian government.

In fact, it can be argued that the Syrian crisis is approaching the final stage in Idlib. The U.S. Navy and Russian military array is a sign of the readiness of the two great powers for a regional or global military confrontation if a solution is not found, or if Trump wants to stand on the path to Idlib liberation.

Donald Trump has warned severely against any Syrian army operation and its allies in Idlib, which has raised the question as to why the U.S. president did not have such a strong reaction against the Syrian army and their battles in southern Syria and Ghouta's Damascus.

The reason behind it is Israel and Saudi Arabia that have pushed Trump to take this stance, because they do not want Russia, Iran and Syria to win. They don't want that Russia to realize its goals in Syria. It's not unlikely that this issue was discussed during Bolton's trip to Tel Aviv and has got an agreement during his meeting with Israeli officials

In any case, the Tehran summit is expected to lead to an agreement between the leaders of Iran, Russia and Turkey on the joint operation in northwest Syria. In other words, the fate of Idlib is tied to Tehran's meeting, and the decisions that were made to counter Trump and Western's threats.

Did Trump deceive Macron again?

➔ However, Paris commitment to Washington remains strong! It seems that Macron is once again deceived by Trump and his false promises, just like the way he was deceived in 2017 over "changing the JCPOA". Anyway, this position taken by the French authorities will have no results but destroying Paris' international reliability.

The next point here is that, according to informed sources, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had direct and regular talks with Le Drian and other French senior officials on the JCPOA, and matching the practical positions of Paris and Washington.

Though it was thought that negotiations would be stopped after the withdrawal of Trump from the nuclear deal, the existing evidence suggests that these bi-lateral negotiations are still going on.

The latest order issued by Trump, Pompeo and Bolton to the French government is about the Europe's package of proposals for Iran. Although the European troika could



have been able to offer this package to Iran earlier, the White House has asked them to postpone it so that the effects of the secondary sanctions on our country would be determined.

In other words, much of Europe's delay in delivering their package to Iran is the result of secret negotiations and instructions given by the Trump government to foreign ministers of European countries, including Jean-Yves Le Drian. During the last Vienna meeting (negotiations between Iran and members of the P4 + 1), Le Drian officially announced that the proposed package of European countries to Iran will not be presented soon!

Without a doubt, Le Drian decided to play the role of U.S. Secretary of State "Mike Pompeo" in his absence, the way former French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius played the role of U.S. Secretary of State in the negotiations with Iran over the course of the nuclear talks, as he expressed John Kerry's demands from his tongue!

Echoes of generational war as U.S. sends new commander and son to Afghanistan

TEHRAN (FNA) — The decision by the War Party in Washington to send its 17th commander to Afghanistan points to the dark future being readied for the long-suffering people of that ill-fated country.

Some 17 years into the war, Gen. Austin Scott Miller has gone to Afghanistan to take over control of the U.S.-led occupation, replacing outgoing Gen. John Nicholson. Miller is the 17th commander to lead the protracted war, one of the worst current man-made humanitarian disasters.

He has been participating in the war in Afghanistan from the beginning, though. He was present during the 2001 U.S. invasion, then at the rank of lieutenant colonel. He was among the forces sent during President Obama's escalation of the war, as a brigadier general. Now, he is a full general, commanding the longest war in American history.

Like his predecessors, Miller is not going to make any changes. Per usual, he will follow the historic trend of taking over, promising a review of policy, offering nominal changes and quickly falling out of favor, only to be replaced by the next commander. Gen. John Nicholson followed that trend. After leaving, he said it is "time for this war in Afghanistan to end." Such a comment would have had more impact when he was actually in charge. Instead, he spent his time in charge talking up how the war was winnable.

The same will be the case for Miller. Soon he will also leave Afghanistan, all while urging the War Party to end its unwinnable war. He knows that victory



in any traditional sense is nowhere in sight. The War Party's efforts to occupy insecure and contested areas in Afghanistan will fail.

After all, according to the Pentagon's own reports, the Taliban is still contesting control of or has controlled greater parts of the country, while Afghan government control and influence over districts has declined. In fact, the Taliban has overrun government checkpoints and outposts on a near-daily basis. And keep in mind that the Taliban is now only a fraction of the story. The U.S. set out to defeat it and Al-Qaeda in 2001. Today, Washington even started to make use of Al-Qaeda offshoots in Afghanistan - including an imported franchise from the Iraq War front, ISIL - that has grown larger in

recent years.

Given this seemingly dismal state of affairs, you might wonder what Miller could possibly do to reverse America's fortune. Not much really. Like his predecessors, he will be quietly ushered out of Afghanistan in disgrace - on the face of it, implicated in the aerial destruction and war crimes. He however will provide further justification for the War Party's incremental occupation on the pretext of fighting terror, pouring billions of dollars, American military know-how, and American lives into a black hole in Afghanistan that is of America's own creation.

In his confirmation, Gen. Miller once put a spotlight on one of the most critical shortcomings of Washington's

"infinite war," one that has afflicted every level of the U.S. establishment from the White House and the Pentagon to the special ops community: a failure to see the truth. He has already acknowledged that the war in Afghanistan - the one he has been fighting on and off for almost two decades - is "generational," a war of abysmal repetition.

He now admits what he and other commanders had always failed to consider after 17 years: "This young guy sitting behind me," he said, referring to his uniformed son. "I never anticipated that his cohort would be in a position to deploy as I sat there in 2001."

That is a pretty shocking fact. America and its crew of geopolitical dreamers are stuck in the quagmire of Afghanistan. They will never win their generational war, despite trying everything in the U.S. manual of military tactics, including dropping "the mother of all bombs," the largest non-nuclear munition in that military's arsenal. They can never conquer, subdue, control, pacify, or win the hearts and minds or anything else of enemies who often fight their trillion-dollar foe using weaponry valued at the price of a McDonald cheeseburger!

Think of it another way. Years from now, don't be surprised if you heard Miller's son saying the same thing to his uniformed grandson regarding the longest war in American history, markedly with some tactical successes but far greater failures and humanitarian sufferings. It's likely as well that amid all that repetition, innocent civilians will still be dying, painfully being ignored, uprooted and displaced across the planet.

Second Announcement



Permit No. 1397.2697

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
Invitation For Prequalification

TENDER NO. : **08-21-9340009**

National Iranian South Oilfields Company(NISOC)intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity.
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How many is too many eggs?

There is not a specific number of eggs a person can eat as part of a healthful diet. Eggs were once considered to be an unhealthy food source in terms of high cholesterol and heart problem concerns. The fact that the yolk of an egg contains a high level of cholesterol was the primary cause of this.

Consuming cholesterol was initially thought to significantly raise the levels of cholesterol in the body, which can increase the risk of heart disease.

Research has shown, however, that eggs do not increase the chances of heart disease.

Cholesterol from food has a small impact on cholesterol in the body.

Cholesterol is a fatty substance that has a range of essential bodily functions.

Its role includes supporting the production of new cells and hormones to the formation of fat-dissolving bile acids and helping with the absorption of vitamins.

Scientists now understand that the cholesterol people consume in foods only has a small impact on cholesterol levels in the body.

The majority of cholesterol production takes place in the liver. The main influencing factor for this is not how much cholesterol someone consumes, but other factors, such as the amount of saturated fat in the diet.

In the past, there was also a misunderstanding about the role of cholesterol in the body, but more recent research has now challenged this too.

Good and bad cholesterol levels

The way cholesterol moves through the bloodstream is relevant to the impact it can have.

Either low-density lipoproteins (LDL) or high-density lipoproteins (HDL) transport the cholesterol.

HDL is responsible for collecting cholesterol that is no longer needed, and LDL transports cholesterol to areas where it is needed.

Abnormally high levels of LDL cholesterol are typically unhealthy because they can build up and cause clogging in the arteries. This buildup of cholesterol can increase the risk of heart attacks.

HDL cholesterol is considered to be 'healthier' than LDL cholesterol, as it plays a role in removing the cholesterol from the body.

A greater understanding of how cholesterol works in the body means that it is now unclear whether high levels of cholesterol



Eating between one and three eggs per day can have several health benefits, but this varies from person-to-person. At this level of consumption, people can expect minimal changes in their cholesterol levels.

are always unhealthy.

For example, one recent review of existing studies found that there was no link between LDL cholesterol and heart disease.

While this study had several limitations, it demonstrates that the relationship between cholesterol and health is much less clear than previously thought.

Benefits of eggs

Eggs may contain a relatively high amount of cholesterol, but they do not have a major impact on cholesterol levels.

They are a highly nutritious source of protein, containing a range of vitamins and minerals, including: vitamin A, vitamin B and B-12, vitamin D, iodine, and folate.

Eggs are affordable and easily included in a balanced diet. The best way of consuming eggs is to boil or poach them without using salt.

Eggs that have been enriched with omega-3 and sourced from free-range farms are the healthiest eggs.

Eating between one and three eggs per day can have several health benefits, but this varies from person-to-person. At this level of consumption, people can expect minimal changes in their cholesterol levels.

It is unclear whether there is an upper limit on how many eggs a person can eat per day. More research in this area is needed to provide clarity.

But when people have no health issues

causing concern, they can eat eggs in moderate quantities, and they are unlikely to have any effects on cholesterol levels.

Takeaway

Large-scale studies have consistently shown that consuming eggs does not increase the risk of heart disease. Unless under specific advice from a doctor, it is not necessary for people with high cholesterol or those at risk of heart disease to avoid eggs.

It is possible to contact food poisoning from consuming raw eggs. Food poisoning is, however, becoming increasingly more unlikely with the rise in health and food safety standards in the United States.

(Source: Medical News Today)

Walking tied to lower risk of heart failure in older women

Older women who exercise may be less likely to develop heart failure, a U.S. study suggests.

Researchers examined data on 137,303 postmenopausal women, ages 50 to 79 (average age, 63). More than one third had high blood pressure, but few had other risk factors for heart disease like diabetes or a current smoking habit.

After an average of 14 years, 2,523 women developed heart failure. Compared to women who didn't exercise at all, those who got at least some physical activity were 11 percent less likely to develop heart failure. Participants with the highest activity levels were 35 percent less likely to develop heart failure.

"Our findings show clearly that higher amounts of self-reported total physical activity are associated with significantly lower risks of developing overall heart failure and each subtype," said lead study author Michael LaMonte, a researcher at the University at Buffalo, New York.

In heart failure, the heart muscle is too weak to pump enough blood through the body. Symptoms include fatigue, weight gain from fluid retention, shortness of breath and coughing or wheezing. Medications can help strengthen the heart and minimize fluid buildup.

Among the women who developed heart failure, 451 had a subtype characterized by what's known as reduced ejection fraction, which typically occurs after a heart attack and has a worse prognosis. Compared to women who didn't exercise, those who got at least a little activity were 19 percent less likely to develop this kind of heart failure. Women who exercised the most were 32 percent less likely to develop this subtype.

Another 734 women with heart failure had a subtype characterized by what's known as preserved ejection fraction. This is more common in older adults and easier to treat. Compared to sedentary women, participants who got a little exercise were 7 percent less likely to develop this kind of heart failure, and women who got the most exercise were 33 percent less likely to develop this subtype.

Walking - the most common leisure activity among older adults - appeared to work just as well as more vigorous workouts, LaMonte said by email.

"This is a big finding," LaMonte said. "Most adults are able to perform walking activities throughout the day, and often do so as part of usual activities of daily living without necessarily having planned walking as part of an exercise routine."

To assess activity levels, researchers examined data from exercise questionnaires completed by all of the women. Then, they scored participants' exercise levels and intensity based on a measure known as metabolic equivalent of task (MET) hours per week.

Women got an average of 13 MET hours per week. Walking was the most common form of exercise, accounting for about 38 percent of participants' physical activity.

Each additional MET hour of activity per week was tied to a 16 percent lower risk of heart failure overall and a 10 percent lower risk of heart failure with reduced ejection fraction, the researchers report in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology: Heart Failure.

(Source: Reuters)

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Plastic waste could be used to fuel hydrogen cars

The world's use of plastic is costing us, and our oceans, a high price. But thanks to scientists at the University of Swansea, there might be one solution to the waste that kills thousands of sea creatures every year.

The new research, led by Dr. Moritz Kuehnelt, would see plastic waste turned into hydrogen. If we're lucky, that could one day be used to fuel hydrogen cars.

"There's a lot of plastic used every year -- billions of tonnes -- and only a fraction of it is being recycled," Dr. Kuehnelt told the BBC. "We are trying to find a use for what is not being recycled."

The process works by cutting the plastic, roughening it up and adding a photo catalyst to it. This is a material that can absorb sunlight and transform it into chemical energy. The researchers then put the plastic into an alkaline solution and shine sunlight or a solar simulator lamp onto it, producing bubbles on the surface -- hydrogen gas.

Gas that could be used to fuel a hydrogen car.

A setback for recycling plastic bottles is that they're commonly made from PET, polyethylene terephthalate, which needs to be washed to be recycled into new, clear bottles. But the university's process would not require oily or greasy plastic to be cleaned, because it can degrade many kinds of waste.

"Even if there is food or a bit of grease from a margarine tub, it doesn't stop the reaction, it makes it better," Kuehnelt told the BBC.

The process is also cheaper than recycling the plastic, which is often burned or thrown in landfill because of expenses -- it costs approximately \$4,000 to recycle a ton of plastic bags, according to The Balance Small Business.

As for progress on hydrogen cars, Toyota, for instance, aims to sell a combined 1 million electric and fuel cell cars worldwide by 2030. In Japan, Toyota will launch a fuel cell-powered bus called the Sora in 2020, fuel cell stacks being the components that combine hydrogen and oxygen to produce electricity.

While the plastic fuel project may take a few years before reaching an industrial level, the researchers have received some handy funding from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council out of Swindon and an Austrian petrochemical company. (Source: cnet.com)

SOCIALLY SAFE

What is the dark web? A parent's guide-Part One

The internet has changed in many ways since it first became publicly accessible in the 1990s. One of the most controversial developments is the growth of the so-called dark web. This is the part of the World Wide Web that allows users to remain anonymous. You may be concerned about your child visiting the dark web, especially as press reports often associate it with dangerous, or illegal, online activity.



However, it is not always used for illicit activity and the problem does not come from the technology itself, but rather from the ways in which people use it. Being aware of the basic facts about these parts of the internet can help you to have open and realistic conversations with your child, especially if you are concerned about them using the dark web.

■ What are the different parts of the internet?

● 1. The open web is the publicly visible part of the internet that most of us use every day, and which we access through search engines such as Google or Yahoo.

● 2. The deep web is the part of the internet which is generally hidden from public view. Unlike the open web, the deep web is not accessed via the usual search engines. Much of it is very ordinary; organizations have websites that can only be read by authorized people such as their employees, with their information password-protected. One example is your medical history; this can be accessed from anywhere, by authorized persons.

● 3. The dark web is generally accessed using dedicated software, with the best known being Tor (The Onion Router). Around 2.5 million people use Tor every day. It provides anonymizing software which can be accessed via a Google search and then downloaded free of charge. Tor itself is not the dark web but is a way to browse both the open and dark web, without anyone being able to identify the user or track their activity.

■ Why do people use Tor to access the dark web?

Here are three main reasons why people may use the dark web:

● 1. To be anonymous

There are reasons why someone may want to protect their online identity. In some cases, this is because they would be in danger if their identity became known. For example, in countries where the government forbids a free press, where there is political censorship, or where people are concerned about online security. Tor is mainly used to browse the open web anonymously; only a very small percentage of its traffic relates to hidden services.

● 2. To access 'hidden services'

A hidden service is one where not only the user, but also the website itself, has their anonymity protected by Tor. This means that the IP address of the site cannot be identified, hiding information about its host, location or content. Tor is not a hidden service, but the sites it hosts are. Hidden services can be used legitimately, for example for remaining unknown when whistleblowing (exposing unethical or illegal activity within an organization). Studies suggest that the majority of Tor hidden service activity is illicit. For example, a study in 2014 found that nearly 60% of hidden services contain illegal content such as drugs, weapons and stolen goods.

● 3. For illegal activity

The dark web may be used by people to carry out illegal activities online, such as selling weapons or drugs. These kinds of activities, and the websites offering them, are often referred to as hidden services, as explained above.

Using Tor or visiting the dark web are not unlawful activities in themselves. But it is against the law to carry out illegal acts such as accessing child abuse images, promoting terrorism or selling illegal items such as weapons.

(Source: parentinfo.org)

Scientists invent new form of solar power

Cambridge University researchers use semi-artificial photosynthesis to develop a new way to capture the sun's energy.

A new way to capture the power of the sun and successfully split water into hydrogen and oxygen by altering how plants conduct photosynthesis has been invented by scientists.

Plants convert sunlight into energy through photosynthesis, which releases oxygen into the air when plants split water molecules to gain energy.

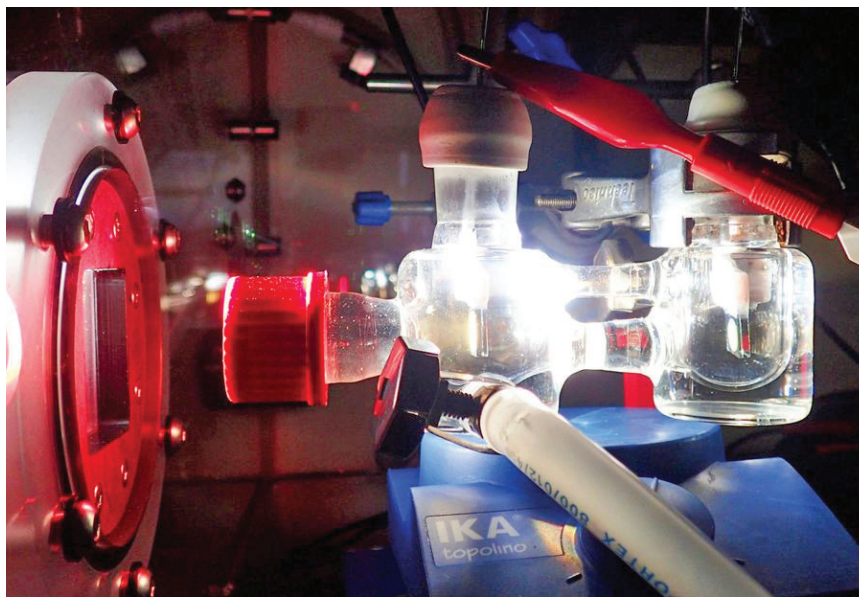
Almost all of the Earth's oxygen, which animals need to breathe, is produced via photosynthesis - and hydrogen is a potentially unlimited source of renewable energy.

In a study led by researchers at St John's College, University of Cambridge, scientists have used semi-artificial photosynthesis to develop new ways to capture the sun's energy.

The research could revolutionize renewable energy production, and the paper published in Nature Energy explains how the scientists used solar energy to split water molecules.

Using biological components and human technology, the team used natural sunlight to split water into hydrogen and oxygen.

Katarzyna Soko, the first author on the



paper and a PhD student at St John's, said: "Natural photosynthesis is not efficient because it has evolved merely to survive so it makes the bare minimum amount of energy

needed - around 1-2% of what it could potentially convert and store."

Although artificial photosynthesis has been around for decades, it isn't used for

renewable energy because of its dependence on expensive and toxic catalysts - meaning it can't be used on an industrial scale.

The study is part of a growing field of semi-artificial photosynthesis using enzymes instead of these catalysts.

Soko and her colleagues improved on the amount of energy produces and stored, as well as managed to reactivate a process in algae that has been dormant for millennia.

Soko explained: "Hydrogenase is an enzyme present in algae that is capable of reducing protons into hydrogen."

"During evolution this process has been deactivated because it wasn't necessary for survival but we successfully managed to bypass the inactivity to achieve the reaction we wanted - splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen."

The researcher said that she hopes her findings will contribute towards new inventions helping people capture renewable solar energy.

Erwin Reisner, the head of the Reisner Laboratory, and a fellow of St John's College - as well as one of the paper's authors - described the research as a "milestone". (Source: news.sky.com)

When should startups use non-disclosure agreements (NDAs)?



An NDA, or non-disclosure agreement, is a legally binding arrangement between two parties where one or both parties will classify confidential information and prohibit the other party from disclosing shared information. The party in the agreement that is disclosing confidential information is conveniently called the "Disclosing Party" and the party receiving confidential information is called the "Receiving Party."

Additionally, the NDA can either be a mutual or unilateral confidential obligation. A unilateral NDA is an agreement where the Receiving Party is the only party that is receiving confidential information from the Disclosing Party.

When you are committing to a startup venture, you and your co-founders will understandably want to protect your "secret sauce"—the information that makes your

product or service unique, whether it's intellectual property, know-how, or trade secrets. Especially when the company is young and growing, your co-founding team will likely want to gain every protection you can to ensure that no one else can implement your idea before you do.

While it's true that ideas are often less valuable than the execution founders put behind them, innovation is still at the heart of any successful startup. A sensible first step toward protecting your ideas is to form a legal entity and turn this intellectual property into an asset of a company (rather than individuals). However, there are certain situations where using a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) can go a long way in helping to keep a company's confidential information outside of public knowledge. (Source: gust.com)

Bitcoin price crash: cryptocurrency market in meltdown as value continues to drop



Bitcoin and other major cryptocurrencies are crashing in a sudden and dramatic market collapse.

After weeks of steady gains, bitcoin dropped in price by more than \$300 in the space of an hour on Wednesday morning, with ethereum, ripple and bitcoin cash all following its lead. By Thursday morning, bitcoin had fallen \$1,000 in just 24 hours.

The reason for the sudden price crash was not immediately obvious, though some analysts have said panic selling could contribute to bitcoin's fall in value.

Other factors potentially contributing to the crash include a report that Goldman Sachs is dropping plans for a cryptocurrency trading desk.

While bitcoin fell by around 12 per cent, the hardest hit by the market shift has been ethereum, ripple, bitcoin cash and EOS, which all dropped by around 20 per cent.

Bitcoin hit a one-month high on Tuesday, leading some experts to suggest that more price gains can be expected.

"The increased price stability of Bitcoin over the last couple of days has not been witnessed for a while and I think it should be viewed as a positive sign with more gains to come, especially in the coming months," blockchain investor and advisor Oliver Isaacs told The Independent when asked about the cryptocurrency's

prospects just hours before the crash.

However other analysts were quick to say that cryptocurrency investors should be careful about seeing recent gains as a sign of things to come, at least in the short-term.

"Bitcoin's price might be rising but it's way too early to call this a true resurgence," said Matthew Newton, a market analyst at the online trading platform eToro. "We've seen the price yo-yo for several months so I'd be hesitant to herald this as a new dawn just yet... Traders should be cautious."

He added: "Looking ahead, there is plenty to be positive about though. There's lots of great fundamental news about the development of cryptocurrencies right now, but that's going to take time to filter through and impact on price."

Bitcoin is still trading higher than it was at this point last year, though it remains a long way off the highs of December 2017, when its price reached close to \$20,000.

Since then, bitcoin has been on a bumpy slide down to today's price of around \$7,000, though had experienced a period of relative stability in recent months.

Most significantly, bitcoin has appeared to be more immune to negative press in 2018, which has previously had a major impact on its market movements.

(Source: The Independent)

Days 81-100: The startup checklist



Wouldn't it be great if there was a start-up cheat sheet for budding business owners? Well, now there is!

As most people aren't familiar with the steps to start a business, this checklist covers everything you need to know pre-launch and post-launch; from market research to domain names and business banking. If you've got a business idea, then this checklist will help ensure your start-up hits the ground running...

■ Make your first hire(s) if you can afford to

Many entrepreneurs launch a start-up with the mindset that they can do everything themselves - from sales to marketing to HR - but this simply isn't the case. Rebel Kitchen's Tamara Arbib, Currency Cloud CEO Michael Laven and RefME's Hatton have all made a case for hiring in the first 100 days:

Arbib: "Recruitment is key; hire like-minded people that share your passion and drive and make sure their skill set complements yours."

Hatton: "Build a team with uniquely different skills and knowledge which will [...] accelerate growth. Remember that new businesses are [...] full of highs and lows, successes and pitfalls, so having a team that can persevere is very important in the first 100 days."

Laven: "Great people make a great company. And for a business that is just getting off the ground with little money, strategy or even product in place, having the right people on the ground floor is even more essential. When hiring for a new company, it's more important to find someone who actually learned from their last job than someone with a stellar résumé."

(Source: startups.co.uk)

First Announcement



N.I.S.O.C

Invitation For Prequalification

TENDER NO. : **08-38-9440002**

National Iranian South Oilfields Company(NISOC)intends to purchase the following goods

Description	UNIT	Quantity.
ROCK BITS, JET TYPE, LESS NOZZLES WITH API REGULAR TOOLJOINT PIN CONNECTION 8-1/2IN. X 4-1/2IN, MOTOR TYPE, HIGH RPM, MIN. RPM: 250. 8-1/2IN I.A.D.C. 5.17 M	NO	40

Vendors who intend to participate in the A/M tender are requested to send their resume & ten-dency letter via fax/ mail to the following address not later than 14 days after the second an-nouncement. The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide a bid bond of Euro 10,433 / Rls 500,000,000 in favor of NISOC. Irani-an vendors shall submit their resume Acc. to forms Nos. 01, 02 and 03 which are available at www.shana.ir and www.nisoc.ir

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
Bldg NO 104, Material procurement Management Complex
Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site) Ahvaz, Iran

Tel.fax No.: **+98-61 -34457437**

Public Relations

www.shana.ir

www.nisoc.ir

<http://iets.mporg.ir>

روزنامه: تهران تایمز نوبت اول ۹۷/۶/۱۷ نوبت دوم ۹۷/۶/۲۰

Unravelling the reasons why mass extinctions occur

Scientists from the University of Leicester have shed new light on why mass extinctions have occurred through history -- and how this knowledge could help in predicting upcoming ecological catastrophes.

The international team has investigated sudden ecological transitions throughout history, from mass mortality events in the far past to more recent extinctions which have occurred over the last few decades.

In a paper published in the journal *Science*, co-authored by Professor Sergei Petrovskii and Dr. Andrew Morozov from the University of Leicester's Department of Mathematics, and a group of leading scientists from the USA and Canada, the team has explored the long-standing mystery of why these ecological transitions occur.

Sudden changes

Ecological systems sometimes experience sudden changes in their properties or function which often results in species extinction and significant loss of biodiversity.

Understanding why these significant changes occur remains a challenge, in particular because transitions often happen under apparently steady, constant conditions and therefore cannot be directly linked to a specific environmental change.

By bringing together empirical data, insights from ecological theory and mathematical models, the team has revealed that abrupt transitions in an ecosystem can occur as a result of long-term transient dynamics,



including 'ghost attractors' and 'crawl-bys'.

An attractor is an 'end-state' of a given ecosystem, that is where it expected to be found over an infinitely long period of time and/or

where it returns after small perturbations.

A 'ghost attractor' is a special configuration of a dynamical system that exhibits the same behavior as an attractor but only for a

An attractor is an 'end-state' of a given ecosystem, that is where it expected to be found over an infinitely long period of time and/or where it returns after small perturbations.

Nitrogen fixation engineering in cereal crops moves a step closer, team finds

A new way of engineering nitrogen fixation has been discovered by a UK-China research team, bringing us one step closer to realizing the goal of engineering a range of crops to fix their own nitrogen.

One of the major factors that limit crop growth is the availability of nitrogen, but only bacteria and other single-celled microbes called archaea can take nitrogen from the air and fix it into a form that can be used by plants. The process carried out by these microbes is known as biological nitrogen fixation.

Legumes obtain nitrogen from symbiotic nitrogen-fixing bacteria, but cereal crops including wheat and maize, rely on the availability of fixed nitrogen in the soil. In many cases the addition of chemical fertilizers is the only way to provide crops with enough nitrogen to ensure a good harvest.

Cereal crop productivity

The use of nitrogen fertilizers releases nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas which is 300 times more powerful than carbon dioxide. By engineering crops to fix their own nitrogen, we hope to reduce the use of nitrogen fertilizers, thus mitigating their impact on the environment. A break though like this could also have worldwide implications for cereal crop productivity.

In this paper, the research team has been able to engineer nitrogen fixation by employing a novel strategy, which simplifies the process of engineering multiple genes to make sure their expression is balanced in their new host.

Nitrogen fixation is an intricate and delicate process which requires a balance of numerous key components. Until now, achieving the right balance of these components has been a major challenge to the engineering of nitrogen fixation in cereal crops.



The new method works by organizing large numbers of genes which are required for nitrogen fixation into a smaller number of "giant genes". These are then expressed in the host cell as huge proteins known as "polyproteins" which are subsequently cut by a specific protease enzyme to release the individual nitrogen fixation components.

Producing right balance

One innovative part of this method is how the group identified the amount of each component required, and then grouped these together. This step ensures that the right balance is produced.

Professor Ray Dixon project leader in molecular microbiology at the John Innes Centre said: "This is a really exciting development for synthetic biology because it brings nearer the aim of engineering nitrogen fixation in cereals."

The collaborative Peking University - John Innes Center team say that this exciting method will be useful for transforming complex systems from prokaryotes such as bacteria to eukaryotic hosts such as plants.

Professor Dixon continues, "In the future this method may also be applied to engineering metabolic pathways in plants to produce antifungal and antibacterial secondary metabolites that provide resistance to pathogens."

(Source: phys.org)

Scientists figured out the origin of mysterious patterns on the moon's surface

If you look at the moon through a telescope, you might see something curious on the surface. The bright, undulating patterns are called lunar swirls, and their origins have been an ongoing mystery - not least because they are associated with powerful, localized magnetic fields.

Now scientists think they may have solved a part of the puzzle. The surface patterns, their research has found, are caused by subterranean lava tubes.

The lunar swirls and their strange magnetism has been known for decades. The Apollo 15 and 16 missions helped map sources of magnetism on the moon - which has no global magnetic field - and these were linked to the

swirls in a paper published back in 1979.

At higher altitudes, the swirls are less pronounced and intricate than the ones at a lower altitude, and while every swirl has a magnetic field, there are magnetic fields on the moon that don't have swirls.

On top of that, while the swirls are not new, they have the spectral characteristics of new formations; that is, they are less weathered than the surrounding regolith.

The mechanisms at play are unknown, but one possibility is that the magnetic fields around the swirls deflect particles blown in from the solar wind, causing them to weather more slowly.

"But the cause of those magnetic fields,

and thus of the swirls themselves, had long been a mystery," said planetary scientist Sonia Tikoo of Rutgers University-New Brunswick.

Magnetic fields

To "solve it, we had to find out what kind of geological feature could produce these magnetic fields - and why their magnetism is so powerful."

Using computer modelling, the team discovered that each swirl has to be close to or above a narrow, magnetic object not far from the lunar surface. And lava tubes, or vertical lava dikes, which are the result of long-ceased lunar volcanic activity, fit that description nicely.

These formations are the result of basalt

Drought predictive of decrease in snakebites, Stanford researcher says

Grant Lipman, MD, an emergency medicine physician at Stanford Medicine, was running through the brown hills behind the campus a few years ago during a severe drought when he came across a 3-foot-long rattlesnake lying by the trail. When a colleague mentioned he'd experienced a similar rattlesnake sighting, Lipman got to thinking.

"I wondered if there are more snakebites during droughts," said Lipman, clinical associate professor of emergency medicine at the Stanford School of Medicine, who routinely treats patients with venomous snakebites.

Lipman launched a study with a team of researchers to investigate the question. What they found defies conventional wisdom: The number of snakebites actually decreases after a drought but goes up after periods of rainy weather. The study also reported that the increase in weather extremes caused by climate change has a direct influence on snakebite incidence in California. This could be useful to help guide public health measures, such as determining the best allocation of antivenom supplies, the study said.

Lipman shares lead authorship with Caleb Phillips, Ph.D., adjunct assistant professor of computer science at the University of Colorado-Boulder. The senior author is Derrick Lung, MD, assistant clinical professor of medicine at the University of California-San Francisco.

Little scientific evidence

Little scientific evidence links drought to an increase in snakebites, and yet everyone seems to believe there's a connection, including emergency medicine providers, since that's what they're taught during training, Lipman said.

A quick Internet search of headlines from the popular press quickly confirmed



this: "Deadly Snakebites Set to Skyrocket During Record-breaking Drought," reads one in 2018 in the Daily Mail. Another, "Snakes Cross Paths with Humans in Bay Area Due to Drought," was reported on ABCNews.com in 2015. The prevailing theory goes that snakes wander further to forage for food during times of drought, plus they are simply more active in warmer weather.

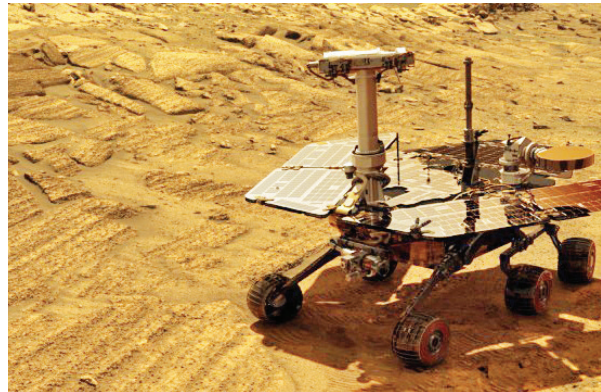
In fact, what they found was the exact opposite. The researchers collected and examined 20 years of snakebite data from every phone call made to the California Poison Control System from 1997 to 2017. Details included the date and time of the bite; the patient's age and sex; where the bite occurred on the body; call site; treatment; and medical outcomes.

A total of 5,365 snakebites were reported, all of them from rattlesnakes. Five deaths were reported over the 20-year period. The median age of the patients was 37. They were most likely to be male, and the bites most often occurred at home in the backyard. The majority of bites occurred during the spring or summer and in counties dominated by shrub or scrub growth. Mariposa County topped the list with the most bites at 96 bites per 1 million people. In Santa Clara County, where Stanford is located, there were 4 bites per 1 million people.

(Source: eurekalert.org)

NASA issues arbitrary deadline to reawaken Mars rover

The dust storm on Mars is over, but Opportunity has yet to wake back up. Earlier this summer, the rover was forced into hibernation mode by an extreme Martian dust storm that darkened the skies of the Red Planet to a level we've literally never seen before. Most of the time, Mars has a tau — a scientific term that refers to the opacity of the Martian atmosphere — of 1-2. During the largest major dust storm we've previously seen, the tau was roughly 6. This time, the tau from the massive storm hit 10.8 — and Opportunity is solar powered.



NASA has now announced that the window of Opportunity is remarkably short. In 45 days, if NASA hasn't heard from the rover or been able to contact it, it'll pull the plug on the mission. And that time frame has many engineers and scientists upset, given the mechanics of how dust and dust storms practically work on Mars.

During the 14 years it's been on Mars, Opportunity's power levels have fluctuated enormously for two primary reasons. First, the rover's reliance on solar power means that the amount of energy it receives is dependent on Mars' position from the Sun. Mars distance from the Sun varies from 1.38 AU to 1.67 AU, and the long Martian winters provide significantly less power overall. Second, the same wind that occasionally covers the rover in dust has also been known to clean and polish the solar panels, in some cases bringing them up to nearly full power once again. The graph below shows how Opportunity's power levels have fluctuated over 2017 - 2018.

On June 3, Opportunity produced 468 Whr of energy. By June 6, this had fallen to 133 Whr as the dust storm approached. On June 10, just 22 Whr of energy were available.

(Source: extremetech.com)

Are space elevators possible? Japanese researchers will look to find out

A Japanese team of researchers will carry out the first test on the feasibility of space elevators this month, taking the futuristic concept from science fiction into reality.

The space elevator concept was formulated as a possible alternative to rockets to get people into space, as rocket launches are expensive and pollute the atmosphere. Will space elevators be the next big thing in space travel?

The idea of the space elevator was first proposed in 1895 by Konstantin Tsiolkovsky after the Russian scientist saw the Eiffel Tower in Paris. He believed that a similar structure could be built high enough to take passengers up to space.

The concept has since appeared in various science fiction books and movies, but it was Russian engineer Yuri Art-sutanov who first studied the feasibility of space elevators in real life.

Space elevators, ideally, will need to have a cable tethered to Earth, likely near the equator to lower the risk of being damaged by hurricanes or tornadoes, and to a stationary mass in space, such as the International Space Station.

The connection will allow electromagnetic vehicles to ride up to space, taking workers and equipment into orbit. It will also be a much cheaper option for space tourists, compared to riding on a rocket-powered spacecraft.

There are many challenges to making space elevators in real life though. No material has been found to be strong enough for the cable, and the effects on the human body of riding an elevator up into space remains uncertain.

(Source: Tech Times)

Cyborg cockroaches could be a life-saving device: study

Researchers from the University of Connecticut placed tiny neuro-controllers on cockroaches to manipulate the insects' movement inside the buildings. The research, which was presented on Thursday at the Conference on Cognitive Computational Neurosurgery in Philadelphia, shows that the scientists developed an easier way to control and monitor the movement of the insect.

The "use of insects as platforms for small robots has an incredible number of useful applications from search and rescue to national defense," Abhishek Dutta, an assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering at the University of Connecticut who developed the device, said in a statement. "We believe our microcircuit provides a more sophisticated and reliable control system that brings us one step closer to real-world implementation of this technology."

The team tested the device on the Madagascar hissing cockroach. According to National Geographic, the cockroaches are about two to three inches long and can live for two to five years.

The microcircuit is attached to a live cockroach through what is essentially a tiny backpack. Developing these devices has been difficult historically because of how small they have to be. To attach the device, wires from the circuit are connected to the insect's antennae lobes.

Though similar devices have been developed in the past, this circuit is unique because it contains an advanced nine-axis inertial measurement unit which can track the cockroach's rotational and linear acceleration and the direction it's heading. It can also detect the temperature around the insect.

By detecting the temperature, the scientists may be able to predict how the cockroaches will perform because the temperature can affect them.

(Source: Newsweek)

BMI Wins 1st Rank in Terms of Selling Surplus Real Estates in Banking System

CEO of Bank Melli Iran (BMI) Dr. Mohammad-Reza Hosseinzadeh revealed that his bank won the first rank in terms of selling surplus real estates in banking system, the Public Relations Dept. of the bank reported.

With due observance to the said issue, Bank Melli Iran (BMI) has transferred about 2,600 billion tomans worth of its companies and additional properties in the past nine months of Iranian calendar year, he maintained.

Stock-paneled companies under the management of the bank are transferred via Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), he said, adding, "companies and other properties are sold through public tender after being advertised in newspapers."

Selling surplus properties and economic enterprises available to bank is not the possessed by the bank, rather, bank embarks on selling these properties as one side of contract party, Hosseinzadeh opined.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Khamenei and President Rouhani have placed special emphasis on exclusion of banks from economic activities, he said, adding, "Bank Melli Iran (BMI) is determined to implement this instruction as reiterated by senior officials of the country."

According to him, stocks of eight companies including National Iranian steel Group have been transferred to the bank only due to the liability of Amir Mansour Aria



Company, most of them have faced critical problem in the production field.

Govt. allots \$3.5b to health sector: minister

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — The Iranian government has allocated \$3.5 billion to state-run centers in the health sector to control the adverse effects of currency fluctuations, Health Minister Hassan Qazizadeh-Hashemi said on Thursday.



Recent currency fluctuations in the country has urged the government to allot the sum to the health sector, IRNA news agency quoted Qazizadeh-Hashemi as saying.

The government is making an attempt to decrease the negative impacts of the currency fluctuations on health sector and the Ministry of Health is also striving to live up to the standards in providing healthcare services despite the hardships, he noted.

“We wouldn’t let the current conditions to affect healthcare services under no circumstances,” he highlighted.

14.7 million students to attend schools

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — Iran’s Minster of Education has announced that some 14.7 million students will attend schools in the new school year starting on September 23, IRNA reported on Thursday.



The number shows a 6-percent increase year-on-year, Mohammad Bat’haei said.

Nationwide some 105,000 schools will open and some 8,000 new classes will be added for the new school year, he noted, adding that about 10,000 new classes will be constructed by the end of the upcoming school year (May 2019).

Commenting on lack of sufficient education space the minster noted that currently per capita education space per student is 5 square meters while the standard space must be 8 square meters.

He explained that unfortunately the per capita education space is 3 square meters in some provinces and called on philanthropists to join hands with the government to increase educational facilities.

LEARN ENGLISH

Just In Time Strategy

A: I called this meeting today in order to discuss our manufacturing plan. As I’m sure you’re all aware, with the credit crunch, and the global financial crisis, we’re **obligated** to look for more **cost efficient** ways of producing our goods. We don’t want to have to be looking at **redundancies**. So, we’ve outlined a brief plan to **implement** the just-in-time philosophy.

B: We have two basic points that we want to focus on. First of all, we want to reduce our **lead time**.

C: Why would want to do that? I think this is not an area that really needs to be worked on.

B: Well, we want to reduce production and delivery lead times for better overall **efficiency**.

A: Right, production lead times can be reduced by moving **work stations** closer together, reducing queue length, like for example, reducing the number of jobs waiting to be processed at a **given** machine, and improving the coordination and cooperation between successive processes. Delivery lead times can be reduced through close cooperation with suppliers, possibly by inducing suppliers to locate closer to the factory or working with a faster shipping company.

C: I see. That makes sense.

B: The second point is that we want to require supplier quality assurance and implement a zero **defects** quality program. We currently have far too many errors that lead to **defective** items and therefore, they must be eliminated. A quality control at the source program must be implemented to give workers the personal responsibility for the quality of the work they do, and the authority to stop production when something goes wrong.

C: I’m with you on this one. It’s essential that we reduce these errors; we’ve got to force our suppliers to reduce their mistakes.

A: Exactly. Well, let’s look at how we’re going to put this plan into action.

■ **Key vocabulary**

obligate: make a person do some- thing because it is the right thing to do

cost efficient: cheap, not expensive

redundancy: layoff, the ending of workers’ employment

implement: put a plan into action

lead time: the time between the beginning of a process and its end

efficiency: the ability to produce something more quickly

work station: an area where a person works and does his job

given: used to refer to a specific time, place or thing

defect: a mistake or error that makes something not perfect

defective: having a mistake or error that makes something not perfect

■ **Supplementary vocabulary**

inventory: supply of goods stored in a place

carrying cost: the cost of holding inventory

warehouse: large building where products or goods are stored

stock common: the supply of goods for sale, or available

bottleneck: something that slows a process down

(Source: irlanguage.com)

Hour al-Azim wetland wildfire threatens bird migration

ENVIRONMENT **TEHRAN** — Should the wildfire in Hour al-Azim wetland continues throughout autumn it would become a threat to bird migration in the area, head of Khuzestan province’s department of environment has said.

Raging wildfire has been hitting the Iraqi part of Hour al-Azim, a transboundary body of water shared between Iran and Iraq, since July 2.

And now Ahmadreza Lahijanzadeh explained if the fire continues in the region the number of birds migrating to the wetland will certainly decrease.

Migratory birds normally wing their ways to the wetland since [the Iranian calendar] month of Aban (October 23 to November 21) and the fire would disrupt the process as they may seek habitats which are safer, YJC qouted Lahijanzadeh as saying on Friday.

■ **What do birds do when wildfires break out?**

According to audubon.org, when wildfires erupt in a habitat birds fly away unsurprisingly. A fire might kill weak birds or, depending on the time of year, claim nestlings. Birds evolved alongside fire and flee in the face of conflagrations. “Direct mortality is not a big concern,” U.S. Forest Service research biologist Vicki Saab says.

But how do wildfires physically affect birds? Assuming birds escape a fire, smoke might still affect their health in ways that aren’t very well understood. “We do know that that exposure to particulate matter, which of course is of great concern for human health, can affect birds as well,” says Olivia Sanderfoot, a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow at the University of Washington Seattle who studies how air pollution affects birds.

For example, veterinarians and poultry scientists who study captive birds have



Migratory birds in Hour-al Azim wetland in January 2017 (IRNA/ Mohammad Reza Khabbazan)

found that smoke can damage lung tissue and leave the animals susceptible to potentially lethal respiratory infections.

In some cases, smoke inhalation might make it harder for birds to flee onrushing flames. Thick smoke, for instance, may have contributed to the deaths of 50 adult White Ibises during a 1999 fire in the Everglades, Sanderfoot reported in a recent paper. And some low-flying species

might succumb to smoke inhalation or exhaustion before they can escape forest fires, according to the Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation.

■ **Hour-al Azim stuck in wildfire**

The fire has caused air pollution and breathing difficulties for people of Khuzestan province in southwestern Iran. While the fire was contained to some extent, several times it ignites every now and then

due to the high temperatures and lack of water in Iraqi parts of the wetland.

Despite efforts made by Iran including aerial firefighting more than 20,000 hectares of the wetland in Iraq has burnt so far.

While the wetland has been burning in fire originated mainly in the Iraqi part of the wetland, the Iraqi government seems to be reluctant to make any moves to put out the fire.

‘Local communities play a minor part in managing protected areas’

ENVIRONMENT **TEHRAN** — One of the main drawbacks associated with the management of protected areas in the country is that local communities play a minor part in preserving these areas, deputy environment chief for natural environment and biodiversity directorate has said.

Hamid Zohrabi made the remarks in a ceremony held to celebrate the UNESCO recognition of Kopet Dag in Shirvan county, northeastern North Khorasan province, as a biosphere reserve on Thursday, Mehr news agency reported.

Since the [Iranian calendar] year 1346 (March 1967-March 1968) some 17 million hectares of land areas including 281 sites falling into four categories of national parks, wildlife refuges, protected areas, and national nature monuments have been conserved, Zohrabi said.

Kopet Dag has been a protected area for 50 years, but now that the area has received UNESCO recognition for biosphere reserves we will put emphasis on the involvement of local communities in management of the region, Zohrabi highlighted.



Kopet Dag in Shirvan county, North Khorasan province

Bahman Namvar-Motlaq, the deputy director of the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization,

for his part, explained that the UNESCO believes in fostering dialogue for conflict resolution of natural resource use, integrating cultural and biological diversity, especially the role of traditional knowledge in ecosystem management to both safeguard the biodiversity as well as the cultural diversity of the communities.

In order to protect the area people should be stakeholders in these areas to preserve the biodiversity and this will be achieved through support for innovative industries and cultural heritage of the locals, Namvar-Motlaq suggested.

Kopet Dag is a protected area stretching over 18,000 hectares of land area and is filled with thick forests and variety of plant and animal species.

The biosphere reserve covers part of the Kopet Dag mountain range, along Iran’s border with Turkmenistan. The ecological region of Kopet Dag is an important part of the Irano-Anatolian biodiversity hotspot, whose primary function is the conservation of many of the endangered species in this area. The main economic activities are agriculture and livestock, according to UNESCO website.

WHO EMRO Regional director to visit Iran



SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — Ahmed Al-Mandhari, World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO), will visit Iran, the deputy health minister for international affairs has said.

Mohsen Asadi Lari explained that Al-Mandhari will pay visits to healthcare and research centers and will be informed about the achievements and challenges of healthcare reform plan.

The healthcare reform plan, aiming at decreasing the out-of-pocket expenses for the patients, promoting natural birth, and supporting underprivileged patients suffering from rare or incurable diseases, was launched in the country in May 2014.

The EMRO Regional Director will also attend a session of National Non-Communicable Disease Committee at the Ministry


of Health and will be briefed about measures taken to combat non-communicable diseases in the country, IRNA news agency quoted Asadi Lari as saying on Friday.

He will also visit with high-ranking officials at the Ministry of Health to discuss increased cooperation with Iran to boost health in other regional countries, Asadi Lari concluded.

The deputy health minister for international affairs did not specify the exact date of Al-Mandhari visit to Iran.

The WHO is the directing and coordinating authority for public health within the United Nations system. The WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean is one of WHO’s 6 regional offices around the world. It serves the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region, which comprises 21 Member States and Palestine, with a population of nearly 583 million people.

Second Announcement



Permit No. 1397.2690

Invitation For Prequalification

TENDER NO. : **08-21-9540002**

National Iranian South Oilfields Company intends to purchase the following goods

Description	Quantity.
CASING 5 IN., 18 PPF ,API GRADE N80 SEAMLESS,"VAM FLUSH JOINT" RANGE 3, (MAX LEN:40.5 FT),	01 Items including 2000 LE.

Vendors who intend to participate in the A/M tender are requested to send their resume & ten-dency letter via fax/ mail to the following address not later than 14 days after the second an-nouncement. The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide a bid bond of Euro 55,745 / RIs 2,671,468,200 in favor of NISOC. Iranian vendors shall submit their resume Acc. to forms Nos. 01, 02 and 03 which are available at:www.shana.ir and www.nisoc.ir

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPT
Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site)Bldg NO 104, Ahvaz, Iran
Tel.fax No.: **+98-61 -34457437**
Tel. No.: **+98-61 -34124644**

Public Relations
www.shana.ir
www.nisoc.ir
<http://iets.mporg.ir>

روزنامه: تهران تایمز نوبت اول ۹۷/۶/۱۴ نوبت دوم: ۹۷/۶/۱۴

Iraq: Protesters torch government buildings in Basra

➡ militia and the offices of the Hikma Movement (National Wisdom Movement/ Tayar al-Hikmah al-Watani) about 100 km (60 miles) north of Basra, while storming the house of the acting head of the provincial council.

Several other buildings of the provincial government, including the offices of the state-run Iraqiya TV, were among some of the other places that came under attack. Protesters also blocked the main roads in the city center.

Basra's security officials announced a curfew from 10:30 pm local time (1930 GMT) later in the day to help end the protests. They had initially planned to announce the curfew at 3 pm.

The violence led to clashes with security guards, killing at least three people. One protester died from burns sustained during the unrest, sources within Iraq's health and security ministries said.

That brings the total death toll of the protests to 10 since they began on Monday.

The Iraqi army on Wednesday blamed "un-identified gunmen" for the Tuesday death of six protesters. "The protesters slain yesterday in downtown Basra were killed by unknown gunmen in a car," army commander Jamil al-Shammari said in a statement.

The United Nations special representa-



tive for Iraq urged "the authorities to avoid using disproportionate, lethal force against the demonstrators."

The protesters have also managed to shutter the port of Umm Qasr, Iraq's main seaport and its principle lifeline for importing grain and other commodities.

Oil exports not effected

Meanwhile, oil exports were not affected by the unrest in the city, which accounts for some 95 percent of the country's crude exports.

The protesters complain that their re-

gion suffered from decades of neglect by the central government while producing the bulk of Iraq's oil wealth.

The growing anger comes at a time when Iraq's political parties are trying to form a government after an inconclusive parliamentary election in May, which saw powerful cleric Muqtada al-Sadr win the most votes and form a coalition with Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi's party, who only came in third after Popular Mobilization Units (PMU/Hashd al-Shaabi).

Sadr has called on the parliament to hold an emergency televised session to discuss the crisis in Basra, a city that he said was "without water, electricity or dignity."

The violence has prompted the temporary head of Iraq's parliament to call an emergency session on Saturday.

Legislators would "discuss the problems, the solutions and the latest situation" in Basra, a statement said on Friday.

The southern city has been the epicenter of protests that have rocked Iraq since July, with anger fuelled by pollution of the water supply that left 30,000 people in hospital.

Mortars rip through Baghdad's Green Zone

Also on Thursday night, Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone was hit with three mortar shells. The attack caused "no casualties or physical damage" as the mortars landed on an "abandoned lot," the Iraqi military said in a statement. An unnamed source told Reuters that the mortars hit an area near the Egyptian embassy.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

Rights activists have accused security forces of opening fire on the demonstrators, while the government has blamed provocateurs in the crowds and say the troops were ordered not to use live rounds.

Hezbollah 'much stronger' despite Israel's numerous attacks

An Israeli official says Hezbollah has become stronger despite many attacks on the movement's positions, mainly in Syria where the resistance group is helping the army fight foreign-backed terrorists.



"If we look backwards to what it was like before, Hezbollah is much stronger," Naftali Granot, former deputy of Israel's spy agency Mossad, said on Thursday.

Granot said Hezbollah's self-confidence was high due to being on the winning side in the Syrian war along with Iran, the Syrian government and Russia.

Hezbollah "got anti-aircraft missiles, antitank missiles" and had access to a number of "GPS precision-guided systems that will help it to convert some heavy rockets into accurate missiles" despite being repeatedly targeted, he said.

Israeli Intelligence Minister Yisrael Katz told a conference on Tuesday that Israel had launched more than 200 strikes against various targets inside Syria in the last two years.

On Wednesday, a senior Israeli commander said Hezbollah has been gaining strength in Lebanon and that Israel would not distinguish between the group and the Lebanese army in the next military confrontation.

"The distinction we made between Hezbollah and Lebanon during the Second Lebanon War was a mistake," the unnamed officer in the Northern Command said about the 2006 Israeli war, cited by the Haaretz daily.

"Hezbollah upgraded its capabilities through its fighting in Syria," the officer said. "It gained confidence in the fighting," he added.

The Syrian army has managed to drive the terrorists out of most parts of the country and end Daesh's territorial rule with help from Iran, Hezbollah and Russia.

It is now on the verge of fully liberating the southern parts near the occupied Golan, prompting serious concerns in Tel Aviv, which supports the terrorists operating there against Damascus.

Syria is now preparing for an operation to liberate Idlib Province, the last major militant stronghold.

(Source: Press TV)

Israel imposes travel ban on Palestinian resistance icon Tamimi, family

Israeli authorities have banned Palestinian resistance icon Ahmed al-Tamimi and her family from traveling abroad, nearly two months after she was released from Israeli prison after serving an eight-month sentence for slapping an Israeli soldier.

Her father Basim al-Tamimi told Turkey's official Anadolu news agency on Friday that the family had planned to travel to Europe via Jordan in order to participate in some events pertaining to the Palestinian protest movement, and the Palestinian prisoners' sufferings in Israeli detention centers.

They were, however, informed by Palestinian officials that Israel had banned them from traveling abroad without providing a reason.

He added that they had planned to leave on Friday morning. She was also planning a visit to Iran.

In an exclusive interview with Press TV, Ahmed's father said Israel barred her daughter's trip for fear that she would foil the Israeli regime's "schemes for the disintegration of the region" by forging close relations with the enemies of Israel. Israel prevented Ahmed from travelling abroad, because

she "has become a global ambassador for humanity," and "Israel is afraid of the sympathy and unity among its opponents," Ahmed's father told Press TV.

On July 29, Tamimi, a resident of Nabi Saleh village that is located 20 kilometers northwest of Ramallah, and her mother, Nariman, were released from an Israeli prison after serving an eight-month sentence on assault and incitement charges and arrived home to a hero's welcome.

The 17-year-old girl was detained by Israeli forces last December after a video of the curly-haired teen kicking and slapping two armed Israeli soldiers in protective gear went viral on Facebook. Israeli military forces had raided her home to arrest her brother.

In March, an Israeli court handed down an eight-month prison sentence to the Palestinian teenage protester for "attacking" Israeli forces.

Israeli forces have on occasions arrested members of Tamimi's family, including brothers and parents, for their opposition to Israel's invasion of Palestinian lands.

Israeli forces shot dead her uncle Rushdie al-Tamimi



in Nabi Saleh village in 2012.

Her aunt Bassima al-Tamimi was beaten to death by an Israeli policeman in 1993 while attending her son's trial session at the time.

(Source: Press TV)

Pro-Israel British Labour MP Joan Ryan loses vote of confidence over anti-Semitism row

Elsewhere, a leading pro-Israel member of parliament in Britain's Labour Party has lost a vote of confidence over her criticism of party leader Jeremy Corbyn in the anti-Semitism row within Labour.

Joan Ryan, the chair of Labour Friends of Israel, was targeted for de-selection by members of her constituency, who said she had "smeared" Corbyn's character and "fuelled" the anti-Semitism storm that has engulfed the party this summer.

Members of Enfield North, a peripheral Greater London constituency, came out in

large numbers to vote after a motion of no confidence had been called on the rebel MP.

After a lengthy meeting which included six speakers debating either for or against Ryan, the over 100 members in attendance cast their votes. When asked "do you support the motion of no confidence in Joan Ryan?" The results given were 95 yes to 92 no.

It is being seen as the potential start of a formal de-selection process, which ultimately involves a "trigger ballot" by members and constituency affiliates.

Ryan has a history of undermining the

current Corbyn both at local member meetings and to the press. She regularly votes against or abstains from critical policies pushed by the Corbyn's party making her a notorious title rebel MP.

Ryan is also the chair of the Labour Friends of Israel lobby group which has put her at odds with Corbyn who is a lifelong pro-Palestine campaigner.

She often uses her platform in the pro-Israel newspaper, the Jewish Chronicle, to attack the leader. She has been quoted saying Corbyn "is not interested in Middle East peace - just in meeting terrorists with blood on their hands" and that the Labour leader "appals" her.

Her anti-Corbyn stance has created much resentment among many Enfield North members who wish to remain loyal to the current party leader. Enfield North's constituency has grown from 300 members to 1,000 since the election of Corbyn as leader.

Before the vote, one Jewish member at the meeting stood up and defended Corbyn saying: "All the media has been attacking Jeremy Corbyn and I don't think it is anything to do at all about anti-Semitism."

She continued: "Jeremy Corbyn is critical of Israel oppressing the Palestinians (...) That is what [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu is scared of that, if a Labour

government comes to power, they might force peace on Israel."

Another pro-Corbyn member spoke out against Ryan: "Comrades, ask yourselves again, honestly, who is it that has really been sowing division and causing disruption? I'm afraid to say that it is our very own member of parliament (Joan Ryan) who is responsible for precisely that."

After hearing from the speakers, Ryan was allowed to address the membership. She tried to sway the vote in her favor, saying: "I have never called Jeremy Corbyn not to be our leader, I've never called for him to stand aside, and I've never said he was anti-Semitic."

"This idea that I go around attacking the leadership, that's not right," she added.

Ryan even tried quoting Nelson Mandela in an effort to save her from defeat: "When I was growing up the most important figure for me was Nelson Mandela (...) he said you can change the world you can make it a better place, you can make that difference with your own hands."

After the results were announced, members were filmed clapping and cheering at the news of Ryan's no confidence defeat.

The embattled MP took to Twitter after to vent her frustration at the defeat, slamming what she called "Trots Stalinists Communists" who had voted against her.

(Source: agencies)

Iran's UN envoy: Saudis have armed Daesh

POLITICS TEHRAN — Gholamali d e s k Khoshroo, Iran's ambassador to the UN, said on Thursday that Saudi Arabia has armed and financed extremist terrorist group like Daesh, Al-Nusra Front and other Takfiri groups.

"Saudi Arabia has armed and financed extremist terrorist group like Daesh, Al-Nusra Front and other Takfiri groups and at the same time continues bombing innocent children of Yemen," Khoshroo said during a speech at the UN High-Level Forum on the Culture of Peace.

Following is an excerpt of his speech:

In fact, unilaterally imposed measures, the use and threat of use of force, pressure, and unilateral coercive sanctions as a means to achieving national policy objectives, have a serious adverse impact on the promotion of a culture of peace. They are fundamental impediments to establish a peaceful and prosperous world as well as a just and equitable world order.

Indeed, interventionist policy, aggressive military exercises against the territorial integrity or political independence of a sovereign state, which are manifestations of unilateralism, are inconsistent with the promoting and preserving peace and security.

The rising threat of terrorism and violent extremism across the globe, in particular, in the Middle East is one of the sound effects of unilateralism coupled with an interventionist, flawed and shortsighted policy of a certain power. It is done through proxies, Saudi Arabia has armed and financed extremist terrorist group like Daesh, Al-Nusra Front and other Takfiri groups and at the same time continues bombing innocent children of Yemen. It goes without saying that these actions run counter to culture of peace.

"Me first" policy might work, for one, at first – but at the end it is doomed to failure. So, there is a need to shift to a new democratic and balanced approach.

First Announcement



Invitation For Prequalification

TENDER NO. : 01-31-9643001

National Iranian South Oilfields Company(NISOC)intends to purchase the following goods

Description	UNIT	Quantity.
LINE PIPE API 5L GRADE B PSL 2 SEAMLESS, BLACK, ACCORDING TO IPS-M-PI-190(3) SUPPLEMENTED TO API 5L 45TH EDITION 2012, BASIC OXYGEN OR ELECTRIC FURNACE PROCESS, FULLY KILLED&FINE GRAIN, IN RANDOM LENGTHS OF 12 M FROM MIN.10M TO MAX 12.8 MIN LENGTH, MIN, AVG 11.6M		
3 IN 88.9 OD SCH.80 WT. 7.62 MM WEIGHT 15.27 KG/M	LE	200
4 IN 114.3 MM OD SCH. 80 WT 8.56 MM WEIGHT 22.32	LE	300

Vendors who intend to participate in the A/M tender are requested to send their resume & ten-dency letter via fax/ mail to the following address not later than 14 days after the second an- nouncement. The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide a bid bond of Euro 7,077 / Rls 360,000,000 in favor of NISOC. Iranian vendors shall submit their resume Acc. to forms Nos. 01, 02 and 03 which are available at www.shana.ir and www.nisoc.ir

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPT
Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site)Bldg NO 104, Ahvaz, Iran
Tel.fax No.: +98-61 -34457437 Tel. No.: +98-61 -34124644

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www.shana.ir
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<http://iets.mporg.ir>

روزنامه: تهران تایمز نوبت اول ۹۷/۶/۱۷ نوبت دوم: ۹۷/۶/۲۰

Turkey to open embassy in Paraguay

Turkey will open an embassy in Asuncion, Paraguay, the South American country said on Sept. 7, a day after President Mario Abdo reversed the previous administration's decision to move its diplomatic mission in Israel to al-Quds (Jerusalem) from Tel Aviv, Reuters reported.

Turkey's ambassador to Paraguay has been operating out of Buenos Aires. Turkey has a consulate in Asuncion and another in Ciudad del Este, Paraguay.

By opening the embassy, Turkey is expressing support for Paraguay's stance on Israel, Paraguay's Foreign Minister Luis Castiglioni told reporters.

Paraguay and Guatemala relocated their embassies in Israel to al-Quds (Jerusalem) after Trump recognized the city as the country's capital in December 2017.

Hours after Paraguay's new government announced on Sept. 5 it would move its embassy back to Tel Aviv from al-Quds (Jerusalem), Israel responded by ordering the closure of its embassy in Paraguay.

Most countries do not recognize Israeli sovereignty over the whole of al-Quds (Jerusalem), arguing that peace talks should determine the city's final status. Paraguay cited this as one reason to move its embassy back to Tel Aviv.

Castiglioni said he expected to meet his Turkish counterpart at the United Nations General Assembly in New York this month.

Paraguay considers Israel's decision to close its embassy hasty and disproportionate, and hopes Israeli authorities will reconsider, Castiglioni said.

Meanwhile, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu spoke with Castiglioni over the phone on Sept. 7.

Çavuşoğlu thanked the Paraguayan government for reversing the previous administration's decision to move its embassy to Jerusalem, diplomatic sources told state-run Anadolu Agency.

Paraguay's decision will set an example for other countries, Çavuşoğlu told his counterpart, according to the sources.

(Source: Hurriyet Daily)

Pentagon chief in surprise Afghanistan visit amid frustration in U.S.

Pentagon chief Jim Mattis has arrived in Afghanistan on an un-announced visit amid the U.S. push for talks with the Taliban which are calling for the withdrawal of foreign troops.

The U.S. President Donald Trump had promised to pull out troops from Afghanistan but he unveiled a revamped Afghan strategy last August, which increased troop levels.

The Taliban say they will not enter talks unless the U.S. troops leave the country and have pledged to make Afghanistan "another graveyard" for foreign forces.

The militants have overtaken several districts in a spate of brazen attacks in recent months, including Ghazni which was briefly overtaken by the militants last month, jolting the government in Kabul because the central city is close enough to the capital.

Taliban's five-year rule over at least three quarters of Afghanistan came to an end following the U.S. invasion in October 2001 but the new strategy includes talks with the Taliban which they toppled.

(Source: agencies)

There will always be talk about my future - Pogba

Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba believes “there will always be talk” amid continuing speculation about his future at Old Trafford.

The 25-year-old fell out of favour last season and was linked with a return to Juventus, or Barcelona in the summer.

On Wednesday, Pogba fuelled speculation when he said: “Who knows what will happen in the next few months.”

However, on Thursday, he said: “It’s not me who’s talking. I’m trying to do my job and work on myself physically.”

The World Cup winner was speaking either side of France’s 0-0 draw with Germany in their opening Uefa Nations League match.

When asked if he was “fed up” with all the speculation, he replied: “I got back late [from the World Cup], so I’m trying to perform as well as possible.”

Asked about his relationship with United boss Jose Mourinho, Pogba replied: “We have a pure coach-player relationship, that’s right.

“One thing I can assure you, I will always give 100% - no matter which coach I always give everything for United. I cannot say more.”

The former United youth player returned to the club on a five-year deal after four years with Juventus, signing for a then world record £89m fee in 2016.

Last season, he was dropped to the bench by Mourinho for both legs of United’s Champions League last-16 defeat by Sevilla.

But he was made captain for the opening two games of the Premier League season in the absence of Antonio Valencia and has scored twice so far.

(Source: BBC)

‘90 percent chance Girona v Barcelona in U.S.’ - Tebas

La Liga chief Javier Tebas has said there is a 90 percent chance the first Spanish top flight game in the United States will be Girona’s ‘home’ match against Barcelona in January and revealed the league will earn 200 million euros (\$232.80 million) for playing games in North America.

Tebas added that Girona’s joint majority shareholders Manchester City had encouraged the Catalan side to get involved in the initiative, part of a 15-year deal the league signed with U.S. entertainment company Relevent last month, while stating that no club was obliged to play games in the U.S.

“Girona-Barcelona will 90 percent be played in the United States, but the agreement is not about just one game, it’s about a process which is much bigger,” Tebas said in an interview with Spanish radio station Onda Cero broadcast on Friday.

“We held a bidding process and various companies got involved. There’s no obligation for teams to play one game a year in the United States, only the clubs who volunteer to go will go.

“But this is much more than a game, it’s about strategy and sponsorship.”

The game will deprive Girona of a home fixture with Tebas confirming reports that the club’s fans will be offered free flights to the game, set to take place at the Miami Dolphins’ 65,000-capacity Hard Rock Stadium in Florida.

Reuters was awaiting a response from Manchester City and Girona after Tebas confirmed the Premier League champions had encouraged the club to get involved in the first U.S. match.

“The game is designed to help teams that don’t have a very big fan base,” Tebas added.

“Girona are partly owned by City and together with (Miami Dolphins owner) Stephen Ross, they told us Girona were interested in playing this game.

(Source: Goal)

Maradona named coach of Mexican club Dorados

Argentine soccer legend Diego Maradona, a 1986 World Cup winner, has been appointed coach of Mexican second division team Dorados, the club said on its website on Thursday.

The club issued a short video on their social media channels with the messages ‘Welcome Diego’, and ‘Make it a 10’, the Argentina great’s shirt number as a player.

Although Dorados, who are based in Sinaloa state in north-west Mexico, gave no further details, Mexican newspapers said Maradona had been hired to replace Francisco Gome​z.

Dorados fired Game​z earlier on Thursday after a poor start to the season that brought three points out of a possible 15. They are 13th in the 15-team league, joint bottom of the table.

The 57-year-old former Barcelona and Napoli forward is considered one of the greatest players of all time after a career that peaked in 1986 when he captained Argentina to their second and last World Cup title.

But drug-addiction, overeating and alcoholism put a sharp end to an otherwise glorious career and in 2000 he nearly died following a cocaine overdose.

Maradona previously had short stints coaching clubs in Argentina and the United Arab Emirates but his longest spell in charge was with Argentina, who he led at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

He will presented by Dorados this weekend and will debut as coach on Sept. 15 when his new club faces Cafetaleros de Tapachula.

(Source: Reuters)

El Clasico will be on Sunday, October 28

The date of the first El Clasico has been set, and it will be on Sunday, October 28, with a kick-off time of 16.15 CET.

It comes in the same week as the third matchday of the Champions League, when Real Madrid play Viktoria Plzen at home, and Barcelona entertain Inter at the Camp Nou.

Javier Tebas confirmed the news on the ‘El Transistor’ programme which goes out on Onda Cero and Radio MARCA.

In the week after the match, Copa del Rey fixtures will be played, in what will be a very busy time for both teams.

(Source: Marca)

‘It’s really incredible’ - Williams powers into ninth US Open final

Serena Williams swept past Anastasija Sevastova 6-3 6-0 on Thursday and into the final of the U.S. Open to sit one win away from a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam title to continue her remarkable return to the top levels of the game after she almost died while having a baby last year.

Williams walked off Arthur Ashe Stadium court with a wave and twirl then waited to find out who she will play in Saturday’s final.

That was also decided quickly as Japan’s Naomi Osaka dismissed last year’s losing finalist American Madison Keys 6-2 6-4.

Asked if she had message for Williams, Osaka, who beat Williams in their only head-to-head meeting, smiled and said, “Serena I love you.”

Just seven months and seven tournaments removed from returning to competition following the birth of her first child, Williams was back at her ruthless best and needed just 66 minutes to beat the 19th seeded Latvian and reach her 31st Grand Slam final.

A win on Saturday would also give the 36-year-old American a seventh U.S. Open title, breaking a tie with Chris Evert for the most in the Open era.

Honestly, it is remarkable. I couldn’t have predicted this at all,” said Williams. “I got a little emotional out there because last year I was literally fighting for my life in the hospital.

“I was on my third surgery. I had one more to go still. “To come from that, in the hospital bed, not being able to move and walk and do anything, now only a year later I’m actually in these finals, in two in a row.

“Like I said, this is the beginning. I’m not there yet. I’m on the climb still.”

It will be the second consecutive Grand Slam final for Williams who came agonisingly close to matching Margaret Court’s record of 24 majors at Wimbledon but was beaten by Angelique Kerber. Sevastova arrived at her first Grand Slam semi-final riding a wave of momentum built from a fourth round win over seventh seed Elina Svitolina and a quarter-final demolition of defending champion and third seed Sloane Stephens. That



confidence jumped when the 29-year-old broke Williams to open the match then held for a 2-0 lead as an uneasy hush fell over the Arthur Ashe showcourt. But Williams, who had dropped just one set on way to the last four, quickly restored order as she charged the net one moment and pounded winners from the baseline the next that left her opponent stunned as the American won 12 of the next 13 games.

“I know how to volley, I usually come in just to shake hands,” said Williams. “But tonight I thought I am playing such a good player I knew if I wanted to have a chance to-

night I had to come in.”

Despite her dominant display Williams estimated she is still only operating at 50-60 percent and then fired an ominous warning to her fellow players.

“There’s still much more that I plan on doing,” declared Williams. “I just feel like there’s a lot of growth to still go in my game.

“Even though I’m not a spring chicken I still have a very, very bright future.”

(Source: Reuters)

Cristiano Ronaldo congratulated Luka Modric on ‘deserved’ UEFA award



Luka Modric said Cristiano Ronaldo sent him a text message telling him he deserved to win UEFA’s Player of the Year award.

Modric received the honour last week, edging out Ronaldo and Mohamed Salah, after winning the Champions League with Madrid and helping Croatia reach the World Cup final. He also joined Ronaldo and Salah on the shortlist for the FIFA Player of the Year award on Monday.

Ronaldo, who did not show up to the ceremony, was trying to win UEFA’s award for the third consecutive year.

“I have a good relationship with Ronaldo,” Modric told RTP3 after Croatia’s 1-1 draw with Portugal on Thursday. “It’s still the same. For me, the individual awards are important, but the collective ones are more important than individual ones. I’m not obsessed with these. We’ve already spoken. “He sent me a message to congratulate me. He said he was happy for me and that I deserved it. He also said he would like to see me soon. That’s it. We have a good relationship.”

Agent Jorge Mendes said it was a dis-

grace that Ronaldo did not win the UEFA award and left during the ceremony, although he claimed he did so to tend to transfer business. “He scored 15 goals, and carried Madrid on his back to win another Champions League,” Mendes said at the time. “It’s just ridiculous -- a disgrace. There is no doubt about the winner. He is the best in his position.”

Zlatko Dalic, Croatia’s coach, said earlier this week he would not want Ronaldo on his team because of his ego, but clarified on Thursday that he did not mean his claim to sound negative.

“Ronaldo is one of the best players in the world, in my opinion,” Dalic said. “This was part of my answer to the question because Ronaldo wasn’t at the award ceremony. I said that it was a little bit selfish, but the truth is that I didn’t want to sound negative. I was misunderstood.”

Meanwhile, former Juventus striker David Trezeguet said he believes Ronaldo’s scoring touch will come once he fully adjusts to life at his new club.

(Source: ESPN)

France hope for good home show against Dutch after Germany draw



France manager Didier Deschamps believes they need to sharpen up when they play the Netherlands on Sunday in their first home match since winning the World Cup in July following their goalless draw away to Germany.

The French seemed to be nursing a post-victory hangover when they faced Germany in Munich on Thursday in their first outing since the final, creating only a few chances in the Nations League game compared to their opponents’ half dozen.

The Germans were eager for redemption after their shock World Cup group stage exit while France at times looked content with a draw. “We can do it better,” Deschamps said. “We are returning home (for Sunday’s game in Paris) but we need to be more efficient. “We ran out of steam towards the end and obviously the entire squad is not yet at the peak of their form. Not at this time of the season.”

France’s passing was far from accurate and they seemed to lack pace, with forwards Kylian Mbappe, Antoine Griezmann and Olivier Giroud, who were so dynamic at

the World Cup in Russia, posing no real threat for most of the game.

It was unlikely, however, that France would instantly pick up where they left off in July, with their players having had limited pre-season preparation following their lengthy World Cup campaign.

Deschamps’ team can expect days of festivities when they return to Paris but the players will know they need to pick up three points from their next Nations League match as well as put on a show for the French fans.

“It will be a great feeling because it will be our first match in France since we won the title,” Giroud said. “But we know we have to get the three points against the Dutch to stay in contention in the Nations League.”

The Nations League, brainchild of European soccer body UEFA, aims to boost interest in international football and features all 55 of Europe’s national teams divided into four divisions split into four groups, with games played between September and November.

(Source: Eurosport)

Thomas Müller: ‘Our heart is still beating’

Germany’s first game since the World Cup debacle was highly anticipated by both team and fans alike. Against the new world champions, Joachim Löw and his players took positives from a cathartic goalless draw.

Toni Kroos waved to the remaining fans inside the Allianz Arena with a smile. He looked relieved, as did the rest of his teammates who had already disappeared into the tunnel after their lap of honor. Only Kroos remained to soak up the rest of the atmosphere.

The goalless draw against the newly crowned world champions France seems to have had an effect.

“Today was a good first step,” analyzed Leon Goretzka. “It was about showing people that our heart is still beating,” added Thomas Müller.

Three months after the debacle in Russia, the German national team presented a different face. “That was particularly important for the coach,” explained Goretzka. “We wanted to show more commitment and engagement on the pitch and I think we did that.”

■ Magical Mbappe, defensive Germans

Time and time again, with high energy levels and great concentration, Germany kept France at bay, aggressively breaking up the world champions’ build-up play. They often succeeded, much to the pleasure of the coach, Joachim Löw, who praised his players for looking to get into tackles and winning them.

Even Kylian Mbappe, who asked the German defense



questions with his tricks, flicks and changes of direction, couldn’t land a decisive blow.

“He showed once again that he’s a world-class player – or at least that he’s on that path,” said Goretzka with a grin. “I imagine he was fun to watch from the stands.”

The German supporters certainly had fun as chants of “Deutschland! Deutschland!” echoed around the sold-out arena and every promising move or successful slide tackle was greeted with applause.

“I need to say a positive word about the fans,” Goretzka said. “Right from the very start we had the feeling that we

were all in it together and that made it a lot of fun.”

■ Whistles and applause for Ilkay Gündogan

The relationship between team and fans seems to be improving as months of sporting and personal disappointment faded from memory.

Ilkay Gündogan, who was mercilessly booed at Germany’s last game on home soil against Saudia Arabia in Leverkusen following his photograph with Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan, was able to do a spot of PR work. A few isolated whistles could still be heard when the 27-year-old came on after an hour, but the majority applauded.

“I’m proud to be part of this team,” said the Manchester City midfielder, who added that he’d held positive talks with Löw. “The boss told me he’s happy that I’m continuing and that I’m still part of the group, which is exactly how I see it too.”

The team appears to have pulled closer together and Löw has clearly found the right words to drag his players out of their post-World Cup slump. The foundation for a rebuild has been laid.

“It’s a process,” said Löw. “It would be naïve to think we could forget the World Cup with just one game though. We can only really rehabilitate ourselves at Euro 2020.”

But first comes the next step: a friendly against Peru in Sinsheim on Sunday.

(Source: DW)

Iran lose to USA at Ljubljana Volleyball Challenge tournament

S P O R T S Iran national volleyball team lost to the United States 3-0 in their first match at the Ljubljana Volleyball Challenge tournament in Slovenia.

Igor Kolakovic's men lost in straight sets (25-18, 25-15, 25-20) to US team. The United States volleyball team had defeated Iran four times in their previous five meetings.

In the first game of the tournament, the Slovenian national team led by former Iran national team coach Slobodan Kovac defeated Canada 3-1.

Slovenia has taken on three of the world's best teams, Canada, Iran and the United States at the Ljubljana Volleyball Challenge tournament held in the country's capital from September 6 to 8. The tournament takes place just before the start of the 2018 FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship in Italy and Bulgaria which opens on Sunday, and which will feature all four countries.

Team Melli held this training camp in Slovenia ahead of the competition. Today, Iran will face Canada in their last match of the Ljubljana tournament.

The 2018 FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship will be held in Italy and Bulgaria from 9 to 30 September 2018.

For the first time the tournament will be jointly-hosted by more than one country. The tournament will take place in six Italian cities (Bari, Bologna, Florence, Assago, Rome and Turin) and three Bulgarian cities (Ruse, Varna and Sofia). Iran will compete with Puerto Rico, Bulgaria, Cuba, Poland and Finland in Group D.



Iran grabs silver at World Shooting C'ships

MNA- Iran's mixed junior team gained the silver medal of 10m air rifle at 52nd ISSF World Shooting Championships, held in South Korea.

Iranian mixed team, comprised of Armina Safeghian and Amir Mohammad Nekounam, collected a total of 497.7 points in the final of 10m air rifle mixed team junior and won the silver medal while they were just 1.3 points behind their Italian rivals.

The Italian team, comprised of Sofia Benetti

and Marco Suppini, edged past Iran with 499.0 points and claimed the title. The mixed team of India comprised of Shreya Agrawal and Divyansh Singh Panwar earned the bronze medal with 435.0 points.

52nd edition of ISSF World Championships started on August 31 in Changwon, South Korea and goes through September 15. Some 1,800 shooters from 90 countries have participated in the event.

Highly-successful AFC Elite Club Coaches' Forum concludes in Shanghai

The Third AFC Elite Club Coaches Forum concluded in Shanghai on Thursday after a wide-ranging discussion on the future of football in Asia at what was hailed as a milestone event.

In a new development after the Forum, AFC Technical Director Andy Roxburgh also addressed 50 elite coaches from the Chinese Super League and Jia League at a Chinese Football Association Coaching Summit.

During the Forum sessions, Asia's top coaches from China PR, Japan, Korea Republic as well as the Islamic Republic of Iran, looked at the impact of the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia on Asian football. There was appreciation of Japan's performance after they reached the Round of 16 and came close to beating the eventual third-placed team Belgium.

The group also looked at the structure and timing of the AFC Champions League as well as the continued improvement of playing standards of Asia's pinnacle club competition.



There was a general agreement that the level of the competition was improving year on year but there was still work required in areas such as physical fitness and game

intelligence. The leadership role of coaches was discussed including the challenges facing them in the rapidly changing landscape as well as information sharing on training top teams at the highest level on the continent.

Much of the information and many of the learnings were shared with the CFA Coaching Forum held at the Shanghai SIPG stadium which focused on management and leadership skills. The coaches, all Pro or A license holders, were part of the intensive course to aid the continued development of football in China PR.

Andy Roxburgh said: "These have been a crucial few days where coaches from across Asia could share ideas, understand challenges and learn new things from each other in a confidential environment.

"The top coaches have the confidence to share their experiences and knowledge for the benefit of the game."

(Source: AFC)

Japan cancels football friendly against Chile after earthquake wreaks devastation



Japan have cancelled an international friendly with Chile after an earthquake rocked the northern island of Hokkaido On Thursday, killing at least seven people.

The Japanese Football Association (JFA) said it had taken the decision to call-off the match, which had been scheduled to take place on Friday at the Sapporo Dome, in light of serious safety concerns.

"We send our deepest condolences and sincerest sympathies to those affected by the earthquake that struck the central-eastern part of Iburi region in Hokkaido," a statement from the body reads. "Due to the effects of the earthquake, the Japan Football Association has decided to cancel the Kirin Challenge Cup 2018 match between Samurai Blue (the Japan national team) and the Chile national team.

"This decision was made upon careful evaluation of the magnitude of damages incurred, including damages to critical infrastructure such as power outages and significant transportation disruptions, as well as to ensure the security of all spectators,

including the supporters of the visiting team."

The 6.7-magnitude, pre-dawn earthquake has paralysed Hokkaido, triggering a blackout and landslides.

More than 100 people are reported injured, while dozens are said to be missing. Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has said that 25,000 troops and other personnel will be mobilised to help with rescue operations. "Our thoughts and prayers are with all those affected in Hokkaido," JFA President Tashima Kohzo added.

The match would have been manager Hajime Moriyasu's first in charge of the Japan team. Japan are due to face Costa Rica on Tuesday (September 11) in Osaka. Earlier this week, Japan was hit by its most powerful storm in 25 years.

Typhoon Jebi has hammered the west of the country, killing at least 10 people and leaving thousands of others stranded.

A major international airport at Kansai, which serves Osaka, Kobe and Kyoto, was flooded.

(Source: Japan Today)

Iran Women's Wheelchair Basketball Team Runner-up at Thailand Open

Tasnim — The Iranian women's national wheelchair basketball team finished runner-up at the Thailand Open on Wednesday.

The Iranian team lost to host Thailand 40-25 on Wednesday and finished in second place.

Iran started the campaign with a 64-16 win over Laos.

The Persians beat Cambodia 71-8 and advanced to the final match after defeating South Korea 51-19.

The competition started on September 2 in Bangkok and finished on September

Iran wins Int'l Greco-Roman wrestling competitions



IRNA — Iranian wrestling team ranked first at the International Greco-Roman wrestling competitions held in Sirjan City, Kerman Province.

The 4th round of the International Greco-Roman Wrestling Competitions was held with the attendance of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Ukraine, Italy and Iran on September 6-7.

During the final match Iran defeated Azerbaijan 10-0 and stood on the first place.

Meanwhile, the 4th international cadet freestyle wrestling tournament 'Yadegar Imam Cup' was held in Arak city in central Province of Markazi.

Final ranking of the Intrenational Greco-Roman Wrestling competitions in Sirjan:

1-Iran A, 2- Azerbaijan, 3- Iran B, Iran Toseeh, 5- Ukraine, 6- Armenia 7 - Italy 8 - Iran (Keramn)

Brazil to face Saudi Arabia, Argentina in October

Brazil will go to Saudi Arabia to play the host nation and Argentina in October friendlies, the Brazilian football confederation (CBF) said on Thursday.

The five-times World Cup winners will play the Saudis on Oct. 12 in Riyadh and then meet their South American neighbours north of Jeddah four days later.

Tite's side are currently in the United States for friendlies against the home side in New Jersey on Friday and El Salvador in Maryland on Tuesday.

(Source: Reuters)

Guiao in no hurry to name PH final 12 vs Iran

The Philippines' first game in the fourth window of the FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifiers is just a week away but head coach Yeng Guiao is in no hurry to name his final lineup.

Gilas Pilipinas will face Iran in Tehran on Sept. 13 and Guiao plans to announce his squad there so the team can take advantage of having more players during training.

"There's no real urgency to name the 12 guys, so we'll stick with the 16 as for now," said Guiao after the team's practice Thursday at Meralco Gym.

"We'll take all 16 players so even the two who are suspended won't be able to play but we still need them so we can continue with the practices."

Greg Slaughter's status is also one of the reasons why Guiao has yet to make his final lineup for the Iran game.

(Source: Inquirer)

Zlatan Ibrahimovic to move to Egypt?

Zlatan Ibrahimovic could be off to the middle east with a shock big-money move to Egyptian side Pyramids FC.

And owner Turki al-Sheikh is so confident about completing a deal with Ibrahimovic he hopes it could be done within the next few days, report Record.

The big Swede has played in every major league in Europe, winning 32 trophies in the process.

This season Ibrahimovic has lit up Los Angeles in the MLS, bagging 16 goals in 21 games for LA Galaxy.

The 36-year-old did suffer a cruciate ligament injury while at Manchester United, but has revitalised his career in the States.

But Galaxy are in eighth in Western Conference, three points off the pace with five games to go.

They're not in great form, claiming just three points from a possible 15 and this may allow Pyramids FC to swoop, especially if Galaxy fall short of the mark.

"The focus is the playoff and then from the playoff you take it further and try to win the whole thing," Ibrahimovic said after Galaxy's frustrating 1-1 draw with rivals LAFC.

The money-bags Egyptian side are currently level on points with Al Ahli at the top of the Egyptian Premier League.

Originally founded in 2008 as Al Assiouty Sport, Cairo-based Pyramids have been in the top flight since 2014.

Al-Sheikh is currently the chairman of the General Sports Authority and the Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation.

(Source: Mirror)

First Announcement



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Movies from Iran line up for Vancouver festival

A R T **TEHRAN** — Several Iranian films will be competing in the Vancouver International Film Festival running from September 27 to October 12, the organizers have announced.

"Hendi and Hormoz" by Abbas Amini that is about the arranged marriage of a 13-year-old girl and a 16-year-old boy is competing in the Panorama, Contemporary World Cinema section.



A scene from "Hendi and Hormoz" by Abbas Amini

"Dressage" by Puya Badkubeh, "3 Faces" by Jafar Panahi, and "Hatrick" by Ramtin Lavvafi will screen in this section.

"Dressage" tells the story of a 16-year-old girl who participates in a robbery, gets away with it and then faces unexpected consequences.

"3 Faces" is about a relationship between popular Iranian actress Behnaz Jafari and a provincial girl who lives with a dream of being an actress.

In "Hatrick", a quartet of middle class Iranians leave a party together. Farzad and Keivan are old friends. Farzad's wife Lida and Keivan's friend Raha make up the foursome.

Asghar Farhadi's "Everybody Knows" will also be screened in the Panorama, Special Presentations section.

Michael Moore hopes his film is 'beginning of the end' for Trump

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Provocative filmmaker Michael Moore said on Thursday he hoped his new documentary would mark "the beginning of the end" for the U.S. presidency of Donald Trump.



Michael Moore speaks during the "People's State of the Union" event one day ahead of President Trump's State of the Union Speech to Congress, in Manhattan, New York, U.S. January 29, 2018. (Reuters/Darren Ornitz)

The liberal activist said "Fahrenheit 11/9", which got its world premiere at the Toronto Film Festival later on Thursday, was "a siren call" to what he called a "despairing, dispirited public."

"This film is the moment of truth we've all needed for some time, and I believe its release in theaters nationwide on Sept. 21 may well be the real beginning of the end for Donald J. Trump," Moore wrote on his website.

Moore, who won an Oscar in 2003 for his gun violence documentary "Bowling for Columbine", said the new film looks at the reasons why the United States elected the businessman and former reality TV star to the White House in November 2016 and "also (to) help show us the way out."

He also called the documentary a "story of hope", and urged voters to turn out for the November midterm congressional elections.

A trailer for the provocative, comedic documentary shows television and film clips of school shootings, white nationalist demonstrations, footage of Trump's public speeches, and interviews with ordinary Americans. It has the tagline, "This is the movie that will end the insanity."

It follows Moore's one-man show on Broadway last year in which he used his satirical blend of humor to target Trump and encourage liberals to turn resentment at the Republican political agenda into resistance.

"Fahrenheit 11/9" takes its title from the early hours of Nov. 9, 2016, when Republican candidate Trump was officially declared the victor over Democrat Hillary Clinton. It is also a play on Moore's scathing 2004 "Fahrenheit 9/11" about the Sept. 11 2001 attacks on New York and Washington D.C. and the subsequent U.S. led wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The documentary will premiere in Toronto the same week that the New York Times printed an anonymous opinion column in which the writer described "a quiet resistance" to Trump within his own administration, and advance excerpts of a new book by journalist Bob Woodward portraying Trump as prone to impulsive decision-making.

France's "Alone" crowned best at Isfahan film festival

A R T **TEHRAN** — French director David Moreau's movie "Alone" has won the award for best in the international competition of the 31st International Film Festival for Children and Youth in Iran.

Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyyed Abbas Salehi and a number Iranian cineastes attended a closing ceremony, which was held at the Kowsar Hall in the central Iranian city on Wednesday evening.

"Alone" is about five young teens who wake up to find that everyone else has inexplicably disappeared from their town, which is surrounded by a mysterious fog.

Russian critic Alena Sycheva, French filmmaker Gilles Lemounaud, German animator Julia Ocker, Georgian director Ketevan Janelidze and Iranian animators Omid Khoshnazar and Ali Nuri Oskui were the members of the jury.

Mohammadreza Hajigholami was picked as best director for his movie "Stammer" while the film's star Sajjad Esmaeili was named best actor.

The Golden Butterfly for best screenplay went to "The Night I Swam", a co-production between Japan and France written and directed by Kohei Igarashi and Damien Manivel.

The best feature-length fiction film award was presented to South Korean director Kim Jong-woo for "Home", which also won the CIFEJ best film award which is presented by a jury of the International Centre of Films for Children and Youth (CIFEJ).

The special jury award went to Indonesian director Kamila Andini for her "The Seen and Unseen", which is about a young girl who seeks out imaginative ways to cope with the death of her twin brother.



Mohammadreza Hajigholami speaks after accepting the Golden Butterfly for best director for his movie "Stammer" during the 31st International Film Festival for Children and Youth at Kowsar Hall on September 5, 2018. (Fars/Hamidreza Nikumaram)

The best feature-length fiction film award was presented to South Korean director Kim Jong-woo for "Home" while "Just Go!" by Latvian filmmaker Pavels Gumennikovs won the Golden Butterfly for best short.

In the animated film competition, Ashkan

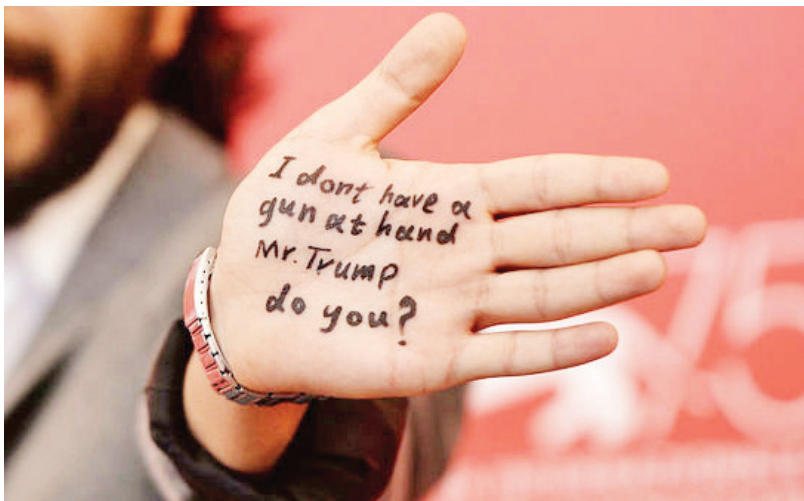
Rahgozar won the award for best director for "The Last Fiction", a story from Persian poet Ferdowsi's Shahnameh.

The Golden Butterfly for best short animated movie went to "Run Rustam, Run", which is about Rustam, a main character of

the Shahnameh who travels into the future and comes to Tehran in 2017.

"Mission Kathmandu: The Adventures of Nelly & Simon", co-directed by Pierre Greco and Nancy Florence Savard from Canada, was crowned best animated film.

Iranian actor at Venice sends anti-war message to Trump



Iranian actor Vahid Raad shows his palm bearing an inscription reading, "I don't have a gun at my hand Mr. Trump, do you?" during a photocall for his latest movie "As I Lay Dying" at the 75th Venice International Film Festival on September 6, 2018.

A R T **TEHRAN** — Iranian actor Vahid Raad used

a photocall for his latest movie "As I Lay Dying" at the 75th Venice International Film Festival on Thursday to convey an anti-war message to U.S. President Donald Trump.

During the photocall, Raad showed his palm bearing an inscription in English reading, "I don't have a gun in my hand Mr. Trump, do you?"

"As I Lay Dying" directed by Mostafa Sayyari will be screened in the Orizzonti Competition, which is dedicated to films

that represent the latest aesthetic and expressive trends in international cinema.

Iranian actress Fatemeh Motamed-Arya is a member of the jury for this category.

In the Orizzonti Short Films category, "Staircase" by Iranian filmmaker Mohsen Banihashemi is competing with 13 other movies.

"Brick and Mirror", UK-based Iranian filmmaker Ebrahim Golestan's 1964 drama, is scheduled to go on screen in the Venezia Classic, a section dedicated to restored classics from world cinema.

Intl. Congress of Islamic Eulogists held in Khorramabad



Top eulogists pose during the 16th International Congress of Islamic Eulogists at the Falak-ol-Aflak Castle in Khorramabad on September 6, 2018. (Mehr/Mohsen Rezaei)

CULTURE **TEHRAN** — The 16th International Congress of Islamic Eulogists was held at the Falak-ol-Aflak Castle in Khorramabad last week from Tuesday to Thursday.

23 Iranian and foreign eulogists were honored at the meeting, the organizers announced.

A large number of foreign eulogists from Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Tajikistan,

India, Nigeria and several other countries attended the congress.

The organizers also paid tribute to the late eulogist Habib Niknam from Lorestan Province. Niknam was named the master of eulogists at the 16th congress.

A number of meetings attended by the national and international scholars were also organized during the event.

Avant-garde artist Mohsen Vaziri-Moqaddam dies at 94



Mohsen Vaziri-Moqaddam poses beside one of his wood sculptures in Tehran on June 22, 2014.

A R T **TEHRAN** — Mohsen Vaziri-Moqaddam, one of the most celebrated figures from the first generation of the Iranian modern art movement, died at his home in Rome, Italy on Friday morning. He was 94.

"He was always busy creating artworks, even in his old age," his elder son, Hamun, told the Persian service of ISNA.

The Italy-based artist was commended for his works by the Rome Municipality and was presented with the European Artist of the Year 2005 award in Rome on December 14, 2005.

Vaziri-Moqaddam was born in Tehran. In primary school, he was fond of geography and music courses. He continued his studies at the University of Tehran's Faculty of Fine Arts. In 1955, he set off for Italy, where he studied at the Rome Academy of Fine Arts.

In the late 1960s, he showed a tendency toward sculpture, which constituted the most significant part of his life.

He created most of his abstract forms and designs using the media of sand, metal, plastic and wood.

Beethoven Museum House opens in Tehran



A view of the Beethoven Music Center (Musicema/Amir Khamene)

A R T **TEHRAN** — The founder of the Beethoven Music Center in Tehran, Karim Chamanara, inaugurated the Beethoven Museum House on Wednesday.

Chamanara opened the museum on his 95th birthday attended by Tehran City Council member Mohammad Haqshenas, Tehran Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department director Delavar Bozorgnia and a number of musicians.

Chamanara played the old-fashioned gramophone with the Happy Birthday song

composed by Anushiravan Rohani.

"We own a selection of 2000 documents on music, some of which have been put on view and the rest will be documented and displayed later," he said.

The museum will also offer various cultural services. It has a music shop, a bookstore, a flower shop and a coffee shop. Online tour of the museum will be available in the near future.

The museum is located at No. 69, Mirza Shirazi St., off Karim Khan Ave.