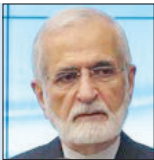




**Iran says seeks to avert disaster in Syria's Idlib** **2**



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# Missile attack on terrorists shows accuracy and strategy

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© Tehran Times/ Asghar Khamseh

## Water, power projects worth \$5.7b offered to private sector

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Some 46 power and water projects at the value of 243 trillion rials (about \$5.7 billion) were offered to the private sector during a ceremony attended by Iranian Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri on Tuesday.

The offered projects to the private sector include Ofoq Power Plant (in the south-western province of Khuzestan) with the capacity of 968 megawatts (MW), Bampur

Power Plant (in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan) with the capacity of 484 MW, and Isin Power Plant (in the southern province of Hormozgan) with the capacity of 968 MW, IRNA reported.

As reported, Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian also took part the event, where he announced that 27 power plant projects, worth 70 trillion rials (about \$1.6 billion) will be inaugurated by summer 2019.

## Salehi: Iran nuclear program to be more powerful if deal falls

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Iran's nuclear chief told The Associated Press on Tuesday that he hopes the atomic deal between Tehran and world powers survives, but warned the program will be in a stronger position than ever if not.

Ali Akbar Salehi said that President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw America from the 2015 accord "puts him on the loser's side" of history.

He added, "That deal could have paved the way for building the trust and the confidence that we had lost."

Salehi's comments come after Trump decided to pull the U.S. from the deal in May. The 2015 accord, struck under President Barack Obama's administration, saw Iran agree to limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. **→2**

## Xi, Putin meet as Russia kicks off biggest ever war games

Russia's President Vladimir Putin met his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok on Tuesday.

The meeting, in which the leaders discussed the "development of Russia-Chinese relations", came as Russia began its largest military drills with hundreds of

thousands of Russian troops taking part along with Chinese soldiers.

Putin said Moscow has a "trusting relationship" with Beijing "in politics, security and defense", while Xi said both countries would continue to "make joint efforts to ... push the China-Russia relationship up to a new height". **→13**

## Close co-op with Afghanistan necessary to fight terror: Araqchi

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi on Tuesday underlined the necessity of close cooperation with Afghanistan in the war on terrorism, saying Tehran attaches great importance to the stability and security of its neighbors. Araqchi made the remarks in a meeting with Afghanistan's Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah in Kabul, Fars reported.

"There's no such thing as good and bad terrorism," Araqchi said.

The top diplomat also called for more cooperation between Tehran and Kabul in the fight against the Daesh (ISIL) terrorist group.

Araqchi said work on crafting a comprehensive document for joint cooperation between Iran and Afghanistan is reaching its end.

"The work tasked with two other committees



has progressed to 90 percent and the finalization of the document will lead to the expansion and flourishing of bilateral relations," he stated.

Abdullah, for his part, said Iran and Afghanistan have had cooperation in the past to fight terrorism but "confronting common threats needs more cooperation".

## Why Iran prefers the Eastern bloc over the West

By Seyed Hossein Mousavian

As the military phase of the Syrian conflict reaches its final stages, the leaders of Russia, Iran, and Turkey met in Tehran on September 9 and reiterated in a joint statement that a political solution to the Syrian conflict requires inclusive, free, and fair elections with the participation of all eligible Syrians under appropriate UN supervision. They further reaffirmed their determination to cooperate to eliminate the Islamic State, the Nusra Front, al-Qaeda, and associated groups in Syria.

When the civil war in Syria began in 2011, the U.S.-led bloc and its regional allies, including Saudi Arabia, devoted their resources to removing Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. However, as the result of Iranian-Russian cooperation to buttress the Assad's government, they failed to achieve their goals. The addition to this alliance

of Turkey, which initially opposed Assad's government, has further made it clear that President Assad has won the six-year war and will remain in power. If successful, the trilateral cooperation can play a more substantive role in managing other crises in the region.

Russo-Iranian relations were not always close. In fact, some of the bitterest eras of contemporary Iranian history were shaped by Russo-Iranians wars, after which Iran was forced to sign the humiliating treaties of Turkamanchay and Gulistan. After the end of World War II as well, Soviet forces refused to leave Iran's territory and began supporting separatist groups in Azerbaijan.

Unlike Russia however, Iran's relations with the United States began friendly, and Americans were perceived as a benevolent power. Relations began to decline over six decades ago when a U.S.

and U.K.-led coup removed Iran's democratically elected prime minister, Mohammad Mossadegh. After the Islamic Revolution of 1979, the United States supported Saddam Hussein's invasion of Iran and his use of chemical weapons against Iranian troops.

Ever since the Islamic Revolution of 1979, the foundation of Iran's foreign policy has been "neither East nor West." This implied that Iran would pursue an independent foreign policy. However, hostile U.S. policies have created deep mistrust and pushed Iran further to the East. Recently, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei announced that he made a mistake by allowing the nuclear negotiations with the United States to take place. His foreign policy advisor, Ali Akbar Velayati, also went on to call Trump "unreliable" but described Putin as "logical and brave." **→7**

## Caravanserais evoke the past for today's trekkers

Now abandoned and alone in Iran's Hamadan province, the 17th-century Farasfaj Caravanserai is of its many counterparts that are scattered across the country.

Such roadside inns can still evoke a by-gone era to modern visitors when brought comfort to explorers, merchants and their livestock.

The mud-brick structure is named after the Safavid monarch, Shah Abbas the Great (r. 1588 – 1629), who ordered construction of new caravanserais in Iran.



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### EDITORIAL

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## Europe's Hollow Threats

Although there has recently been lots of controversies on issues such as developing an "independent payment system" Europe and a "pseudo-swift structure" to maintain the nuclear deal with Iran, many analysts and experts in economic affairs believe that there's no real intention to actualize this idea among the EU authorities. In the meantime, there are deterrent factors that have hampered European independence from the United States, and it seems that these factors are now highlighted under the presidency of Donald Trump.

The fact is that European politicians, and especially the current generation of European rulers act as the main barrier in this way. While some left-wing and Social-Democrats are about to put the idea into practice, some politicians such as the German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron and the British Prime Minister Theresa May are opposed to this idea.

They were committed to maintaining Europe's economic and security dependence on Washington. However, the key question is whether the European countries will succeed on this path or not? Is there really a will to develop an independent payment system from the United States in Europe? The answer to this question is negative!

One of the most important prerequisites for the formation of an "independent payment system in Europe" is the consensus of the right-wing and left-wing parties on this issue. However, the European officials don't seem to have such intention. On the contrary, they have become major obstacles to realizing this goal themselves.

It's interesting that such a fact has been taken into consideration by many Western sources. For example, Foreign Policy writes in this regard:

"What's different today is that the U.S. is imposing sanctions contrary to the foreign policies not just of Russia and China, which have long chafed against the sanctions tool, but against the fundamental foreign policy of our closest allies in Europe and elsewhere," Smith said. "That is what has brought us to this situation."

It continues; "with their access to the U.S. financial system hanging in the balance, European banks know that, in the end, the EU must satisfy Trump's demands to fix the deal or be prepared to fully comply when U.S. sanctions return." **→13**



### REPORT

**Ramin Hossein Abadian**  
Mehr News Agency  
Journalist

## Investigation into attacks on Iranian consulate in Basra

Iraq is going through some tough days. The Iraqis have not yet succeeded in electing a speaker of parliament and his deputies as well as a new president and prime minister. In the midst of it all, what has drawn the world's attention to Iraq is Basra's incident and the unrest that claimed the life of seven people and left 50 people injured, according to the Iraqi Ministry of Health.

Protesters were demanding improvement in their livelihoods, but given the fact that, generally, there are opportunists in every demonstration and peaceful protest, seeking to take advantage of situation, unfortunate incidents took place in Basra too.

The offices and centers of many political parties and branches of Hashad al-shaabi (the Popular Mobilization Forces) were burned down, and the rioters rechanneled the wave of Iraqi people's rightful protest and pushed it to their desire.

ISIS terrorists and the Ba'athists, at the command of the foreign masters, stormed and burnt the locations of Hashad al-shaabi and the Iranian consulate in Basra. When the Iranian consulate in Basra was attacked and the perpetrators seized it and set it on fire, Al Arabiya and Sky News networks covered it extensively with details.

The joy in their eyes was all too obvious, as the UAE's Sky News in an analysis attempted to link the incident to Iran's end of influence in Iraq.

When Washington exerts all its power to form a large parliamentary coalition in Iraq to his taste, it is clear that they are taking advantage of every development in Iraq to fulfill their own desires and interests.

Ever since the occupation of Iraq, the Americans brought nothing but chaos, destruction and instability to the Iraqis. After Americans, came Saudis who failed to build a positive relationship with the Iraqis and when they showed a broad smile, they had plans and plots for Iraq.

Division and dissent in Iraq only help enemy who wants no good for the Iraqis. The argument between the Prime Minister Haydar al-Abbadi's and spokesman Asade al-Udani governor of Basra in a special session is a clear instance of lack of coordination in Iraq. **→7**



MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Iran favors dialogue, but not under sanctions: Jahangiri

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — Although Iran is in favor of dialogue, it will never agree to enter talks with the U.S. after the imposition of cruel sanctions, Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri said on Tuesday.

Speaking at a meeting of the Energy Ministry officials, Jahangiri lashed out at the U.S. administration for withdrawing from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal in a clear breach of international law, Tasnim reported.

Iran is determined to overcome the challenges and remind the U.S. that hostile policies are of no avail and the only fruitful approach is to engage with the Iranian people with "dialogue and the language of logic", he added.



Zarif slams 'rogue U.S. regime' for threatening ICC

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Tuesday slammed the "rogue U.S. regime" for threatening to impose sanctions on the International Criminal Court (ICC) and prosecuting its judges.

"The U.S. threatens to impose sanctions on the ICC & even prosecute its judges in American courts. Where is the outrage?" Zarif tweeted.

He added, "The boorishness of this rogue U.S. regime seems to know no bounds. When will the international community say enough is enough & force U.S. to act like a normal state?"

It came after John Bolton, the hawkish U.S. national security adviser, threatened the ICC with sanctions over an ICC investigation into alleged American war crimes in Afghanistan.



Iran consulate in Basra resumes work in new building

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi said on Tuesday that the Iranian consulate in Basra has resumed its work in a new building after the old building was set ablaze in a raid.

"After a bitter attack on the Iranian consulate in Basra, which was condemned by many Iraqi political and non-political figures, the Iranian diplomats immediately settled in a new, suitable building and started their activities," Qassemi said.

In the Friday attack, a mob of Iraqi protestors stormed the Iranian consulate in Basra, destroyed the diplomatic mission's properties, took down the flag of Iran and torched the building.



Iran, Belarus hold consular meetings in Tehran

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — Top officials from Iran and Belarus on Monday held the fifth round of meetings on consular affairs in a bid to boost relations between the two sides in different fields.

During the meeting, the Iranian and Belarusian delegations hailed progress in visa facilitation, judicial cooperation, transfer and extradition of convicts, fight against illicit drugs and organized crimes, Tasnim reported.

They also stressed the need to completely implement previous agreements reached between Tehran and Minsk.

The two sides also discussed cooperation in establishing more facilities for legal, easy and safe travel for citizens of the two countries.



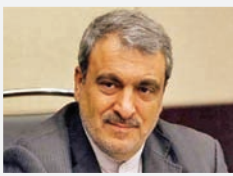
Iranian flag snatched, burned near embassy in Helsinki

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — A group of protestors on Monday afternoon snatched an Iranian flag from the Iranian embassy in Helsinki and set it on fire, Daily Finland reported.

According to the local media and the police, the protestors also pelted stones at police on duty at the spot and at a police helicopter that was being used to film the scene.

Police arrested four of the protestors at the spot, although they did not divulge the identities of the arrested.

According to a report, three of the arrested were taken into custody on suspicion of aggravated disturbance of the peace and the fourth one was detained for suspected violent resistance against an official.



Ambassador submits credentials to Japanese emperor

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — Iran's Ambassador to Japan, Morteza Rahmani-Movahed, on Tuesday submitted his credentials to Japanese Emperor Akihito.

Rahmani-Movahed also conveyed greetings of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani to Emperor Akihito, IRNA reported.

Commenting on Iran-Japan historical and cordial relations, he underlined the necessity of strengthening ties in different fields.

Rahmani-Movahed presented a copy of his credentials to Deputy Foreign Minister of Japan Takeo Akiba on June 24, 2018.

# Tehran seeks 'best relations' with the world: Kharrazi

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — Kamal de sk Kharrazi, head of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, said on Monday that Tehran seeks best relations with the world and prioritizes neighbors in this respect.

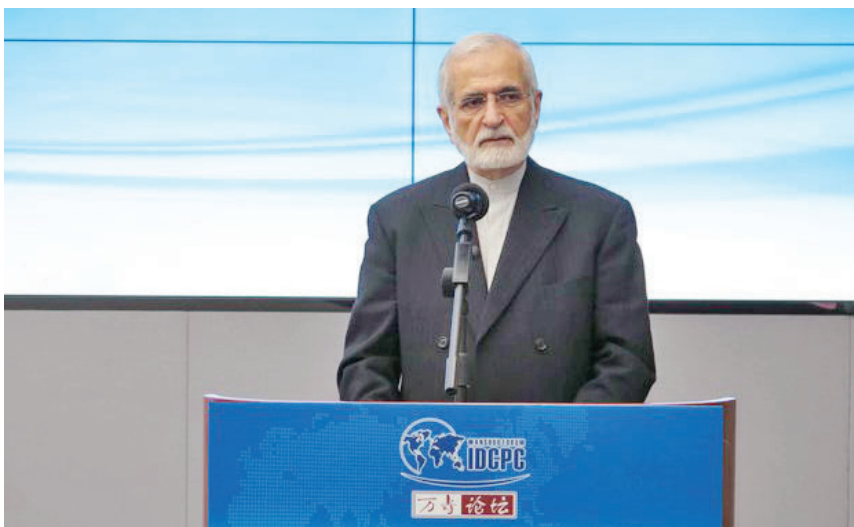
"Iran seeks to have best relations with countries in the world and prioritizes its neighboring countries in its foreign policy."

Kharrazi, who was former foreign minister from 1997 to 2005 under the Khatami administration, regretted the "hostile policies" that Saudi Arabia and the UAEA have taken toward Iran.

"Unfortunately, certain Persian Gulf littoral states follow the U.S. and adopt hostile policies against Iran which spread instability in the region."

Saudi Arabia and the UAE have supported the Trump administration's exit from the 2015 nuclear agreement and backed restoration of sanctions against Iran.

Speaking at Beijing International Studies University, the veteran politician said Tehran has "best relations with Iraq and



Turkey" in its western flank and tis with Afghanistan and Pakistan in the eastern flank are also "on the rise".

"In the north, Iran has stable relations

with (the countries in) the Caucasus and Central Asia without any tension and is making efforts to expand the ties. Russia has great importance in this respect and

## Military chief: Missile attack on terrorists shows accuracy and strategy

Iran will not sit silent if enemies continue hatching plots, General Baqeri warns

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — Armed Forces Chief of Staff Mohammad Hossein Baqeri said on Tuesday that Iran's armed forces will not sit silent if enemies continue hatching plots.

His comments came as the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps on Saturday launched seven short-range surface-to-surface missiles on positions of a terrorist group in the Iraqi Kurdistan in retaliation for their attack on Iranian border guards in late July in which 11 IRGC forces lost their lives.

"What happened recently powerfully was not something small. Missile capability [of Iran] was just part of it. The major part was the show of power in design, coordination and strategy," Baqeri said.

He described the missile attack as Iran's "crushing re-

sponse" to the terrorists.

The top general called on official in Baghdad and Erbil to either hand over terrorists to Iran or expel them. "Officials of the Kurdistan region and the Iraqi government should hand over terrorists to Iran and if they cannot do so, they should expel the terrorists."

In a statement on Sunday, the IRGC said it had targeted positions of a terrorist group in the Iraqi Kurdistan, warning the terrorists that their repeated evil acts will be faced with a more severe response.

"The sons of the Iranian nation in Sepah (IRGC) and other armed forces as well as intelligence and security bodies are determined to protect the borders of the Islamic Iran," the IRGC stated.

The IRGC added that its forces had targeted bases of the "filthy and criminal group" in retaliation for their evil acts.

### Qassemi calls missile attack 'retaliatory'

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi said on Tuesday that the missile attack on positions of terrorists in the Iraqi Kurdistan was "deterrent" and "retaliatory".

"Terrorists' moves made the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran to take retaliatory and deterrent act," he said.

He added, "We hope that common borders in this volatile region will be the safest and most stable borders in the region."

However, he said Tehran will show no tolerance for vicious acts. "Undoubtedly, the Islamic Republic of Iran will have no leniency when it comes to its security."

## Iran says seeks to avert disaster in Syria's Idlib

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — Iran de sk shares the United Nations' concern about a potential humanitarian catastrophe in Syria's Idlib province and will seek to avert it, Hossein Jaber Ansari, top aide to Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, told reporters on Tuesday.

"We are also worried. We are going to work toward that not happening," Jaber Ansari said as he arrived in Geneva for UN talks about creating a committee to revise the war-battered country's constitution.

The talks are hosted by UN envoy Staffan de Mistura and also include senior Russian and Turkish officials.

They come amid concerns about a looming battle for northern Idlib province — the last remaining stronghold of terrorists in Syria after seven years of war, which is home to three million civilians.

Jaber Ansari said a "good result" could emerge from the talks.

Iran, Russia and Turkey have been working together as "guarantors" for a series of talks around ending Syria's war.



The presidents of the three countries held a trilateral summit in Tehran on Friday, marking the third time the leaders have come together to negotiate the Syrian conflict.

During the summit, President Hassan Rouhani said the United States should leave Syria as soon as possible because its presence there has been detrimental to the a 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," Rouhani stated.

## Salehi: Iran nuclear program to be more powerful if deal falls

**1 ->** In the wake of Trump's decision, Western companies from airplane manufacturers to oil firms have pulled out of Iran.

"I think (Trump) is on the loser's side because he is pursuing the logic of power," Salehi said. "He thinks that he can, you know, continue for some time but certainly I do not think he will benefit from this withdrawal, certainly not."

Salehi spoke about Iran's efforts to build a new facility at Natanz's uranium enrichment center that will produce



more advanced centrifuges. Those devices enrich uranium by rapidly spinning uranium hexafluoride gas.

For now, the nuclear accord limits Iran to using a limited number of an older model, called IR-1s. The new facility will allow it to build advanced versions called the IR-2M, IR-4 and IR-6, which can enrich uranium much faster.

"If we have to go back and withdraw from the nuclear deal, we certainly do not go back to where we were before," Salehi said. "We will be standing on a much, much higher position."

## Collective efforts needed to counter dust storms: diplomat

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — Gholamali Khoshroo, Iran's ambassador to the UN, has said that Iran could encourage collective efforts at the international level to counter dust and sand storms.

"Today, the issue of dust storm is an international problem and all agree that cooperation and collective actions are required to counter it," he said in an interview with IRNA published on Tuesday.

He said that international planning is required to counter dust and sand storm and their negative consequences.

The diplomat also said that the international bodies have always insisted the importance of Iran's role in countering dust storms.

Iran's southwest and west are hit hard once in a while by dusts mostly arising from Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Syria.

Estimates have shown that a third of dust and sand storms hitting Khuzestan



province originate from inside and the rest from outside the country.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres released a report on September 6, saying that 151 countries are directly affected by the phenomenon, with 45 the mostly-hit, including 38 Asian and African countries, Khoshroo said.

## Iran to unveil water jet engines

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — Iran de sk is developing home-made water jet engines, first prototype of which to be unveiled by the end of current Iranian year (March 2019), the managing director of the Marine Industries Organization said on Tuesday.

Rear Admiral Amir Rastegari said such engines will be utilized in high speed boats, a sector that has been put on the sanctions list, the admiral said.

The organization is also completing other types of domestic engines which can be used for train ferries with capacity of 1300 horsepower.

"Implementing such project will prevent us from spending hundreds of millions of dollars of foreign currency, caters to sustainable employment, and reduces threats posed by the withdrawal of foreign chartered vessels when the country is suffering from sanctions," he explained.



The admiral went on to say that the Marine Organization is scheduled to uncover a vessel measuring 94 meters long and 11 meters wide by the yearend, adding, "With the capability of our marine engineers, we can, within the next two to three years, manufacture all vessels we need."



# U.S. in talks with Britain, France for ‘much stronger’ attack on Syria: Bolton

## Netherlands provides logistic support for terrorist organization in Syria

The United States National Security Adviser John Bolton says his country has been in talks with Britain and France to orchestrate a military strike on Syria that will be “much stronger” than the joint operation the three allies carried out earlier this year.

Fielding questions after a policy speech in Washington on Monday, Bolton said the Western alliance was ready to pound Syria in case the government of President Bashar al-Assad resorted to what he claimed was a “third use” of chemical weapons.

“We’ve tried to convey the message in recent days that if there’s a third use of chemical weapons, the response will be much stronger,” Bolton said.

“I can say we’ve been in consultation with the British and the French, who joined us in the second strike, and they also agree that another use of chemical weapons will result in a much stronger response,” Bolton warned on Monday.

The U.S. has so far conducted two separate attacks against Syrian Army positions under the pretext that Damascus was using chemical weapons against civilians.

The first attack came in April 2017, when the U.S. President Donald Trump ordered the U.S. Navy warships in the Mediterranean to fire a total of 59 Tomahawk cruise missiles at a Syrian airbase that the Pentagon had claimed was used to carry out a deadly chemical attack against the people of Khan Shaykhun, in the country’s northwestern province of Idlib.

Roughly a year after that attack, Trump along with his French counterpart, Emmanuel Macron, and British Prime Minister Theresa May authorized a joint missile attack against alleged chemical weapons manufacturing sites inside Syria.

The attack, which came in response to what the U.S. and its allies insisted was another chemical attack in Douma, on the outskirts of Damascus, saw 105 cruise missiles being fired from sea and air at Syrian government targets. Now, as Syria gears up for an attack to retake Idlib, the last major bastion of terrorists in the country, Washington is threatening a third strike.

Syria has firmly denied claims that it’s behind the attacks and instead blamed them on militant groups and foreign agents who are in Syria as aid workers.

The aim, Damascus argues, is to get the West involved in a fight that the Syrian government of President Bashar Assad has already won.

Russia, which has been assisting Assad in purging the terrorists since 2015, has echoed the same point, specifically naming the White Helmets activist group as the real perpetrators of the Douma attack.



Moscow has also warned that terrorists are getting prepared to stage another chemical attack in Idlib to give the U.S. enough evidence to attack.

■ **Syria, Russia present witnesses of ‘staged’ gas attack**

In 2014, Syria finished dismantling its stockpiles of chemical weapons under a joint mission led by the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

Bolton’s remarks follow controversial revelations by an incendiary book on machinations of the Trump White House.

Dubbed Fear, the book by Washington Post journalist Bob Woodward claims that Trump had once told his Defense Secretary James Mattis that he wanted to assassinate Assad.

■ **Erdogan: Idlib liberation battle could pose risks to Turkey, Europe**

Meantime, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has warned against what he called “the security and humanitarian risks” of an upcoming Syrian army operation to liberate Idlib Province, which holds the largest concentration of militant groups, including those backed by Ankara.

In an article published in The Wall Street Journal on Monday, Erdogan called on the international community to intervene as Syrian forces are gearing up for the Idlib liberation battle.

“All members of the international community must understand their responsibilities as the assault on Idlib looms. The consequences of inaction are immense,” he said.

Syria has the backing of Russia, Iran and Lebanon’s Hezbollah resistance movement in its bid to rid the strategic province bordering Turkey of terrorists.

Idlib hosts several militant groups backed by Turkey and other foreign parties – especially Western states, Israel and their regional allies.

Erdogan warned that the planned counter-terrorism campaign in Idlib “would also create serious humanitarian and security risks for Turkey, the rest of Europe and beyond,” apparently referring to a fresh influx of Syrian refugees in the wake of the Idlib battle.

“If the international community, including Europe and the U.S., fail to take action now, not only innocent Syrians but the entire world stands to pay the price,” he added.

Erdogan further stressed that not only the West, but also Turkey’s partners Iran and Russia are responsible for stopping a humanitarian disaster in Idlib.

Turkey on the one side and Iran and Russia on the other support opposite sides of the Syria conflict, but they have been mediating a diplomatic process between the warring parties since January 2017 aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Erdogan’s comments came as his country has been deploying heavy artillery tanks, howitzers and commandos to the Syrian border.

Last week, Iran’s President Hassan Rouhani hosted his Russian and Turkish counterparts for a trilateral summit on Syria.

In a joint statement, the participants at the Tehran summit said the Syria crisis could only be resolved through a negotiated political process, and has no military solution.

The trio also “emphasized strong and continued commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Syria, as well as to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and highlighted that they should be respected by all.”

During the event, Erdogan called for a

ceasefire in Idlib, but Russian President Vladimir Putin said that it would be pointless as it would not involve the militant groups that Moscow regards as terrorists.

■ **Netherlands provides logistic support for terrorist organization in Syria**

The developments follow as The Dutch government has come under fire after a report revealed it has been providing logistic support for a Syrian “opposition” group labeled as a terrorist organization by Dutch prosecutors.

The news report, aired by the national public broadcaster, said Amsterdam had given “non-lethal assistance” (NLA) to 22 armed opposition groups, including the Jabhat al-Shamiya terrorist organization, fighting against the Syrian army.

The Dutch government has reportedly provided pick-up trucks, uniforms and other equipment for the terrorist group last year, the report added.

This caused a storm of protest from Dutch parliamentarians, who strongly protested against the country’s government on Monday and asked for its explanation.

The cabinet is bound to a deadline on Tuesday, in which it has to answer the questions, including whether any aid to Syria may have ended up with extremist groups, Christian Democrat party MP (Member of Parliament) Pieter Omtzigt told AFP.

Dutch lawmaker Sjoerd Sjoerdsma also described the news report as “shocking,” and asked, “How did this happen, despite all the warnings by lawmakers?”

The revelations on Monday come days after Dutch Foreign Minister Stef Blok announced the government was cutting all support to what it called “moderate” opposition groups in Syria.

Western governments have in recent years tried to justify their support for terrorists operating in Syria by labeling them as moderate opposition working to topple the government of Bashar al-Assad.

According to Assad, the U.S. tried to promote the notion of the so-called moderate opposition in Syria. However, “they haven’t been able to market this lie because the facts on the ground proved the opposite, that all those they support are extremists,” who belong to the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh), Jabhat Fateh al-Sham (al-Nusra Front/Jabhat al-Nusra), with the same extremist and terrorist ideology.

Last year, even the U.S. administration ended a clandestine American program to provide arms and supplies to those “moderate” opposition groups after it was revealed they were indeed terrorists aiming to establish their “caliphate” in Syria.

(Source: agencies)

## International court says it is undeterred after Bolton threatens U.S. sanctions



The International Criminal Court said on Tuesday it would “continue to do its work undeterred” a day after U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton threatened sanctions if the tribunal investigated U.S. activities in Afghanistan.

The Hague-based court said in a statement it was an independent and impartial institution with the backing of 123 countries.

“The ICC, as a court of law, will continue to do its work undeterred, in accordance with those principles and the overarching idea of the rule of law,” it said.

ICC prosecutor Fatou Bensouda said last year there was a “reasonable basis to believe” war crimes and crimes against humanity were committed in Afghanistan and that all sides in the conflict would be examined, including members of the U.S. armed forces and Central Intelligence Agency.

Bolton said on Monday that if such an investigation was launched, the Trump administration would consider banning ICC judges and prosecutors from entering the United States, sanctioning funds they have there and prosecuting them in U.S. courts.

The United States did not ratify the Rome treaty that established the ICC during the presidency of Republican George W. Bush. Instead, it adopted the American Services-Members’ Protection Act, nicknamed the Hague Invasion Act because it authorized the use of any means necessary to free U.S. personnel held by the court.

“The United States will use any means necessary to protect our citizens and those of our allies from unjust prosecution by this illegitimate court,” national security adviser John Bolton told the Federalist Society, a conservative group, in his first major address since joining President Donald Trump’s White House in April.

The U.S. response could include sanctions against ICC judges should such prosecutions proceed, Bolton warned.

He added that the Palestine Liberation Organization’s office in Washington was being ordered closed out of concern about Palestinian attempts to prompt an ICC investigation of Israel.

Bolton said he did not believe the closure of the PLO office in Washington would shut the door on a long-delayed Arab-Israeli peace plan that Trump senior adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner has been developing for months.

He said the plan continued to be refined with an eye toward eventually proposing it.

The Palestinians said they were undeterred from going to the ICC. They deemed the planned PLO mission closure a new pressure tactic by a Trump administration that has slashed funding to a U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees and to hospitals in East Jerusalem, which Palestinians want as capital of a future state.

“We reiterate that the rights of the Palestinian people are not for sale, that we will not succumb to U.S. threats and bullying,” Palestinian official Saeb Erekat said in a statement.

“Accordingly, we continue to call upon the International Criminal Court to open its immediate investigation into Israeli crimes.”

Israel welcomed the Trump administration’s move and accused the Palestinians of seeing the court as a way of side-stepping U.S.-sponsored bilateral talks. Those contacts stalled in 2014.

“The Palestinians’ resort to the ICC and refusal to negotiate with Israel and the United States is not the way to advance peace, and it is good that the United States is taking a clear stand on this matter,” said an Israeli official who requested anonymity.

■ **‘Will not cooperate with ICC’**

Bolton said the Trump administration “will fight back” if the ICC proceeds with opening an investigation into alleged war crimes committed by U.S. service members and intelligence professionals during the war in Afghanistan.

“The ICC prosecutor has requested to investigate these Americans for alleged detainee abuse, and perhaps more – an utterly unfounded, unjustifiable investigation,” he said.

If such an inquiry goes ahead, the Trump administration will consider banning judges and prosecutors from entering the United States, put sanctions on any funds they have in the U.S. financial system and prosecute them in American courts, Bolton said.

“We will not cooperate with the ICC. We will provide no assistance to the ICC. We will not join the ICC. We will let the ICC die on its own. After all, for all intents and purposes, the ICC is already dead to us,” he said.

In addition, the United States may negotiate more binding, bilateral agreements to prohibit nations from surrendering Americans to The Hague-based court, Bolton said.

The court’s aim is to bring to justice the perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

The United States did not ratify the Rome treaty that established the ICC in 2002, with Republican President George W. Bush opposed to the court. Bush’s Democratic successor, Barack Obama, took some steps to cooperate with it.

Palestinians have reacted with dismay to the U.S. funding cuts, warning that they could lead to more poverty and anger – among factors stoking their decades of conflict with Israel.

Trump ordered last week that \$25 million earmarked for the care of Palestinians in East Jerusalem be directed elsewhere.

“This decision will create serious cash-flow problems at the hospitals and will necessarily create delays in life-saving and other urgent treatments,” Walid Nammour, head of the network of six hospitals affected, told reporters on Monday. “Overall, the decision puts the health of 5 million Palestinians at risk.”

(Source: Reuters)

# Afghanistan suicide attack causes dozens of casualties as violence flares

A suicide bomber in Afghanistan killed at least 25 people at a gathering on Tuesday on the highway between the eastern city of Jalalabad and the main border crossing into neighboring Pakistan, officials said.

The blast, less than a week after a suicide attack killed more than 20 people in the capital, Kabul, came as violence has flared across the nation, with heavy fighting in northern provinces.

Officials have warned violence is likely to intensify ahead of parliamentary elections next month and a presidential election in April. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Tuesday’s attack, although the Taliban issued a statement denying involvement.

At least 25 bodies were taken to hospitals but the final total was unclear and could rise, said Inamullah Miakhel, a spokesman for the provincial health department.

Sohrab Qaderi, a member of the Nangarhar provincial council, said at least 56 bodies were taken to hospital, with 43 more wounded.

The violence has dampened hopes of peace talks to end Afghanistan’s 17-year conflict but two Taliban officials on Tuesday told Reuters the movement was preparing for another



meeting with U.S. officials following one in July.

Nangarhar, one of the main strongholds of Daesh (ISIL) militant fighters since early 2015, has been one of the most volatile regions this year, with a string of suicide bombings and attacks on its capital, Jalalabad.

Officials and elders said Tuesday’s attack targeted a gathering to protest against a police commander, adding that hundreds of people were present when the blast happened.

The blast dispersed the crowd, but more people gathered after the explosion to continue the protest.

Qaderi said rescue efforts were being hampered by reports of another suicide bomber in the area, making police and emergency services cautious about approaching the scene.

The explosion followed a series of smaller blasts on Tuesday that targeted schools in Jalalabad and surrounding districts, killing at least one person and wounding three.

In the northern province of Sar-e Pul, hundreds of armed men assembled to boost the city’s defences as security forces fought to push the Taliban back from the city centre, said Zabihullah Amani, the provincial governor’s spokesman.

There were no reports of U.S. strikes in Sar-e Pul on Tuesday but there were three strikes on Monday, a spokesman for U.S. forces in Afghanistan said in an emailed statement.

Two air strikes in Baghlan province on Tuesday followed six the day before and American advisers were on the ground supporting Afghan troops, the spokesman added.

Ghulam Mohammad Balkhi, deputy spokesman for the Afghan army’s 209 Corps, said at least 30 Taliban fighters were killed in the joint operation.

(Source: Reuters)

## Erdogan: Idlib liberation battle could pose risks to Turkey, Europe

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has warned against what he called “the security and humanitarian risks” of an upcoming Syrian army operation to liberate Idlib Province, which holds the largest concentration of militant groups, including those backed by Ankara. In an article published in The Wall Street Journal on Monday, Erdogan called on the international community to intervene as Syrian forces are gearing up for the Idlib liberation battle.

“All members of the international community must understand their responsibilities as the assault on Idlib looms. The consequences of inaction are immense,” he said.

Syria has the backing of Russia, Iran and

Lebanon’s Hezbollah resistance movement in its bid to rid the strategic province bordering Turkey of terrorists.

Idlib hosts several militant groups backed by Turkey and other foreign parties – especially Western states, Israel and their regional allies.

Erdogan warned that the planned counter-terrorism campaign in Idlib “would also create serious humanitarian and security risks for Turkey, the rest of Europe and beyond,” apparently referring to a fresh influx of Syrian refugees in the wake of the Idlib battle.

“If the international community, including Europe and the U.S., fail to take action now, not only innocent Syrians but the entire world stands to pay the price,” he added.

Erdogan further stressed that not only the West, but also Turkey’s partners Iran and Russia are responsible for stopping a humanitarian disaster in Idlib.

Turkey on the one side and Iran and Russia on the other support opposite sides of the Syria conflict, but they have been mediating a diplomatic process between the warring parties since January 2017 aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Erdogan’s comments came as his country has been deploying heavy artillery tanks, howitzers and commandos to the Syrian border.

Last week, Iran’s President Hassan Rouhani hosted his Russian and Turkish counterparts for a trilateral summit on Syria.

In a joint statement, the participants at the Tehran summit said the Syria crisis could only be resolved through a negotiated political process, and has no military solution.

The trio also “emphasized strong and continued commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Syria, as well as to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and highlighted that they should be respected by all.”

During the event, Erdogan called for a ceasefire in Idlib, but Russian President Vladimir Putin said that it would be pointless as it would not involve the militant groups that Moscow regards as terrorists.

(Source: TRT)



STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	148577.6
IFX	1692.13

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	48,711 rials
GBP	54,742 rials
AED	11,437 rials

Source: mehrnews.com

COMMODITIES

WTI	\$67.66/b
Brent	\$77.85/b
OPEC Basket	\$74.17/b
Gold	\$1,193.40/oz
Silver	\$14.14/oz
Platinum	\$787.85/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

NEWS IN BRIEF



Development projects worth \$16.6m launched at Mehrabad Intl. Airport

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Seven development projects worth 700 billion rials (about \$16.6 million) were launched at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport, according to the director general of the airport.

Mir-Saeed Safinia said the projects have been handed over to the contractors and are scheduled to be completed within 18 months, IRIB reported on Tuesday.

He mentioned conducting some improvements in Terminal 1 and Terminal 2 of the airport as one of these projects.



Iran sets Oct. light crude price \$1.1 above Oman/Dubai quotes

**ENERGY** **TEHRAN** — The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) has set the official selling price (OSP) of its light crude for Asian buyers at \$1.1 a barrel above the average of Oman and Dubai quotes, 10 cents higher than the previous month, Reuters reported quoting a source with knowledge of the matter.

September OSP for Iranian Heavy crude was set at 90 cents a barrel below Oman-Dubai quotes, while Forozan's OSP is at 75 cents a barrel below Oman-Dubai quotes. Soroush September OSP was set at \$5.55 a barrel below Oman-Dubai quotes.



Iran issues tender to buy 30,000 tons rice from India

Iran's state grains buyer Governmental Trading Corporation (GTC) has issued an international tender to buy 30,000 tons of rice to be sourced from India, European traders said on Monday. The tender closes on October 9.

The sella grade rice of type 1121 is sought in two 15,000 ton consignments for shipment in containers between October 15 to November 15. *(Source: Reuters)*

UK pay growth beats forecasts as hiring levels off

British workers' underlying pay growth picked up faster than expected to a rate that has not been exceeded in three years, as businesses found it harder to recruit staff, official figures showed on Tuesday.

Average weekly earnings excluding bonuses rose by 2.9 percent on the year in the three months to July, the fastest since March and gathering speed from the previous three month period when they grew by 2.7 percent, the Office for National Statistics said.

Including bonuses, total pay growth picked up to 2.6 percent from 2.4 percent.

Economists polled by Reuters forecast wage growth of 2.8 percent excluding bonuses and 2.4 percent including them. Pay growth excluding bonuses was last higher than 2.9 percent in the three months to July 2015.

"Earnings have grown faster than prices for several months, especially looking at pay excluding bonuses," ONS statistician David Freeman said.

The Bank of England keeps a close eye on wage growth for signs of inflation pressure, and last week Governor Mark Carney told legislators that nominal pay growth - excluding volatile bonuses - had slowly risen since 2015 without much accompanying improvement in productivity growth.

This raised employers' labour costs, which were now growing at a rate that pointed to inflation at around 2 percent and required the BoE to raise interest rates at a "limited and gradual" pace, he said.

The BoE has raised interest rates twice in the past year, and after the most recent rate rise last month, Carney said market expectations of a further 25 basis point rate rise at least once a year for the next few years was a reasonable rule of thumb. *(Source: Reuters)*

New trading codes issuance up 45% since March

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — The number of trading codes issued in Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) has increased 45 percent since the beginning of current Iranian calendar year (March 21) compared to the same period of time in the previous year, TSE spokesman Hamid Rouhbakhsh told IRIB on Monday.

Some 72,000 trading codes have been issued in the TSE since the year start, he announced.

"Capital market has been lucky receiving high attention from the investors over the past months as we witnessed a new record in the TEDPIX (TSE main index)

today which gained 44,700 points to stand at 147,000 points with a 3.4-percent increase from yesterday", Rouhbakhsh underlined.

Presence of new shareholders in TSE rose 40 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1396 (ended on March 20), compared to its preceding year, as TSE CEO Hassan Qalibaf-Als has previously announced, putting the number of issued trading codes at 174,719 in the past year.

The rising trend of TEDPIX began on June 13, which was named 'Golden Wednesday of Stock Market', when TEDPIX gained 2,767 points to stand at 99.146 points.

Iran's 4-month oil revenue up over 60% yr/yr

**ENERGY** **TEHRAN** — Iran's revenues from crude oil and oil products exports reached 419 trillion rials (about \$9.98 billion) in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22, 2018) up 60.7 percent compared to its preceding year's same period. The country's crude oil sales reached

348.9 trillion rials (about \$8.3 billion) in the mentioned time span while the figure stood at 189 trillion rials (about \$4.5 billion) in the preceding year, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

The crude oil exports increased by a record high of 84.2 percent in the mentioned four months compared to the same period



Then on June 17, players in Iran's capital market witnessed a historical record in growth of TEDPIX which gained 3,306

points to hit 102,452 points, something unprecedented in the 50-year history of the country's stock market.

Russia and China are looking at launching joint projects worth more than \$100b

A group composed of Russian and Chinese businesses is considering 73 joint investment projects cumulatively worth more than \$100 billion, according to a Tuesday statement.

Cooperation between China and Russia is an issue of global importance as both nations try to achieve economic stability despite the pain of U.S. penalties — sanctions against Russia, and an escalating tariff war against China. Beijing and Moscow have had a rocky relationship, but the two governments have publicly sought closer ties in recent years.

The group overseeing the potential billions in investment is the Russian-Chinese Business Advisory Committee, which held an annual meeting this week during the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, Russia.

The committee includes more than 150 representatives from "leading Russian and Chinese companies," according to a statement from the Russia-China Investment Fund. The RCIF was established in 2012 by China's state-owned China Investment Corporation and Russian sovereign wealth



fund the Russian Direct Investment Fund.

The announcement said seven projects worth a total of \$4.6 billion had already been implemented as a result of work by the China-Russia group.

"While strong economic growth in both countries will certainly produce many domestic opportunities for profitable investments, we believe particularly promising transactions will be found in bilateral deals that capitalize on the Russia-China relationship," Kirill Dmitriev, CEO of the Russian sovereign wealth fund, said in a statement accompanying the announcement.

■ Separate tech agreement

In a separate Tuesday announcement, the Russia-China Investment Fund and Chinese science and tech investment group Tus-Holdings announced joint investment plans.

That cooperation will focus on technology, seeing \$1.28 billion invested in the Russian Tushino Project Technology Park in the northwest of Moscow, RCIF said in a statement. The two groups are considering building a Sino-Russian tech innovation park with more than \$100 million investment and have launched a Russia-China venture fund with capital of \$100 million, the news release added.

*(Source: CNBC)*

China asks WTO for sanctions in U.S. trade dispute

China will ask the World Trade Organization next week for permission to impose sanctions on the United States, for Washington's non-compliance with a ruling in a dispute over U.S. dumping duties that China initiated in 2013, a meeting agenda showed on Tuesday.

The request is likely to lead to years of legal wrangling over the case for sanctions and the amount. Last year China won a WTO ruling in the dispute, which related to several industries including machinery and electronics, light industry, metals and minerals, with an annual export value of up to \$8.4 billion. *(Source: Reuters)*

Carney extends BOE term again to steer economy through Brexit

Mark Carney agreed to stay on at the helm of the Bank of England for an additional seven months, extending his stay for a second time to help steer Britain's economy through Brexit.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond ended days of speculation on the governor's future, telling lawmakers on Tuesday that the Canadian won't step down as planned in June 2019. Carney will now remain in office until roughly halfway through a prospective transition period intended for the U.K. to smooth its withdrawal from the European Union. The pound was little changed after the news.

"I have been discussing with the governor his ability to be able to serve a little longer in post in order to ensure continuity through what could be quite a turbulent period for our economy in the early summer of 2019," Hammond said. "The governor has agreed, despite various personal pressures to conclude his term in June, that he will continue until the end of January 2020."

The decision is likely to prove controversial as Carney's tenure at the BOE has long drawn both criticism and praise. He was seen as a key source of financial stability in the political power vacuum that followed the Brexit vote, but also drew the ire of pro-Brexit lawmakers who believe he waded too far into the political debate. He has been accused of botching messages on policy for much of his time at the bank.

Carney himself has said many times his plan was to return to Canada following his tenure at the BOE. His new exit date effectively wipes out speculation he planned to run in the nation's next federal election in October 2019. *(Source: Bloomberg)*

Second Announcement

IN THE NAME OF GOD

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NO. 97-06/169

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

**Subject of Two-Stage Tender:**  
HD MCR Equipment for Project of SD to HD TV Channels 1,2,3 (Tehran IRIB Center) according to the tender documents

**Deadline of Receiving Documents:**  
As of publishing second announcement of advertisement latest by the business hour dated on **Monday September 17, 2018.**

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

**Type and Amount of Guarantee for Participating in Tender:**  
The amount of **USD 55,429** which should be in the form of extendable bank guarantee

**Time and Place of Delivering Priced Bid:**  
The sealed A, B & C packages/envelopes should be submitted within one main envelope marked with tender number no later than **15 p.m.** on **Saturday October 20, 2018** and submitted to the Secretariat of Commission of Tenders.

**Time and Place of Opening Envelopes**  
The date of opening envelopes A&B is at **8:30 a.m.** on **Monday October 22, 2018** in the office of Vice President of IRIB Planning and Financial Resources and opening of envelope C will be after technical evaluation.  
It should be noted that bidders should hold license from the authorized bodies.

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

Public Relations Dept. of IRIB



# Oil rises as U.S. sanctions on Iran squeeze supply

Oil prices rose on Tuesday as U.S. sanctions squeezed Iranian crude exports, tightening global supply despite efforts by Washington to get other producers to increase output.

Benchmark Brent crude oil was up 40 cents at \$77.77 a barrel by 0950 GMT. U.S. light crude was up 5 cents at \$67.59.

"The path of least resistance for oil prices, given the supply fundamentals, remains up," Harry Tchilinguirian, oil strategist at BNP Paribas, told Reuters Global Oil Forum.

Washington has told its allies to reduce imports of Iranian oil and several Asian buyers, including South Korea, Japan and India appear to be falling in line.

But the U.S. government does not want to push up oil prices, which could depress economic activity or even trigger a slowdown in global growth.

U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry met Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih on Monday in Washington, as the Trump administration encourages big oil-producing countries to keep output high. Perry will meet with Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak on Thursday in Moscow.



Russia, the United States and Saudi Arabia are the world's three biggest oil producers by far, meeting around a third of the world's almost 100 million barrels per day (bpd) of daily crude

consumption.

Their combined output has risen by 3.8 million bpd since September 2014, more than the peak output Iran has managed over the last three years.

Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said on Tuesday that Russia and a group of producers around the Middle East which dominate the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries may sign a new long-term cooperation deal at the beginning of December, the TASS news agency reported. Novak did not provide details.

A group of OPEC and non-OPEC producers have been voluntarily withholding supplies since January 2017 to tighten markets, but with crude prices up by more than 40 percent since then and markets significantly tighter, there has been pressure on producers to raise output.

With Middle East crude markets also tightening, many Asian refiners are seeking alternative supplies, with South Korean and Japanese imports of U.S. crude hitting a record in September.

U.S. oil producers are seeking new buyers for crude they used to sell to China before orders slowed because of the trade disputes between Washington and Beijing.

This is one reason that the discount for U.S. crude versus Brent has widened to around \$10 per barrel, the biggest since June, traders said. (Source: Reuters)

## Iraq replaces Saudi as top oil supplier to India in August: data

Iraq replaced Saudi Arabia in August as the top oil supplier to India, data from industry and shipping sources showed, as refiners turned to Iraqi barrels to compensate for a lower intake of Iranian oil ahead of U.S. sanctions in November.

The United States is reimposing sanctions on Iran following Washington's decision in May to withdraw from a 2015 international deal aimed at curbing Tehran's nuclear program. While some sanctions were implemented from Aug. 6, those affecting Iran's petroleum sector take effect only from Nov. 4.

Imports of Iranian oil by India, Tehran's top oil client after China, fell by about a third to about 523,000 bpd in August from July as state-refiners slowed purchases due to a delay in securing government approval to use Iranian ships.

Despite the lower purchases, Iran remained the third biggest oil supplier to India in August, the data showed.

Washington will consider waivers for Iranian oil buyers such as India but they must eventually halt imports as sanctions are imposed on Tehran, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said last Thursday.

Iraq and Saudi Arabia continued to be the two biggest oil suppliers to India last month, the tanker arrival data obtained from sources showed. The sources declined



to be identified.

India refiners shipped in 1.02 million barrels per day (bpd) of Iraqi Basra oil in August, an increase of about 46 percent from the previous month, while imports from Saudi Arabia declined 5 percent to about 747,000 bpd during the period, the data showed.

India imported less Nigerian oil in August as the west African nation's output was hit by outages in a couple of major streams such as Bonny Light and Tornados. Also, Asian buyers opted to take light sweet U.S. oil rather than Nigerian.

India's imports of U.S. oil in August rose to a record 275,000 bpd, accounting for about 6 percent of its overall purchases, the data showed.

India refiners had booked U.S. oil cargoes in June when discounts between U.S. crude future and Brent was wide enough to make arbitrage economics feasible for India. (Source: Reuters)

## UK North Sea drilling at four-decade low, risking growth goals

The oil business has mostly recovered from a worst-in-a-generation crude price slump, but not everyone is celebrating.

The UK North Sea is on track this year to have the fewest exploration, appraisal and development wells since 1973, according to a report from Oil & Gas UK, a trade group. Drilling dropped to four-decade lows both last year and in 2016 as companies cut spending to cope with falling oil prices.

The more than 40-year old North Sea has got a new lease of life in the last few years as more efficient wells and new projects boosted production. But the slowdown in new wells is a "serious concern," and could end up putting the region in danger of missing its "Vision 2035" goals, which include extending the productive life of the aging basin for another generation, said the trade group.

In 2018, the UK North Sea is expected to have no more than 12 exploration wells, fewer than last year, and as many as 80 development wells, in line with 2017. Total investment is estimated to be about 6 billion pounds (\$7.8 billion), less than half of the level five years ago.

With oil's crash still fresh in their memories, company bosses are keeping a tight rein on spending. Large North Sea operators Royal Dutch Shell Plc and BP Plc are trying to keep breakeven costs at about \$40 a barrel, half the level of projects sanctioned prior to



2014. That's limiting their ability to expand drilling in a region that's comparatively more expensive.

But for now, there's also some good news. It's about 30 percent cheaper to get a barrel of oil out of the North Sea than it was before the 2014 price crash. And though there are fewer new wells, they are operating more efficiently. Production has been rising steadily since 2015 and output this year is expected to reach up to 1.75 million barrels of oil equivalent a day, 7 percent higher than last year.

Changes resulting from Britain's imminent exit from the European Union also risks changing the economics of the North Sea. If Brexit opens up the UK to negotiate new deals, oil and gas industry "trading costs" could fall by 100 million pounds a year, according to the report. Alternatively, in a "hard Brexit" scenario, costs could rise by 500 million pounds annually. (Source: Bloomberg)

## U.S. oil exports to Japan, South Korea soar as refiners reap steep discounts

U.S. oil exports to Japan and South Korea will rise to record highs this month as Asian refiners take advantage of the steep discounts American sellers are offering after losing Chinese customers amid the trade dispute between Washington and Beijing.

Ship tracking data in Thomson Reuters Eikon showed that oil exports from the United States to South Korea in September will rise to a record average of at least 230,000 barrels per day (bpd). U.S. shipments to Japan will also rise to a record average of at least 134,000 bpd, the data showed.

Two traders and a brokerage source said South Korean and Japanese refiners have been taking advantage of steep discounts of up to \$10 per barrel between the U.S. crude benchmark West Texas Intermediate (WTI) that American producers base their crude sales on and the international Brent crude benchmark.

A spokesman for Japan's biggest refiner JXTG Nippon Oil & Energy Corp said his firm had not received government orders to halt Iranian oil imports.

He would not comment on commercial operations beyond saying "we will determine optimum crude in our own procurement plan."

Japan and South Korea were among the first major Iranian clients to bow to U.S. pressure and cut orders from Iran, the third-largest producer among the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, with South Korea importing its last cargoes in July, the trade data showed.

India, typically the second-biggest buyer of Iranian oil after China, has also dialed back Iranian orders while importing more from the United States, the data showed.

### ■ Diverging trends

With Middle East crude markets tightening because of the start of U.S. sanctions against Iran in November, many Asian refiners have been seeking to make up the shortfall with American supply.

Greg McKenna, chief market strategist at futures brokerage Ax-iTrader said there has been "a divergence between Brent and WTI."

U.S. prices, including benchmark WTI, are under pressure amid rising production and a decline in Chinese buying interest because of the trade dispute which is forcing U.S. sellers to find new buyers for their crude.

Meanwhile, the Brent benchmark is supported by several supply disruptions including the Iranian sanctions, tumbling exports from Venezuela, and lingering concerns about Libyan production amid clashes between internal groups.

"There are still plenty of battles and other influences to disrupt Brent supply which has kept traders interested," McKenna said, referring to concerns about supplies that tend to be priced off Brent, including from Libya, West Africa and the Middle East.

Whether this price divergence will last is not clear.

There are signs that Saudi Arabia and Russia will increase output to take up Iranian market share, which should ease Brent prices.

Meanwhile, U.S. prices could rise because the surge in demand may exacerbate logistical bottlenecks since the current domestic pipeline, port and storage infrastructure is not geared to handle exports on this scale.

This congestion is already causing offers to rise for U.S. supply for loading towards the end of the year, although no fixed deals have been reported, said a third trader in Singapore. (Source: Reuters)

## OPEC outages are driving up oil prices

Geopolitics is once again driving oil prices, and after a pause this summer, tension and unrest could be back at the top of the agenda.

Last week, rioters burned down several buildings in Basra, a major city in Southern Iraq and home to most of the country's oil production. Despite its oil riches, southern Iraq remains deeply unequal, which has fueled resentment and anger among the neglected populace even as international companies continue to ramp up production from Basra's vast oil fields. Unemployment, poor public services, electricity outages (at the height of summer heat) and even contaminated water has stoked outrage.

The protests in Basra have been going on in one form or another for months, culminating last week in the burning of the headquarters of Iraqi political parties and even the Iranian consulate. The central government dispatched troops to the city and a curfew was put in place, restoring calm.

But the violence adds Iraq to the growing list of unstable OPEC countries that has rattled the oil market. "This is a dangerous escalation in a critical time period in an unstable region," said Sunni lawmaker Salah al-Jubbouri, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Oil production has not been affected, and the powerful players that wield influence in Iraq — namely, Iran and the United States — both have an interest in not seeing the situation deteriorate. Yet, Basra suddenly looks unstable. And that is all the more notable because Iraq's southern oil regions had avoided the ravages of war that plagued Iraq's north after the advance of ISIS beginning in 2014.

The unrest has occurred against a backdrop of rising production and exports from Iraq. Iraq's oil production stood at around 4.55 million barrels per day (mb/d) in July, and exports recently hit a record of 3.59 mb/d. Iraq's oil minister tried to frame the situation as one under control. "Security forces in Basra took measures to protect oil fields and foreign employees," oil minister Jabbar al-Luaibi told reporters in Baghdad. "Our message was clear and strong to oil majors that Iraq is safe and what is



happening in Basra was a passing cloud that passed peacefully."

That remains to be seen. "It's only a matter of time before Iraq becomes a problem" Helima Croft, the chief commodities strategist at RBC, told the Wall Street Journal. If the situation between Iraq and Iran escalates, "we are off to the races and prices could add \$10 a barrel," she said.

In another troubling development, gunmen stormed the headquarters of Libya's National Oil Company on Monday, shooting and detonating explosives, killing at least two people and injuring nearly a dozen others. The NOC's chairman, Mustafa Sanallah was evacuated. The attack demonstrates "the need for additional measures to ensure NOC is able to withstand those that seek to halt Libya's recovery," he said.


Libya's oil production has been volatile and unstable, with a major outage at several ports in June that helped push prices up. Output fell from around 1 million barrels per day earlier this year to as low as 664,000 bpd in July, according to OPEC's secondary sources. Production is thought to have ramped up further in August, perhaps as high as 970,000 bpd. But the latest attack is a glaring reminder that Libya is far from secure and battle between rival factions shows no signs of letting up. (Source: oilprice.com)

These events add to the ongoing losses expected from Iran and Venezuela, two other OPEC countries that have contributed to market tightening. "A higher oil price scenario is built on lower exports from Iran due to U.S. sanctions, capped U.S. shale output growth, instability in production in countries like Libya and Venezuela and no material negative impact from a U.S./China trade war on oil demand in the next 6-9 months," Harry Tchilinguirian, oil strategist BNP Paribas, said at the Reuters Global Oil Forum. "We see Brent trading above \$80 under (that) scenario."

Global oil inventories have declined to "critical levels," energy expert Robert Raymond said on CNBC last week. He argues that there is also serious supply trouble in the medium-term. "The industry, for the last three years, has been chronically underinvesting and continues to do so at a rate of only 60 percent of cash flow being reinvested in the form of capex," Raymond argued. "The last time that happened [was] in 2004 and '05 which precipitated a spike to \$147 a barrel."

That may be a problem for another day. In the near-term, the outages at more than a few OPEC countries is helping put upward pressure on prices.

(Source: oilprice.com)




Agricultural Support Services Company

**INVITATION TO A ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER**

**SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT**

**55/97/13040**

**12/09/2018**



Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture

**AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY**

The Agricultural Support Services Company, hereinafter will be referred as ASSC, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Agricultural Jihad of I.R. of Iran, is considering the purchase of 30000±5% MTS of Granular Di Ammonium Phosphite (GDAP) through one step international tender.

All of the qualified and interested companies are invited to receive tender documents from Wednesday September 12, 2018 until Sunday September 23, 2018 (seven working days) from our purchasing committee ( located at the 9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi st., Tehran, Iran).

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

The bid participants are required to submit their sealed and stamped envelopes containing offers latest on Wednesday dated October 24, 2018 (during official working hours) to our security office, located on the 8th floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelopes will be on Saturday, dated October 27, 2018 at 3:00 PM with the presence of bidders' representatives in our purchasing committee (9th floor, no.1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

We would like to emphasize that the bid bond value should be at € 293000 or in equal value of any other foreign currencies, except US dollars, based on exchange rate of CBI on September 02, 2018 for 30000 MT ± 5% in bank guarantee.

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

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



## From Sweden to Brexit, immigration is the issue dividing Europe



By Simon Jenkins

The message is glaring from Sweden's election result. There is one dominant issue in Europe's politics at present, and it is immigration. It rules in Italy and Germany. It rules in Hungary and Austria. It rules from Serbia to Scandinavia. It dominates every meeting of the leaders of the EU. It obsesses the United Kingdom, except there it cloaks itself in the euphemism of "reaching trade agreements with the rest of the world".

Europe's swing to the far right – or rather a surge in emotional xenophobia – was inevitable from the moment the European Union raced towards a single market in the 1980s, including an open market in people across the continent. Of the four freedoms of movement – in goods, services, capital and people – the first to fail was always going to be people.

An open border and the Schengen agreement on passport-free travel came in before the mass movement of low-cost labour from eastern Europe, and before the youth migration from Asia and Africa. Since geography renders Europe's southern border porous, there is no way Europe's governments, democratic or autocratic, will any longer tolerate unrestricted borders within the EU.

The one thing that will be catastrophic will be to pretend otherwise. An organized and racist nationalism has risen in Sweden to defy half a century of liberalism. The old liberal fallacy – that noble ideals will ultimately trump mere majorities – is crumbling at every election. We can cheer the sea captain who pleads to land his refugees "out of common humanity", but we cannot enforce his passengers on Europe's citizens. There must be a pan-European regime, both to help frontier states police Europe's southern border – on both sides of it – and to regulate and distribute migrants who do get across. But such a regime will never be accepted if individual European states cannot regain a degree of sovereignty over their populations. Indeed any regime will depend on it.

It is tragic that the outcome of this debate – greater European migration control – would almost certainly have negated Brexit. In the minds of most British voters, migration has nothing to do with economics or tariffs or trade regulation, except at the margin. This argument is not over trade, but over people being able to control their community's character and pace of change. We can dismiss such control as licensed bigotry, intolerance and nasty identity politics. That will not stop people voting. To them, such rights are a cry for self-respect and values they hold dear.

Either way, the debate cannot be ignored. Yet Britain's government has still not set out its Brexit migration policy, beyond a palpably "hostile welcome" to all incomers. Instead, Westminster warbles on about tariffs, trade and Boris Johnson. The place has gone mad.

(Source: The Guardian)

# Saudi Arabia's ambitious Vision 2030 plan in trouble

By Bruce Riedel

Saudi Vision 2030, the brainchild of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to reduce the kingdom's dependence on oil income, is coming undone. The king has stripped away the central pillar of the project. The country is becoming more autocratic and repressive. The slide toward greater repression is prompting capital flight.

The centerpiece of the ambitious plan was to open up Aramco, the national oil company, to outside investors. Five percent of the company would be opened initially, creating an initial public offering, or IPO. The crown prince estimated that the company would be valued at \$2 trillion, creating the world's largest IPO of \$100 billion.

From the beginning the plan had serious problems. The company was overvalued considerably. There were difficulties in finding a stock exchange market. President Donald Trump pressed the Saudis to select New York, but there was a chance that a New York listing would place the IPO at risk of being seized in the trial underway by claimants asserting that Saudi Arabia was a party to the Sept. 11 attacks. London has been compromised by the Brexit campaign, which is raising questions about the future of the British banking sector.

At home, critics of the plan asserted it would place the nation's largest asset in the hands of foreigners, effectively reversing the Saudization of the oil industry. Other critics said the deal would force the government to open up the government account and expose the role of the royal family in the profits of the business.

The crown prince's so-called anti-corruption campaign last November – in which hundreds of prominent Saudis, including members of the family, were detained and forced to hand over assets to the government



## One authoritative estimate is that almost \$150 billion in capital has left the kingdom in the last two years.

— added further difficulties. The shutdown underscored the absence of due process and the rule of law in the kingdom and discouraged foreign investment. It also sparked major capital flight as the wealthy sought to protect their assets abroad. One authoritative estimate is that almost \$150 billion in capital has left the kingdom in the last two years.

The king decided to scrap his son's plan in June, according to well-sourced reports from Riyadh. King Salman heard from numerous elements in the royal family who were opposed to the plan and decided to shelve it and dissolve the planning process for creating an IPO.

This is the second time this year that the king has overruled his son on a major issue. Earlier this year the king took a much harder line on Jerusalem than the crown prince. The king forcefully rejected the Trump

administration's decision to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem and to "take Jerusalem off the agenda" for a future peace agreement.

With the economic component of Vision 2030 gone, the social reform process became more important. Letting women drive has been the signature accomplishment for the social reform plan, but it has been badly discredited by the government's arrests of numerous female advocates of gender reform. The arrests demonstrate the regime's acute sensitivity to any kind of dissent at home or criticism from abroad.

The arbitrary detentions last fall and now of women are part of a broader trend of greater authoritarianism and repression in Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia has always been an absolute monarchy that stifles dissent. There is no freedom of assembly or speech. Public

executions are a mainstay of Saudi life.

But the repression is getting worse. The shutdown last year was unprecedented in Saudi history. Some of those detained are still under arrest. Public executions are more frequent. Prominent clerical critics have been rounded up. Behind the scenes, the war in Yemen adds to the pressure on the royal palace. The war is the crown prince's signature foreign policy initiative and it's become an expensive quagmire with no end in sight. Criticism of the war is widespread in the Muslim world and the West. It is likely that there is mounting criticism in the kingdom, too. The Houthis are confident enough to stall the United Nations' call for talks in Geneva.

As always, the minority Shiite community is the first to be targeted. Repression in the Eastern Province has been fierce and violent. A Saudi Shiite woman may face the death sentence this fall, which is unprecedented for a Saudi woman.

Criticism from abroad is also prompting an erratic response. The withdrawal of Saudi students from Canada is the best example. Ottawa called for the freedom of some Saudi women critics and Riyadh responded with a temper tantrum that only further discouraged confidence in Saudi decision-making.

Several European countries have suspended arms sales to Saudi Arabia as long as the Yemeni war continues. Spain has just joined Germany, Norway and Belgium in halting arms transfers. Congress is increasingly hostile to further arms deliveries to the Saudi-led coalition. Vision 2030 is still the government's game plan. Its social reforms, including women's driving, opening cinemas and entertainment facilities, are popular. But this will not reduce the country's economic dependence on oil. That vision is a mirage.

(Source: Al Monitor)

# Trump's reputation precedes him. So does Woodward's.

Bob Woodward's new book, "Fear," does not paint a different picture of the early Trump White House than the one that has already emerged from credible news organizations in daily reporting on President Trump. Rather, the book fills in details of a presidency led by an ignorant, impulsive and dishonest narcissist – and the people around him who enable or restrain his worst instincts.

Based on hundreds of hours of interviews, Woodward, a Post associate editor, describes the desperate measures that staff took to prevent the government from descending into chaos. Former National Economic Council director Gary Cohn reportedly swiped documents off Trump's desk, which may have kept the United States in the North American Free Trade Agreement and a South Korean trade pact. Perhaps not coincidentally, Trump has ramped up trade wars against allies and adversaries alike since Cohn left.

Then there is Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, who apparently complained about the president's ignorance on foreign affairs and slow-walked unhinged presidential orders until

things could cool down. These revelations highlight the dilemma facing public-spirited people working in Trump's executive branch. The United States would probably be worse off without the service of Cohn, Mattis and other adults. But in the long term, does normalizing a man they know is unfit do more damage? Can that service come at the cost of implementing orders only somewhat less absurd than the ones these patriots hope to stop?

The calculation is simpler for senior members of Congress, such as House Speaker Paul D. Ryan (R-Wis.) and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), whose role is to check the executive: They have let the president do and say too many outrageous things without serious pushback – and watched as other congressional Republicans abused their oversight authorities to cover for Trump.

The moral implications of their work should also weigh heavily on the lawyers guiding the president through the investigation of special counsel Robert S. Mueller III. Woodward recounts how former Trump lawyer John Dowd subjected

the president to questioning about the Russia probe in a practice session in preparation for an interview with Mueller. After a session filled with false statements, Trump went on an angry 30-minute rant. Dowd resigned two months later, apparently insisting that Trump is "not a good witness." Trump lawyer Rudolph W. Giuliani has since built a legal strategy on publicly trashing Mueller. Is attacking a lifelong public servant in defense of a man who cannot tell the truth really what Giuliani wants to be remembered for?

Trump and other administration officials have attacked the Woodward book. They will have trouble impugning his credibility. Ari Fleischer, former White House press secretary for President George W. Bush and no ally of the mainstream media, tweeted, "I've been on the receiving end of a Bob Woodward book. There were quotes in it I didn't like. But never once – never – did I think Woodward made it up. .??. Woodward always plays it straight." Woodward's reputation precedes him. So does Trump's.

(Source: The Washington Post)



Agricultural Support Services Company

## INVITATION TO A ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT

55/97/13040  
12/09/2018



Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture

### AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY

The Agricultural Support Services Company, hereinafter will be referred as ASSC, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Agricultural Jihad of I.R. of Iran, is considering the purchase of 2×30000±%5 MTS of Granular Potassium Sulphate (GSOP) through one step international tender.

All of the qualified and interested companies are invited to receive tender documents from Wednesday dated September 12, 2018 until Sunday dated September 23, 2018 (seven working days) from our purchasing committee (located at the 9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi st., Tehran, Iran).

The bidders are requested to submit their letters of introduction, along with remittance bill of I.Rials 1,200,000 to ASSC's account no. 4001039704005791 with SHEBA no. IR250100004001039704005791

at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran through payment order of SATNA or PAYA with the 30 character identification code of 358039782263500650000000000006 will be possible.

The bid participants are required to submit their sealed and stamped envelopes containing offers latest on Sunday dated October 28, 2018 (during official working hours) to our security office, located on the 8th floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelopes will be on Monday dated October 29, 2018 at 2:00 PM with the presence of bidders' representatives in our purchasing committee (9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

We would like to emphasize that the bid bond value should be at €217217 or in equal value of any other foreign currencies, except US dollars, based on exchange rate of CBI on September 02, 2018 for each lot of 30000 MT ± 5% in bank guarantee.

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

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



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55/97/13040  
12/09/2018



Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture

### AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY

The Agricultural Support Services Company, hereinafter will be referred as ASSC, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Agricultural Jihad of I.R. of Iran, is considering the purchase of 3×33000±5% MTS of Granular Triple Super Phosphate (GTSP) through one step international tender.

All of the qualified and interested companies are invited to receive tender documents from Wednesday dated September 12, 2018 until Sunday September 23, 2018 (seven working days) from our purchasing committee (located at the 9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi st., Tehran, Iran).

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We would like to emphasize that the bid bond value should be at €163272 or in equal value of any other foreign currencies, except US dollars, based on exchange rate of CBI on September 02, 2018 for each lot of 30000 MT ± 5% in bank guarantee.

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# Investigation on attacks on Iranian consulate general in Basra

**1 →** The security forces are to blame for the chaos, torching the Iranian consulate and settlements of the Hashad al-shaabi tribal parties as Asad Al-Udani, the governor of Basra had previously warned. He noted, “I repeatedly said that the Basra’s chief police officer was taking bribes but no one listened.”

Let’s just get one thing clear. The rioters who attacked Iranian consulate were not of ordinary people but were from Ba’ath-takfiri group and Iraqi Jihadi officials had repeatedly warned the central government against them but to no avail. In every country, discontent individuals of the various strata of the people can push the protests to the direction they wish for.

As part of the deadly demonstration in southern Iraq’s city of Basra, the Iranian consulate wasn’t the only building to be set on fire, the headquarters of the Nojaba’ Movement, the Hashad al-shaabi, the Badr Organization, the building attributed to the Al-Da’wa party and many of the Iraqi political-military sites were also destroyed. Even a number of people in these buildings were killed and wounded. According to Iraqi security officials, diplomats and staff of the consulate general of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Basra left the building before the onset of aggression.

The Iraqi resistance warriors are now at the scene, trying to prevent more casualties. Iraqi security forces have also been deployed to Basra. The Iraqi people, political, military, and jihadi institutions each condemned the insurgent acts by issuing separate statements. Ordinary protesters in Iraq have also separated route from the insurgents and strongly



condemned their crimes.

The ravage in Basra is the conspiracy of the Saudis, the Zionist regime and the United States with the goal to create tension between Iran and Iraq. The enemies of Iraq want to design Shiite-Shiite conflicts and seek to exploit individuals and groups who are more likely to oppose Iran.

After the Zionist regime and its regional allies failed to fulfill their goal in the Iraqi election, and to the contrary, they witnessed the victory of resistance groups, they sought to push Iraq towards instability and unrest. The plan was to create divisions between Iraq and Iran, especially on the verge of Muharram, Tasua, Ashura and Arbāeen Hosseini.

The enemy knows all too well about the deep relationships and ties between the two neighbors. The sinister triangle of Israel-U.S.-Saudi Arabia made attempts many times to target Basra, but they failed each time. However, this time, they took advantage of the wave of demonstrations and sent their mercenaries among demonstrators to burn Basra.

They burned state-owned centers and public funds, the offices of the Hashad al-shaabi’s headquarters in Basra, out of a grudge they hold against Iran, because Tehran supported the Iraqis in the war against ISIS and Takfiris.

The role of the sinister triangle in Basra becomes clear when the U.S. Consulate General was not touched in the chaos; a country

that destroyed Iraq and looted its assets and did not contribute to the Iraqi people in the war against ISIS.

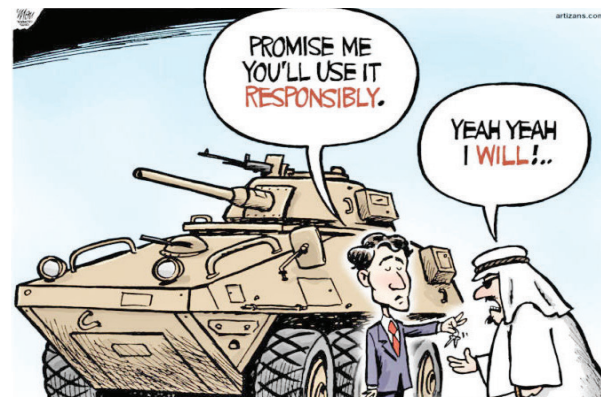
Basra and Iraq should be protected from conspiracies and the sinister triangle. The people of Basra must step up against the American-Saudi plan and cut off relations with their enemies.

Undoubtedly, the rioters’ efforts won’t go far with the burning of the Iranian consulate in Basra and the movements of sworn enemies of the Iranian and Iraqi peoples. The two nations of Iran and Iraq have proven their solidarity throughout history, whether in the great ceremony of Arbāeen Hosseini, the hospitality of the Iraqi people or the anti-ISIS war in Iraq.

The two nations will be together and will stay together. The unity of the people of Iran and Iraq is unbreakable. It is natural for the enemies to be unhappy with the ties between Iran and Iraq and the Iraqi Shiite travelers’ who come for the pilgrimage of Imam Reza (PBUH) and Hazrat Masoumeh (SA) and other holy sites in Iran, as well as the presence of the Iranian people in Iraq in Arbāeen. The enemy is horrified of the unity among the nations of the region.

The turbulence movements in Basra were thunderous by the Zionist-Wahhabi-American triangular stumbling block. The Iraqi people and the People from Basra were well aware that their peaceful protests had been thwarted by the rioters and they realized that the order to attack the Iranian Consulate General and the Hashad al-shaabi’s centers was issued from outside Iraq.

## How can defend Human Rights while selling arms to Saudi Arabia?



By Noha Aboueldahab

**YEMEN** — Arms deals are not merely a financial transaction. They are a powerful expression of political support and partnership between two governments. When Stephen Harper signed the \$15-billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia in 2014 – the largest contract in Canada’s history – he attempted to justify the controversial deal by pointing to Saudi Arabia as a partner in the fight against Islamic State. He also argued that cancelling the contract would unjustly punish the 3,000 Canadian workers who manufacture the weapons in London, Ont.

Chrystia Freeland’s tweet last month, which called for the release of detained human-rights activists in Saudi Arabia, triggered a Canadian-Saudi spat in which Saudi Arabia abruptly cut diplomatic and new-trade ties with Canada. It also pulled thousands of Saudi scholarship students from Canadian universities.

Ms. Freeland’s tweet and previous calls by the Canadian government for the release of arbitrarily detained activists and dissidents in Saudi Arabia are in line with Canada’s professed human-rights-conscious foreign policy. The continuation of its multibillion-dollar arms deal with Saudi Arabia is most definitely not.

After Saudi Arabia’s punitive response to Ms. Freeland’s tweet, she stated that Canada would continue to stand up for human rights at home and around the world. But Canada’s so-called feminist and human-rights-oriented foreign policy rings hollow in the ever-expanding gravesites of Yemen.

The war in Yemen, fought between the Yemeni Houthis and the Saudi-led coalition, has caused one of the world’s worst humanitarian crises in which innocent Yemenis, especially children, continue to suffer death by air strikes, starvation and preventable disease.

Canada has actively and rightly supported the establishment of United Nations inquiries into the extensive war crimes being committed against innocent Yemenis. The most recent report emphasizes that all parties to the conflict may be responsible for war crimes, but that the Saudi-led coalition’s actions have been the “leading direct cause of civilian deaths and destruction” in Yemen.

Notably, the report calls for the halting of the provision of arms that may be used in the conflict in Yemen, highlighting the significance attached to the detrimental impact of such arms sales on the perpetration of crimes in Yemen.

That Canada continues to supply Saudi Arabia with arms, despite the horrific atrocities being committed in Yemen on a daily basis by a military coalition led by Saudi Arabia, is puzzling – if not absurd.

Canada’s arms-control regulations prevent the export of arms in cases where there is a substantial risk that they will be used to commit human-rights violations. This stipulation was reiterated by Ms. Freeland herself earlier this year.

## Everything will return to normal after Trump’s gone: professor

By Fatemeh Mohammadi-pour

**TEHRAN** — President Donald Trump has done a lot of questionable action since he was in office, including issues within the United States - changing members of the cabinet, advisers and dismissal of director - and issues outside the United States, including the systematic withdrawal of international treaties and economic and political tensions with its former allies.

A reporter at Tehran Times newspaper recently interviewed Tom Phuong Le, Professor of Political Science, university of Pomona, USA.

Following is the complete text of the interview with Professor Tom Phuong Le:

■ Nowadays we are witnessing great gaps and differences among G7 member states while SCO member states are moving forward more convergence. Some believe that the orders and the regimes created after World War II are declining and because of this reason the U.S. is not going to pay the costs of regimes like NATO, WTO and different free trade treaties like NAFTA... What do you think of this? Why the U.S. is not ready to pay the costs of the regimes and orders as before?

A: I think the GAPs are more between President Trump and the G7 members, not among the G7 members themselves. If anything, Trump has made them closer. As for SCO, it has always been the superpowers calling the shots with the smaller countries riding along. So I don’t think they are a good comparison because their size and scope

are so different. With that said, I don’t think the old liberal economic order is going away, but it does indicate that other, non-western led, institutions will have an impact. Those non-western institutions though are modeled on many of the old institutions and are not designed to replace them.

As for the U.S. not paying, it’s because Trump is not a normal president. I feel that once he is gone, things will go back to normal

■ While the U.S. president Donald Trump attended the NATO and G7 summits with an aggressive approach toward Washington’s allies, he is trying to improve relation with North Korea and Russia with a reconciling approach. Why?

A: President Trump likes strong man tactics, so the authoritarian leaders seem to appeal to him more. He also likes to do things that upset establishment politicians. It’s a very strange way to do foreign policy.

■ International community is experiencing a new area in which while the U.S. is retreating from the old orders and regimes, China is trying to impose its own orders and regimes by reviewing ancient Silk Road project. To what extent the developments in the Middle East especially in Syria are affected by international systems structure which is changing?

A: I think Syria is the great tragedy if IR because states have not been able to work together to solve that crises. The one belt one road initiative is more of an economic thing that has little to do with Syria. The way I see it, the UN Security Council needs to work together to address the Syrian crises, but its problems are not unique to the current political

climate. The UN Security Council has always been political.

■ Some theoretician including John Mearsheimer believe that one of the most important elements of president Trump’s foreign policy is to move toward offshore balancing and reduction of troops and increasing of animosity with Iran. Do you agree with this? Will the U.S. decrease the number of its troops in Middle East? If we accept that the mentioned elements be the base for Trump’s foreign policy, how will Washington confront with Iran’s regional influence?

A: John Mearsheimer is awful. I think his policy proposals are always ad hoc, and it’s unclear when a country should offshore balance and when it should not according to his theory. With Trump, it seems like he is slowly increasing the U.S. footprint in the Middle East, so I don’t think he is listening to Mearsheimer. Trump doesn’t read. He just does things according to his guy feelings.

■ Reacting to President Trump’s remarks calling EU as the U.S. foe, Donald Tusk, president of the European Council asked Trump and Putin not to disturb world order. Do you think that Trump and Putin are going to create a new world order? If your answer is yes, how will the new polarization be in the new order?

A: Russia is weaker than people thing, especially economically. I don’t think Putin and Trump can remake the world order. They don’t have any idea of a replacement system. However, they can weaken it and lead states to be less collective in addressing world issues, like climate change, free trade, and humanitarian crises.

## Why Iran prefers the Eastern bloc over The West

**1 →** Iran’s mistrust of U.S. is not unfounded. Forty-five American military bases with 130,000 soldiers are stationed near Iran. In addition, for the past 40 years, the United States has advocated for a regime change in Tehran and confronted Iran’s regional role, while trying to stop its economic progress, by enacting and enforcing economic sanctions.

Meanwhile, Russia, China, and India do not have an unfriendly military presence in the region. These countries consider Iran a political, economic, and security partner. They recognize that Iran plays an important role in fighting terrorists, and they have opposed the U.S.-led policy of regime change.

Iran’s relationship with China and India, the two major Eastern powers, has historical roots based on mutual respect and friendship. The Eastern bloc powers have been able to maintain a balanced relationship with Iran and its regional adversaries, especially Israel, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, while the United States only engages with Iran’s regional enemies.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal, could have created a positive change after 40 years of hostile relations with the West. It was the first time the United States and Iran were officially negotiating at their highest diplomatic levels.

Over the past three years, Iran has fully implemented this agree-



ment. Billed as the most comprehensive nuclear non-proliferation document, this agreement could have served as an opportunity for further discussions to resolve other regional issues. In 2015, Ayatollah Khamenei said, “If the nuclear negotiations were to end without ‘ambiguity,’ it would be ‘an experience showing it’s possible to negotiate with them [the West] on other issues.’” Instead, Trump accepted the recommendation of Israel and Saudi Arabia, and made the United States the only side to leave the agreement. This decision has only deepened the mistrust and killed any chance of further engagement.

At this stage, two elements will play a key role in the future of Iran’s relations with the Western and Eastern blocs.

First, Russia, China, and even Europe want to keep the JCPOA going. The problem for the Europeans is that they are vulnerable to secondary U.S. sanctions if they continue to do business with Iran.

The powerful countries in the East, however, will use the vacuum that Trump created to advance their own relationship and unity with Iran. Nevertheless, to maintain relations with the West, Tehran is weighing if Europe will be able to act independently and support the JCPOA without U.S. participation.

The second element concerns the possibility of direct U.S.-Iran negotiations under the Trump administration. Trump’s strategy is to destroy the JCPOA, pressure Iran through sanctions, and then try to reach a “better” deal with Iran. He has argued that Iran will reach out to him and ask for further negotiations. Mahmoud Vaezi, President Rouhani’s chief of staff, responded by saying that Trump tried eight different times to speak with Rouhani. Nevertheless, Ayatollah Khamenei, who is the final arbiter of Iran’s foreign policy, recently stated that Iran will not negotiate with the United States at any level.

In my 30 years of service for

the Iranian government since the Islamic Revolution of 1979, I have consistently witnessed that the U.S. policy of insulting, belittling, bullying, and coercing Iran has backfired. It has only created a harder line within Iran, which will nullify any further negotiations with Washington. Although Iran’s relationship with the Eastern bloc improves as Iran’s relations with the Western bloc weakens, Trump and the United States—as well as the JCPOA—will still play critical roles in Iran’s future.

The current trajectory of Trump’s policies will undermine the U.S.-led global order. U.S. sanctions against Russia, Iran, and Turkey will further increase the alignment of these countries as well as cooperation with eastern bloc powers such as China and India. Such a trend can lead to the end of the six-decade-long U.S. hegemony in the region.

(Source: Lobe Log)

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Two Stage (Semi Compressive)						
TENDER GUARANTEE		ESTIMATED VALUE	DESCRIPTION	Tenders Portal Reg. No. On <a href="http://sets.mporc.ir">http://sets.mporc.ir</a>	TENDER NO. / INDENT NO	No
Euro	Rial	(Rial)				
26,358	1,296,000,000	25,903,200,000	Coring Tools	3,173,959	Indent No: 43-22-8804748053 TenderNo.: C/GP/25-97/020	1

**Brief discription of subject:**  
National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) address pasdaran Blev., Airport Sqare, Ahwaz, Iran hereby intends to purchase its requirements from qualified and interested tenders through Two-stage public tender (semi pressed) upon following terms and conditions:

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

**B) Preparation of tender documents:**  
Purchasing of documents:  
In order to receive the tender documents, 510,000 Rials should be paid to account number 400114004020491 of NIDC in Central Bank of IRAN and providing the original deposit receipt.  
Receiving of documents:  
Tenderers must be obtain the quality evaluation documents along with tender documents maximum 10 days after the date of second publication in person at the following address: Sector Tenders, Foreign Procurement of Capital Goods dept., end of the workshop No. 8, Karoon Industrial Area, Ahwaz, IRAN.  
Tel No.: 061-34142387 or Room #431, coordination office of NIDC, NIOC No. 8 center Building, Yaghma alley, Jomhoori St., Tehran, IRAN, Tel No.: 021-66700249.

**Notice:**  
Only the real or legal persons who apply to purchase and recieve tender ducments from foreign procurement department in due date will be known as tenderer from tender committee.

**C) Delivery of call quality evaluating:**  
Tenderers shall submit the completed documents including qualificaon worksheets in form of software in CD/DVD within 14 days from last day of document received deadline to the following address: Hall No.:107, 1th floor, Tender Committee, Building operations, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. Tel No.: 061-34148205-6 , 061-34148580

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# Acute coronary syndromes most prevalent heart diseases in Iran: cardiologist

**HEALTH** **TEHRAN** — Acute coronary syndromes are the most prevalent heart diseases in the country, cardiologist Maryam Mehr Pouya said, noting that having a healthy diet, being more physically active, and choosing a more healthy lifestyle would prevent the condition.

Acute coronary syndrome is an umbrella term for situations where the blood supplied to the heart muscle is suddenly blocked. Heart attack, or unstable angina are two well-known heart conditions which are both acute coronary syndromes.

According to heart.org smoking, high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, diabetes, physical inactivity, being overweight or obese, and a family history of chest pain, heart disease or stroke are the risk factors which make it more likely for people to suffer acute coronary syndromes.

Avoiding and controlling these risk factors would simply save many from the disease, she said.

Thankfully, the Ministry of Health, has succeeded in controlling the disease by designing and implementing plans, Fars quoted her as saying on Tuesday.

By establishing prevention clinics the Ministry has managed to increase public awareness about the disease, reducing the risk factors, and accordingly decreasing the disease, she added.

### What are the symptoms of acute coronary syndrome?

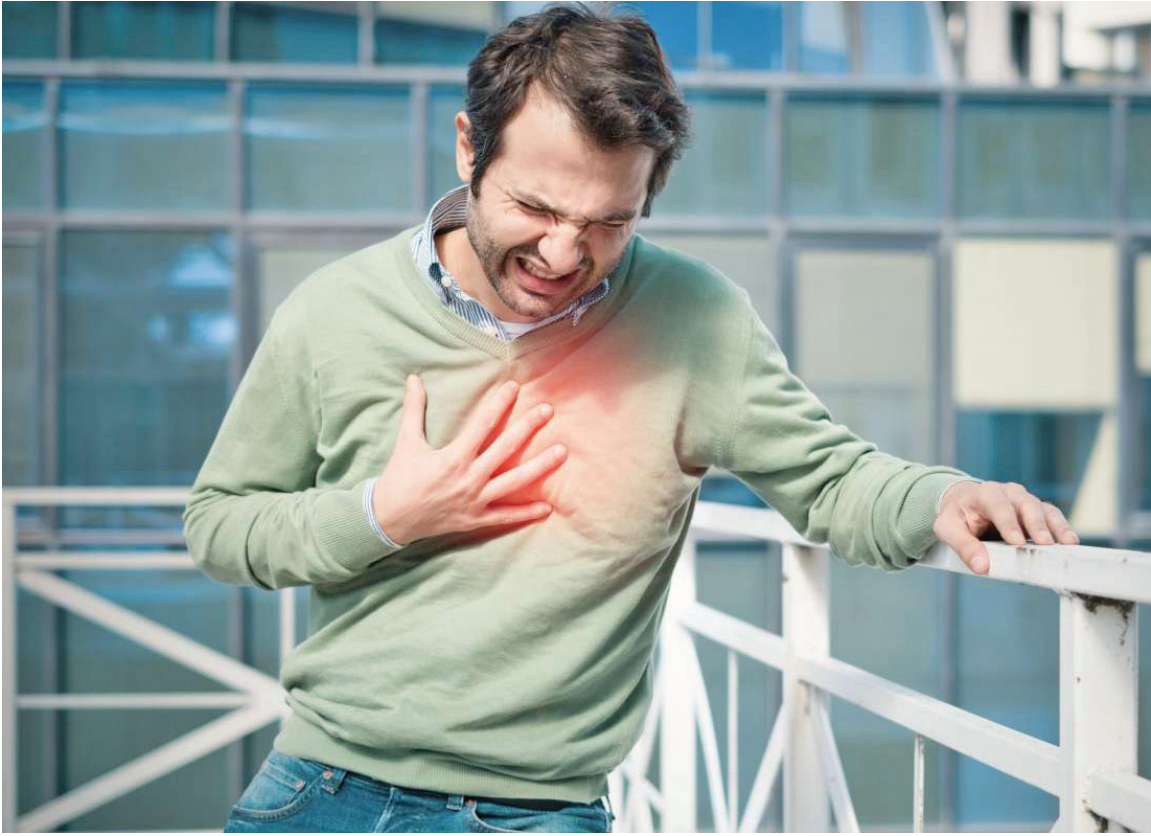
One condition under the umbrella of acute coronary syndrome is myocardial infarction (heart attack) — when cell death results in damaged or destroyed heart tissue. Even when acute coronary syndrome causes no cell death, the reduced blood flow alters heart function and indicates a high risk of heart attack.

Chest pain or discomfort may immediately signal to you that something's wrong with your heart. Other symptoms, however, may leave you unsure of what's wrong. Take note of these common signs of an acute coronary syndrome:

Chest pain or discomfort, which may involve pressure, tightness or fullness, pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the jaw, neck, back or stomach, shortness of breath, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, nausea, and sweating.

These symptoms should be taken seriously. If you experience chest pain or other symptoms, contact emergency medical services immediately.

Chest pain caused by acute coronary syndromes can come on suddenly, as is the case with a heart attack. Other times, the pain can be unpredictable or get worse even with rest, both hallmark symptoms of unstable angina. People who experience chronic chest pain resulting from years of cholesterol buildup in their arteries can develop an acute coronary syndrome if a blood clot forms on top



**People who experience chronic chest pain resulting from years of cholesterol buildup in their arteries can develop an acute coronary syndrome if a blood clot forms on top of the plaque buildup.**

of the plaque buildup.

### How is it diagnosed and treated?

To determine what's causing your symptoms, a doctor will take a careful medical history and give you a physical examination. If the doctor suspects an acute coronary syndrome, the following tests will be performed:

A blood test which can show evidence that heart cells are dying, and an electrocardiogram (ECG or EKG) which can diagnose an acute coronary syndrome by measuring the heart's electrical activity.

If tests confirm blood flow to the heart has been blocked, doctors will work quickly to reopen the artery. Minute by

minute, the heart is accumulating irreversible damage. So time is myocardium — myocardium being the heart muscle itself.

Treatment for acute coronary syndrome includes medicines and a procedure known as angioplasty, during which doctors inflate a small balloon to open the artery. View an illustration of coronary arteries. A stent, a wire mesh tube, may be permanently placed in the artery to keep it open. For hospitals not equipped to do angioplasty quickly, drugs may be used to dissolve blood clots, but more hospitals are making the procedure available in a timely manner.

## 'Iranian children grew taller in last 2 decades'

**HEALTH** **TEHRAN** — While 20 percent of Iranian children have been shorter than usual, the number has decreased to 4 percent over the past two decades, which indicates that children are currently taller than before, an official with the Ministry of Health has said.

"Since two decades ago, the number of short children have dropped in the country, and Iranian kids have become taller due to a significant improvement in their nutrition," IRNA quoted Zahra Abdollahi as saying on Tuesday.

She further regretted that the main problem kids are currently facing is overweight or obesity, which are rising sharply and could endanger children's health.

"Obesity has affected 20 percent of the students in the country, as consumption of fast food and carbonated beverages have risen which are the major causes of obesity and overweight," she explained. She also said that obesity and overweight are more dangerous in children and teenagers, since overweight kids are more prone to becoming overweight adults.

"Adult obesity is associated with a number of serious health conditions including heart disease, diabetes and some cancers," she said, adding that if children are overweight, obesity in adulthood is likely to be more severe. Unlimited access of children to high-calorie and low-nutrient foods in their houses, kindergartens, schools and play grounds, encourages the child to consume more less-healthy foods, and as a result, being overweight or obese, Abdollahi stated.

She went on to say that reducing physical activity by too much use of computer, watching TV for a long time and not playing outdoors, leads to excess fat accumulation.

"Children and adolescents should have 60 minutes or more of physical activity per day," she concluded.

According to Kids Health website as kids grow from grade-schoolers to preteens, there continues to be a wide range of "normal" regarding height, weight, and shape.

Kids tend to get taller at a pretty steady pace, growing about 2.5 inches (6 to 7 centimeters) each year. When it comes to weight, kids gain about 4 to 7 lbs. (2 to 3 kg) per year until puberty starts.

The child's growth pattern is largely determined by genetics. Pushing a child to eat extra food or greater than recommended amounts of vitamins, minerals, or other nutrients will not increase his or her height and may lead to weight problems.

It's important to try to help a child understand that the important thing is not to "look" a certain way, but rather to be healthy. Kids can't change the genes that will determine how tall they will be or when puberty starts. But they can make the most of their potential by developing healthy eating habits and being physically active.

The top foods that increase height in children are milk, fresh fruits and vegetables, grains, oatmeal, eggs, chicken, soybeans, dairy Based Food, beef and fish. It is of great importance for the kids to have a varied diet.



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## Iran to host Technology Investment Meeting of D-8

**TECHNOLOGY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The Pardis Technology Park in Tehran will host Technology Investment Meeting (TIM) under the title of 'Next Up' on December 5 and 6.



In order to encourage Islamic countries to boost cooperation in the field of technology, TIM has been organized by the D-8 Technology Transfer and Exchange Network (D-8 TTEN) Secretariat.

D-8 TTEN is an informative and transaction-enabled network to be set up among the eight developing Muslim countries of Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey.

It will fulfill technology market functions, pursue such missions as capacity building and information dissemination on technological capabilities, achievements, and needs of the D-8 Member Countries, organize technology transactions, and create coordination and synergism among Member Countries.

TIM is aimed at tracing the investment opportunities and sources in member countries by presenting the owners of technology and innovation their achievements to investors in common sessions.

### SOCIALLY SAFE

## Gaming: What parents and carers need to know

As with any form of technology or online space, adult offenders can use gaming platforms to target children and build relationships with them. This article explores the different elements of gaming and how they can be used by offenders, and what you can do to support your child whilst gaming.

#### ■ The popularity of gaming



Gaming is a popular past-time for many children, young people and adults across the world. There are a variety of games available aimed at various ages: from mission-based adventure to animation and sports themed. For most children and young people, gaming is a fun way to spend time with friends and create opportunities to develop teamwork, concentration skills and problem-solving. Many games have adopted an interactive online element- whether it's playing against other users, chatting or making purchases.

#### ■ Chatting within gaming

Gaming is a type of social network. Many games have a chat function enabling users to interact with one another. Dependent on the privacy settings chosen, gamers can be contacted by people they may or may not know, or play against 'bots'. A bot is a character or player that is controlled by a computer, created by external sources, to send messages to gamers. Often, these messages contain links to external websites which are inappropriate for children and young people; showing violent or sexual content. Bots can sometimes be hard to spot as their messages can seem very realistic. If your child receives a message from an unknown user, ask them to not respond or click on any links contained within the message. Report these users directly to the site.

Often the communication within gaming is to coordinate multi-player game tactics, although it can be just to chat as gamers play. Messages can take the form of instant messenger (similar to texting) or voice over internet protocol (VoIP). VoIP allows gamers to talk to one another (usually through a headset) in a group conversation during the game. Some game consoles also allow young people to leave voice messages for other users and to chat even when a game is not in play.

#### ■ Gaming can offer offenders a platform to communicate with children:

This communication can present as a risk to young people as gaming platforms can be used by adults seeking to harm young people. Playing games can be exciting and consuming and sometimes this can mean that children can become a little less guarded when considering who they talk to and what they share. It may also be seen as 'normal' to talk to adults in a game – especially if children can learn from them – than it would be to talk to an adult on another social media platform. Some offenders seek to exploit this and encourage children to chat with the aim of a building a relationship with them.

#### ■ Talking to your child about gifts within gaming:

Speak with your child about bribery and 'too-good to be true' offers. Encourage them to question anything they are offered online from someone they do not know offline, and remind them that it's always better to check in with a parent or carer if they are unsure what to do if offered a reward or gift.

(Source: thinkuknow.co.uk)

# Digital transformation meant to save Lake Urmia: ICT minister

**TECHNOLOGY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Digital transformation in the field of irrigation can help save 35 percent of water resources in northwest of the country and lead to the preservation of Lake Urmia, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Minister Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi said on Monday, ILNA reported.

In 1999 the volume of water at the Lake Urmia, a body of water shared between East and West Azarbaijan provinces in northwestern Iran, was at 30 billion cubic meters, but now the lake is stretching over some 2,100 square kilometers and the volume of water is measured at some 1.640 billion cubic meters.

Azari Jahromi made the remarks about digital transformation, an integration of digital technology into all areas of a business, during his travel to West Azarbaijan province. “Through smart irrigation and new technology we can save 25 percent more water,” he said.

He named digital economy as one the three important projects, which is underway at the ministry of agriculture.

“Farmers should be aware of the positive impacts of digital transformation in agriculture on the daily life of people,” he said.

Azari Jahromi said that the ICT ministry provide the financial support for smart irrigation.

He pointed to the recent agreement between ICT Ministry and the Mistry of Energy to boost job creation and improve efficiency in the field of water and electricity through technological advancement in July 2018.

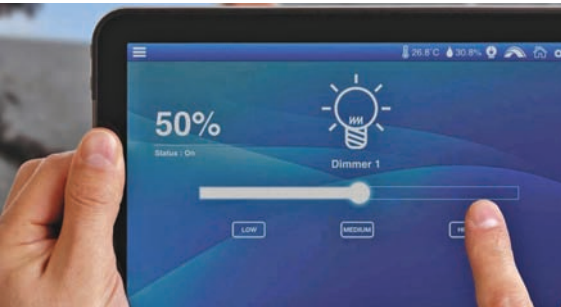
According to the agreement, the ICT ministry plans to provide smart water and electricity metering, light switch, electrical substation and street light and water consumption management.

“The smart electricity metering for houses save 6,000 megawatts of electricity,” he announced.



Farmers harvest tomatoes in a countryside near Lake Urmia

## ‘IT development a solution to national challenges’



**TECHNOLOGY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The development of IT industry is a solution to different national challenges like water shortage, oil dependency, environmental problems, and the lack of transparency, the head of Information Technology Organization (ITO) said on Monday.

Rasoul Saraeian added that the IT industry also increases efficiency in different fields of energy.

The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Ministry plans to develop e-government, job opportunities, increase efficiency and decrease waiting in queue for public in state-run organization as the result of digital transformation, he said.

## Data guru living with ALS modernizes industries by typing with his eyes

The self-proclaimed “oldest nerd of Guatemala,” Otto Knoke is an admitted workaholic, glued to his computer screen from 4 a.m. to 8 p.m. as he analyzes data and creates business-intelligence dashboards for customers ranging from restaurants to hotels and real-estate companies.

The 60-year-old data analyst is well-known in Guatemala's business community, especially after he helped modernize the banking industry by bringing ATMs to the country 20 years ago. But even as the then-40-year-old's career was blossoming, his muscles were beginning to fail him. In 1998, Knoke (pronounced kuh-NO-kuh) was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, and was told he had two years to live.

Always an early adopter of new technology, Knoke persistently researched ways tech advances could help him thrive even as the disease has progressed. Two decades later, he has become the first person in Guatemala to use Microsoft's new eye-tracking software for Windows 10, called Eye Control. That's given him access to pivotal tools, helping his mind overcome the restrictions of his body, and his business is booming.

“Technology has permitted me to work and communicate with my loved ones, with the people who help me and with my friends,” Knoke said in an interview conducted over email, his responses typed using his eyes. “And now that I've learned to use Eye Control and a foot mouse at the same time, my productivity at work has skyrocketed and my relationships have improved.”

Otto Knoke, who has lived with ALS for 20 years, “always

has a big smile on his face, because he's got his independence back” thanks to new technology that helps him communicate, says his wife Pamela Knoke.

ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, erodes muscular functions until a person is unable to walk, talk or breathe. There's no known cause or cure, and it usually results in death within five years, according to the ALS Association, although physicist Stephen Hawking lived with the disease for 55 years until he died earlier this year – one of just 5 percent of patients, including Knoke, to survive for more than 20 years.

Once an avid cyclist, weightlifter and tennis player, Knoke lost use of his hands and arms first, which meant he couldn't hold a cane to support his weakening legs. So he'd tuck his arm under his wife's, and she propelled him forward. His symptoms progressed slowly, allowing him to keep his job as a chief executive officer in the banking industry for 12 years. He retired in 2010 when he began losing his voice, making it difficult to communicate with his board of directors.

But he didn't stop working; he simply moved his office home and became a data analyst, helping nonprofits and small- to medium-sized companies use new business intelligence tools to get value from their data.

“He's not retired – he doesn't know the meaning of that word – he just doesn't go to the office anymore,” said his wife of 32 years, Pamela Knoke, who quit her job as a bank process manager to become his business partner – and his voice.

The couple remodeled their two-story townhouse near

He named smart city and smart government as the results of digital transformation in the country.

The development of smart infrastructures in the field of energy, the biggest share of digital economy and improvement of digital marketing are the benefit of IT approach in the field of energy.

The synergy in the field of technology and resource management is the only way deal with energy challenges in the country, he said.

He called the smart industry as a great way to decrease government expenses and optimize the usage of energy resources.

Guatemala City so he had everything he needed on the first floor and didn't have to navigate stairs. Otto learned to use a trackball mouse with his foot to type with an on-screen keyboard. But it was cumbersome, and he needed Pamela nearby to move the cursor from one corner of his two 32-inch screens to another as he navigated Excel spreadsheets and Power BI dashboards.

A tracheotomy was put in his throat to help him breathe, taking away his limited speech and increasing his isolation. But when Knoke, who spends two hours a day reading blogs and researching, saw his friend Juan Alvarado's post about the new Eye Control feature in Windows 10, he let loose with his version of a shout and immediately ordered the Tobii Eye Tracker hardware to use with the software.

Alvarado, who met Knoke as a database consultant working on the ATM system Knoke had implemented, hadn't known about Knoke's condition until he suddenly saw him in a wheelchair one day. And fittingly, Eye Control itself began with a wheelchair.

Microsoft employees, inspired by former pro football player Steve Gleason, who had lost the use of his limbs to ALS, outfitted a wheelchair with electronic gadgets to help him drive with his eyes during the company's first Hackathon, in 2014. The project was so popular that a new Microsoft Research team was formed to explore the potential of eye-tracking technology to help people with disabilities, leading to last year's release of Eye Control for Windows 10.

(Source: news.microsoft.com)

### Day 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!

With the help of some of the country's top start-up businesses, we've compiled an essential checklist of the key tasks and activities that need to be considered in the first 100 days of starting any business.

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...

#### ■ Get an accountant or purchase accountancy software

Carwow's Hind says that for any startup “a good accountant is worth their weight in gold”. Hind explains: “It's important to set off on the right foot, and ensuring you have a good accountant will help to overcome any initial hurdles and stop you making costly and difficult mistakes.” If you're unable to afford an accountant then there are a range of reliable and affordable small business accountancy services on the market.

Powered Now's Dyer says that “keeping financial records, watching VAT requirements and complying with PAYE rules are musts, and although they shouldn't dominate things, time must be allowed to lay the foundations”.

(Source: startups.co.uk)

### What is SEO in simple words



SEO or Search Engine Optimization is the name given to activity that attempts to improve search engine rankings. In search results Google displays links to pages it considers relevant and authoritative.

Authority is mostly measured by analyzing the number and quality of links from other web pages. In simple terms your web pages have the potential to rank in Google so long as other web pages link to them.

#### ■ Make Your Site Appear in Google

Great Content encourages people to link to your pages and shows Google your pages are interesting and authoritative. This leads to search engine success because Google wants to show interesting and authoritative pages in its search results. It's that simple!

#### ■ How Does Google Rank Pages?

Google promotes authority pages to the top of its rankings so it's your job to create pages that become authority pages. This involves writing content people find useful because useful content is shared in blogs, twitter feeds etc., and over time Google picks up on these authority signals. This virtuous circle creates strong and sustainable Google rankings.

Search Engine Optimization or SEO is the simple activity of ensuring a website can be found in search engines for words and phrases relevant to what the site is offering. In many respects it's simply quality control for websites. Having said that, if there was ever an industry that was little understood by outsiders it's SEO.

(Source: redevolution.com)



# Research shows coastal erosion in the Arctic intensifies global warming

The loss of Arctic permafrost deposits by coastal erosion could amplify climate warming via the greenhouse effect. A study using sediment samples from the Sea of Okhotsk on the eastern coast of Russia led by AWI researchers revealed that the loss of Arctic permafrost at the end of the last glacial period led to repeated sudden increases in carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere.

Today, the exact magnitude of the future increase in greenhouse gas concentrations remains unknown. This is partly due to the fact that carbon dioxide is not only produced by humans burning gas, coal and oil; it can also find its way into the atmosphere as a result of natural environmental processes.

The positive feedback between warming and the release of ever-increasing amounts of carbon dioxide from natural sources is a particular threat. In order to enable a better assessment of whether, and how, such developments are possible, climate researchers study records from the past to find evidence of these events.

**■ Arctic permafrost**  
Researchers from the Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Center for Polar and Marine Research (AWI) together with colleagues from Copenhagen and Zurich have now found evidence of this phenomenon for the Arctic permafrost regions.

As the authors report in the journal Nature Communications, through their investigations along the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk in eastern



Russia, they were able to show that several thousand years ago, large quantities of carbon dioxide were released from Arctic permafrost due to a rapid rise of sea level. Permafrost is ground that remains frozen year-round down

to depths of up to several hundred meters. Some areas have been frozen since the last glacial period 20,000 years ago or even longer. Like a giant freezer, permafrost soils preserve huge quantities of dead biomass,

**Like a giant freezer, permafrost soils preserve huge quantities of dead biomass, mainly plant remains. When the permafrost thaws, bacteria start degrading the ancient biomass, and their metabolism releases the greenhouses gases carbon dioxide and methane.**

mainly plant remains. When the permafrost thaws, bacteria start degrading the ancient biomass, and their metabolism releases the greenhouses gases carbon dioxide and methane.

**■ Carbon dioxide level**  
We now know that about 11,500, 14,600 and 16,500 years ago, significant and sudden rises in the carbon dioxide level in the atmosphere occurred, but the reasons for these three rapid fluctuations remain poorly understood. In order to investigate the causes, a group of researchers led by AWI geologists Dr. Maria Winterfeld and Prof Dr. Gesine Mollenhauer set off for the Sea of Okhotsk.

“Originally, we assumed that at the time, the vast Amur River carried tremendous quantities of plant material from the hinterland, which microorganisms in the water then broke down into carbon dioxide. So we collected sediment samples from the sea floor, which we then analyzed.”

The findings were surprising: Deep in the sediment, the researchers found evidence of plant remains that had been deposited on the sea floor. These were several thousand years older than the surrounding deposits, which made it clear that they must have originated in extremely old permafrost that for some reason had suddenly thawed. Particularly large amounts of these plant remains were washed into the sea 11,500, 14,600 and 16,500 years ago. But the Amur’s discharge rate was not significantly higher at those times.

(Source: phys.org)

## Scientists detect many more fast radio bursts from a galaxy far, far away

Researchers with the University of California, Berkeley’s SETI Research Center Breakthrough Listen team have deployed new neural net technology to help analyze the reams of data they’ve collection — and they quickly discovered a set of mysterious, as-of-yet unexplained fast radio bursts from a distant galaxy, per TechCrunch.

Fast radio bursts are fast, enormously energetic pulses originating from galaxies far away that are currently poorly understood by scientists. Theories explaining their origin include that they are caused by polarized waves traveling through strong magnetic fields in dense plasma (such as from a neutron star in the cosmic neighborhood of a galactic core’s supermassive black hole or within dense, magnetized nebulas).

Most fast radio bursts are one-off events. According to a University of California, Berkeley press release, the researchers “trained an algorithm known as a convolutional neural network” to replicate traditional methods of detecting the bursts. They set that algorithm to work analyzing five hours’ worth of data from FRB 121102, a source of fast radio bursts billions of light years away, and the only one known to emit them repeatedly.

**■ Many more bursts**  
In a study that has been accepted for publication in The Astrophysical Journal, the researchers found that FRB 121102 had emitted many more bursts than previously detected.

The data comes from the Green Bank Telescope in West Virginia (above), which was pointed toward this source of fast and bright (hence the name) bursts for five hours in August of 2017. Believe it or not, that five-hour session yielded 400 terabytes of transmission data.

Initial “standard” algorithms identified 21 FRBs, all happening in one hour’s worth



of the observations. But Gerry Zhang, a graduate student at UC Berkeley and part of the Breakthrough Listen project, created a convolutional neural network system that would theoretically scour the data set more effectively.

Sure enough, the machine learning model picked out 72 more FRBs in the same period.

**■ Suggesting an artificial origin**  
According to the press release, though, the researchers did not find anything to suggest an artificial origin — they detected no pattern to the bursts, “at least if the period of that pattern is longer than about 10 milliseconds.”

However, the method detailed in the research could be used to gather much more data about fast radio bursts than before, which could ultimately help scientists conclude their origin. It’s probably not aliens (and if it was, they’d almost certainly be very long dead), but that doesn’t make the mystery any less fascinating.

“This work is only the beginning of using these powerful methods to find radio transients,” UC Berkeley Ph.D. student Gerry Zhang, who led the research, said in a Breakthrough Listen press release. “We hope our success may inspire other serious endeavors in applying machine learning to radio astronomy.”

(Source: gizmodo.com)

## Scientists find stable sea levels during last interglacial

The last interglacial period about 127,000 to 116,000 years ago was the last time sea level was as high as or even higher than present-day sea-level.

Understanding sea level change during the last interglacial period, a time when the earth was slightly warmer the present, is an important research area for understanding future sea level rise due to global warming.

The magnitude and trajectory of sea-level change during the Last Interglacial, more specifically Marine Isotope Stage (MIS) 5e, is uncertain. To date the consensus view has been that sea-level may have been six to nine meters above present sea level, values that require additional melting of Greenland and the West Antarctic ice sheet and that there was one or more oscillations of up to several meters superimposed.

However, scientists at The University of New Mexico (UNM) and the University of South Florida (USF) and their international team of collaborators aren’t so sure that those sea level fluctuations are accurate.

**■ Last interglacial period**

According to new research published on September 10, in the journal Nature Geoscience titled, “A highly resolved record of relative sea-level in the western Mediterranean Sea during the Last Interglacial period,” these scientists present a well-dated relative sea level record from the island of Mallorca in the western Mediterranean Sea for MIS-5e based on the occurrence of phreatic overgrowths on speleothems forming near sea level.

“Globally, the climate was warmer by 1 to 2 °C during the part of the Last Interglacial Period referred to as Marine Isotope Stage 5e (MIS-5e) between 127,000 and



116,000 years ago,” said Victor Polyak the first author and co-principal investigator and senior research scientist in the UNM Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences.

“While this is a well-studied period, we still do not know the exact behavior of sea level during MIS-5e. What we know for certain is that sea level was higher when climate was 1 to 2 °C warmer 120,000 years ago. For this reason, the history of MIS-5e sea level is important as an analog for what will happen to current sea level with warming climate into the future.”

Until now, the best sea level markers were corals, because some species grow very close to sea level, and corals can be dated with the uranium-thorium method. Important reconstructions of MIS-5e sea level have been made from such coral studies.

The “best studies of MIS-5e sea level have suggested that sea level during this period was 6 to 9 meters above present sea level, and that there were likely significant drops during the MIS-5e sea level highstand,” said Polyak. “This is alarming, because it suggests that if we warm our climate by 1 to 2 °C, we might cause sea level to rise 6 to 9 meters (20 to 30 feet).

(Source: eurekalert.org)

## Engineers accurately predict how electromagnetic waves and magnetic materials interact

UCLA Samueli engineers have developed a new tool to model how magnetic materials, which are used in smartphones and other communications devices, interact with incoming radio signals that carry data. It accurately predicts these interactions down to the nanometer scales required to build state-of-the-art communications technologies.

The tool allows engineers to design new classes of radio frequency-based components that are able to transport large amounts of data more rapidly, and with less noise interference. Future use cases include smartphones to implantable health monitoring devices.

Magnetic materials can attract or repel each other based on their polar orientation -- positive and negative ends attract each other, while two positives or two negatives repel. When an electromagnetic signal like

a radio wave passes through such materials, a magnetic material acts like a gatekeeper, letting in the signals that are desired, but keeping out others. They can also amplify the signal, or dampen the speed and strength of the signal.

Engineers have used these gatekeeper-like effects, called “wave-material interactions,” to make devices used in communications technologies for decades. For example, these include circulators that send signals in specific directions or frequency-selective limiters that reduce noise by suppressing the strength of unwanted signals.

**■ Picture of magnetism**

Current design tools are not comprehensive and precise enough to capture the complete picture of magnetism in dynamic systems, such as implantable devices. The tools also have

limits in the design of consumer electronics.

“Our new computational tool addresses these problems by giving electronics designers a clear path toward figuring out how potential materials would be best used in communications devices,” said Yuanxun “Ethan” Wang, a professor of electrical and computer engineering who led the research. “Plug in the characteristics of the wave and the magnetic material, and users can easily model nanoscale effects quickly and accurately. To our knowledge, this set of models is the first to incorporate all the critical physics necessary to predict dynamic behavior.”

The study was published in the June 2018 print issue of IEEE Transactions on Microwave Theory and Techniques.

The computational tool is based on a method that jointly solves well-known Maxwell’s

equations, which describe how electricity and magnetism work and the Landau-Lifshitz-Gilbert equation, which describes how magnetization moves inside a solid object.

The study’s lead author Zhi Yao is a postdoctoral scholar in Wang’s laboratory. Co-authors are Rustu Umut Tok, a postdoctoral scholar in Wang’s laboratory, and Tatsuo Itoh, a distinguished professor of electrical and computer engineering at UCLA and the Northrop Grumman Chair in Electrical Engineering. Itoh is also Yao’s co-advisor.

The team is working to improve the tool to account for multiple types of magnetic and non-magnetic materials. These improvements could lead it to become a “universal solver,” able to account for any type of electromagnetic wave interacting with any type of material.

(Source: eurekalert.org)

## Japan’s new supercomputer is the fastest ever for astronomy research: study

Scientists have incredibly powerful telescopes at their disposal today like Hubble and the Very Large Telescope in Chile. Even more powerful instruments like the James Webb Space Telescope and Extremely Large Telescope are coming down the pike. However, observations will only get you so far. To understand how the universe works, scientists often need to turn to computer simulations. Those simulations are getting more powerful thanks to a new Japanese supercomputer called ATERUI II. It’s the fastest system in the world dedicated entirely to astronomy research.

ATERUI II lives at the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ) and currently ranks as number 83 on the top 500 list of most powerful supercomputers. Most of these devices are shared among multiple fields or exist only for government use, but ATERUI II is all about making astronomical research faster and better.

The new ATERUI II is a Cray XC50 system that is three times more powerful than its predecessor. Researchers brought it online in June with more than 40,000 total processing cores supporting up to three quadrillion operations per second (that’s more than three-thousand teraflops). It uses Intel Xeon Gold 6148 processors. Each one costs around \$3,000 and comes equipped with 20 cores (40 threads) with a maximum frequency of 3.7GHz and 27.5MB of cache. ATERUI II also packs a whopping 385 terabytes of RAM.

All this hardware makes ATERUI II ideal for parallel computing. The team believes it will be one of the most capable multitasking supercomputers in the world. That should allow ATERUI II to break a simulation into multiple pieces and work away at it from multiple angles. More than 150 teams are already on the roster to use ATERUI II before the end of the year, and they’re reportedly excited about what the computer can do.

(Source: extremetech.com)

## How supermassive black holes emerged from X-rays in the early universe

Black holes generally form when a star collapses in on itself and explodes as a supernova. The largest of these, known as supermassive black holes, have a mass equivalent to more than one million suns. Astronomers do not know exactly how these monster black holes come to be — one theory is they swallow huge quantities of matter over billions of years, while another is that they are formed from a cluster of black holes that eventually merge into one.

Both of these, however, require time. And this is something supermassive black holes from the early universe did not have. There is evidence to suggest supermassive black holes were present just 800 million years after the Big Bang, which is just a blink of the eye cosmologically speaking.

A third way that has been proposed is a “direct collapse” black hole, which mitigates the need for a star. This says that if a gas cloud is massive enough it can collapse under its own gravity to form a black hole.

In a study Kirk Barrow, from Stanford University, and colleagues from Georgia Institute of Technology and the Los Alamos National Laboratory, New Mexico, have now found that direct collapse black holes can account for supermassive black holes — and what’s more, they should be able to test their theory in the very near future.

“There is a limit to how fast something a black hole can grow,” Barrow told Newsweek. “Some fraction of matter falling into a black hole is converted into light that radiates out and pushes back against the in-falling gas. One theory is that, under the right conditions, a massive black hole can form directly from a large, collapsing well of primordial gas and thus reach a higher mass more quickly.”

(Source: Newsweek)

## Peatlands will store more carbon initially, but that will change

Peatlands are extremely effective at storing carbon, but an international study featuring a University of Queensland researcher has found climate change could stop that.

The group investigated how peatlands -- swamps and bogs with organic rich soils -- have responded to climate variability between 850 BCE and 1850 CE.

Associate Professor Patrick Moss, from UQ’s School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, believes the research is critical in understanding how climate affects the absorption properties of peatlands.

“So as our world warms, it’s important to know how their carbon uptake might change, with possibly big repercussions for the future.

“Carbon is absorbed as peatland plants grow, and eventually turns into peat itself, but at the same time decomposing plants and microbes release it, so it’s a fine balance.”



The research revealed that the capacity for carbon to build up in peatlands was much higher in temperate regions during warmer periods, but was much less during the same warm periods in the tropics.

“This suggests that carbon accumulation is lower under warmer climate regimes,” Associate Professor Moss said.

“This has important ramifications as it suggests that peatland carbon sinks will initially store more carbon -- counteracting warming to some extent -- before switching to releasing more carbon and reinforcing global warming.

“Applying this information to future climate change scenarios suggests that the present day peatland carbon sink will increase slightly until 2100 CE, but then decline.”

Associate Professor Moss’s observations were made at Moon Point on Fraser Island -- the only site in Australia and New Zealand and one of the few in the Southern Hemisphere included in the study.

UQ and the University of Exeter have collaborated on the research and are considering further studies into peatlands and carbon dynamics in Australia, Indonesia and South America.

(Source: Science Daily)

## BMI Celebrates 90th Establishment Anniversary

Bank Melli Iran (BMI) celebrated its 90th foundation anniversary, the Public Relations Dept. of the bank reported.

For many years, noble people of the country tried their utmost effort to get rid of domineering policies of strangers. In this regard, arrogance powers targeted Iranian banking industry and left no stone unturned for weakening and undermining Iran’s banking industry. The issue was so serious that British bankers even printed the banknotes of the country.

This situation was intolerable for Iranians. The issue was so important that most Iranians showed their interest

to spend all their assets for setting up an Iranian bank named ‘Bank Melli Iran’.

Now, 90 years have passed since the establishment of the bank in Iran. the bank that had few number of branches has presently established various branches in other countries.

Undoubtedly, thw bank has contributed financially in all development projects across the nation in a way that Bank Melli Iran has financed many development projects in the country including construction of schools, rural roads, health houses, etc.

Drawing a comparison between activities of the bank

before and after its establishment, it can be concluded that activities of the bank are incomparable with previous years. today, most customers of the bank do not need to refer to the branches personally for running their banking activities, rather, they can receive services without any presence directly to the bank branches.

Presently, Bank Melli Iran is considered as the largest and most important bank in the Islamic world. It is hoped that this bank will be turned into one of the largest banks in the world, the Public Relations Dept. of the bank concluded.



## Tehran Municipality requires \$600m to renew public transport fleet

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — In a letter to the minister of interior, Tehran mayor put in a request for a total budget of 25 trillion rials (nearly \$600 million) for renovation of public transportation fleet in the capital, YJC reported on Monday.

One of the main Municipality’s plans is to raise funds through projects, Tehran Mayor Mohammad Ali Afshani said.

“We have demanded the Ministry of Interior to earmark a budget of 20 trillion rials (nearly \$475 million) for the public transport fleet and some 5 trillion rials (about \$125 million) for subway development,” he added.

Moreover, Mohsen Pourseyyed Aqaei, deputy mayor of Tehran for traffic and transport affairs, said on Sunday that in order to implement a 4-year plan to address Tehran persistent air pollution, government should allocate some \$2 billion, which seems unlikely considering the current economic hardships the country is facing.

Tehran’s governor general Mohammad Hossein Moqimi also said on Sunday that some 5,000 new buses should be added to Tehran transport fleet, otherwise air pollution will not be tackled effectively.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Tehran is one of the most air polluted cities in the world, which is ranked 12th among 26 megacities in terms of ambient PM10 levels. In 2016, the annual ambient level of PM10 was estimated at 77 micrograms per cubic meter, which is almost four times the WHO’s recommended threshold of 20 micrograms per cubic meter.

Tehran’s air pollutants are not limited to particulate matter less than 10 micrometers in diameter (PM 10), but O3 and PM 2.5, which are mainly emitted by cars and have made the capital’s residents breathe foul air even during hot summer days.

Although, cars are the most plentiful vehicles in Tehran, heavy-duty vehicles including buses and trucks are the most polluting ones accounting for 85 percent of the air pollution in the city.

## Hour al-Azim still on fire, belching acrid smoke into Khuzestan sky

**ENVIRONMENT** **TEHRAN** — It’s been over 65 days since Hour al-Azim wetland, a transboundary body of water shared between Iran and Iraq, has erupted in raging fire and now large amounts of acrid smoke is being spread in the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr in southern parts of Khuzestan province.

According to ISNA news agency over the past two and three days the smoke rising from the fire in the Iraqi part of the wetland has been billowing in Abadan and Khorramshahr.

Ali Fat’hi-Nia, chief of Abadan department of environment said on Monday that with the onset of autumn the climatic conditions of the area is changing and northerly winds are pushing the fire smoke into the western cities in the province.

Earlier the wildfire was belching out choking smoke in cities including Ahvaz, Howeyzeh, Mahshahr, Susangerd, Hamidiyeh and Bostan located in western parts of Khuzestan province.

Deputy environment chief Masoud Tajrishi also said on Monday that it is almost impossible to put out the fire on land and using aircrafts to contain the fire has so far worked to some extent, Fars news agency reported.

Tajrishi also said that over a phone conversation he had two weeks ago on his trip to Khuzestan with Iraqi environment minister he invited him to Iran to negotiate the issue.

He also highlighted that the wetland is completely dry in Iraq and as soon as the fire is extinguished it will break out again, but the wetland doesn’t catch fire in Iran as it is covered in shallow water.

On Saturday, head of Khuzestan province’s department of environment Ahmadreza Lahijanzadeh explained that if the fire continues in the region the number of birds migrating to the wetland since mid-autumn will certainly decrease.

## LEARN ENGLISH

### Applying CPR

A: Hello everyone and welcome to our CPR for beginners course. First of all, does anyone know what CPR **stands for**?

B: **Cardiopulmonary resuscitation!**

A: That’s right! We apply CPR **in the case of cardiac arrest or pulmonary arrest**.

B: What does that mean?

A: Well, basically if your heart stops pumping blood, or your lungs stop pumping air, then we need to get them going again! That’s when we have to apply this **procedure**. Let’s begin! I need a volunteer.

B: Me! Me!

A: Alright, come here and **lay flat on your back**. Let’s suppose this young woman has stopped breathing. We must lift the person’s chin so that we clear a pathway for air to get into the lungs. Then we place our mouth over the other person’s mouth and blow air two or three times, like this.

B: Well, ok.

A: As I was saying, we blow air through the mouth in this manner. Once this is done, we must try to get the heart going again. To do this, we place our hands over the person’s chest, and press down firmly two or three times.

■ **Key vocabulary stand for:** represent  
**cardiopulmonary resuscitation:** emergency procedure for reviving heart and lung function  
**in the case of:** in the matter of someone or something  
**cardiac arrest:** failure of the pumping action of the heart  
**pulmonary arrest:** the cessation of breathing  
**procedure:** a manner of proceeding  
**lay flat:** lie down with all parts of the body touching floor  
**on your back:** face-up lying on the floor  
■ **Supplementary vocabulary**  
**Heimlich maneuver:** a series of abdominal thrusts used to expel an object a person is choking on  
**concussion:** a brain injury that is caused by a sudden blow to the head or to the body  
**stroke:** the rapidly developing loss of brain function(s) due to disturbance in the blood supply to the brain  
**hemorrhage:** a discharge or escape of blood

# 14% of total waste in Iran produced in northern coastal cities: report

**ENVIRONMENT** **TEHRAN** — The amount of waste generated in the northern provinces of the country, neighboring the Caspian Sea, is snowballing at a rate of over 7,000 tons a day, holding accountable for 14 percent of the total daily 50,000 tons of waste production in the country.

In the past few years, the amount of waste produced in the three northern provinces of Mazandaran, Golestan and Gilan has risen sharply to alarming rates, Khabaronline reported.

Siroos Vatanikhah, secretary of energy technologies development headquarters at Science and Technology Vice-presidency told ISNA that there is a significant relationship between the prevalence of various diseases and the amount of waste generation, which must be considered a “danger sign” that needs urgent measures to contain the issue.

Diseases such as tetanus, typhoid, intestinal parasites, bloody diarrhea, poliomyelitis or infantile paralysis and skin lesions are among the diseases caused by solid waste pollution in water, air and soil.

On the other hand, a large part of these thousand tons of waste is ending up in the Caspian Sea and the forests, which can lead to many changes in the environmental cycles.

Moreover, Hossein Niaz Azari, member of the parliament, said that some 104 aquatic species have been living in the Caspian Sea in the past years, while most of them have gone extinct due to the high amount of waste entering the sea.

On top of that, although Mazandaran forests have a long history of rare species, in recent years, due to improper dumping of waste in these forests, some precious species are extinct and can only be found in the history books, he regretted.

He added that various wild animal species



living in the northern parts of the country, are also endangered.

Deputy environment chief Masoud Tajrishi has referred to the poor waste disposal in the coastal cities of the country, saying that “Unfortunately, we face not only the problem of identifying a proper place for waste disposal, but sewers being discharged into all rivers and lakes.

In such case, mostly tourists who are littering the northern coast are blamed, however, the other main reason behind is the lack of proper equipment for waste management and recycling, he added.

Tajrishi further explained that according to an order issued by the president [Hassan Rouhani] to follow the issue of

waste generation in northern Iran, a special working group has been set up, and the Ministry of Interior has presented some plans in this manner.

He went on to say that unfortunately, the biggest problem is that these wastes cannot be dumped, and must be burned, so, the investor must be sure that the electricity generated by the waste burning machines is economically viable.

Referring to the challenges ahead of waste management, he noted that “Our big challenge is in waste burning in the northern parts of the country is a debate between the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Energy, because the electricity used by the waste incinerators is much more

expensive than the electricity distributed by the ministry. Therefore, the Ministry of Energy believes that electricity generated from waste incineration is not economically justified.

But the more these debates continue on how to get energy from the waste burning machines, the more the northern part of the country drowns in waste, he regretted.

For this reason, Issa Kalantari, head of the Department of Environment, proposed a new way to cope with the issue, and said that “northern part of the country is a victim of poor waste management, so, wastes must be burned and we demand that forget about generating energy”.

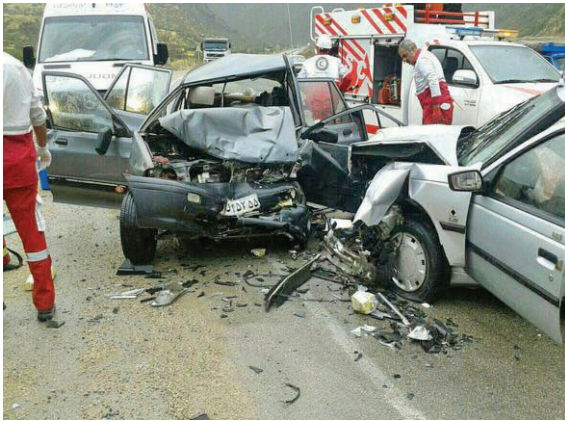
## 4 human errors caused 80% of road crashes in month

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — Just four traffic violations have contributed to 80 percent of road accidents occurred in the country during the fifth Iranian calendar month of Mordad (July 23-August 22), Nader Rahmani, a senior traffic police official has said.

Reckless driving by 32 percent, driving an unsafe speed by 21 percent, running in the wrong lane by 14 percent and failure to yield to another vehicle with the right-of-way by 13 percent were the most important causes of road accidents happened in the country during the second month of summer, he explained.

He further added that some 59 percent of the cars, 21 percent of the motorcycles and 11 percent of the heavy vehicles have contributed to car crashes in the past month.

According to the statistics compiled by the forensics organization, some 16,201 individuals were killed in road crashes during the [Iranian calendar year of] 1396 (March



2017-March 2018), while the highest number of fatalities happened in the sixth Iranian calendar month of Shahrivar (August 23-September 22), amounting to 1,764 deaths.

Meanwhile, on average 3.3 people dies of car crashes per hour in the country, so, every 18 minutes an individual is killed due to such incidents, Tasnim reported on Tuesday.

Additionally, as per the data published last year, by Iran’s forensics organization, some 45.5 percent of the casualties were died by the collision of two vehicles. 20.8 percent also were died being hit by cars and 24.7 percent of the deaths happened due to car rollovers.

As some 5,497 lost their lives in traffic-related accidents over the first 4 months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22), which indicates a 2.5-percent increase compared to the same period last year, more attention of the officials, and especially drivers are essential to prevent the increase of these disastrous incidents.

## UN chief warns of a dangerous tipping point on climate change

Warning of the risks of “runaway” global warming, the United Nations secretary general, António Guterres, on Monday called on global leaders to rein in climate change faster.

“If we do not change course by 2020, we risk missing the point where we can avoid runaway climate change,” Mr. Guterres said at United Nations headquarters in New York.

“Climate change is the defining issue of our time, and we are at a defining moment,” he said. “Scientists have been telling us for decades. Over and over again. Far too many leaders have refused to listen.”

His remarks came with countries around the world far short of meeting the goals they set for themselves under the 2015 Paris accord to reduce the emissions that have warmed the planet over the last century. The next round of climate negotiations is scheduled for this year in Poland.

One of the big tests at those talks, which

start Dec. 3 in Katowice, will be whether countries, especially industrialized countries that produce a large share of global emissions, will set higher targets for reducing their emissions.

“The time has come for our leaders to show they care about the people whose fate they hold in their hands,” Mr. Guterres said, without taking questions from reporters. “We need to rapidly shift away from our dependence on fossil fuels.”

Mr. Guterres’s speech came days before a high-level climate meeting in San Francisco, spearheaded by Gov. Jerry Brown of California, meant to demonstrate what businesses and local leaders have done to tackle climate change.

The United Nations chief seems to be taking a page from Mr. Brown’s playbook. He, too, is looking beyond national leaders to make a difference. He has invited heads of industry and city government leaders to his September 2019 climate change

forum in an apparent effort to increase pressure on national governments.

The Paris Agreement aims to keep temperatures from rising more than 2 degrees Celsius from preindustrial levels in order to avoid what scientists call the most catastrophic impacts of climate change.

But few countries are even close to meeting the targets they set under the Paris pact. And an assessment by the United Nations found that country targets so far would achieve only one-third of the global target.

Mr. Guterres sought to make the case that a shift away from fossil fuels like oil and coal would create jobs and bolster economies. Rebutting critics who argue that such a shift would be costly, he called that idea “hogwash.”

He cited the steps private companies are taking to wean themselves away from polluting fossil fuels — including a hat tip

to the insurance company Allianz, which has promised to stop insuring coal fired power plants — though he said such actions are plainly insufficient.

“These are all important strides,” Mr. Guterres said. “But they are not enough. The transition to a cleaner, greener future needs to speed up.”

He warned that governments were not meeting their Paris Agreement commitments and goaded world leaders to step up.

“What we still lack, even after the Paris Agreement, is leadership and the ambition to do what is needed,” he said.

Mr. Guterres did not mention any countries or any heads of state by name. But looming large over his remarks was the leader of world’s most powerful country: President Trump, who has dismissed climate science, rolled back environmental regulations and vowed to pull the United States out of the Paris climate accord.

(Source: New York Times)

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ع

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

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

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

## PREFIX/SUFFIX

### “dermato-, dermat-”

■ **Meaning:** skin

■ **For example:** Do you need to see a **dermatologist**?

## PHRASAL VERB

### Knock somebody/ something over

■ **Meaning:** to hit someone with a vehicle while you are driving, so that they are hurt or killed

■ **For example:** Poor woman was knocked over by a bus last year.

## IDIOM

### Champ at the bit

■ **Explanation:** to be ready and eager to start an activity, and showing impatience at being delayed

■ **For example:** The press conference was delayed for such a long time that the journalists were champing at the bit.

## هزار میلیارد ریال تسهیلات اشتغال به روستائیان پرداخت شد

سرپرست وزارت تعاون، کار و رفاه اجتماعی گفت: ۱۲۰ هزار میلیارد ریال تسهیلات اشتغالزایی امسال در اختیار متقاضیان روستایی قرار گرفت .  
انوشیروان محسنی بندپی در گفت و گو با خبرنگار ایرنا افزود: ایجاد اشتغال روستایی مهمترین و اصلی ترین برنامه ای است که خوشبختانه خروجی خوبی داشته و تا حدودی تعداد روستاییان را افزایش داده است و به نوعی باعث کاهش مهاجرت به شهرها شده است.



# Bolton: U.S. ‘still waiting’ for action by N. Korea’s Kim Jong Un

U.S. President Donald Trump has a door open for talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, but is still waiting for action on denuclearization, his top security advisor said Monday.

“We’re still waiting for them. The possibility of another meeting between the two presidents obviously exists,” said White House National Security Advisor John Bolton. “But President Trump can’t make the North Koreans walk through the door he’s holding open. They are the ones that have to take the steps to denuclearize. And that’s what we are waiting for.”

Bolton said in a speech to the Federalist Society that in their Singapore meeting in June, Kim committed to getting rid of his nuclear weapons, and later agreed with South Korean President Moon Jae-in that it could be done in one year.

“If they would denuclearize, as they committed to do in Singapore, they could have a very different kind of life in North Korea,” Bolton said.

On Friday Trump said he was expecting a “positive” new letter from Kim, indicating that negotiations remain alive after weeks of apparent deadlock.

“I know that a letter is being delivered to me, a personal letter from Kim Jong Un to me, that was handed at the border,” Trump told reporters traveling with him to North Dakota.

“I think it’s going to be a positive letter.”

■ **“Very warm, very positive” letter**

U.S. President Donald Trump received a “very warm, very positive” letter from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un asking for a second meeting and the White House is looking at scheduling one, White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said on Monday.

The two countries have been discussing North Korea’s nuclear programs since their leaders met in Singapore in June, although that summit’s outcome was criticized for being short on concrete details about how and whether Kim is willing to give up weapons that threaten the United States.

The likely timing of a second Trump-Kim



meeting was unclear.

South Korea’s President Moon Jae-in is scheduled to have his third summit with Kim next week in Pyongyang, and his government had pushed for a three-way summit involving Trump, with the aim of agreeing a joint declaration to end the 1950-53 Korean War.

The conflict ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty, leaving the U.S.-led United Nations forces including South Korea technically still at war with North Korea.

While South Korea had hoped an accord formally ending the conflict could have been unveiled on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly later this month, Moon’s security chief Chung Eui-yong said last week, without elaborating, that the necessary conditions for a three-way meeting were missing.

Trump’s National Security Adviser John Bolton has also said he did not believe Kim would attend such a gathering.

Hopes of progress were revived however after Trump told reporters on Friday that a personal letter from Kim was on the way.

“It was a very warm, very positive letter,”

Sanders said at Monday’s briefing.

“The primary purpose of the letter was to request and look to schedule another meeting with the president which we are open to and are already in the process of coordinating that,” she said.

Sanders told reporters the letter exhibited “a continued commitment to focus on denuclearization of the peninsula.”

She said a military parade in Pyongyang on Sunday was “a sign of good faith” because it did not feature any long-range missiles.

In South Korea, officials nurtured hope that next week’s inter-Korean summit could provide renewed momentum to nuclear negotiations, after last month’s setback when Trump canceled a visit to Pyongyang by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo due to a lack of progress.

South Korea’s President Moon is expected to present some proposal to Kim suggesting phased steps toward denuclearization and U.S. security guarantees including an official end to the Korean War. Moon could then discuss the idea when he meets Trump

during the U.N. General Assembly meeting in New York later this month, South Korean officials said.

Trump asked Moon to act as “chief negotiator” between Washington and Pyongyang during their phone call last week, Moon’s spokesman Kim Eui-kyeom told reporters.

“In order for us to move toward the next level of dismantling North Korea’s existing nuclear weapons, the leaders of North Korea and the United States once again must have big ideas and take bold decisions,” Moon told a cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

“North Korea should abolish its nuclear programs, and the

United States foster such conditions with corresponding action.”

■ **Window of opportunity**

The nuclear envoys of South Korea and the United States also held a meeting on Tuesday as part of efforts to jumpstart stalled nuclear talks between Pyongyang and Washington.

Lee Do-hoon, South Korea’s nuclear negotiator, told reporters that he and his U.S. counterpart Stephen Biegun discussed how to bring progress on the North’s denuclearization and establishing peace on the Korean peninsula.

“We take this very seriously, the responsibility that is on both of us,” Biegun told Lee at the start of the talks.

“But we also have a tremendous opportunity created by President Trump, by President Moon and by Chairman Kim. We need to do everything we can to make the most of this moment of opportunity.”

Harry Kazianis, director of defense studies from the Centre for the National Interest, a think tank in Washington reckoned Trump was right to pursue a second meeting with the North Korean leader.

“When you combine Kim’s pledge to denuclearize by the end of Trump’s first term, as well as not displaying any long-range ballistic missiles during the north’s recent 70th anniversary celebrations, there are reasons for optimism,” he said.

(Source: agencies)

## Xi, Putin meet as Russia kicks off biggest ever war games

➔ The three-day meeting in Vladivostok brings together the leaders of Russia, China, Japan and South Korea, as well five thousand delegates from 60 countries.



It is the two leaders’ third meeting and comes amid an escalating U.S.-China trade war and U.S.-led sanctions against Russia over the conflict in Ukraine.

Al Jazeera’s Rory Challands, reporting from Vladivostok, said there was “good strategic sense in Russia seeking closer ties with China”.

“They are both Eurasian neighbors who share a border. China has a vast economy that it needs to keep fed with resources and Russia has lots of natural resources,” he said.

■ **‘A message to the West’**

The Vostok 2018 military drills, which kicked off in far eastern Russia and on the Pacific Ocean on Tuesday, also “gives Russia and China valuable experience at working together,” he said.

“Now, the Chinese commitment isn’t huge - about 3,200 troops and 30 aircraft, but it does perhaps show them they can work together and at some point integrate weapons systems and command structures.”

China’s participating in the drills sent a message to the West as well, said our correspondent.

“If there was a future conflict with the U.S., it shows that perhaps Russia and China might fight alongside each other,” he said.

The war games involve more than 300,000 troops, 1,000 aircraft, up to 36,000 tanks and other vehicles, and 80 warships and support vessels, according to Russia’s defense ministry.

It also released video footage of military vehicles, planes, helicopters and ships getting into position for the initial stage of the drills.

Wednesday will see games featuring anti-aircraft technology, while the main event will be on Thursday.

The Russian army has compared the show of force to the USSR’s 1981 war games that saw between 100,000 and 150,000 Warsaw Pact soldiers take part in “Zapad-81” (West-81) - the largest military exercises of the Soviet era.

But Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said these exercises are even larger, with 300,000 soldiers at sea and on the ground, 36,000 military vehicles, 1,000 planes and 80 warships taking part in the drills.

“Imagine 36,000 military vehicles moving at the same time: tanks, armored personnel carriers, infantry fighting vehicles - and all of this, of course, in conditions as close to a combat situation as possible,” Shoigu said.

The drills have been condemned by NATO as a rehearsal for “large-scale conflict”.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

## Pompeo said U.S. won’t block Pakistan if it seeks IMF bailout: Pakistani minister

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo assured Pakistan last week Washington would not try to block any request for a bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Pakistani Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry said on Tuesday.

The remarks, which Chaudhry said Pompeo made during his visit to Pakistan on Wednesday, come in stark contrast to Pompeo’s warnings in July that the United States had serious reservations about the IMF giving money to Pakistan due to concerns Islamabad would use the cash to pay off Chinese loans.

Those comments rattled Islamabad, which is facing a currency crisis and may have no option but to turn again to the IMF for a rescue if staunch allies China and Saudi Arabia do not offer more loans to prop up its foreign currency reserves.

Chaudhry told Reuters that relations between United States and Pakistan were “broken” before Pompeo’s trip to Islamabad but the visit had “set many things straight” and re-invigorated ties.

“He assured Pakistan that...if Pakistan opted to go to IMF for any financial help, the U.S. will not oppose it,” Chaudhry said in the capital, Islamabad.

The U.S. embassy in Islamabad did not have any immediate comment.

The new government of Prime Minister Imran Khan, who took office in August, is trying to avert a currency

crisis caused by a shortage of dollars in an economy hit by a ballooning current account deficit and dwindling foreign currency reserves.

Pakistani officials say they are discussing taking drastic measures to avert seeking a bailout from the IMF, which has come to Pakistan’s rescue 14 times since 1980, including most recently in 2013.

Pakistan’s relations with the United States have soured in recent years over the war in Afghanistan and Islamabad’s alleged support for Islamist militants. Ties dropped to a new low when President Donald Trump in January accused Pakistan of lies and deceit by playing a double game on fighting terrorism.

Islamabad denies aiding insurgents in Afghanistan and lashed out against Trump’s remarks, which were followed up by Washington suspending U.S. military aid.

At the United States’ urging, a group of Western countries in February convinced a global body to put Pakistan on a terrorism financing watch list, a move that triggered concerns the United States may also seek to block Islamabad in other forums.

In July, Pompeo said there was “no rationale” for the IMF to bail out Pakistan. Pompeo’s worries that Islamabad would use the IMF money to pay off Chinese loans echoes concerns by other U.S. officials that China is saddling many emerging market countries with too much debt. Beijing staunchly denies such claims.



“There’s no rationale for IMF tax dollars, and associated with that American dollars that are part of the IMF funding, for those to go to bail out Chinese bondholders or China itself,” Pompeo said in July, referring to a possible Pakistan bailout.

But during last week’s visit Pompeo said he was hopeful of “a reset of relations” long strained over the war in Afghanistan.

(Source: Daily Star)

## Ethiopia, Eritrea reopen border points for first time in 20 years: minister

The leaders of Ethiopia and Eritrea re-opened crossing points on their shared border on Tuesday for the first time in 20 years, Asmara said, clearing the way for trade between the former foes after a stunning reconciliation.

Ethiopia’s Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki opened the frontier at Bure, a region that saw some of the fiercest fighting during their 1998-2000 war.

Tensions over the border burned on after that fighting ended - until Abiy offered to end the military standoff this year as part

of a package of reforms that have reshaped the political landscape in the Horn of Africa and beyond.

Isaias and Abiy “officially opened the Debay Sima - Burre border point between z two countries for road transport connectivity,” Eritrea’s Information Minister Yemane Meskel said in a tweet.

The two leaders then opened the Serha-Zalambesa connection in a second ceremony, footage on Ethiopia’s state TV showed.

The leaders also celebrated Ethiopian new year together at border with their troops,

Fitsum Arega, Abiy’s Chief of Staff, said on Twitter.

Pictures on Fitsum’s Twitter account showed the leaders talking and walking side by side, Abiy in camouflaged military fatigues and Isaias wearing sandals and a safari suit.

Since signing an agreement in Asmara on July 9 to restore ties, the Eritrean and Ethiopian leaders have moved swiftly to end two decades of hostility.

Eritrea reopened its embassy in Ethiopia in July, and Ethiopia reciprocated last week.

The two countries have resumed flights. Eritrea has agreed to open up its ports to its landlocked neighbor and last week announced plans to upgrade a connecting road.

Residents on another part of the border said Eritrean and Ethiopian soldiers started clearing landmines on Monday.

Ethiopia follows a calendar similar to the ancient Julian calendar - which started disappearing from the West in the 16th century - meaning the country entered its year 2011 on Tuesday.

(Source: Reuters)



Theresa May, the British prime minister, has exactly the same opinion. She believes that, instead of confronting Trump’s financial and economic policies, and even its illegal measures such as the White House’s withdrawal from then nuclear deal, Europe should think about holding negotiations and interactions with Washington!

As for the French President Emmanuel Macron, his policies suggest that he has a strong desire to interact with United States under any conditions! In 2017 and during the joint American-European Project on changing the JCPOA, he played an extremely important and highlighted role, though Trump had eventually pulled out of the nuclear deal.

Finally, it should be noted that the main obstacle to “Europe’s independence from the United States” are the European authorities. As long as the current generation of European politicians are in office, such independence (in terms of security and finance) won’t be actualized. When it comes to Iran sanctions, the EU seeks to satisfy Trump’s demands, and this a rule which is not going to change.

## Spain to hold talks with Saudi Arabia on differences over bomb deal: Defense chief

Spain says it will discuss with Saudi Arabia ways to resolve their differences over the sale of laser-guided bombs to the kingdom just days after blocking the shipment, in a move observers say is aimed at appeasing the Riyadh regime and maintaining other lucrative contracts with it.

Last week, Spain’s Defense Ministry said it was halting a 2015 deal to sell 400 laser-guided precision bombs to Saudi Arabia due to Riyadh’s role in the Yemen war.

The decision enraged Saudi Arabia, which is already under international pressure over rising civilian deaths amid its brutal military campaign on Yemen.

Then reports emerged that the kingdom was, in response to Madrid’s move, planning to scrap a \$2.2-billion contract to purchase five Corvette warships from Spanish state-owned military shipbuilder Navantia, a deal that involves 6,000 jobs in a country with one of Europe’s highest unemployment rates.

On Monday, Spanish Defense Minister Margarita Robles told a parliamentary commission that the issue would be resolved “amicably” based on a bilateral framework.

“Decisions will be made according to a bilateral framework between two countries that are partners and have signed

a contract and it will be resolved amicably,” Robles said in the Spanish Senate.

She said the contract was under revision, and that Madrid would respect the Charter of the United Nations regarding human rights.

Robles further said that the warship deal, which was signed in April, was in no danger as it was “not linked to any other contract.”

Analysts, however, said Madrid decided to leave the door open to the bomb deal just to avert a row with Riyadh similar to the one unfolding between the kingdom and Canada over human rights issues.

Eduard Soler, an analyst at the CIDOB international affairs think-tank, said any break in Madrid-Riyadh relationship could endanger a series of lucrative contracts for Spain.

“It’s a textbook case in which we find that internal politics affect foreign politics and defense,” says Soler.

The bomb deal had been negotiated and finalized by former Spanish defense ministers Pedro Morenés Eulate and Maria Dolores de Cospedal.

Robles announced the decision to halt the sale of bombs to Saudi Arabia shortly after the Riyadh-led coalition of in-

vaders launched a deadly air raid on a bus carrying Yemeni students, killing 51 people, including 40 children.

On Monday, Amnesty International urged Madrid to stop supplying weapons to Riyadh, warning that bombs, such as the ones Spain plans to sell to Saudi Arabia, have been used in “dozens of war crimes in Yemen.”

Spain is the fourth country on the list of major arms exporters to the Riyadh regime, according to the rights group.

Citing the Amnesty, media reports say between 2015 and 2017, Spain reportedly exported 1.2 billion euros worth of military equipment to the Saudi-led military coalition.

The European Parliament has urged its member states to halt these sales on numerous occasions, admitting that the alliance led by Saudi Arabia violates international humanitarian law by using this weaponry in attacking the civilian population and bombing hospitals, markets and schools.

Saudi Arabia and its allies launched the war on Yemen in March 2015 to reinstall its former Riyadh-allied government. The military aggression has so far killed over 14,000 Yemenis and put millions on the verge of famine. It has also caused a deadly outbreak of cholera.

(Source: Press TV)



## Spurs fans to see stadium in video game

Tottenham fans will be able to see inside their new stadium before they can physically step foot in it - thanks to a video game. FIFA19 will feature a virtual version of the ground when it launches on September 28.

"Safety issues" delayed the opening of the stadium by several months, causing disruption to Spurs' fixtures.

The 62,062-seat stadium was due to open on 15 September for Tottenham's game against Liverpool.

However, fans will not be able to attend a game until at least November. Craven Cottage, Cardiff City Stadium and Molineux will also be included in the video game this year by developers EA Sports. They join the other 17 Premier League venues after Fulham, Cardiff and Wolves were promoted to the top flight.

Portsmouth's Fratton Park, Sunderland's Stadium of Light and Aston Villa's Villa Park are among the stadiums chosen from the English Football league.

(Source: Eurosport)

## La Liga, Barcelona & Girona ask Spanish FA for US game permission

mBarcelona, Girona and La Liga have asked the Spanish Football Federation for permission for the two Catalan clubs to relocate a match to the US.

The game, Girona's 'home' match, would be held at Miami's Hard Rock Stadium on 26 January at 19:45 GMT.

A compensation package for Girona season ticket holders has been agreed. RFEF, the US Soccer Federation, Uefa and Concacaf need to give permission for the game to go ahead.

Luis Rubiales, the president of the RFEF, has previously spoken out against the US game.

The Spanish players' union (AFE) have also been opposed to the match and following a meeting with La Liga on Monday, it said the players will have the "final say".

La Liga, Spain's top flight, has agreed to play one game a season in the US as part of a 15-year deal with media company Relevent.

Girona is in Catalonia, about 60 miles north east of Barcelona. The club say the match represents a chance for expansion and growth, both for the club and the region. La Liga is planning to subsidise travel and accommodation for fans affected by the relocated match. For Girona season ticket holders, there will be 1,500 free flights to Miami, with a choice of staying overnight for the weekend, or coming straight back after the match.

For those who do not want to travel, there will be 5,000 free tickets to the away game against Barcelona at the Nou Camp on 23 September and 20% off their season ticket, or fans who cannot do either would get a 40% discount on their season ticket.

(Source: BBC)

## Czech Republic coach Jarolim leaves by mutual consent following defeats



The manager of the Czech Republic national team Karel Jarolim has left his position by mutual consent, the country's Football Association said on Twitter on Tuesday.

The decision follows a disappointing 2-1 defeat at home by Ukraine in their UEFA Nations League opener last Thursday and a 5-1 thrashing by Russia in a friendly match on Monday.

The association said it would meet with new coaching candidates in the coming days.

Jarolim was appointed in July 2016 but failed to qualify the side for this year's World Cup in Russia.

(Source: Reuters)

## UEFA 'planning third European club competition from 2021'

A third European club competition could be introduced alongside the Champions League and Europa League from 2021, according to the head of the association of Europe's biggest teams.

European Club Association (ECA) chairman Andrea Agnelli, who is also on UEFA's executive committee, said the "the green light has been given".

He did not give any more details on how the tournament would be organized.

"The current model needs modernizing," said Agnelli, 42.

Agnelli, who is also chairman of Italian champions Juventus, said: "A detailed assessment of the existing international match calendar is required prior to presenting a new model post-2024."

Speaking at the annual general assembly of the ECA in Croatia, he said the third competition would increase the number of clubs involved in European football from 80 to 96.

The Champions League features 32 teams in the group stage and the second-tier Europa League has 48.

The Cup Winners' Cup - for domestic cup champions - was scrapped in 1999.

In a statement, UEFA said it is "constantly reviewing the format of its competitions and is looking at a variety of options".

(Source: BBC)

# Why Naomi Osaka could have the last laugh

The US Open should have been one of the showpiece events of the sporting summer.

The wealthiest of tennis' four grand slam events, the New York tournament has a rich history and boasted a record purse.

And yet, after the events that unfolded in Saturday's women's final at Flushing Meadow, no one -- not the players, the officials, administrators, the fans or the sport itself -- emerged as a winner.

Perhaps the biggest loser in it all was the eventual champion, Naomi Osaka, whose moment of glory was taken away in the aftermath of a tirade by Williams.

It started when chair umpire Carlos Ramos gave Williams a code violation for coaching, and eventually ended up with accusations of sexism in the aftermath.

You are only a first-time major singles champion once, of course.

In the 10 minutes that followed her stunning 6-2 6-4 victory against the most dominant female player of the past two decades, as Arthur Ashe Stadium was being prepared for what would be a deeply awkward trophy ceremony, Osaka sat all alone in her chair as parts of the 23,000-strong crowd booed loudly.

Osaka, a shy, quirky personality who idolized Williams growing up, put her cap down over her eyes and started to cry during the trophy ceremony. It was only after Williams took the mic, and pleaded with spectators to stop booing and give credit to the new champion, that it ended.

"Ultimately, you never know what you're made out of until you're tested," Osaka's coach, Sascha Bajin, told the New York Times. "Naomi was thrown in there into deep water today," said Bajin, who spent several years as the hitting partner of Williams.

"Got everything thrown at her: big bombs by Serena, the crowd, the drama. She remained with her composure. There are certain things you can train yourself to do; other things you just have, and I believe it's a gift, what Naomi has."

A lot has been said in the aftermath of a bizarre final, but not much attention has been paid to Osaka's brilliant performance in the face of the storm raging on the other



side of the net.

Speaking to WTA Insider two days after becoming the first Japanese player to win a grand slam singles title, Osaka said: "I hope Serena isn't mad at me."

But Osaka has no need to apologize. She simply did everything better than Williams; she served better, moved better and returned better.

Osaka struck six aces, twice as many as Williams. The 20-year-old won 73% of the points on her first serve, while Williams took 63%. Osaka was also able to neutralize the Williams serve, widely regarded as one of the best in all of tennis, as she won 45% of return points. Williams took 36% of her return points.

After she was given a code violation for coaching in the

second game of the second set by Ramos, a fuming Williams told the umpire that she "never cheated" and "would rather lose" than do that. A racket smash by Williams led to a second code violation, and this time she was docked a point.

A visit to the court from tournament referee Brian Earley and grand slam supervisor Donna Kelso failed to diffuse the situation and, having led 3-1 in the second set, a rattled Williams lost it completely as she went down 4-3.

During the changeover, she called Ramos a "thief" and a "liar" because he "stole a point," from her, which led to Ramos handing out a third code violation for verbal abuse, and a game penalty. Now down 5-3, Williams did manage to hold serve.

(Source: CNN)

## South African soccer boss shot dead outside club



Nicholas 'Mkhize' Gumede, the chairman of South African National First Division side Uthongathi FC, was killed in a shooting outside the club on Monday night.

Gumede was shot in his car as he prepared to leave a meeting with the club's technical team on Monday evening, club director Nkosinathi Chili confirmed on Tuesday morning.

"When he entered his car, he closed the door and was about to start the car, but he didn't start it. Then there was a lot of gun shots," Chili told Kickoff.com.

"They [the shooter(s)] were just monitoring us and they used the chance. He was shot dead."

Gumede was a businessman who operated a number of taxis in the area, and also a member of the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Legislature, representing the ruling African National Congress. He was formerly a member of South Africa's parliament between 2009 and 2010.

Uthongathi will ask the Premier Soccer League to postpone their next fixture, a KwaZulu-Natal derby against Real Kings on Saturday, and the players will not train on

Tuesday, but will gather at the club's base.

"Today we'll meet with the players and there will be no training, just to come and pray with the players and see how we go from there," Chili said.

"In this situation we'll be guided by the family if he's laid to rest this weekend or another day. But we'll write a letter to the PSL to ask for the postponement of our game.

"Even our players, as they know that I'm the communications manager of the team, others were bold enough to phone me and I told them to remain at the club house.

"We feel they'll need counselling and we also informed our KZN MEC for Sport [Bongi Sithole-Moloi] that we are faced with the tragic passing of our chairman."

The shooting is reminiscent of the slaying of Mbabane Swallows soccer boss Victor Gamedze in Swaziland earlier this year as he was gunned down at a petrol station.

Siphso Shongwe, the director of fellow Swaziland Premier League side Matsapha United was arrested and charged for the killing, with the case yet to come to trial.

(Source: ESPN)

## Diego Maradona's 'rebirth' at coaching job at Mexican side Dorados



Argentine football legend Diego Maradona says his new job as manager of a Mexican second-division club is a "rebirth" after years of battling drug addiction, alcoholism and obesity.

The choice though of Dorados in Sinaloa state, home to one of Mexico's most powerful drug cartels, surprised some.

He said the task ahead of him at Dorados will be "like carrying an elephant on our shoulders."

The club are currently 13th in Mexico's second division, the Liga Ascenso.

The team are without a win in the opening six games of the league.

Despite this, Maradona said he would coach in an attacking manner, similar to how he played.

"We are going to look to win games, as I do not like to play defensive football," Maradona told his first press conference.

He also acknowledged some of his past struggles. "I had a lot of missteps in my life. I assume this responsibility like someone who holds a child in their arms," he said.

"When I took [drugs] ... It made me go

backwards, it was a step back, and what football players have to do is go forward."

The former Barcelona and Napoli forward previously managed UAE teams Al-Fujairah and Al-Wasl, along with the Argentina national team from 2008 to 2010.

"I am here to work. I am here to give my heart like I did in Fujairah, where I drove 300 kilometres a day to work," Maradona said.

Although local media reported that residents of the wealthy neighbourhood where Maradona hopes to live have blocked his move, Dorados fans were largely supportive.

"We trust you, Diego. Here we don't criticise, we only admire," one fan's sign said.

Mexico was the scene of Maradona's finest moment as a player, when he led his country to the 1986 World Cup title.

But he said had not come to the club to reminisce. "We are not here for a stroll, we didn't come on vacation, we came to work... It will be great to win together, it will be great to win together," he said.

(Source: BBC)

# Former world champion Raikkonen to leave Ferrari

Former world champion Kimi Raikkonen will leave Ferrari at the end of the season after a five-year stint with the Formula One team, the Italian outfit announced Tuesday.

Sauber driver Charles Leclerc, 20 -- widely considered one of the brightest young talents in F1 -- will replace Raikkonen as the pair swap places, with the 38-year-old Finn signing a two-year deal with the Swiss team for whom he made his F1 debut in 2001.

Leclerc has earned five top 10 finishes in his debut season, including a career-best sixth at the Azerbaijan Grand Prix. In total, the Monégasque has racked up 13 points in 14 races in 2018 to record one of the best seasons of any Sauber driver in recent years.

■ 'Guess who's back?'

Raikkonen, who has been behind Sebastian Vettel in the Ferrari pecking order in recent seasons, is the last person to win the world title for Ferrari, back in 2007.

He is currently third in the drivers' championship on 164 points, most recently finishing second at the Italian Grand Prix after securing his first pole position since Monaco last year.

In a statement on its official website, Ferrari said: "During these years, Kimi's contribution to the team, both as a driver and on account of his human qualities, has been fundamental. He played a decisive role in the team's growth



and was, at the same time, always a great team player.

"As a world champion for Scuderia Ferrari, he will always be part of the team's history and family. We thank Kimi for all of this and wish him and his family a prosperous future."

After his world title triumph in 2007, Raikkonen took

a two-year break from the sport to compete in the World Rally Championship before returning to F1 with Lotus in 2012 and rejoining Ferrari in 2014.

In his two stints with Ferrari, Raikkonen has earned nine race wins and started from pole on seven occasions. His last victory for the team came in Belgium in 2009.

On confirming his move to Sauber next year, Raikkonen posted on Instagram: "Guess who's back?! Next two years with Sauber team ahead! Feels extremely good to go back where it all began!"

■ Dreams do come true'

Monaco-born Leclerc paid tribute to his late father and his friend Jules Bianchi, who died three years ago after a crash at the Japanese Grand Prix in 2014.

"Dreams do come true. I will be eternally grateful to Ferrari for the opportunity given," he said on Twitter.

"To a person that is not part of this world anymore but to whom I owe everything of what is happening to me, Papa. To Jules, thank you for all the things you learnt me, we will never forget you, and to all the persons that supported me and believed in me.

"I will work harder than ever to not disappoint you. But first, there is a season to finish with an amazing team that gave me the opportunity to fight and show my potential."

(Source: CNN)



# Zahra Nemati to face China's Wu Chunyan in greatest rivalry in Jakarta

**S P O R T S** TEHRAN — Iran's Zahra Nemati will face China's Wu Chunyan as the greatest rivalry in the women's individual recurve open in the Asian Para Games.

The Games will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia from October 6 to 13.

Six Paralympic and three world champions headline the archery competition, which will begin on 7 October at the Gelora Bung Karno sports complex, Paralympic.org wrote.

Perhaps the greatest rivalry will be in the women's individual recurve open where Nemati will face Chunyan.

Nemati is arguably the most popular and successful female Paralympian to come

from Iran. She competed at both the Rio Olympics and Paralympics and had the honor of carrying the flag for her delegation at Rio 2016 Olympics Opening Ceremony.

Nemati beat Chunyan to the Gold medal at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games and then again took the gold at the Beijing 2017 World Championships in Beijing with Chunyan this time in third.

At London 2012, Nemati set a Paralympic record on her way to gold in the women's individual recurve W1/W2, and she also picked up a bronze medal in the women's team recurve open.

She became the first Iranian woman to win gold at either a Paralympic or Olympic Games.



## Iran's Solhipour wins gold at Asia-Oceania Open Powerlifting C'ships

**S P O R T S** TEHRAN — Hamed Solhipour claimed Iran's first gold medal at the Asia-Oceania Open Powerlifting Championships on Tuesday.

The Iranian athlete lifter 233kg to win the gold medal in the men's up to 97kg in Kitakyushu, Japan.

Mohammed Khamis Khalaf from the UAE took the silver, lifting 230kg and Panpan Yan from China won the

bronze medal with 216kg.

Three Iranian powerlifter Nader Moradi (+80kg), Rouhollah Rostami (+72kg) and Yousef Yousefi (-59kg) have already won three silver medals in the competition.

The competition features 200 powerlifters from 29 countries in all, with lifters from outside the Asia-Oceania region welcome.



## Iran to meet Puerto Rico at Volleyball World Championship opener

**S P O R T S** TEHRAN — Iran and Puerto Rico will meet for the second consecutive editions of the FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship in Bulgaria on Wednesday after meeting in Poland in 2014.

The only previous match between Iran and Puerto Rico at the World Championship was in Kraków at the 2014 tournament (first round). Team Melli won in straight sets.

Iran beat Puerto Rico 3-1 in Tokyo on 6 June 2012 in a qualification tournament for the 2012 Olympic Games in London. Neither team qualified for the Games.

Team Melli won both of their matches versus NORCECA opposition at the 2014 World Championship, after they lost each of their first three fixtures at the tournament against NORCECA teams (1970, 1998, 2006).

Puerto Rico have won only one of their five World



Championships matches against AVC opposition, 3-1 versus China in Saitama in 2006, fivb.org wrote.

This is Iran's sixth appearance at a World Championship. In their first four participations they finished 21st (1970), 19th (1998), 21st (2006) and 19th (2010), before a sixth-place finish in 2014.

Iran have won 12 matches at the World Championship (W12-L22), with seven of those victories coming in the 2014 tournament. They were beaten 3-0 by Russia in the fifth-place play-off.

Iran made their World Championship debut in 1970, when Bulgaria hosted the tournament. They lost all five matches in the group stage, before winning four of their six fixtures in the consolation stage (for places 17-24).

Iran won their opening match in only one of their five appearances at the World Championship, a 3-1 victory against Italy in Kraków at the 2014 tournament.

Igor Kolakovic's men finished 10th in the 2018 Nations League, the highest-placed AVC team.

## Al Duhail on verge of greatness

Following nine consecutive victories in the AFC Champions League, Al Duhail are on par with Ulsan Hyundai and one step away from writing history, join the AFC.com as we sum up the winning streaks of the two giants.

Ulsan Hyundai recorded a historic run of nine successive wins in the AFC Champions League six years ago and ended up taking the title home.

Now Al Duhail have matched the high of the Korean side, yet the teams took different paths in setting their records, and the Qatari club could well go on and extend their run.

The team based in Ulsan kicked-off their 2012 campaign with a hard-fought home victory against Beijing Guoan, as Kim Shin-wook and Go Seul-ki bagged the goals that sealed the 2-1 win.

The following two fixtures saw Ulsan stumble with draws against FC Tokyo and Brisbane Roar.

In Tokyo, they came from behind twice to rescue a 2-2 draw and down in Australia, Lee Jae-Seong's second-half goal cancelled out Nick Fitzgerald's opener for Roar.

Kim Ho-kon's troops kicked the dust off and managed to walk triumphal out of their remaining three games in the group to finish on top and unbeaten with 14 points.

On the other hand, Al Duhail have brought an entertaining brand of football to this season's campaign with Youssef El Arabi scoring for fun while Youssef Msakni and Nam Tae-hee have excelled as the supporting cast.

However, it was the attacking exploits of holding midfielder Karim Boudiaf that earned the Qatari side their first six points

of the campaign.

Boudiaf netted twice in the 3-1 win over Zobahan and scored the second of Al Duhail's three goals in a narrow 3-2 win against Al Wahda on Matchday Two.

Al Duhail demonstrated their killer scoring instinct, scoring thrice for a third game running, with El Arabi registering his second brace to help the team to a 3-2 home win against PCF Lokomotiv.

El Arabi made it six goals for the campaign and four wins on the trot in the reverse fixture, while Matchday Five was the first time Al Duhail failed to score multiple goals.

Ismael Mohammed's goal was enough to secure a 1-0 win against Zobahan.

Another 1-0 win rounded off the results, ensuring Djamel Belmadi's men became just the third team in AFC Champions League history to end the group stage with 18 points.

In their first knockout tie, Ulsan Hyundai emerged victorious in a five-goal thriller against Kashiwa Reysol with Kim and Lee Keun-ho getting on the scoresheet.

Kim broke the deadlock for the home side, later on Leandro Domingues equalised for the team from Japan.

However an own goal from Naoya Kondo and a winner from Lee decided the tie, as the added-time goal from Junya Tanaka was merely consolation for the Japanese side.

Ulsan reached their first quarter-final since 2006 and against Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal, they never looked in danger as they cruised to a 4-0 win in Riyadh off the back of a 1-0 advantage from the first leg at home.



Brazilian striker Rafinha scored three goals over the two games, while Kim and Lee were both on target again, sending Ulsan into the semi-finals.

The Korean side faced Bunyodkor in the semi-finals and despite an early goal for the Uzbek side in the first leg, the deadly trio of Rafinha, Kim and Lee scored another five goals over the two legs as Ulsan made it eight wins in a row.

Saudi Arabia's Al Ahli had beaten city rivals Al Ittihad in the other semi-final, and Ulsan were on a date with history as they hosted the final.

Captain Kwak Tae-hwi opened the scoring with a header, before Rafinha doubled the lead in the second half and Kim Seung-yong blasted the third to grant Ulsan Hyundai their first AFC Champions League title and a record of nine consecutive wins.

In this version, Al Duhail battered Al Ain in the Round of 16, netting eight goals, evenly split between the two legs as El

Arabi fired three over the two legs, taking his tally to nine.

Coach Belmadi left the club over the summer and former Tunisia coach Nabil Maaloul was appointed as his replacement.

The Tunisian coach made his AFC Champions League debut for the club in the dugout at home against Persepolis in the first leg of the quarter-finals.

Al Duhail walked victorious out of the first leg thanks to a header from Almoez Ali to take a 1-0 lead into the second leg at Azadi Stadium, in the process, they recorded their ninth win in a row, equaling Ulsan's six-year-old record.

Maaloul has previously won the CAF Champions League with Tunisia's Espérance Sportive de Tunis, winning all his ties after the group stage.

Persepolis have not lost any game on their home ground this season, yet a win for Al Duhail next Monday would mark a new record in AFC Champions League history. (Source: the-afc)

## Striker Karim Ansarifard 'has agreed a deal with Nottingham Forest'

Iran international striker Karim Ansarifard has reportedly said he has agreed a deal with Nottingham Forest.

Reds boss Aitor Karanka last week confirmed the Iran international, who is a free agent after being released from his contract at Olympiacos, is a target for the club.

And, according to reports in his homeland, the 28-year-old is on the verge of moving to the City Ground.

It is claimed Ansarifard has finalized a deal with Forest and will head to the UK to complete formalities after match against Uzbekistan in Tashkent.

Karanka previously said of his interest in the forward: "He is another player with a lot of experience. He has played in the Champions League, he is a good player and another good character. "We had another Iranian player last season, in Ashkan Dejagah, and he impressed me – he was very good.

"Let us see what is happening with him (Ansarifard)." The Reds have made 16 signings so far this summer, with midfielders Claudio Jacob and Panagiotis Tachtsidis the most recent additions as the duo put pen to paper on deals last week. (Source: Nottinghampost.com)



## South Korea keen on expanding ties with Iran

**IRNA** — Iran and Korea are two of the most powerful soccer teams in Asia, and together with the increasing progress of both countries over the past, we are ready to cooperate with the Iranian Football Federation, said South Korean Ambassador to Iran, Yo Jang Hyan.

Yo Jang Hyan on Monday in a meeting with Iran's Football Federation head Mehdi Taj added, 'I had been following Iran's football before and I knew players like Ali Daei and Javad Nekounam and I have a lot of interest in Iranian football.'

He said, 'I believe that the football and futsal of Iran have had many progress in the last few years and their performance is very favorable. We also want to extend this relationship and Iranian teams in different age groups, futsal, and women travel to South Korea.'

South Korea's ambassador to Iran added that football in Europe and South America had already been the first sport to play, but the good displays of Iran, South Korea and Japan in the 2018 World Cup showed that Asian teams also reached an acceptable level of football in Europe.

Taj also referred to the past game of Iran and South Korea, which was held in the final round of the 2018 World Cup in the night of Tasooa saying, 'We thank and appreciate Korean fans for respecting Iranian mourners two years ago and for our culture and religion.'

Taj noted that undoubtedly, cooperation with South Korea will help Iran's development.

## Iranian Farhad Moshiri increases his stake in Everton

Everton's major shareholder Farhad Moshiri has increased his stake in the Premier League club.

The Iranian businessman acquired 49.9 per cent of Everton after selling his stake in Arsenal in February 2016 and it was announced on Tuesday he had increased his share in the Merseyside club by 18.7 per cent through Blue Heaven Holdings Ltd.

Moshiri, whose personal wealth is estimated at 1.7 billion US dollars according to Forbes, has therefore taken his total holding to 68.6 per cent. He is expected to elevate that further to 77.2 per cent by July next year.

A statement on the club's official website read: "Everton Football Club today announces that major shareholder Farhad Moshiri has further committed to and increased his shareholding in the club.

"Farhad Moshiri previously owned 49.9 per cent of the club and in line with the agreement made at the time of his original investment, he has purchased 18.7 per cent through Blue Heaven Holdings Ltd, giving him a total holding of 68.6 per cent, which is expected to increase to 77.2 per cent no later than July 2019." (Source: Press Association)

## Ternate welcomes Asian Para Games flame

Ternate, an island city in the eastern part of Indonesia, welcomed the Torch for the 2018 Asian Para Games to coincide with the nation's 53rd National Sports Day.

The Games in Jakarta are set to get underway next month. The flame was lit in Mrapen, Central Java on September 5 to mark the 30 day countdown to the event.

Ternate is the first city outside of Java to receive the flame and it was greeted with a carnival like atmosphere, according to the Asian Paralympic Committee (APC).

A ceremony was held at the Kedaton Sultanate of Ternate, North Maluku. The flame was handed over to the Minister of Youth and Sports, Imam Nahravi.

He spoke of the Torch as "a symbol of unity and caring for disability" but stressed a high level of competition at the third edition of the Asian Para Games.

"Fight hard," he said. "This is not only a matter of medals, but it concerns the dignity of the nation in international forums."

Nahravi passed the Torch to Indonesia 2018 Asian Para Games Organising Committee chair, Raja Sapta Oktohari.

Oktohari accepted the flame, which will visit other cities before the Opening Ceremony on October 6.

"Let us make Indonesia a caring and friendly country for people with disabilities," he said.

The Torch will travel to Makassar, South Sulawesi tomorrow and then to Denpasar, Bali on September 16.

(Source: Insidethegames.biz)



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North Korea subject of Reza Amirkhani’s next book

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — The bestselling writer Reza Amirkhani who is famous for novels such as “The Good Smell of Oil” and “Re He Sheen” is writing a travelogue of North Korea.



Iranian writer Reza Amirkhani in an undated photo (Mehr/Asghar Khamseh)

“I was in North Korean for nine days when the meeting between Jong-un and Trump was held,” he said in an interview published by the Persian daily Farhikhtegan on Monday.

“I traveled to the country as a documentarian along with a political delegation, and the travelogue will likely be my next book, if they [critics] do not bemoan that, once again, I will be concentrating on a bitter story,” he added.

Amirkhani’s latest novel “Re He Sheen” about an architect couple who are in conflict over the unbalanced development of urban life in a metropolis was published by Ofoq last year.

“The key point is that freedom will never be restricted in our country as much as it is in North Korea. In addition, even if our country is conquered by America we will never be like South Korea because we are not as disciplined as the South Korean people.”

NEWS IN BRIEF



Goethe plays published in Persian

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — Five works by German writer Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832) have recently been published in Persian in a collection by Cheshmeh Publications in Tehran.

Translated by Saeid Pirmoradi, the collection includes the two plays “Clavigo” and “Stella”, and the stories “The Good Women”, “The New Paris” and “The New Melusine”.

‘Stolen’ Matisse can stay in London’s National Gallery: U.S. appeals court

**NEW YORK (Reuters)** — The National Gallery in London persuaded a U.S. appeals court that three grandchildren of a muse for French artist Henri Matisse should not reclaim a 1908 painting they said was stolen.

In a 3-0 decision on Monday, the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York said sovereign immunity shielded the museum and Britain from having to return “Portrait of Greta Moll” to the grandchildren, Oliver Williams and Margarete Green from Britain and Iris Filmer from Germany.

The case is one of many seeking to recover art stolen or misappropriated in connection with World War Two.

Margarete Moll, known as Greta, became the painting’s owner after her husband Oskar died in 1947.

She then entrusted it with one of her husband’s former art students for safekeeping from looters in Switzerland.

But Moll’s heirs said the student stole the painting, which then changed hands several times, including through a Manhattan gallery, before the National Gallery bought it in 1979.

They sued after the Spoilation Advisory Panel, a British government body reviewing Holocaust-era claims, said it lacked jurisdiction because the Nazi era ended in 1945, two years before the alleged theft.

But the U.S. appeals court said the heirs also failed to allege that the painting was “taken,” and therefore could not reclaim it under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act.

“The alleged taking of the painting was committed by a private actor,” the court said. “The National Gallery’s refusal to compensate [plaintiffs] for that taking after the fact does not provide a basis for jurisdiction over a foreign sovereign and its instrumentality.”

David Rowland, a lawyer at Rowland & Petroff representing Greta Moll’s heirs, said his clients have been “denied their day in court,” despite remaining the painting’s “rightful owners.”

Sarah André, a lawyer for the National Gallery, was pleased with the decision, according to a statement from her law firm Nixon Peabody.

Monday’s decision upheld a September 2017 dismissal of the case by U.S. District Judge Valerie Caproni in Manhattan.

Greta Moll had sat for 10 three-hour sessions for her painting, which Matisse worked after seeing a work in Paris by the Italian Renaissance artist Paolo Veronese.

The case is Williams et al v. National Gallery, London et al, 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, No. 17-3253.

Iranian photographers win gold medals at Romania contest

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Iranian photographers Mohammad-Javad Sadri and Siavash Ejlali have won gold medals at the 7th International Photographic Art Salon, which is organized every year by the FotoClubPro Arad (FCPA) in Romania.

Sadri won the FCPA Gold Medal for his photo “Azadi Square” in the monochrome category, and Ejlali received the same honor for his “A Girl in Purple” in the color section, the organizers announced last Friday.

Kari Kumpulainen from Finland won the FIAP Gold Medal for the photo “Mask 1” in the color section, and in the monochrome section, the FIAP Gold Medal was given to Liviu Pascalau from Romania for the “Keyhole”.

Le Cong Bunh from Vietnam who has had the most acceptances in the festival was named Best Author.

Several other Iranian photographers attending the competition also received honorable mentions.

All the award-winning photos will be displayed in an exhibition opening at the Museum of Arad on November 28.

Iranian troupe to tour Europe with drama on migration



Iranian director Ali Shams in an undated photo (Tasnim/Reza Amirhassabi)

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — An Iranian troupe is scheduled to tour Europe during October with a play on migration titled “The Mediterranean”.

The tour will begin in Italy on October 15, and the troupe will perform in Pescara and Rome, director Ali Shams told the Persian service of Honaronline announced on Tuesday.

The troupe composed of Bahar Katuzi, Maral Farjad and Parisa Nazari will stage a performance of the play at Teatro di Documenti, a major theater in the Italian capital of Rome.

The play will be performed in English and the tour will continue in Hungary, Sweden and Germany.

“As right-wing governments have come to power in Europe and due to a rise in migration numbers from the Middle

East and Africa, refugees coming from the regions have turned into a major concern for Europeans,” Shams said.

The tour has been organized in response to the ruthless fascist environment created against the refugees in Europe, he added.

“The play’s focus is on the people, who are drowned in the Mediterranean on their way to flee to Europe,” Shams stated.

“This sea has turned into an immense slaughterhouse as one-eighteenth of those people who have had to flee to Europe are drowned in the Mediterranean Sea,” he lamented.

Shams directed a cast of Italian and Iranian actors performing “Humans Farm”, his play about violence in the history, at Tehran Sayeh Theater during September 2015.

Robert Redford bids farewell to acting with throwback crime caper

**TORONTO (Reuters)** — Robert Redford bowed out on Monday from a 50-year acting career, calling what he has said will be his final movie “a wonderful film to go out on.”

The Toronto Film Festival audience erupted with applause after the screening of comedy caper “The Old Man & the Gun” in which Redford, 81, plays a charming, real-life bank robber who was caught 17 times during the course of a 60 year crime career but who managed to escape from jail every time.

“I’ve always been attracted with the idea of outlaws since I was a kid and I played that out in my work a lot, so this just followed suit,” the “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid” star said.

“It’s just an upbeat film. It’s a true story. It’s a wonderful film to go out on,” he said.

Redford said last month that he would retire from acting after the release of “The Old Man & the Gun”. He has said he wants to spend more time on art - his first love - and plans to continue directing.

Movies like “All the President’s Men”, “The Sting” and “Out of Africa” turned Redford into one of the biggest stars of the 1970s and 1980s but despite winning a directing Oscar for “Ordinary People” in 1980, he has never won an Academy Award for acting.



Actor Robert Redford arrives for the international premiere of “The Old Man & the Gun” at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) in Toronto, Canada, September 10, 2018. (Reuters/Mark Blinch)

Director David Lowery said “The Old Man & the Gun” was “a spiritual successor” to the movies that made Redford a star and that he shot the movie in the style of 1970s crime films.

Asked to sum up Redford’s appeal, Lowery said that the actor’s voice and face on camera had a quality that “can captivate you like nothing else.”

“He has it and very few people do,” Lowery said.

“The Old Man & the Gun”, which also stars Sissy Spacek, Danny Glover and Casey Affleck, opens in U.S. movie theaters on Sept. 28.

Documentary explores Scottish workers’ boycott over Chile 1973 coup

**LONDON (Reuters)** — When Chilean air force jet engines arrived for repair at a Rolls-Royce factory in Scotland in 1974, inspector Bob Fulton swiftly decided he would not touch them.

The World War Two veteran had been shaken by images thousands of miles away in Santiago of Hawker Hunter jets bombing La Moneda presidential palace in the Sept. 11, 1973, military coup that toppled democratically elected socialist president Salvador Allende.

Despite risking his job, Fulton refused to let the engines through maintenance and, with fellow trade union workers,

led an act of international solidarity against the coup and ensuing dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet.

Documentary “Nae Pasaran”, meaning they shall not pass, takes a look at the boycott of Chilean air force engines by the engineers in East Kilbride and the impact it had.

“It’s very rare ... for anyone ... to find out decades later that something you’ve done ... actually pays off and affects positively the lives of others,” film director Felipe Bustos Sierra told Reuters.

The son of an exiled Chilean journalist living in Belgium, Bustos Sierra said he first heard of the Scottish workers’ actions as a child.



“A Girl in Purple” by Siavash Ejlali won the FCPA Gold Medal at the 7th International Photographic Art Salon in Romania.

Apricot Tree festival picks films from Iran



A scene from “Meta Marathon” by Saeid Keshavarz.

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Three Iranian movies will be competing in the Apricot Tree International Documentary Film Festival in Armenia, the organizers have announced.

“Meta Marathon” by Saeid Keshavarz, “Meeting” by Reza Majlesi and “The Rock” by Hamid Jafari will be screened in two different sections of the festival, which will take place in Yerevan and the beautiful village of Ujan from September 15 to 21.

“Meta Marathon” will be competing in the feature section. The film narrates the story of Qodratolloh Bayat, a young working man living in his modest village, boasting that he can break the world and Olympic marathon record. He joins a marathon competition held in the town and prepares a team to film his victory.

“Meeting” and “The Rock” will be competing in the short film category.

“Meeting” depicts the difficult everyday

life of an elderly rural woman, full of hard work, and the traditions of her village on the threshold of the holy month of Ramadan.

“The Rock” is about a woman in southern Iran who goes to the mountain near her village every day, breaks up rocks, puts the stones on a truck and makes a living from it for her family.

About 20 documentaries from Germany, France, Norway, Ukraine and several other countries will be competing in the festival.

Iranian filmmaker Shahram Badakhshanmehr is a member of the festival jury this year.

His docudrama “Slowly” won the festival’s grand prix in the feature-length competition in 2017.

He will be judging the films along with German film director Wieland Speck and Armenian historian-anthropologist Hranush Kharatyan.

Eros elbows way into China through content licensing deal with iQiyi

**MUMBAI (Reuters)** — Movie production house Eros International PLC on Monday said it partnered with China streaming service iQiyi Inc to provide Indian movies such as Bollywood blockbusters “Dabangg” and “Devdas” in the country.

Netflix Inc signed a similar deal last year with iQiyi, which is backed by China’s internet search company Baidu Inc.

Eros did not disclose financial terms of the deal, but said its streaming service Eros Now will license its catalog of Indian movies, which Chinese viewers will be able to watch by October.

Eros Now, which has rights to over 5,000 movies in various Indian languages, has 10.1 million paid subscribers in India.

Chinese viewers will be able to watch about 100 movies within the next month and increase to about 1,000 in the next year.

“We are targeting about \$10 million in revenue in the first year through this deal,” Eros International’s Chief Executive Officer Kishore Lulla said in an interview.

Streaming services in China are subject to strict data storage regulations and foreign films and television are routinely censored, hindering companies such as Netflix and Amazon.com Inc’s Prime from taking full advantage of the world’s most populated



The logo for Chinese streaming platform iQiyi Inc., is displayed on a screen during the company’s initial public offering (IPO) at the Nasdaq Market Site in New York City, U.S., March 29, 2018. (Reuters/Brendan McDermid)

company.

Foreign companies usually partner with a Chinese company to gain a foothold in the world’s second biggest economy.

“Until the whole regulatory environment changes in China, I want the Eros Now brand penetration within the Chinese audiences through this deal,” Lulla said in an interview.

“Within the next 2-3 years, when the regulatory environment will allow Eros Now to be launched directly to the Chinese audiences, we will do that in a partnership with any of the online platforms in China,” he said.

“I suppose as I got older that story stuck with me because it connects directly with the most iconic image of the coup in Chile which is the Hawker Hunters flying low over Santiago, and firing ... into the palace,” he said.

“The idea that Scottish workers on the other side of the world had managed to, I suppose, dent that image in some ways was quite incredible.”

The workers labeled the engine parts “black”, meaning they would not be touched on the factory assembly line for months. They were then put and left outside, until they disappeared in 1978. The workers were told they had gone back to the Chile.