



Iran to track down terrorists anytime, anywhere **2**



Terror act showed weakness of global arrogance **2**



Iran's Mollaei makes history at World Judo Championships **15**



Art Bureau to hold exhibits on Ahvaz terrorist attacks **16**

Iran to make U.S. regret

See page 2



IRGC: Terrorists behind Ahvaz attack will face 'unforgettable revenge'

Persian Gulf Star Refinery's daily output to reach 40m liters

ECONOMY **TEHRAN**— Iran's Persian Gulf Star Refinery (PGSR)'s daily gasoline output will reach 40 million liters by the end of current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2019) once the third phase of the refinery is complete, according to Soroush Ziglari, the operation director of the refinery. Last December, Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh said: "Iran will reach a

stable status in gasoline production once the second phase of Persian Gulf Star Refinery comes on stream."

The second phase of the refinery (in south of Iran), was inaugurated by President Hassan Rouhani in late June, and on July 28, Mohammad-Ali Dadvar, the managing director of refinery, announced that its daily gasoline production has increased 2 million liters to stand at 26 million liters.

Tehran summons European, Emirati envoys over Ahvaz terror act

POLITICS **TEHRAN**— The Foreign Ministry of Iran has summoned ambassadors of the Netherlands and Denmark as well as charge d'affaires of the British embassy in Tehran after terrorists with alleged links to the European countries carried out attacks during a military parade in the southwestern city of Ahvaz on Saturday, Press TV reported.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi said that the ministry's department for European affairs summoned the three diplomats separately late on Saturday to declare Tehran's strong protest to the role their countries might have played to support elements who carried out the terror attacks in Ahvaz earlier in the day that led to the killing of some 25 people. ➔2

Turkish-backed militants accept Idlib deal, but reject disarmament

Turkish-backed militants have rejected laying down their arms or surrendering the territory under their control in Syria's Idlib Province after Russia and Turkey said they had agreed to set up a buffer zone in the region.

In a statement released late Saturday, the so-called National Liberation Front (NLF), an alliance of militant factions supported by Ankara, said it would cooperate with Turkey in Idlib, but ruled

out disarming.

"We will not abandon our weapons, our land or our revolution" against Syrian government forces, the group said.

Earlier this month, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin met in the Black Sea resort of Sochi and announced an agreement on Idlib which is the last major terrorist-held bastion in Syria. ➔13



ARTICLE
Martin Love
Political analyst from North Carolina

Change is coming, but when is the question

It has been claimed that when Neocon warmonger John Bolton won his appointment as Trump's National Security Advisor and showed up at the White House that Trump, in jest or not, told him he was not going to permit him to start another war. Trump was signaling his alleged refusal to allow Bolton to start a war with Iran in particular.

But the question remains: why would Trump, who arguably won election in 2016 because he seemed far less hawkish than Hillary Clinton, appoint such a person as Bolton, as well as Pompeo (the "pompous") and others such as Nikki Haley who presides at the UN as ambassador? This question is, I think, not answerable, unless Trump was determined to keep these monsters close so he could check their hawkish impulses.

But, in fact, Trump, just like Obama and even George Bush, all of whom at least claimed to desire less destructive foreign policies, betrayed many of the voters who put them in office. And the U.S. electorate is taking note of this: the upcoming midterm elections are, quite possibly, going to be a disaster for the Republicans.

Even if Trump does not attack Iran militarily, in many respects he may as well have with his application of sanctions and extreme financial leverage to try to produce Iran's submission to U.S. demands. And along with the Saudis, Trump may have supported the terrorist attack in Ahvaz that left scores of people there dead or injured.

Washington anyway is choking on talk of American "exceptionalism" which has been trumpeted as a foundation of U.S. foreign policy and sanctions. But sanctions remain an ineffective tool because most governments subject to sanctions resist making concessions to the U.S., and this resistance has moved Washington to apply even more sanctions in the vain hope they will somehow "work". Almost no country has been immune to sanctions or threat.

This past week even China was scored and sanctioned for buying Russian military equipment, as if no country can be sovereign enough to decide for itself who its business partners will be. ➔13

Possible Democratic takeover of the House unlikely to change Trump's Iran policy: Zonis

By Payman Yazdani

TEHRAN— Professor of international political economy believes U.S. foreign policy is largely the prerogative of the President and his Secretary of State so possible Democratic takeover of the House is unlikely to change Trump's policy towards Iran.

There are reports that Pentagon Chief James Mattis has lost influence in the Trump administration, and his future as U.S. defense secretary is now in question.

His eclipse is a worrying prospect for



U.S. allies, whom Mattis has worked hard to reassure by mitigating Donald Trump's unilateral actions and disparaging remarks with promises of sustained solidarity and cooperation.

In an interview we discussed the issue with Marvin Zonis, Professor of international political economy and leadership in the University of Chicago.

Here is the full text of the interview:

■ What are the main differences between Trump and Mattis? ➔7

Iran's literacy rate up to 97%

SOCIETY **TEHRAN**—

The rate of literacy among Iranians between 10-49 years has reached 96 percent and also the population aged 10-29 years is reported to have a literacy rate of over 97 percent, Education Minister Mohammad Bat'haei has said.

Also, enrollment rate in primary education increased to almost 98 percent, which is hoped to enhance to 100 percent, IRNA news agency quoted Bat'haei as saying on Saturday.

■ **Out-of-school youth to enter schools**

In the last school year (September 2017- June 2018), despite all the efforts of the responsible bodies, there have been some 142,000 out-of-school children, and this year it is estimated that the number will not increase, Bat'haei said.

"At the same time, we have succeeded in enrolling 31,910 school dropouts in primary schools." Iran's Literacy Movement Organization was awarded the 2018 UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy.

Bat'haei noted that the UNESCO prize has been granted to the organization for its program

'consolidated teaching of literacy and ICDL basic computer skills'.

The UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy gives special consideration to literacy amongst adults in rural areas and out-of-school youth, particularly girls and women.

Iran's Literacy Movement Organization is officially tasked with eradicating illiteracy and educating illiterate youth and adults.

■ **Foreign nationals studying in Iran**

Approximately 27,000 foreign nationals are covered annually by the Literacy Movement Organization programs, the education minister said.

He further explained that last year the ministry made efforts to enroll 5,669 undocumented foreign nationals in primary schools in coordination with the Ministry of Interior and other related organizations, and it is planned to increase the number this year.

Earlier in August, Gholamreza Karimi, deputy director for international affairs department at the Ministry of Education, told the Tehran Times

that some 450,000 foreign national students are studying at schools in Iran of which 420,000 are Afghan nationals.

Up to the year 2015, documented students who amounted to 300,000 could enroll at schools in Iran, however, following a decree issued by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei in May 2015, all foreign nationals, even those who have no identification and are living in Iran illegally, are allowed to attend schools.

"The decree which was issued for humanitarian reasons made us to enroll all foreign national students regardless of their status," Karimi said, stating the decree increased the number of students by 110,000 and now all students who have a health permit from the Ministry of Health and a statement from the Interior Ministry can attend schools.

"These students are not required to pay any tuition fee charges and we always emphasize the fact that no students should be forced to drop out of school," Karimi highlighted.



Ahvaz terror attack victims in hospital

A number of those who sustained injuries during a terror attack in Ahvaz on Saturday morning are still in hospital.

In the terrorist attack on a military parade in Ahvaz, capital of the southwestern province of Khuzestan, 25 people were martyred and over 50 were injured.

Civilians, including women and children, who had come to watch the parade were also targeted by the terrorists.



ARTICLE
Mehrnoosh Aryanpour
Manager partner of the Tehran office of Gide Loyrette Nouel

EU Blocking Regulations: a recap and revisit

After 8 May, 2018, it became immediately clear that the Blocking Statute would be Europe's key strategic tool for attempting to counter the adverse consequences of the American withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and the re-imposition of the sanctions previously lifted under the nuclear deal between Iran and the world powers.

Since the May announcements from Europe that it would, as part of a broader support package to Iran, amend EU Council regulation 2722/96 (the so-called Blocking Regulation or Blocking Statute) to cover extraterritorial sanctions against Iran, the EU has made good on its promises, implementing the aforementioned change which, effective in early August, makes it unlawful for EU Operators to comply with OFAC's secondary sanctions on Iran. The amendment to the Blocking Statute also, by extension, provides for EU Operators to seek recompense for damage caused by or related to sanctions through filing claims before EU courts against the U.S. (or other parties whose actions in compliance with U.S. sanctions damaged the EU Operator).

But what therefore is an 'EU Operator'? In short, it is a natural or legal person residing or registered in the EU, including EU-based subsidiaries of foreign companies (but not their branches). Therefore, an EU Operator could include:

- The resident and the citizen of any EU member state
- A company incorporated in any EU member state, including companies which are owned or controlled by a non-EU parent company
- The foreign branch of a company incorporated in the EU
- An EU government entity, or any entity owned or controlled by a EU state entity

What does it mean to say that compliance by an EU Operator with OFAC extraterritorial sanctions on Iran is "unlawful"?

According to the language of the Blocking Statute, it shall be the case that each member state shall implement proportionate and dissuasive measures to ensure that EU Operators are properly incentivized not to terminate their business with Iran in compliance with OFAC strictures. ➔7

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



IRGC: Terrorists behind Ahvaz attack will face ‘unforgettable revenge’

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) said on Sunday that those behind the Ahvaz terrorist attack will face “deadly and unforgettable revenge in the near future.”

In a statement issued a day after the attack, which targeted a military parade on Sunday, the IRGC said the enemies, especially the Western-Hebrew-Arabic triangle of evil, spare no efforts in disrupting Iran’s security.

“They are even ready to make women, children and innocent people the target of their blind terrorist acts,” the IRGC said, vowing to track down “regionally and beyond,” those behind the assault.



Hatami: Terror act showed weakness of global arrogance

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — The Saturday terrorist attack in Ahvaz once again showed the weakness of the global arrogance and the sovereignty of Iran in the world, Defense Minister Amir Hatami said on Sunday.

Hatami said the Islamic Republic will give a “tough” and “surprising” response to the architects of the heinous act that killed dozens of military staff and civilians, Mashregh reported.

He added the attack demonstrated that the government and noble nation of Iran should strengthen the spirit of defense and resistance more than ever due to the threats the country is facing.



Intelligence minister vows tough response to terror sponsors

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Intelligence Minister Mahmoud Alavi on Sunday promised a deadly response to those behind Saturday’s inhumane attack which targeted a military parade in Ahvaz, IRNA reported.

The ignorant terrorists killed dozens of innocent people in Khuzestan province to make up for the consecutive failures of their masters in Iraq, Syria and other places, Alavi said in a statement.

He also expressed his condolences to the families of the victims and prayed for the fast recovery of the injured, emphasizing that such acts will not weaken the unity of the Iranian nation.



Funeral for Ahvaz terror victims to be held today

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — The funeral for the victims of the Ahvaz terrorist attack is scheduled to be held today, which was earlier announced as a national day of mourning.

Abdolreza Farajian, director of the Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs in Khuzestan province, said the funeral procession is scheduled to be held in Ahvaz from Hosseiniyeh Sarallah to Salman Farsi Crossroads, Tasnim reported.

The attack was conducted by four terrorists on Saturday morning on a military parade in Ahvaz, killing and injuring scores of military staff and civilians.



MPs member to security committee to visit terror-hit Ahvaz

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — The spokesman of the Parliament National Security and Foreign Policy Committee said on Sunday that a group comprising of MPs sitting on the committee are set to visit Ahvaz on Monday in order to examine the terror attack closely.

The MPs will attend the funeral of the martyrs of the terror attack and meet with the bereaved families, IRNA quoted Ali Najafi Khoshroudi as saying.

Scores of people were injured or martyred in a Saturday morning terrorist attack on a military parade in the south-western city of Ahvaz in Khuzestan province. Local officials said the attack involved four gunmen.



New economy and labor ministers to be named next week

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — A member of the Majlis Planning and Budget Committee has said the government will name its nominees for the post of economy and labor ministers in the upcoming week.

Hossein-Ali Haji-Deligani said the nominees will be introduced to the parliament for confirmation after President Hassan Rouhani’s visit to New York, Mehr reported on Sunday.

He also pointed to the resignation of Industry and Trade Minister Mohammad Shariatmadari, saying a new candidate for the ministry will also be named next week.

Iran to track down terrorists anytime, anywhere: military chief

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Armed Forces Chief of Staff Mohammad Hossein Baqeri on Sunday denounced the terrorist attack in Ahvaz, the capital of Khuzestan province, saying Iran will track down the criminals behind the attack anytime and anywhere in the world.

“The armed forces will track down the terrorists more determinedly than ever and will not sit until the despicable phenomenon of terrorism is eradicated,” the top general said in a message.

In the terrorist attack on a military parade in Ahvaz, 25 people, including women and children, were killed and more than 50 people injured. Military parades were held in Ahvaz and other cities across Iran on Saturday to mark



the war that Saddam Hussein, the ill-fated Iraqi military adventurer, launched against Iran on Sept. 22, 1980.

Pointing to remarks by certain officials in certain regional countries about transferring insecurity from outside to inside Iran, General Baqeri said they must correct their hostile behavior towards the Islamic Republic and apologize to the Iranian people, otherwise the armed forces will give a crushing response to hostilities at “any time and in any place”.

“This crime which was in continuation of the hegemonic system and its regional allies’ betrayals in the past 40 years will not cause a crack in the Iranian people’s will to defend the Islamic Revolution and its causes,” he added.

U.S. blackmailing regional countries to sell more arms to them: Larijani

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Iranian Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani said on Sunday that the U.S. has been blackmailing the regional countries to sell more arms to them through a demonization of Iran and finally help Israel to find control over them.

“It has been for many years that the U.S. blackmails the regional countries through saying that it has imposed sanctions against Iran to support them by selling them modern weapons to stand against the sanctioned Iran whose power has been restricted. Their objective is blackmailing and also helping the Zionist regime to take control over those miserable countries in the region,” the senior lawmaker remarked.

However, he said that the U.S. has always become disappointed in spite of all of its actions and propaganda.

Elsewhere, he condemned terrorist attack in the southwestern city of Ahvaz.

The attack left 25 people, including women and children, dead.



It is widely believed that certain Persian Gulf Arab states support the al-Ahvaziya terror group who took responsibility for the attack.

According to Press TV, the Saudi-backed al-Ahvaziya terror group is based in Europe.

Terrorists opened fire on people watching a military parade held to mark the invasion of Iran by former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein during the 1980s.

Tehran summons European, Emirati envoys over Ahvaz terror act

1 → The ministry also summoned the charge d’affaires of the United Arab Emirates over anti-Iran remarks by Abdulkhaleq Abdulla, an Emirati political advisor over the terrorist attack. Qassemi said explicit support for terrorists affiliated to official Emirati organizations makes the country’s government responsible.

Qassemi referred to the Abdulla’s remarks as “idiotic”, adding that the UAE’s indifference towards the issue is not acceptable to the Islamic Republic.

The al-Ahvaziya terror group, whose recruits are believed to be scattered in several European countries, including in the Netherlands and Denmark, claimed responsibility

for the attack.

The terror outfit, which is backed by Saudi Arabia, has a record of carrying out sabotage acts in Iran’s Khuzestan province, which encompasses Ahvaz and some other towns with ethnic Arab population.

Qassemi said Iran expected the two European countries to extradite the “criminal perpetrators” of the terrorist act.

“It was reiterated to the ambassadors of the Netherlands and Denmark that the Islamic Republic of Iran had earlier warned about the residence of these individuals in these countries and has called for their arrest and prosecution,” said Qassemi in a statement, adding that the ambassadors

of the two countries declared that their governments were ready to share any information with regards to the terrorists and their records.

The official said that Iranian authorities had also passed their strong note of protest to the chargé d’affaires of the British embassy in Tehran about an interview aired by a Britain-based TV channel after the attack in Ahvaz in which the spokesman of the al-Ahvaziya had condoned the terrorist act.

Qassemi said the British diplomat condemned the attack and said that he would accordingly relay Iran’s message of protest to the authorities in London.



terrorist groups, who have Iranian civilians’ blood on their hands, is indicative of the false humanitarian and anti-terrorism pretenses of this government,” the spokesman remarked.

Qassemi also advised U.S. authorities to abandon their anti-Iran rhetoric, rectify their faults with regard to the Islamic Republic and reconsider their ties with terrorist groups in the Middle East.

Countries denounce terrorist attack in Ahvaz

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — A number of countries have denounced or offered condolences over a terrorist attack which on Saturday targeted military personnel and civilians in Ahvaz, southwest Iran.

“France deeply condemns Saturday terrorist attack in Ahvaz,” a statement released by the French Foreign Ministry said on Sunday.

The statement also sympathized with victims of the attack, saying France is following up developments through its diplomatic mission in Tehran.

Afghanistan’s chief executive Abdullah Abdullah in a message on Saturday condemned the attack, tweeting “terrorist attack in Ahvaz which killed a number of innocent civilians, especially women and children, grieved us.”

With this crime, terrorist revealed their enmity with regional nations, he said. “I share the Iranian nation and government’s sorrow at this hard time.”

The Indonesian Foreign Ministry in a message issued offered condolences over the deadly attack in south western Iran. “Indonesia expresses its deepest condolences and sympathy to the victims and their families.”

“Indonesia condemns the terror attack in Ahvaz that resulted in deaths and injuries including children... the Indonesian Embassy in Tehran continues to closely follow the development.”

The Palestine Islamic Jihad Movement, denounced the attack in a Saturday statement that turned the spotlight on Iran’s stance against Israel and domination policy of the U.S.

“Such measures against the country are the result of Iran’s solid stance against the Zionist regime and its confrontation with the U.S. regional dominance.”

“We strongly denounce the terrorist attack on Iran’s military parade and civilians which claimed lives and injuries,” it further said.

Belarusian President Aleksandr



Lukashenko in a message to his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani condemned the terrorist act and expressed condolences to the families of the victims.

“Belarus is ready to stand by Iran to counter extremism and terrorism,” he said as he wished swift recovery for the injured and peace and calm for Iran.

Spokesman for the U.S. National Security Council, Garrett Marquis, also reacted to the incident not by condemning it, but by saying the Iranian government should focus on keeping Iranians “safe at home”.

Marquis tried to express empathy with the people of Iran. “The United States stands with the Iranian people,” he said in a telephone conversation with the World Views, the Washington Post’s foreign news blog.

In the same vein, the spokesperson for the U.S. Department of State, Heather Nauert, offered a too-late statement, claiming they stand with the Iranian people.

The government of Qatar in a Sunday statement slammed the terror plot, saying that it “condemns terrorism and extremism in any shape and for any reason.”

So far senior officials of Kuwait, Iraq, Armenia, Oman, the UK, Syria and Turkey have also issued condolences over the deadly attack which was carried out by a self-proclaimed Saudi-affiliated terrorist group called Al-Ahvaz.

Iran to make U.S. regret, Rouhani says

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani said on Sunday that the Iran is ready to confront the U.S. and make Washington regret for exiting the 2015 nuclear agreement and reimposing sanctions on Iran.

“Undoubtedly, the Iranian people will resist and the government is totally ready to confront. With the grace of God, we will pass the difficulties we have been facing over the past months and will make the U.S. regret, because they [the U.S.] have chosen a wrong path,” he said before departure to New York to attend the annual UN General Assembly meeting.

He said that the current U.S. administration has adopted a unilateral and extreme nationalistic ideologies, and in such a situation Iran has many things to say at the UN General Assembly.

“They respect no agreement. They respect neither the (UN) Human Rights Council nor economic agreements and the Paris (climate) agreement... this administration has ideologies of unilateralism and extreme nationalism. In this situation, I think many countries especially Iran have many things to say,” he said.

He added that the UNGA is an opportunity for Iran to express its stance.

“The international situation is not good. The U.S. is taking bullying actions more than ever. It [the U.S.] continues adopting unilateral policies and imagines it can take actions based on force. When a country hosts an organization, it should not think that it has full authority over that organization. The U.S. authority over the United Nations should be to the same extent as of other countries,” Rouhani stated.

He noted that during his visit to New York, he will talk about the U.S. “crime” of violating the international agreements.

■ President says U.S. will never achieve its plots in Iran

Elsewhere, Rouhani said that the U.S. seeks to cause chaos in Iran, however, he said Washington will never reach its objectives.

Rouhani also said that Iran will respond to terrorist attack in Ahvaz, the capital of



Khuzestan province, which left 25 people, including women and children, dead.

“It is obvious for us that they [the terrorists] are affiliated to what group. Those who make claims about the human rights should stand accountable. The U.S. supports mercenary countries in the region and provides them with help, however, these actions do not affect our people’s determination. We will respond to these crimes and all the perpetrators will be punished,” the president pointed out.

■ Rouhani blames ‘mercenary’ countries for Ahvaz attack

Rouhani also blamed the U.S.-backed “mercenary” countries in the region for the deadly terror attack in Ahvaz.

“It is the U.S. who provokes them and helps them to commit crimes. All of these have no effect on our people’s determination. Our people have stood against bigger crimes,” he pointed out.

He expressed hope that all the perpetrators behind the Ahvaz terrorist attack will be arrested and punished.

■ IRGC says terrorists will face ‘deadly and unforgettable vengeance’

The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) also issued a statement on Sunday saying those behind the terror attack will soon face “deadly and unforgettable revenge”.

“Considering [the Guards’] full knowledge about the centers of deployment of the criminal terrorists’ leaders..., they will face a deadly and unforgettable vengeance in the near future,” the statement said.

‘Criminal negligence’ or disregard to Russia-Israel ties: MoD details chronology of Il-20 downing

A minute-by-minute account of the Il-20 downing shows Israel's culpability and either its military bosses' lack of appreciation of relations with Moscow, or their control of commanding officers, the Russian defense ministry said.

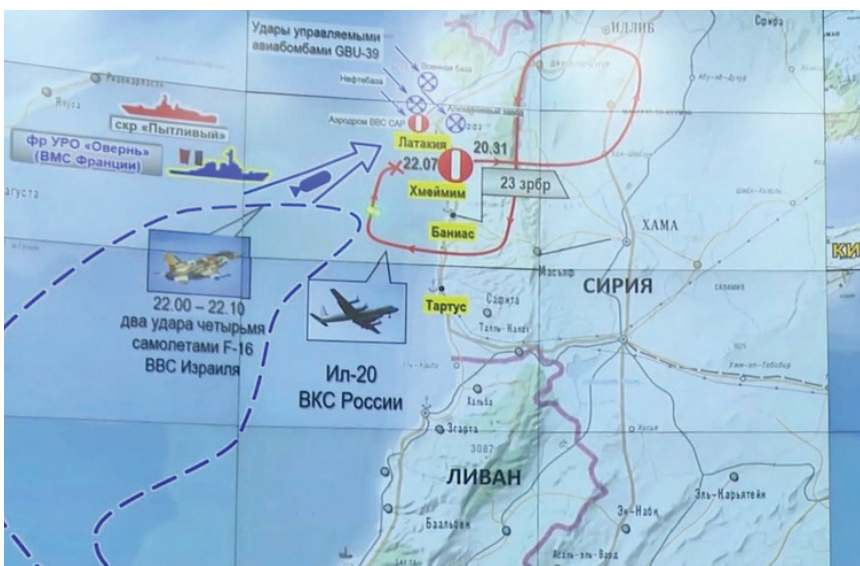
"We believe that the blame for the Russian Il-20 aircraft tragedy lies entirely with the Israeli Air Force," said spokesman Major General Igor Konashenkov, before revealing a detailed account of events leading to the downing of the Russian Il-20 military aircraft on September 17. The plane was shot down by the Syrian air defense units as Israeli's F-16s effectively used it as a cover during the attack on its neighbor.

The report featured previously undisclosed radar data and details of communications between Russian and Israeli militaries, and concluded that "the military leadership of Israel either has no appreciation for the level of relations with Russia, or has no control over individual commands or commanding officers who understood that their actions would lead to tragedy."

■ Misinformation & 'criminal negligence'

On the evening of September 17, the Russian Ilyushin Il-20 with 15 crew on board was circling over the Idlib de-escalation zone on a special reconnaissance mission, when four Israeli F-16 fighter jets left their country's airspace and flew over the neutral Mediterranean waters towards the Syrian coast. The Israeli Air Force gave the Russian side less than a minute's warning before dropping the precision-guided glide bombs, leaving virtually no time for any safety maneuvers, Konashenkov said, calling such actions "a clear violation of the 2015 Russian-Israeli agreements."

Moreover, the Israeli military failed to provide the location of their jets or properly specify their targets, claiming they were going to attack several 'industrial facilities' in northern Syria, close to the Il-20's area of operation. The misinformation prompted the Russian Command to order the recon plane back to the Khmeimim air base. The Israeli



jets, however, instead almost immediately attacked the western Syrian Latakia province.

The misleading information provided by the Israeli officer about the area of strikes did not allow the Russian Il-20 airplane to move timely to a safe area.

Once the Syrian air defenses responded to the initial strike, the Israeli jets switched on radar jamming and pulled back, apparently preparing for another attack. One of the Israeli jets then came closer to the Syrian coast and approached the Russian plane, which was preparing to land at that time.

The Israeli pilot must have been well aware of the fact that the Il-20 has a much larger radar cross-section than his F-16, and would become a "preferred target" for the Syrian air defense units, who use different friend-or-foe systems with the Russians, Konashenkov said. Thus, for the Syrians, the reconnaissance plane could appear as a group of Israeli jets.

"The Israeli jets saw the Russian Ilyushin Il-20 and used it as a shield against the anti-aircraft missiles, while they carried on maneuvering in the region," Konashenkov

said during the news briefing.

The actions of the Israeli fighter pilots, which led to the loss of life of 15 Russian servicemen, either lacked professionalism or were an act of criminal negligence, to say the least.

Finally, the Israeli jets carried out their maneuvers in the immediate vicinity of the Khmeimim air base, which is used both by military and civilian aircraft, including passenger planes, the ministry's spokesman emphasized, saying that the reckless actions of the Israeli pilots could also have posed a threat to any passenger or transport aircraft that may have happened to be there at that time.

■ Israel 'crossed the line of civilized relations' with 'ungrateful response'

Israel's negligent behavior amounts to a flagrant violation of the very spirit of cooperation between the countries, Konashenkov stated, noting that Russia has never broken its commitment to the deconfliction agreement – it has always informed Israel about their missions in advance and has never used its air defense capabilities against the Israelis, even though their airstrikes sometimes put

the Russian servicemen in danger.

Russia has sent as many as 310 notifications to the Israeli Air Force Command, while the latter appeared to be reluctant to show the same level of commitment, notifying only 25 times even though its jets carried out more than 200 strikes against targets located in Syria over the past 18 months alone.

"This is an extremely ungrateful response to all that has been done by the Russian Federation for Israel and the Israeli people recently," Konashenkov said.

The Russian military supported the Syrian military operation in the Golan Heights to "ensure there were no shelling attacks on Israeli territory" anymore, thus allowing the UN peacekeeping mission to resume patrolling of the contested border between Syria and Israel after "a six-year hiatus."

Russia also managed to secure the withdrawal of all Iran-backed groups from the Golan Heights to a "safe distance for Israel," more than 140 kilometers to the east of Syria, the spokesperson said, adding that this was done at the request of Tel Aviv. "A total of 1,050 personnel, 24 MLRSs and tactical missiles, as well as 145 pieces of other munitions and military equipment were withdrawn from the area," Konashenkov told journalists.

The Russian Defense Ministry had provided assistance in preserving Jewish sacred places and graves in the city of Aleppo. Putting Russian Special Forces soldiers' lives in danger, it also organized the search for the remains of some Israeli servicemen that died during the past conflicts in an area where the Syrian forces were combating ISIL (IS, former ISIS) terrorists at that time.

In view of the above, the hostile actions committed by the Israeli Air Force against the Russian Ilyushin Il-20 aircraft cross the line of civilized relations.

While Israel said that it mourned the deaths of Russian troops, the IDF statement following the incident shifted all the blame for the incident solely on Damascus, and its Iranian and Lebanese allies.

(Source: RT)

China summons U.S. ambassador over military sanctions

China summoned the United States ambassador on Saturday after the United States imposed sanctions on a branch of its military, according to Chinese state media.

The announcement came a day after China "strongly urged" the U.S. to cancel the sanctions or "bear the consequences".

The dispute has increased tensions between Washington and Beijing, amid a brewing trade war between the two world powers.

China's Deputy Foreign Minister Zheng Zeguang summoned Ambassador Terry Branstad and "lodged solemn representations" in relation to the sanctions, state media reported. On Thursday, Washington imposed sanctions on the Equipment Development Department (EED) of the Chinese defense ministry, and its director Li Shangfu, over the

purchase of missiles and fighter jets from Russia.

The sanctions triggered a visa ban and prohibited the EED and its director from conducting transactions with the U.S. financial system.

The U.S. state department said the Chinese procurement of S-400 surface-to-air missiles and Sukhoi SU-35 jets from Russia breached a U.S. sanctions law targeting Russia for its alleged meddling in the 2016 U.S. election and its activities in Ukraine.

U.S. officials said the imposition of penalties against China was the first time a third-party country was punished under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, the sanctions law passed in 2017.

The Chinese military denounced the sanctions on Saturday,

expressing "strong indignation and resolute opposition", a defense ministry spokesperson told state-run news agency Xinhua.

The U.S. move was "a flagrant breach of basic rules of international relations" and a "stark show of hegemonism".

Russia also protested the sanctions, warning that Washington was "playing with fire" and accusing the United States of trying to squeeze Russia out of the global arms market.

The Trump administration also added 33 people and entities associated with the Russian military and intelligence services to a blacklist. Twenty-eight of the new names have been indicted by the U.S. Special Counsel Robert Mueller, who is investigating Russian meddling in the 2016 election.

(Source: agencies)

British May's team draw up contingency plans for November election

British Prime Minister Theresa May's aides have begun contingency planning for a snap election in November to save both Brexit and her job, the Sunday Times reported.

The newspaper said that two senior members of May's Downing Street political team began "war gaming" an autumn vote to win public backing for a new plan, after her Brexit proposals were criticized at a summit in Salzburg last week.

Downing Street was not immediately available to comment on the report.

■ May's government on verge of collapse: Labour Party's deputy leader

Meantime, the opposition Labour Party's deputy leader Tom Watson has warned that the government of May is on the brink of collapse.

It would not be easy for the party's leadership to ignore the possibility of members at Labour's annual conference in Liverpool backing the idea of holding a "people's vote" second referendum on Brexit, Watson said



on Sunday.

"It seems to me inconceivable that if ... Labour Party conference decides it wants a manifesto pledge on a people's vote, that we would defy that decision," he told Sky News.

"This government is on the verge of collapse, we could have another general election

basically around Brexit."

Meanwhile, Britain's opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn said on the same day that he would prefer a national election to a second referendum on Brexit.

"Our preference would be for a general election and we can then negotiate our future

relationship with Europe but let's see what comes out of conference," he told BBC TV.

Corbyn said that if Labour was holding talks with Brussels, it would want a trade agreement with a customs union with the European Union so there was no need for hard border on the island of Ireland, one of the main, yet unresolved issue in Brexit talks.

Brexit and Labour manifesto will be high on the agenda in the conference as leaders of the party seek a more united stance on the issues. A main topic for discussion is whether the party should push for a second Brexit referendum as the government led by Theresa May could fail to reach an agreement with the European Union before Britain leaves the bloc in March.

Britain and EU both want to avoid a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland but cannot agree on how to achieve that.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

‘Like Americans, Germany now learns of U.S. decisions from Twitter’

Twitter is sometimes the only way to learn of decisions made by the U.S., a German minister has complained. Americans are in no better position, he said – they also have to rely on White House tweets to catch up.

The level of communication between Germany and the U.S. is now so low that Berlin has to employ Twitter to know what the White House is up to, Foreign Minister Heiko Maas lamented in a comment to DPA news agency. And this is not because Washington is overdoing it on the microblogging service, he hinted. "We learn of certain [American] decisions via Twitter," Maas offered before embarking on a visit to the U.S. The top diplomat has an impression that "people in the United States also learn about White House's decisions from Twitter," and that such "does change cooperation [between the countries]." President Donald Trump frequently resorts to Twitter lash out at political opponents or hail own achievements.

Some of his rants make headlines both nationwide and internationally, and his Twitter account provides an unfiltered insight into what Trump is thinking in real time. His administration officials try to follow the lead, also using the platform on day-to-day basis.

On the latest occasion, German Chancellor Angela Merkel has lambasted Trump's decision to renege on the G7 joint statement this summer. "The withdrawal by tweet is, of course, sobering and a bit depressing as well," she told Germany's Anne Will talk show at the time. Maas, a Social Democrat, had recently taken to Twitter to offer his own thoughts on Trump. Many believe they can "out-sit" Trump in hope that life will return to normal after his era comes to an end. The minister disagreed on this, saying there are "structural changes in the Transatlantic relations" which must be "strategically addressed" by Germany and the rest of Europe.

Germany, the European Union's powerhouse, is now at odds with the U.S. over a number of issues, including trade tariffs and industrial competition. In early September, Maas vowed action in response to what he said was U.S. sanctions and punitive tariffs.

"We should not sit like a rabbit in front of a snake," he told Bild newspaper, adding, "it is not only the 80 million Germans [we are talking about], it is Europe and the 500 million people [living there]," Maas added.

Previously, the politician reflected what appear to be views of Germany's current establishment. Speaking on the heels of Trump's indelicate European tour in July, Maas declared that Germany "must re-adjust" its ties with the U.S. "The first clear consequence can only be that we need to align ourselves even more closely with Europe," according to the diplomat.

(Source: RT)

Armenian capital holds snap polls in test for pro-reform PM



Residents of Yerevan took to municipal polls Sunday, the first vote held in the ex-Soviet country since mass protests pushed its former leader to resign, and a major test for the new government.

The election of the city council or Council of Elders and mayor in the capital, where almost half the national population lives, is crucial for Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, who was swept into his new role after spearheading weeks of protests in May.

Pashinyan, whose popularity is based on his anti-corruption and economic reform stance, still faces an Armenian parliament mostly comprised of members of the formerly ruling Republican party.

Ahead of the polls, he urged citizens to cast ballots for his allies, saying the outcome will determine whether he has enough public support to negotiate holding snap parliamentary election.

The mayoral seat has been empty since former mayor Taron Margaryan resigned on July 9 over corruption allegations and protests urging him to quit. Snap polls were triggered when the city council was unable to select a new mayor.

By Armenian law, the mayor is selected based on election results for the council: if one party gains more than half of the votes, the party's candidate becomes mayor.

In case of a different outcome, the new council selects the mayor via secret ballot.

Twelve parties and alliances are running for council seats. At the top of the list of Pashinyan's alliance My Step is popular actor and comedian Hayk Marutyan.

Thirty-two-year-old construction worker Sargis Hakobyan said he backed Pashinyan's party "to continue the revolution, reform."

"We all understand that the new government needs our support so that anti-revolution forces cannot come back," he told AFP.

The Republican party of ex-president Serzh Sarkisian is not participating in the council polls.

(Source: AFP)

Egypt court sentences 65 people over 2013 violence

An Egyptian court has sentenced 64 people to varying prison terms and one man to death over violence in 2013 when the military overthrew the elected president.

The Sunday decision by the Minya Criminal Court included a life sentence for Mohammed Badie, the spiritual guide of the now-outlawed Muslim Brotherhood group, over events in the city of el-Adwa, south of Cairo, where a crowd raided a police station and a sergeant was killed.

The case which ran for over three years included more than 35 hearings, with testimony by the defense and witnesses.

The death sentence, issued to a man named Ahmed Ashour, will now be reviewed by Egypt's top religious authorities for their non-binding opinion. The ruling can still be appealed.

(Source: AP)

Tens of thousands rally for wage equality in Switzerland

Around 20,000 people marched through the streets of the Swiss capital, Bern, to demand wage equality, organizers said, warning that women are prepared to go on strike if Swiss parliamentarians do not fix the pay gap.

In a statement, Switzerland's largest union, Unia, which helped to organize Saturday's protest, said women were "sick of sexism and discrimination" and "sick of wage inequality".

The union, which is made up of over 40 organizations, said more than 20,000 people showed up to protest.

Protesters carried posters that read "Equality now" and "Same work, different salary", the AFP news agency reported.

On social media, activists used the hashtag #Enough18 to bring attention to their cause.

Switzerland's parliament is debating an amendment on Monday that is aimed at imposing more oversight over wage distribution at large companies. Gender equality has been a part of the Swiss constitution since 1981. However, women still earn 20 percent less on average than men – "a scandalous percentage", Unia said.

Corrine Schärer, a member of Unia's board of directors said: "Even if you take into account all of the regular excuses and you only compare women and men in the exact same position with the same professional experience, the fact remains that a woman in Switzerland is cheated out of (\$313k) over the course of a career, just because she is a woman".

The Swiss government has asked legislators to introduce oversight into how salaries are set in a bid to shrink the pay gap in the country. Bern has asked that any company with more than 50 employees be required to provide wage equality details to an independent entity for verification every four years.

In May 2017, the upper chamber of the Swiss parliament gave the green light to a less-detailed version of the initiative, saying the bill should apply only to companies with more than 100 employees - affecting less than one percent of employees in the country. The lower house is set to debate the bill on Monday but Unia and other activist groups have called for a strengthened version of the law. They, for instance, want women who face discrimination to be entitled to compensation as well as fines for companies that allow a pay gap to persist.

If these demands are not met, Unia said it and other organizations would call for a women's strike in 2019, to ensure that "women's rights to equality finally materialize".

(Source: AFP)

STOCK MARKET

| | |
|--------|----------|
| TEDPIX | 165072.1 |
| IFX | 1902.02 |

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

| | |
|-----|---------------|
| USD | 42,000 rials |
| EUR | 49,330 rials |
| GBP | 54,910 rials |
| AED | 11,43 0 rials |

Source: isna.ir

COMMODITIES

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| WTI | \$70.78/b |
| Brent | \$78.24/b |
| OPEC Basket | \$77.13/b |
| Gold | \$1,200.50/oz |
| Silver | \$14.33/oz |
| Platinum | \$833.70/oz |

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

NEWS IN BRIEF



Five-month coal extraction at 759,466 tons

ECONOMY **TEHRAN**— Some 759,466 tons of coal was extracted in Iran during the five-month period from March 21 to August 22, IRNA reported citing the data released by Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

The highest amount of mining was done during the third calendar month of Khordad (May 22-June 21) which was 184,905 tons.

Iran extracted 1.371 million tons of coal during the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20, 2018), falling from 1.688 million tons in its preceding year, according to IMIDRO's data.



NIDC completes digging operation of 73 oil, gas wells in 5 months

ENERGY **TEHRAN** — National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) dug and completed digging operation of 73 oil and gas wells during the first five months of current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), according to an official with the NIDC.

Hamidreza Khoshayand, the deputy managing director of NIDC, said over 100,000 meters of digging has been conducted for the mentioned onshore and offshore wells, Shana news agency reported on Sunday.



Bank loans to economic sector up 15.6%

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — According to the latest report released by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), the granted banking facilities to domestic economic sectors witnessed 15.6 percent growth during the first five months of the present Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22) compared to the same period of time in the past year, IRIB reported on Sunday.

More than 2.408 quadrillion rials (about \$57.33 billion) of loans were paid to Iranian economic sectors in the said period, showing 325.6 trillion rials (about \$7.7 billion) increase, i.e. 15.6 percent growth, from the same time span in the preceding year.

Italy's Salvini pushes back against central bank

Italian Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini pushed back against a plea for fiscal caution from the head of the central bank.



“We’ll do a courageous budget, the deficit isn’t a problem,” Salvini told the Corriere della Sera newspaper in an interview published Sunday. A day earlier, Bank of Italy Governor Ignazio Visco had warned the populist government of a negative market reaction and an “unsustainable” risk for the country’s massive debt pile if its 2019 budget presses ahead with spending increases and plans to widen the deficit.

(Source: Bloomberg)

Minerals, mining exports rises 12%

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The value of Iran’s minerals and mining exports stood at \$4.418 billion during the first five months of current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), rising 12 percent from the figure of the same period of time in the past year.

In terms of weight, the exports from this sector fell 9.2 percent to 25.479 million tons, IRNA reported on Sunday citing the data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

The country’s imports of minerals and mining equipment and machinery stood at 1.751 million tons worth \$1.466 billion in the first five months of this year, indicating

29 percent and 20.4 percent decrease, respectively, compared to the same time span of the previous year.

The worth of Iran’s minerals and mining exports stood at \$9 billion in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20, 2018), according to Mehdi Karbasian, the head of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

As Karbasian announced in late February, by the end of the present Iranian year, about \$6 billion of new projects will be inaugurated in Iranian mining sector.

Iran is one of the top 10 mineral-rich countries where 68 types of minerals



have been identified so far, including the world’s largest deposits of copper, zinc and iron ore, which are tempting

international investors after the lifting of economic sanctions against the country in January 2016.

External debt down 5.6%

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — According to the newest data released by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), Iran’s debts to foreign lenders in the end of the fourth Iranian month of Tir (July 22, 2018) stood at \$10.66 billion, showing 5.6 percent decrease in comparison with announced figure in the first Iranian calendar month of Farvardin (March 21- April 20, 2018), IRIB reported on Sunday.

In Tir, from the total of \$10.66 billion of foreign debt, \$6.72 billion was interim debt and \$3.94 billion was long-term debt, the report confirmed.

According to the same report, in Farvardin the volume of external debt stood at \$11.3 billion, sliding to \$10.66 billion in Tir, the figure registered a 5.6 percent decrease.

External debt is the portion of a country’s debt that was borrowed from



foreign lenders including commercial banks, governments or international financial institutions. These loans, including interest, must usually be paid in the currency in which the loan was made.

Foreign debt as percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the ratio between the debt a country owes to non-resident creditors and its nominal GDP.

As IRIB reported, Iran’s GDP was \$431.92 billion in 2017, thus the ratio between the debt and GDP is around 2.5 percent, which is not big.

OPEC, Russia rebuff Trump’s call for immediate boost to oil output

OPEC’s leader Saudi Arabia and its biggest oil-producer ally outside the group, Russia, ruled out on Sunday any immediate, additional increase in crude output, effectively rebuffing U.S. President Donald Trump’s calls for action to cool the market.

“I do not influence prices,” Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih told reporters as OPEC and non-OPEC energy ministers gathered in Algiers for a meeting that ended with no formal recommendation for any additional supply boost.

Benchmark Brent oil LCOc1 reached \$80 a barrel this month, prompting Trump to reiterate on Thursday his demand that the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries lower prices.

The price rally mainly stemmed from a decline in oil exports from OPEC member Iran due to fresh U.S. sanctions.

“We protect the countries of the Middle East, they would not be safe for very long without us, and yet they continue to push for higher and higher oil prices! We will remember. The

OPEC monopoly must get prices down now!” Trump wrote on Twitter.

Falih said Saudi Arabia had spare capacity to increase oil output but no such move was needed at the moment.

“My information is that the markets are adequately supplied. I don’t know of any refiner in the world who is looking for oil and is not able to get it,” Falih said.

However, he signaled Saudi Arabia stood ready to increase supply if Iran’s output fell: “Whatever takes place between now and the end of the year in terms of supply changes will be addressed.”

Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said no immediate output increase was necessary, although he believed a trade war between China and the United States as well as U.S. sanctions on Iran were creating new challenges for oil markets.

Oman’s Oil Minister Mohammed bin Hamad Al-Rumhy

Asian firms shuffle production around the region as China tariffs hit

A growing number of Asian manufacturers of products ranging from memory chips to machines tools are moving to shift production from China to other factories in the region in the wake of U.S. President Donald Trump’s tariffs on Chinese imports.

Companies including SK Hynix of South Korea and Mitsubishi Electric, Toshiba Machine Co. and Komatsu of Japan began plotting production moves since July, when the first tariffs hit, and the shifts are now under way, company representatives and others with knowledge of the plans told Reuters. Others,

such as Taiwanese computer-maker Compal Electronics and South Korea’s LG Electronics, are making contingency plans in case the trade war continues or deepens.

The company representatives and other sources spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

The quick reactions to the U.S. tariffs are possible because many large manufacturers have facilities in multiple countries and can move at least small amounts of production without building new factories. Some governments, notably in Taiwan and Thailand, are actively encouraging

companies to move work from China.

The United States imposed 25 percent duties covering \$50 billion of Chinese-made goods in July, and a second round of 10 percent tariffs covering another \$200 billion of Chinese exports will come into effect next week. The latter rate will jump to 25 percent at the end of the year, and Trump has threatened a third round of tariffs on \$267 billion of goods, which would bring all of China’s exports to the United States into the tariff regime.

The tariffs threaten China’s status as a low-cost production base that, along with the appeal

and Kuwaiti counterpart Bakhit al-Rashidi told reporters after Sunday’s talks that producers had agreed they needed to focus on reaching 100 percent compliance with production cuts agreed in June.

That effectively means compensating for falling Iranian production. Al-Rumhy said the exact mechanism for doing so had not been discussed.

The statement from Trump, meanwhile, was not his first criticism of OPEC.

Higher gasoline prices for U.S. consumers could create a political headache for Republican Trump before mid-term congressional elections in November.

Iran, OPEC’s third-largest producer, has accused Trump of orchestrating the oil price rally by imposing sanctions on Tehran and accused its regional arch-rival Saudi Arabia of bowing to U.S. pressure.

(Source: Reuters)

Bank of Japan fights a war of attrition to reach inflation goal

In the two years since the Bank of Japan rolled out a policy of targeting the yield curve, the central bank has found success in guiding long-term rates to around zero, but that achievement is not expected to translate into reaching its 2% inflation goal anytime soon.

Several senior BOJ officials likened the easy money program under yield curve controls as running a race with an ever-receding finishing line. “We switched from a 100-meter dash to a 1,000-meter run,” goes the rejoinder.

When BOJ Gov. Haruhiko Kuroda began his stint at the bank’s helm in 2013, he hit the ground running with unprecedented monetary easing. But the bank, finding itself unable to maintain its initial sprint, introduced tools allowing it to bump up long-term rates from negative territory to around zero. At the same time, the BOJ scaled back its purchases of Japanese government bonds.

In short, the central bank eased up on the gas and opted for a longer-distance run toward the 2% inflation goal.

The BOJ has been skillful in adjusting JGB purchasing volume while guiding interest rates toward zero. But as monetary easing decelerates, getting consumer prices to rise is proving more difficult.

August’s core consumer price index that excludes fresh food climbed 0.9% from a year earlier, government data released Friday showed. The index has gained for 20 consecutive months. The headline number that includes fresh food indicated 1.3% inflation.



However, the number of product categories that actually became pricier shrank to the lowest level in four years and nine months. Fewer retailers are hiking prices, casting doubt on the sustainability of inflation trends.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, the agency responsible for calculating consumer prices, says price increases for categories such as foods and durable goods have softened. “Price trends are slowly heading in a weaker direction,” said Taro Saito at the NLI Research Institute.

Because lending rates are not in a position to decline, there is virtually no room for further stimulating key economic readings by manipulating rates.

The only time the yen depreciated sharply in recent memory was in November and December 2016, when rates on U.S. Treasuries surged after Donald Trump won the presidency. Japan hasn’t shown much of an ability to weaken the yen on its own, and the core inflation rate has been stuck at under 1%.

(Source: Nikkei)

OPEC, like a dying star, is about to go supernova

OPEC is dying. President Donald Trump will probably rejoice. But he may not like what takes its place any better.

For a while, in its youth, the group burned so very bright, helping members wrest control over their oil industries and stand up to foreign producers — and their governments. But now, like every star, it is about to implode.

When a star runs out of hydrogen fuel its core contracts and heats up, while the outer layers expand. It will then go one of two ways — either collapsing into insignificance to become a black dwarf, or exploding as a supernova.

Red giant

OPEC is turning into the latter. Though its ranks have swelled in each of the last three years, its new members have done little to bolster its production potential.

But just like that ball of gas in space, no external agency is required to bring about the end of OPEC. Trump's tweets, and threats of antitrust legislation, are sideshows and serve to endow the group with a luster that masks its waning light.

Falling star

The world has changed. OPEC is no longer relevant in the way it once was. Though the group has never had more members in its 58 years of existence, the volume of crude it produces represents just a third of all the oil extracted in the world — the smallest share it has commanded in almost three decades. Not exactly the "monopoly" railed at by Trump.

The group's ability to influence oil prices by either boosting or cutting output has also waned. Spare capacity available to lift produc-



tion at short notice has become increasingly concentrated in the hands of a dwindling band of Persian Gulf Arab countries.

The inclusion of Russia in the group's latest supply management push reflects its waning power. Alone, it was both unwilling and unable to agree to remove sufficient volumes of oil from the market in 2016 to balance supply and demand. But Russia made all the difference.

Now that OPEC needs to boost output, its lack of power becomes even more obvious.

Only a small group of countries — led by Saudi Arabia — have the ability to lift production. For Venezuela and Angola, steep drops in output are involuntary and cannot be reversed. Libya and Nigeria were exempted

from the deal and are already producing as much as they can. Iran's exports are falling faster than most analysts anticipated, and Trump wants to drive them to zero by early November.

This is a recipe for oil prices to continue to rise.

Internally, the political and economic differences between OPEC's founding members now outweigh the common ground that brought them together in 1960. Now, far from rallying around a fellow member facing an external threat, two OPEC countries — perhaps Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — are seeking to damage the group and carry out "anti-Iranian policies" at the behest of the U.S., according to the nation's

oil minister, Bijan Namdar Zanganeh.

Rising star

He may be right, but there is little he can do to stop it. Iran's oil exports are down by more than a third since April, and are set to fall further this month and next, as buyers flee. Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, has boosted its own production by 420,000 barrels a day over the same period and could test the record levels it reached in 2016 before the end of the year.

Sure, this is not the first time that OPEC members have found themselves on different sides. The group weathered attacks by a founding member on two neighbors in about a decade, when Iraq attacked Iran in 1980, and then Kuwait in 1990. But the current disagreement seems more damaging to the heart of OPEC, perhaps because the Saudi-Iranian tensions feel more fundamental than the aggression of Saddam Hussein.

Critical mass

The fall in Iranian supply as a result of Trump's sanctions means that overall production by the OPEC+ group is once again falling below the level agreed in 2016. Having decided in June that they should strive to bring overall compliance back to 100 percent, Saudi Arabia and Russia will argue that those who can lift production should do so. And who can do this most quickly? Saudi Arabia and Russia.

The death of a star takes billions of years. OPEC's will happen a little quicker. But President Trump may not like a subsequent Saudi-Russian alliance any better.

(Source: Bloomberg)

Iraq's oil output can't exceed more than 10% growth in next decade: report



A new report on Iraq's oil production capability says a series of problems, including export bottlenecks caused by a lack of infrastructure, will continue to limit the country's oil output for years to come.

The report, penned by the London-based consulting firm IHS Markit, found that while Iraq could theoretically produce about 7 million barrels per day (bpd), in practice, the connections between the supergiant oil field production points and storage farms and export points in the country's south have led to bottlenecks that hamper growth.

Speaking to Arab News, IHS Markit analyst Christopher Elsner said that Iraq would be lucky to reach 5 million bpd, up from the current 4.5 million bpd, by 2028, and 6 million bpd by 2036.

According to the analyst, other limitations to Iraqi output include the lack of electricity infrastructure at some fields, the lack of pipeline infrastructure, pumping stations and storage capacity, as well as legal uncertainty surrounding contracts, security risks, and the general unreliability of existing water and electricity infrastructure.

"Coordinating the purchase of various components such that you can progress without delay ... has been another issue," Elsner said. Finally, the "spotty execution track record" of the state company responsible for oil projects in mid-stream is another concern, the IHS Markit analyst said.

Violence has been rocking the oil-rich southern Iraqi province of Basrah this month, with demonstrators protesting government corruption, water and electricity shortages, and clashing with police. A curfew has been imposed in the city of Basra after nearly a dozen deaths. Last week, Iraqi law enforcement arrested more than 30 people for the torching of the Iranian consulate building, with the headquarters of political parties, and provincial and city administration buildings, also attacked. On September 8, an unknown group fired a salvo of Katyusha rockets at Basra's airport, targeting the US consulate. Protesters also temporarily blocked Umm Qasr Port, Iraq's only deep water port, prompting concerns over possible global oil supply shortages.

Iraq is the world's second-largest oil producer behind Russia, Saudi Arabia and the United States, and has the world's fifth-largest proven oil reserves, sitting on an estimated 142,503,000,000 barrels spread throughout the country's north, south and center. The country's oil production figures have fluctuated violently over the last 40 years amid the country's many wars, including the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq War, the Persian Gulf War of 1990-1991, the violence following the U.S. invasion in 2003, and Baghdad's campaign against the Daesh (ISIS/ISIL) terrorist group from 2014-2018.

(Source: Sputnik)

Venezuela to bump China oil exports to 1 million barrels a day



Venezuela is to increase its oil exports to China to one million barrels a day, President Nicolas Maduro said just days after visiting the Asian powerhouse.

Maduro said each country would invest "around five billion dollars" in the project by August 2019.

Private sector estimates put the current export figure to China at around 700,000 barrels a day.

Maduro spent two days in China last week, welcomed by counterpart Xi Jinping and attending meetings at the China Development Bank and the China National Petroleum Corporation.

Venezuela, the country with the largest crude reserves in the world, has received more than \$60 billion in credit from Beijing over the last decade but still owes about \$20 billion and has been repaying the debt with oil shipments.

Speaking to foreign media, Maduro said China National Petroleum Corporation president Zhang Jianhua will visit Venezuela on Thursday to finalize "the investment they're going to make".

China eased Venezuela's debt repayment conditions in 2016 with the South American country gripped by an economic crisis.

Maduro refused to comment on whether those conditions had been extended during negotiations with China.

"Venezuela pays its debts on time, it's shown in the most difficult moments it's

ability to respond to its Chinese commitments," he said.

"The accounts are clear with them."

Upon his return from China on Saturday, Maduro had refused to comment on rumors he had been offered an extra \$5 billion loan.

He also walked into a social media storm after a celebrity chef in Turkey had posted videos of Maduro gorging on juicy chunks of meat and sucking on a cigar at a trendy restaurant in Istanbul during a stopover in which he is believed to have met in secret with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Venezuela is plagued by economic woes following four years of recession and inflation expected to reach one million percent this year, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Citizens face food and medicine shortages while public services such as transport, electricity and water have been hit by failures.

The crisis came about after a 2014 crash in the price of oil, which accounts for 96 percent of Venezuela's revenue, causing shortages of foreign capital that was exacerbated by the government printing money.

Oil production has dropped to a 30-year low of just 1.4 million barrels a day in August, according to the Organization of Oil Producing Countries, from a record high of 3.2 million 10 years ago.

(Source: hellenicshippingnews.com)

How the Sahara could power the entire world

Solar and wind farms, stretched across North Africa's Saharan desert and relying solely on existing technologies, could produce enough electricity to power the entire world. (That amount of electricity approximates over 21 terawatt hours.) As an added benefit these combined wind and solar arrays would also increase rain fall in the arid Sahel region thereby slowing the steady southern encroachment of the desert.

This was the conclusion arrived at by academic researchers using supercomputers. Teams at the University of Maryland and University of Illinois modeled their results in a study financed in part by a Chinese government agency. Their results were published in the prestigious journal Science (September 7).

Yes, we know it sounds farfetched. And even perhaps too ridiculous consider. But is it any crazier or more uneconomic than the two biggest nuclear construction projects currently underway in the U.S. and Europe? Spending \$25 billion or more to erect bespoke nuclear power generating stations (when a comparable gas fired facility could be built at a relatively small fraction of the cost) shows that regardless of economics, for those that the politicians favor, funds can often be found.

And it is not just new nuclear technologies that should be singled out for economic excesses. Southern Company's recent attempt at building a truly clean coal electric power generating station resulted in the \$4 billion Kemper County project in Mississippi. That facility now only burns natural

gas rendering large parts of the investment economically irrelevant.

But for sheer scale it is typically nuclear construction that provides the biggest numbers. In this regard consider the proposed \$20-\$30 billion ITER nuclear fusion project. The point? We already spend huge sums to experiment with and develop increasingly carbon free power sources. From a technological perspective the Sahara wind/solar project is practically "old school". It relies exclusively on so called off the shelf, existing technologies.

The challenge as we see it, apart from financing, would come from the actual construction. Giant construction projects in relatively inhospitable climates almost always pose a challenge. This would be akin to building the Alaska pipeline or putting huge oil rigs in the North Sea or in Arctic waters.

A German consortium, DESERTEC, proposed a Saharan solar project in 2009 based on work that goes back to the 1980s. The organization made promising financial projections based on its research. Its shareholders included major Mediterranean infrastructure and electricity firms and State Grid of China.

Wind and solar projects can also produce "unintended consequences" for the environment as the Illinois and Maryland researchers gently put it. In the Saharan case though, the consequences, more precipitation, might actually be beneficial.

From the perspective of the earth's surface, wind and

solar farms change surface roughness and reflectance. This raises local temperatures--the last thing the Sahara needs. However, the temperature boost also increases the likelihood of precipitation, in fact doubling it in this particularly arid region. That would in turn lead to increases in vegetation growth. More vegetative ground cover increases evaporation which, in turn, increases precipitation. Solar farms by themselves could have a similar environmental impact.

Admittedly, the university researchers did not address a whole host of concerns: social, political, business and technological. The challenge of constructing solar and wind farms across the Sahara Desert and then delivering the power to those who need it is a daunting task. But the researchers did interestingly address the impact of the project on climate and concluded it would be beneficial. That's at least a start.

Would relatively small European and American energy companies rise to a challenge of this magnitude? Or would the Sahara project developers, if there is one, propose this ambitious project to the Chinese as part of their One Belt, One Road Initiative? From a policy perspective China has made no secret of its interest in Africa. It would be ironic if they embarked on an ambitious undertaking like this while domestically the US plays "small ball" and focuses on subsidies for relatively uneconomic coal and nuclear power generating stations to extend their economic lives.

(Source: oilprice.com)

Trump drives oil prices more than OPEC: Omani oil minister says

After President Trump said again this week that blame for high oil prices lies with OPEC, a key crude producer said it's the other way round.

"The OPEC monopoly must get prices down now!" Trump tweeted Thursday, just days before the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries is due to meet in Algeria. Omani Oil Minister Mohammed Al Rumhy countered that it's the president who's pushing up prices.

"The recent tweets have more to do with the price increase than OPEC decisions in the last couple of meetings," Al Rumhy said in a Bloomberg television interview on Saturday in Algiers. "I call it the Washington premium."

We protect the countries of the Middle East, they would not be safe for very long without us, and yet they continue to push for higher and higher oil prices! We will remember. The OPEC monopoly must get prices down now!

Oil prices have rallied 18 percent this year. And Trump knows OPEC is listening to his complaints. He previously attacked the cartel on April 20, just hours after Saudi Oil Minister Khalid Al-Falih said the group would keep production cuts. Within a month, the kingdom had performed a dramatic U-turn and by June OPEC and its allies were promising to add 1 million barrels a day.

(Source: Bloomberg)

Here's what's next for Russian LNG

A mere two years ago Russia had just one LNG project and one could rarely read about it in media outlets. With Yamal LNG, however, that has now changed completely, with a whole plethora of energy analysts in awe as NOVATEK's project defies expectations. The project has achieved something that is entirely at odds with the current business climate in Russia — it delivered results ahead of schedule. With the 2nd train of Yamal LNG commissioned 6 months ahead of schedule this August and production coming along nicely, NOVATEK has tackled all logistics-related issues that have come up. As a result, Russia will have two LNG transshipment terminals at the eastern and western gate of the Arctic Ocean and a new Russo-Norwegian transshipment agreement to catalyze deliveries until the latter two are commissioned.

The first transshipment terminal to be discussed by NOVATEK and its partners was the 20 mtpa Kamchatka LNG, located at the Bechevinskaya harbor approximately 100 kilometers from the region's main city, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy. Ice-breaking LNG carriers would take the Yamal LNG and (from 2022 onwards) Arctic LNG-2 volumes from the port of Sabetta along the Northern Sea Route to Kamchatka, from where LNG would be shipped further on using regular carriers. The primary aim is to save on transportation costs — by doing so, NOVATEK would save roughly 10% of its 2-2.5 USD/MMBtu transportation expense. The second, more subtle, underlying reason is that NOVATEK sees both Yamal LNG and Arctic LNG-2 as a year-round export outlet, nullifying the effects of the frozen Arctic seas during the icy season (November-April).

As with Yamal LNG itself, the government will provide financial support for the endeavor — of the \$1.6 billion (108 billion RUB) total costs, Kremlin will provide \$0.6 billion. The reason for this is Kamchatka's remote location — with no significant hydrocarbon production of its own, the transshipment terminal would also be used to supply Kamchatka with natural gas. The terminal would use two floating storage units, both with a nominal capacity of 400,000 m3.

It should come as no surprise that the Kamchatka LNG has generated substantial interest in Japan — both the shipping company Mitsui and trading firm Marubeni expressed their interest in joining the project. With the Asian part of its transshipment drive more or less solved, NOVATEK then took on the Europe-headed deliveries.

The result that came out of it was by no means original — NOVATEK decided to build a similar transshipment terminal with the same nominal capacity of 20 mtpa in the Ura bay, some 50km from Murmansk. Located in an ice-free bay, the Murmansk LNG transshipment terminal is fully suitable for NOVATEK's year-round shipping plans. Its commissioning is most likely to take place in 2022-2023, by that time all four trains of the 17.5 mtpa Yamal LNG project will be already in full swing, it is rather additional LNG cargoes from the 19.8 mtpa Arctic LNG-2 that would stretch the current system in the extreme. In a departure from the Kamchatka LNG, there is one additional complication to it — since the Murmansk area is home to Russia's Northern Fleet and many other military objects, NOVATEK needs the military's approval to base its terminal at the proposed location.

Until the Murmansk LNG comes into operation in 2022-2023, NOVATEK will rely for the next years on Norwegian transshipment capacities. The company has already inked a 3-year deal with Norway, which would shorten the usual return trip by 5-6 days — heretofore the Belgian transshipment terminal in Zeebrugge was the primary one if transshipment was deemed necessary. It took 20 days approximately for Russian Arc7 class tankers to reach Zeebrugge from Sabetta and sail back, with the Norwegian option the trip length would be reduced to a mere 5 days. At the same time — perhaps boosted by the 61% y-o-y profit increase in Q2 2018 — NOVATEK also took measures to create an ice-breaking fleet of its own, in addition to the 15 the company will use for Yamal LNG supplies (currently it uses 7, the Korean-built fleet should be complete by 2019).

To deal with LNG output staying above Yamal LNG's nameplate capacity and the reshaping of production schedules due to earlier-than-expected commissioning dates, as well as to satisfy increased shipping needs, the fleet of LNG carriers sweeping the Arctic Seas should be extended. The Russian Prime Minister D. Medvedev stated at a government meeting that 10 more ice-breaking LNG carriers would be needed to accommodate increased shipping rates. Here, too, NOVATEK has come up with a novelty idea, forming a joint venture with nuclear powerhouse Rosatom to develop an LNG-fuelled icebreaker fleet. It remains to be seen whether the new LNG-fuelled tankers would be built abroad or in Russia (the latter is more likely now that Rosneft and Gazprom-bank have edged ever-closer to the commissioning of the Zvezda shipyard in Russia's Far East).

In a twist of events that is rather uncharacteristic of Russia, NOVATEK has found itself in the forefront of Russia's LNG ambitions. More than that — it continues to initiate new projects, be it Arctic LNG-2 or transshipment terminals in Murmansk and Kamchatka, that attract foreign investment under circumstances when foreign investment into Russia's energy sector is very limited. If it manages to bring the fourth train of Yamal LNG (nameplate capacity of 0.9 mtpa) online without delays and using the company's proprietary liquefaction technology called "Arctic Cascade", it would amount to a small earthquake within Russia's quite risk-averse energy sector.

(Source: oilprice.com)

U.S.-Turkey crisis: Mixing foreign policy with financial threats is a mistake



By Zeynep Coskun Koç

Eminent journalist Bob Woodward's new book Fear: Trump in the White House reveals the unorthodox and dangerous agendas being pushed within the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump.

In one scene, former chief economic adviser Gary Cohn allegedly hid from Trump a letter that would have terminated the free-trade agreement between the U.S. and South Korea, concerned that the president would impulsively sign the document and put at risk all U.S. interests in Asia.

People with agendas that disregard U.S. policies and interests, if they can reach the president, may be able to further their causes by appealing to his unpredictable diplomatic leanings. Trump's openness to drastic and dramatic policy changes makes room for such moves.

■ Outlandish policies

This theme is particularly interesting in light of recent developments in Turkey-U.S. relations, with many Turks now wondering which behind-the-scenes actors might have been pushing outlandish policies through the White House.

Bilateral relations have been strained amid disagreements over the role of the Kurdish YPG (People's Protection Units) in Syria, which Turkey describes as an offshoot of the PKK, a group designated by both countries as a terrorist organization. Yet, instead of working to solve this rift and strengthen their bilateral alliance, the Trump administration has repeatedly changed course and blindsided Ankara.

Most recently, this dynamic has played out over the imprisonment of evangelical pastor Andrew Brunson, arrested for allegedly collaborating in Turkey's failed 2016 coup attempt. The White House has called for his release, while Turkey has cited the ongoing court process. Ahead of November's midterm elections, the Trump administration has become increasingly impatient amid pressure from the evangelical community - an important part of Trump's shrinking electoral base.

The story comprises conflicting accounts, including that the White House at one point claimed it had secured a transactional deal for Brunson's release by helping to ensure the release of a Turkish national held in Israel.

Turkish sources, meanwhile, have cited the divided nature of the Trump administration as the cause of the conflict, with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo leading negotiations with Turkey while Vice President Mike Pence, himself an evangelical, simultaneously spoiled the process by pushing for sanctions in the White House. Even more significant, though, were the dramatic steps subsequently taken by Washington.

■ Financial penalties

Following social media threats from Trump, the U.S. announced sanctions against Turkish Justice Minister Abdulhamit Gul and Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu. Sanctioning two individuals who have no assets in the U.S. was seen as bizarre; the move was unprecedented in NATO and further pushed apart the alliance's largest two armies.

A week later, Trump vowed to double steel and aluminum tariffs on Turkey, which retaliated by placing an additional tax on various U.S. goods, including cars, alcohol and tobacco products. Amid this financial tit-for-tat, the Turkish lira persisted in its downward spiral.

Later, Trump's national security adviser, John Bolton, stated that if Turkey were to release Brunson, its currency crisis could go away "instantly" - indicating that the Trump administration not only triggered the capital flight, but might have actively organized some of it.

In truth, Bolton's claim exaggerated U.S. power to reverse Turkey's economic woes: without changes to the larger structural issues at the heart of the Turkish economy's vulnerability, capital flight could not be reversed "instantly" through the release of a pastor.

The financial aspect of this crisis has massively damaged relations on the Turkish side. By trying to use sanctions and fiscally coercive measures to bully Ankara into releasing Brunson, Washington has ultimately antagonized not only the Turkish administration, but also the entire government apparatus and parties across the political spectrum, including the opposition.

■ Time for oversight

In interstate conflicts, beyond public clashes and rhetoric, there are always officials trying to resolve matters behind the scenes. However, when foreign policy disputes get mixed up with financial conflicts, the situation becomes more complex. In the current context, it would be very hard to find Turkish officials willing to engage with the U.S. to find a middle ground, as they would risk criticism from the whole nation if the process caused further currency depreciation.

Given the erratic nature of statements from the U.S. administration, and especially from Trump on Twitter, the risk of being blindsided during such negotiations is very real. Through its actions, the U.S. administration is antagonizing not only Turkey's leadership, but also anyone with an official standing.

If the U.S. continues mixing foreign policy with financial threats, it will have a hard time finding anyone to work with in Ankara. It is not clear who has been pushing these unorthodox and disadvantageous Turkey policies in Washington, but it is time for greater oversight and correction.

With Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan slated to attend the UN General Assembly in New York, this could be an opportune time for the White House to revisit its Turkey policy.

(Source: The Middle East Eye)

Top U.S. diplomat backed continuing support for Saudi war in Yemen over objections of staff

By Dion Nissenbaum

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo backed continued U.S. military support for Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen over the objections of staff members after being warned that a cutoff could jeopardize \$2 billion in weapons sales to America's Gulf allies, according to a classified memo and people familiar with the decision.

The move has fueled rising outrage in Congress, where a bipartisan group of lawmakers is trying to cut off American military aid for Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in their three-year-old war against Iran-backed fighters in Yemen.

More than 16,700 civilians have been killed or injured in Yemen, according to the United Nations, which says the Persian Gulf nation is home to the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

The U.S. is backing the Persian Gulf allies in Yemen.

Pompeo overruled concerns from most of the State Department specialists involved in the debate who were worried about the rising civilian death toll in Yemen. Those who objected included specialists in the region and in military affairs.

He sided with his legislative affairs team after they argued that suspending support could undercut plans to sell more than 120,000 precision-guided missiles to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, according to a classified State Department memo and people familiar with the debate.

State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said she wouldn't comment on "the deliberative process or allegedly leaked documents."

But she made it clear that the U.S. wants its Persian Gulf allies to do more to address continued American concern about the protracted conflict in Yemen that has pushed millions to the brink of famine and morphed into a proxy war.

"While our Saudi and Emirati partners are making progress, we are continuing discussions with them on additional steps they can take to address the humanitarian situation, advance the political track in cooperation with the UN Special Envoy's efforts, and ensure that their military campaign complies with the law of armed conflict and international humanitarian law," she said.

The U.S. currently provides the Saudi-led coalition with modest military support, including weapons sales and aerial refueling of jet fighters carrying out airstrikes in Yemen.

The U.S. also provides military training meant to help minimize civilian deaths, and some battlefield intelligence, but the American support has had a negligible impact on reducing civilian casualties.

A recent U.N. report found that the Saudi-led coalition airstrikes were responsible for most of the 16,700 civilians killed or injured in Yemen over the past three years.

Concerns in Washington were amplified last month when an errant Saudi airstrike hit a school bus, killing more than 40 Yemeni children on a field trip. Human rights researchers and reporters who visited the



Mike Pompeo made decision after being warned that a cutoff could jeopardize \$2 billion in weapons sales to America's Persian Gulf allies.

scene of the bombing said the missile used in the strike was American made, raising new alarms about U.S. support.

Earlier this month, Pompeo asked his regional experts for advice on a new requirement imposed by Congress that compels the U.S. to cut off refueling operations unless the State Department officially certifies every six months that Saudi Arabia and the UAE are doing enough to minimize civilian casualties in Yemen.

The law includes a provision that allows the U.S. to keep providing the support on national security grounds if the State Department determines that it helps protect America.

Most of the State Department's military and area specialists urged Pompeo in the memo to reject certification "due to a lack of progress on mitigating civilian casualties."

That included the State Department's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, and the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration. Their recommendation was also backed by the legal advisers who took part in the policy review.

The experts argued that certification would "provide no incentive for Saudi leadership to take our diplomatic messaging seriously," and "damage the Department's credibility with Congress," according to portions of the memo shared with The Wall Street Journal.

They urged Pompeo to instead tell Congress that he couldn't certify that the Persian Gulf nations were doing enough to minimize civilian casualties, but that the U.S. would continue to provide military

support to the coalition because it is in America's national security interest.

The U.S. Agency for International Development went even further and argued that the U.S. should halt military aid because "USAID does not believe that continued refueling support will improve either country's approach to civilian casualties or human protections."

The only group that urged him to fully support the Saudi-led coalition was the Bureau of Legislative Affairs, which argued in the memo that "lack of certification will negatively impact pending arms transfers."

The State Department's legislative team said "failure to certify may also negatively impact future foreign military sales and direct commercial sales to the region."

Use of American weapons in Yemen has become a polarizing issue in Congress, where Sen. Bob Menendez, (D., N.J.), the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has already used his powers to delay efforts by Raytheon Co. to sell more than \$2 billion in precision-guided missiles to Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

State officials pushing for the U.S. to keep backing Saudi Arabia argued that the coalition had taken important steps to address American concerns. And Defense Secretary Jim Mattis also urged Pompeo to support the Saudi-led coalition by certifying that the Persian Gulf nations were doing enough to merit continued U.S. military backing.

Last week, Pompeo officially gave America's Persian Gulf allies his endorsement. But the memo informing Congress of his decision reflected U.S. concerns.

"Recent civilian casualty incidents indi-

cate insufficient implementation of reforms and targeting practices," the memo said. "Investigations have not yielded accountability measures."

U.S. officials say that a contrite and robust Saudi response to its bombing of the school bus on Aug. 9 may have helped tip the scales in Riyadh's favor. After the bombing, American military officers privately warned Saudi Arabia that the U.S. might curtail its support unless the coalition took steps to address their concerns, according to U.S. officials.

Saudi Arabia admitted that it mistakenly targeted the school bus and vowed to create more safeguards. But that has failed to address all of the Trump administration's concerns and there is still an active discussion in the administration about cutting off refueling operations for the coalition.

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D., N.H.), co-author of the law that required the certification, said Thursday that "it is abundantly clear that this certification was bogus when it was announced, and the reporting on this internal memo further confirms that the administration has clearly violated the law."

Ms. Shaheen called on the Trump administration to revisit their decision and "submit a certification that actually reflects the facts on the ground."

Raytheon officials didn't respond to requests for comment.

Col. Turki al-Maliki, a spokesman for the Saudi-led coalition, said on Wednesday that the U.S. and Saudi Arabia have "long-standing, firm and strategically deep ties," but declined to address specific questions about American warnings.

(Source: The Wall Street Journal)

Haftar's empty threats don't disturb Algeria

By Usama Agag

The crisis caused by the video of Libya's General Khalifa Haftar in which he threatened to move the war to Algerian territory appears to have calmed down. Neither side wants to escalate matters, but the messages exchanged between them do not hide the lack of trust between the two sides. Algeria is dealing with Haftar as a fait accompli and part of the conflict with Libya, without recognizing that what he is trying to promote is the belief that he is part of the solution for the Libyan conflict and is able to unite the Libyan army.

It seems that Haftar's people were surprised by the emergence of a video on Al-Jazeera in which the supposedly retired general stands with a group of his supporters and threatens Algeria with a war on the pretext that it is exploiting the security situation in Libya. He mentions the possibility of moving the war to the Algerian border in minutes as a result of Algerian soldiers crossing into Libya. The consequences of the crisis grew with Haftar's talk about an official Algerian apology being made to him.

The details of the whole incident are rather ambiguous, as neither side gave an exact date for when the Algerian forces crossed the border, or when Haftar himself said what he did. However, that did not stop the crisis developing.

The facts on the ground indicate that Haftar's people are rushing to reduce the impact of his statements, according to the spokesman of his forces, General Ahmed Al-Mismari. "The Libyans and Algerians are brothers in the same trenches and are linked by political and social relations," Al-Mismari told a press conference last week. He also noted that their forces discovered that some members of the Algerian army entered Libyan territory, but after contacting the authorities they realized that they were gendarmes who crossed the border by mistake. Haftar tried to deny the whole issue



Haftar's verbal attack on Algeria may be a ploy to cover up his recent political and military failures.

through his media officer, Khalifa Al-Obeidi.

The Government of National Accord in Tripoli, meanwhile, tried to distance itself from Haftar's position. Foreign Minister Mohammed Tahir Sayala contacted his counterpart in Algeria, Abdelkader Messahel, and condemned Haftar's remarks as "irresponsible". He also noted that Libya is committed to its brotherly and historical relations with Algeria. Messahel reassured Sayala that no statement of any kind could affect the strong relations between the two countries.

Haftar's comments are reminiscent of a previous attack

on Algeria during the 2011 uprising against Gaddafi, when Haftar accused Algeria of providing armed militias to support the Libyan leader. Furthermore, any Algerian reaction now will be sensitive to the statement made by Haftar's supporters in the House of Representatives last year in which they rejected Messahel's visit to Ubari, Ghat, Zintan and Sabha, describing it as interference in Libyan affairs.

Algeria was later than other states in dealing with Haftar. They eventually received him in December 2016 as an important Libyan figure, but not the leader of the Libyan army. It is said that officials insisted that he must not wear his general's uniform during the visit. The government in Algiers also welcomes Haftar's rivals in official Libya institutions such as the House of Representatives, the Council of State and the Presidential Council.

It seems that Algeria's position on the crisis does not appeal to Haftar or to other parties that may have provided him with information and pictures related to the gendarmerie mistakenly crossing the border. Such information prompted him to make his threats, on the basis of the reservations that Haftar and those behind him have about Algeria's position on the Libyan crisis. Libya's neighbor calls for an end to the fighting and does not take sides with any factions. Since the beginning of the crisis, Algeria has worked towards a peace deal and has rejected the calls made to exclude Gaddafi supporters from any talks to resolve the crisis. Algeria also rejects any foreign intervention and the division of Libya.

His verbal attack on Algeria may be a ploy to cover up Haftar's recent political and military failures. He has lost momentum and his efforts to unify the military and solve the conflict in his favor have stalled. Given the fact that Libya is on the verge of presidential elections, it looks like his chances for success are limited.

(Source: Middle East Monitor)

EU Blocking Regulations: a recap and revisit

1 → In practice, only a handful of EU member states have actual regulations which penalize their own companies and citizens. German national regulations assess a penalty of 500.000 EUR per violation of the Blocking Statute. Austria's equivalent regulations specify a fine of just 1.000.000 Schillings (the equivalent of 75.000 EUR).

In reality, it is not clear the extent to which the EU, or EU member states, might actually wish to fine their own Operators, but what is clear is that the EU will likely provide much stronger support for bringing America to heel before EU courts, if it becomes necessary and/or workable under the Blocking Statute.

How could that happen?

Consider the following circumstances:

1. Large EU-based company, under threat of penalties from OFAC, abandons an Iranian project in which it had made significant investments

2. Medium-sized EU-based company, which had had a contract with another larger EU company which was doing business with Iran, suffers a meaningful economic loss from the abrogation of contract by the other EU Operator in compliance with OFAC sanctions

3. The EU-based subsidiary of an Iranian company, whereby the Iranian parent had a contract with a large EU-based company which abandoned its Iranian project, suffers an economic loss.

4. A large EU-based company which has a contract with an Iranian counterparty, and in compliance with the Blocking Statute, does not withdraw from such contract, and as a consequence, is sanctioned by OFAC.

In case 1, the large EU-based company withdraws of its own accord contrary to the Blocking Statute, and while it does suffer a loss of investment from its project, it is not clear whether such a company could successfully sue before EU courts since it could be argued that its damage was self-inflicted; it may be possible to attempt to make the case that threat of economic damages from OFAC might have been, based on precedent, so high, that the EU Operator was forced, by reasonable prudent behaviour, to suspend or exit its project.

By contrast, in case 2, the medium-sized company would likely have a plausible case not only against the U.S., against whose assets it could potentially win a seizure and sale judgement before EU courts, but also against the other large EU company which terminated its Iranian contract and caused the harm to the medium-sized company. What is unknown in such a circumstance



is whether the EU would proceed to fine the larger EU operator, or whether, as an adjunct to the first case, it might make damage awards to both the large and medium sized companies.

In case 3, which is perhaps the most interesting of all, it may in fact be possible for the subsidiary of an Iranian parent organization to utilize the blocking statute to its benefit whereby the EU Operator is able to seek damages; it can be argued whether this is a perversion, or an exact implementation, of the spirit of the Blocking Statute, but there can be no doubt that even for an Iranian parent, the EU incorporated subsidiary is an EU Operator and is, by dint of those regulations, allowed to sue the U.S. before EU courts. It begs the question by extension whether, if more and more Iranian companies were to form EU subsidiaries, which would put them under the Blocking Statute jurisdiction, this would permit a sort of back door entry into a kind of class action suit against the U.S. government, since it is not unreasonable to surmise that any large Iranian multinational might otherwise have been able to benefit from international contracts with even American subsidiaries in Europe, formerly permitted to engage in Iranian business under general license H, to say nothing of broad-based business with EU Operators. It is not certain, however, whether a company must have been an EU Operator at the time of the re-imposition

of sanctions by OFAC; the Blocking Statute appears silent on this point.

Finally, in case 4, quite clearly, this would be the strongest set of circumstances for a major litigation against the U.S. where-in significant U.S. assets in the EU, be it government bond holdings or real estate or else, could be up for grabs in an adverse outcome for the defendant.

With this short scenario analysis in mind, the next point becomes, what are the obligations of EU Operators to ensure that they are able to take advantage of the provisions of the Blocking Statute.

According to the provisions of the Statute, the EU Operators are:

- Obligated to notify the European Council within 30 days of the incurrence of the damage or loss associated with non-compliance with U.S. sanctions, and

- By contrast, if they wish to make the case that they need to comply extraordinarily with such U.S. sanctions, they should do so upon notification of the appearance of the threat of sanctions for non-compliance.

- Nonetheless they are permitted to withdrawal from Iranian operations if their exit or suspension is a case of commercial matters and not sanctions.

Thus, when evaluating the efficacy, and the implications, of the Blocking Statute, we can evaluate it from the lens of each of the parties noted in the above four cases.

Large EU Operators with international

businesses will be most likely to notify the EU that they cannot adhere to the Blocking Statute and must comply with OFAC as an exceptional allowance. Lamentably for Iranian parties, there is no provision within the Blocking Statute for non-EU Operators to sue under its protections, neither against U.S. parties nor against other EU Operators. Nonetheless, Iranian actors should be vigilant that EU counterparts are not simply using bogus commercial extenuations to justify contract withdrawal, suspensions or termination. It may sometimes be difficult to determine whether an EU Operator attempts to raise a matter on economic grounds, which is in fact one that boils down to sanctions.

In addition, remains to be tested out whether an EU Operator owned or controlled by an Iranian party could utilize the Blocking Statute as described above, but it is evident that the threat of fines/penalties by the EU on EU Operators that do not comply with the Blocking Statute is not to be overlooked.

Why? Because regulations related to sanctions are as much about reputation as they are about economic consequences. One of the reasons why OFAC has been so successful in ensuring that companies all over the world abide by U.S. imposed regulations which are well outside the American jurisdiction is that, aside from stiff fines, no company wants to say that it was singled out by OFAC. Large banks, financial institutions, oil companies, and technology companies, all of which have been over the years sanctioned by OFAC, are used to multi-billion dollar losses in business, but much like nuclear vs conventional weapons, when it comes to allocating the cause of the loss, sanctions are among of the most stigmatized.

That is, it is easier for a large energy company to say that they have been fined billions of dollars for an oil spill due to gross negligence, than it is to say that they were fined even 50 or 100 million dollars for dealing with, even indirectly, a sanctioned entity or transacting in energy products with a sanctioned country.

This is as curious as the reaction of most ordinary who might somehow be more afraid of the threat of an atomic bomb, which has only been twice used on civilians in world history, than conventional ballistics which every day kill thousands of people.

Nonetheless, such psychological asymmetry must be duly recognized, and so what can work well, over time, albeit in favour of the effectiveness of the blocking statute is that to be singled out by the EU for such violations becomes in its own way, both in the EU and within Iran, a significant black mark.

That can be fomented if people come to realize that, although as of now the financial consequences for an EU operator who violates the statute are ostensibly less than that of OFAC violations, the reputational risk could be even greater. OFAC coordinates with any number of international watch dogs and activist groups to pressure companies not to do business with Iran and to abide by American sanctions, and quite similarly, it is entirely possible that from the European and the Iranian side, those kinds of third parties can be equally effective in besmirching the reputations of EU Operators who, quite in opposition to the regulations of their own jurisdiction, choose to walk away from Iran.

More broadly though, many questions remain to be answered, including:

- How aggressive will EU courts be in making damage? awards against the U.S. in cases brought by EU Operators?

- How harsh will EU regulators be in penalizing their own companies for Blocking Statute violations?

- How much latitude will EU courts grant to EU operators owned by Iranian companies to sue before EU courts

- How lenient will EU regulators be in allowing EU Operators to get exemptions from compliance with the Blocking Statute?

- How quickly can Iranian and EU parties effectively attach a reputational stigma to those companies walking away from Iran, in contravention of the statute?

Only time will tell, and what is important to remember is that the global dominance by OFAC was not built overnight, nor was it entirely by design; the fusion of dollar dominance in the global financial system led to OFAC's regulatory reach, and the former standing of the U.S. as one of the most upright countries in the world supplemented and cemented what has now become a dollar-based stranglehold on world finance, both transactionally and regulatorily; now with the world looking for alternatives to the U.S. as the world's policeman and with the world tiring of the dollar's universality, it is entirely possible that the Blocking Statute takes on a life of its own, with implications beyond mere regulatory censure.

How and whether that happens will depend in part on the leanings of EU courts, the steadfastness of EU Operators, and the activist inclinations of parties in both the EU and Iran, who should know that, just as OFAC sanctions are regulations for which violations have consequences, material and intangible, so too is the Blocking Statute.

Possible Democratic takeover of the House unlikely to change Trump's policy Iran: Zonis

1 → A: General Mattis and President Trump have both asserted recently that the general would be leaving the administration. But it is actually quite difficult to understand Trump's feelings towards Mattis because Mattis is Trump's favorite general. But it has been suggested that Trump is jealous of the general on the grounds that he is widely esteemed and seen as the only adult in the administration. Furthermore, Mattis has opposed many of Trump's policy wishes. Trump wanted to assassinate Assad

back in 2017. Mattis changed his mind. Mattis opposed other Trump wishes — the establishment of a space force, moving the U.S. embassy towards Jerusalem, starting the trade war and especially opposing Trump's withdrawal from the nuclear deal with Iran. There are lots of reasons why the General wants to get out.

■ What is the importance of upcoming Congress election for Trump?

A: Without question, this is the crucial question for our times.

There appears to be a "Blue Wave" — that is a new energy by Democratic opponents of the President. If they actually go out and vote on November 6, it is likely that Democrats will win control of the lower house — the House of Representatives. It is unlikely but possible the Democrats will win control off the upper house — the Senate. The result of a House victory would be an inability of the President to get any laws passed that he favors. A vote to impeach him is always possible. (If the House were to vote for this impeachment, he would be unlikely to be

found guilty and unlikely to be forced from office because that requires 60 votes in the Senate.) But without doubt, the likely Democratic victory in the House would be a major blow to the President and his policy preferences will be thwarted.

■ Will the result of the election affect U.S. administration's policy toward Iran?

A: U.S. foreign policy is largely the prerogative on the President and his Secretary of State. A Democratic takeover of the House is unlikely to change his policy towards Iran.

ARALALUMINA

ARMAN RAHAVARD ALUMINIUM RAW MATERIALS SUPPLY AND PRODUCTION COMPANY

شرکت تهیه و تولید مواد اولیه آلومینیوم آرمان راهاردر

Tender Number: AR/1/1001

Alumina Refinery Bid Invitation by Arman Rahavard Aluminium Raw Materials Supply and Production Company (ARALCO)

Tender participants are hereby invited from reputed EPCF contractors with experience in alumina powder refinery plants implementation to bid for know-how, basic and detailed engineering, procurement, construction and financing of a 800-thousand-tonne metallurgical grade alumina refinery (expandable to 1.6 million tonnes in second phase) to be built in Parsian Special Economic Zone in Hormozgan Province, south of Iran in vicinity of Asslough. The product specifications are suitable for aluminium smelters and the plant's bauxite feed will be imported via a port already constructed close to the refinery's allocated site. The applicants shall receive the tender documents from and submit them completed to the address below:

Unit 8, 4th Floor, Number 2, 6th Alley, South Kaj Street, Fatemi District, Tehran, Iran

PO Box: **1413884335**

Last date for dispatch of documents is Monday, October the 8th, 2018.

Last date for receipt of duly filled up tenders is Monday, December the 10th, 2018.

For any inquiry please call:

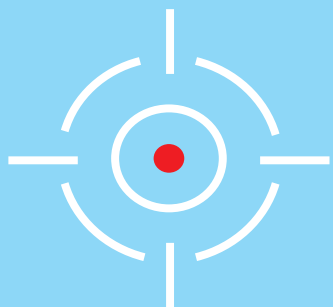
0098 9123406760, 0098 9122481782

Fax: **009821 88028621**

Email: **info@aralalumina.com**

TEHRAN TIMES

Iran's Leading
International Daily
Advertising Dept



Tel:

021 - 430 51 450

Second Announcement



N.I.O.C
1397.2895

Call for Public Tender
One – Stages (Compressed) Tender
Subject of Tender: (Provision of 3000 barrel of Calcium Boromide required for Drilling Fluid in 13 Gas Well in Kish Island)



National Iranian
Drilling Company

• Tender Descriptions :

| The Tender Holder | Registration No. Through National Electronic Tendering System (http://tets.nporg.ir) | Tender No. | Estimated Value (IRR) |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------|-----------------------|
| National Iranian Drilling Company | 3,174,608 | 97/S M-33/06-5206 | IRR 135,000,000,000 |

• Qualitative evaluation of tenders

| method | <input type="checkbox"/> based on minimum scoring (minimum quality score is 60) made in award criterion reflected in the tenderers pre-qualification forms. |
|--------|---|
|--------|---|

• Purchasing & submitting of Tender documents

| Distribution of tender documents by NIDC | Distribution Starting Date | Starting date for receiving (The distribution of the documents will be started one day after the publishing of second advertisement). Last time for receiving (ended on the following seventh day thereof) |
|--|----------------------------|---|
| | Distribution place | Contracts Department – Part A – First Floor – Operational Building – NIDC – Higher than Airport Square – Pasdaran Blvd. – Ahvaz- Iran- 061-34146525 |
| | Submitting method | Submitting one original bank fund receipt in the amount of 990,000 Iranian rials under account number 400111400420491 in name of "NIDC incomes centralized fund" issued by Central Bank of Islamic Republic of Iran. (Shaba No.: IR 52010000400111400420491) Submitting formal request for the purpose of receiving of tender documents. |
| Tender Envelopes Delivery Date | Closing date | 35 Days after the last time of purchasing of tender documents. (Proposal pockets including A. Guarantee B. Tender documents which is signed and stamped C. Financial proposal with pre-qualification papers and documents including (full versions of working resume based on pre-qualification forms with related CD) should be delivered at the same time) |
| | Delivery address | Hall no. 107,1st floor, tender committee, operation building, national Iranian drilling company, airport square, Ahvaz, Iran. Tel : +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569 |

• Tender guarantee

| Value of guarantee | Four billion and twenty million (4,020,000,000) Rials or Sixty six thousand and one hundred eight (66,108) Euro. |
|---|---|
| Acceptable | ✓ Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtained activity license from the central bank of the Islamic republic of Iran. |
| Type of guarantee | ✓ Submitting one original bank fund receipt under account number 4001114006376636 in name of "NIDC saving centralized account" by the central bank of Islamic republic of Iran. (Shaba No.: IR 350100004001114006376636) |
| Duration of credit for quotation / Tender Guarantee | Tender guarantee should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one more time in ceiling of initial validity duration. |

(Contracts Department)

Guarantee and More of this & other tenders are accessible by click on:

www.nidc.ir http://sapp.ir/nidc_pr

تهران تایمز نوبت اول ۹۷/۰۷/۱ نوبت دوم ۹۷/۰۷/۱

Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

Apartment

luxury Apt in Zafaranih
2nd floor, 320 sq.m, 4 Bdrs.
fully furn, green garden outdoor
pool, diplomatic building, parking spot
sauna, Jacuzzi
Price negotiable
Suitable for
Diplomats & Foreigners
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Aghdasieh
3rd floor, 260 sq.m, 4 Bdrs.
furn, 2 balconies, 2 parking spots
elevator, spj
\$4000
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Elahieh
15th floor, 320 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.
excellent view, spj, lobby
nice balcony, gym saloon
diplomatic building, good access
to highway
furn & unfurn, **\$7000**
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Valiasr
near Mellat Park, opposite of
Jam e Jam, 3rd floor, 260 sq.m 3
Bdrs., furn, balcony, parking spot
storage, **\$2000**
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Jordan
2nd floor, 120 sq.m, 2 Bdrs. fully
furn, fully renovated, parking spot
storage, balcony
\$1400
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Villa

Villa in Zafaranih
1000 sq.m, 2500 sq.m land
6Bdrs. duplex, renovated
garden, best location
parking spot
Price Negotiable
Suitable for
Residency & Embassy
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Villa in Ajudaniye
2 floors, 315 sq.m & 300 sq.m
furn, equipped kitchen swimming
pool, sauna
parking spot, gym, **\$4000**
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Palace in Tajrish/ Elahieh
duplex, 7000 sq.m land, 2200
sq.m built up, 8 Bdrs. renovated
unbelievable garden
water fall, spj, parking spot
renovated, big saloon
\$30000
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Triplex Villa in Jordan
3700 sq.m land, 1300 sq.m
7 Bdrs., 6 bathrooms, furn outdoor
pool, renovated
3-side entrances, **\$20000**
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Duplex Villa in Niavaran
1000 sq.m built up, 2000 sq.m
land, semi furn, outdoor pool
garden, renovated, servant
quarter, extra suit with 2 Bdrs.
\$15000
Ms.Diba: 09128103206



Holder of
ISO 9001:2008
ISO 10004:2012
ISO 10002:2014

From Oxford Cert Universal

Best Consultation
Best Services, Best Result

Intl. Department Manager "Tina 09128103205"

Tel: 22662452-8, Fax: 22667173

Hot Line: 28141
info@parsdiplomatic.com
www.parsdiplomatic.com

Building & Office

Whole Building in Zafaranih
1300 sq.m, duplex, 7 rooms
renovated, garden, parking spot
outdoor pool, semi furn, **\$15000**
Suitable for
Embassy & Residency
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Best Office in Valiasr
several administrative offices from
105 sq.m to 350 sq.m
nice lobby, could be flat or office
lots parking spot, guest parking
spots, full of foreign companies
good access to highway
near to Mellat Park
Price negotiable
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

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

Whole Building in Gandi
5 floors, 19 apts, 92 sq.m to 100
sq.m, furn, lobby, elevator
\$28500
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Commercial Building
in Elahieh
from 150 sq.m to 700 sq.m
lobby, parking spot, almost new
full of foreign companies
good access to highway
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Ideal Offers

Luxury Apt in Jordan
70 sq.m, 1 Bdr., good access
top floors, **\$1400**
Suitable for
foreign Companies
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Qeytarieh
110 sq.m, 2 Bdrs., balcony
fully furn, parking spot
\$1800
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Elahieh
1st floor, 160 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.
fully furn, spj, parking spot lobby
diplomatic
\$2800
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Jordan
3rd floor, 110 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.
furn, balcony, storage
parking spot
\$1000
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

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

Apt in Elahieh
180 sq.m, 3 Bdrs., fully furn
nice & cozy, spj
\$2500
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

مالکین محترم

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

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت

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

مالکین محترم

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

SHANON
Shanon_zt@yahoo.com
+989121907875
Tel : 88510081

Farmanieh
200sq.m, 3bdrs
S/p, Sauna, J
(\$2500)

Darrous Apt (\$2500)
200sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p
balcony, pkg, & F.F

Jordan Villa
1400sq.m, 5bdrs
S/p, S, J, yard
(\$4000)

Elahieh (\$1700)
140sq.m, 2bdrs
balcony, & F.F

Jordan Apts
(\$1400) 2bdrs, S/p, F.F
(\$2000) 3bdrs, S/p, F.F

Arjantin bldg
4storey, 10bdrs
yard, pkg lots

Don't Waste Your Time

Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties

www.DeltaHOME.ir
The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners

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

TEHRANTIMES
Iran's Leading International Daily
www.tehrantimes.com

Advertising Dept:
times1979@gmail.com

+9821 430 51 450

Zafaranih,
170sqm,
2bdrms+1suite, SPJ,
racket ball gym, full
furnished, great
view, 1000sqm
lobby



021 2265 65 23
www.planbartar.com

Zafaranih,
1600sqm villa
with 2 separate
units, 1200sqm
duplex+200sqm,
an outdoor pool,
super luxurious,
for embassies and
embassadors

Evin,Hashtroodi
72sqm,1bdr, ff
Roofgarden, gym,
24h concirege
1200\$.
09123440817

Number one Real Estate in Iran

www.DELTA HOME.ir

TEL:88 88 88 65 FAX: 88 88 93 35

HOME
Real Estate

Elahieh, Residence Villa
3500 sqm, 5 bdrs, SP, Green garden
Renovated
\$25000 USD
Adrian: (+98) 9217176740

Elahieh
230sqm, 3 bdrs, 3 baths, Brand new
Full facilities (SP,gym,...), Mountain
view
€4300
Adrian: (+98) 9217176740

Farmanieh
180sqm, 3 bdrs, 2 baths
Green view, Full facilities (SP, gym,...)
\$3500 USD
Adrian: (+98) 9217176740

Darous, Private Villa of 2 floors
660sqm, 8 bdrs, SPJ, sauna, cozy and
lovely
\$9000 USD
Farshid: (+98) 9125540877

Must to see
Elahieh
290sqm, 3 bdrs, 3 baths,gym,brand new,
green view
Furn or unfurn
Farshid: (+98) 9125540877

Guest House
1- Jordan, 5 fl, 5 Units, 14 bdrs ,FF
2- Gandi, 5 fl, 19 Units, 38 bdrs, FF
3- Jordan, 5 FL, 20 Units, 55 bdrs,FF
Farshid: (+98) 9125540877

Jordan, Office
1000sqm, flat, 10 parking space
Lobby, high security, Good view to
South and
North of Tehran 1sqm= \$ 40 USD
Linda: (+98) 9351721171

Farmaniyeh, Privet Villa
1500sqm, 8 bdrs, 3 floors, SPJ, sauna,
Garden
\$15000 USD
Linda: (+98) 9351721171

Elahieh
205sqm, 3 bdrs, 4th floor, SPJ, sauna
Gym, coffee shop, roof garden, Lobby
\$ 5000 USD
Linda: (+98) 9351721171

Zaferaniyeh
200sqm, 3 bdrs, FF, SPJ, luxury
€ 3000
Kaveh: (+98) 9128944169

Farmanieh, villa
900sqm, 2500 sqm yard, 5 bdrs
\$ 8000 USD
Kaveh: (+98) 9128944169

Ati Saz Residential Complex
125sqm, very modern
\$ 1500 USD
Kaveh: (+98) 9128944169

Fereshteh
120 sqm, 2 bdrs, FF, SP, parking
\$ 1600 USD
Davood: (+98) 9123488513

Gandi
140 sqm, 2 bdrs, FF, parking
\$ 850 USD
Davood: (+98) 9123488513

Jordan- Valiasr
300sqm, 4 bdrs, FF, parking, green yard
\$ 1700 USD
Davood: (+98) 9123488513

Elahieh
150 sqm, 2 bdrs, 7th floor
€ 3250
Hojati: (+98) 9309701169

Velenjak, Villa
1100sqm, 7 bdrs
Negotiable
Hojati: (+98) 9309701169

Elahieh
225sqm, 3bdrs
€ 3900
Hojati: (+98) 9309701169

‘O negative club’ launched in Iran

HEALTH **TEHRAN** — Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization (IBTO) has set up “O negative club” joining by O negative blood donors, in cooperation with the Emergency Medical Services, an official with IBTO has said.

In accidents or road crashes, there is seldom enough time to determine the blood type of the patients with a life-threatening hemorrhage, so, the most certain way to save the patient's life is to use universal donor type of O negative, Abbas Sedaqat said, ISNA reported on Saturday.

There is a continuous demand for O negative donors, because, in relative terms, the consumption of emergency blood in hospitals exceeds the number of donors, he added.

“I call on all O negative donors to join the club, since their blood can be received by anyone, regardless of blood type and save the lives of many people,” he stated.

He went on to say that people who decide to become member of the club can visit the official website of the Blood Transfusion Organization and register, accordingly, their information can help us in case of emergencies.

“But given the novelty of the issue, we will implement it gradually so that it can benefit us in a long run, and even we may be able to share the experience with other countries in the future,” he concluded.

In June, Emergency Medical Services director Pir Hossein Kulivand said that helicopter emergency medical service provider plans to transport and transfuse blood on the scene, since some 8 percent of the deaths in road crashes often result from major internal hemorrhage or severe blood loss.

It is typical for medics to either use a saline solution to replace the volume lost—although this does not replace the oxygen-carrying ability of the shed blood—wait for blood supplies to be transported from local hospitals by police or ground ambulances, or transfer the patient to the nearest hospital.

But they all are a time-consuming methodology, potentially complicated by a lack of blood supplies at hospitals, or any number of possible hindrances, from heavy traffic to impassable terrain,



In the event of an emergency, trauma patients and accident victims are given a fighting chance at life due to O negative blood transfusion. You may hear that “O negative blood is the type they carry on the medical helicopters”. This is often the case when there is no time to ask questions.

therefore, it is necessary for helicopter emergency medical services maintain an independent supply of blood for use during transport.

■ O negative blood donors, gives not takers

Those with O- can only receive from other O- donors. However, O- blood type is the universal red blood cell donor because their red blood cells can be transfused into any patient, regardless of blood type.

As an O negative blood donor you have a particularly unique opportunity to help people in emergency situations. According to the carterbloodcare.org O negative blood cells are called “universal” meaning they can be transfused to almost any patient in need, and only 6.6% of the population has O negative blood.

In the event of an emergency, trauma patients and accident victims are given a fighting chance at life due to O negative blood transfusion. You may hear

that “O negative blood is the type they carry on the medical helicopters”. This is often the case when there is no time to ask questions.

Additionally, O negative red blood cells are safest for newborn infants with under-developed immune systems. Your commitment to regular and frequent donations is especially important to maintain sufficient supplies for our community. Patients are grateful for your “gift of life”.

Stress-regulating brain area larger in depression, bipolar

The left side of the hypothalamus was revealed to be 5 percent larger in a new study of people with affective disorders such as depression and bipolar.

New research emphasizes the role of the hypothalamus (depicted here) in depression and bipolar disorder.

Over 16 million adults in the United States have had at least one episode of major depression during the past year.

In fact, depression is one of the most prevalent mental health problems in the U.S.

At least 9 million more people aged 18 and over are living with bipolar disorder, according to the National Institute of Mental Health.

The precise underlying causes for both of these conditions remain unknown, but neuroscientists are unraveling more and more aspects that can affect a person's chances of developing these disorders.

■ The neurobiological roots of depression

Functional MRI and other new imaging techniques have allowed researchers to locate several brain areas and networks that are at play in affective disorders. For instance, in the case of depression, studies have found treatment-resistant depression is associated with decreased hippocampal volume and a smaller amygdala.

The hippocampus is a region area heavily involved in memory formation and learning, whereas the amygdala is a small brain structure involved in emotional processing and the response to what is perceived as danger or stress.

In fact, the entire endocrine stress response system, or “HPA-axis,” is disrupted in people who have depression. The axis between the hypothalamus, the pituitary gland, and the adrenal glands is overactive, which previous research established as a “core neurobiological feature of major depression.”

Normally, the HPA-axis raises levels of the stress hormone cortisol to ensure that the body is better equipped to handle a situation perceived as dangerous or threatening.

After the threat passes, the HPA-axis is also responsible for lowering cortisol and diminishing other stress responses back to normal levels.

However, in the case of individuals with depression, these structures are in “overdrive” even in the absence of objective danger. New research aimed to clarify the role of the hypothalamus in this hyperactive chain reaction.

A team led by Stephanie Schindler, a doctoral researcher working in the Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy at University Hospital Leipzig in Germany, studied the volume of the hypothalamus in affective disorders such as bipolar disorder and depression.

The findings were published in the journal *Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica*.

Schindler and her team examined the brains of 84 people, of whom: 20 had depression but did not take any medication for it, 20 had depression but also took medication, 21 lived with bipolar, and 23 were controls who did not have an affective disorder.

(Source: Medical News Today)

TASHRIFAT INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE AGENCY

**SATISFACTION
GUARANTEED**

APARTMENT

Jordan
4 Bdrs,fully
furn,260sq.m,spj,\$3000

Jordan
3Bdrs,fully furn,2nd fl.,250
sq.m,spj,,\$2500

Darous
2Bdrs,fully furn,3rd fl.,brand
new,100 sqm,lobby
€1600

Zaferaniyeh-Yekta,
Apartment-villa
French-style
3Bdrs,fully furn 360 sq.m.sp,
€5000

Valiasre-Bagheferdos
3 Bdrs,fully furn,brand
new,5th fl., 150 sq.m ,indoor
spj,\$1900

Mirdamad-Naft
3 Bdrs,fully furn,5th fl.,200
sq.m, \$ 2000
Close to Paladium Shopping
center
3Bdrs,180 sq.m,fully
furn,lobby,sp,garden,\$2000

VILLA

Elahiye
Triplex-800 sq.m built up,1000
sq.m land,Semi-furn,7
Bdrs,spj,\$9000

Zaferaniyeh
Duplex, 4 Bdrs,unfurn,350
sq.m,spj,\$8000

Niavaran
2000 sq.m land,green
garden,500 sq.m built up
area,indoor spj,4Bdrs,fully
furn,triplex,\$15000

Darous
1000 sq.m land,400 sq.m built
up area, flat.4 Bdrs,spj.\$7000

Jordan
850 sq.m land,500 sq.m
built up,5 Bdrs,spj,furn/
unfurn,duplex,\$7000



Mr. Shahin

Nobody does it better

09121081212

Since: 1987

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

Tel: 22723121

tehranfirstchoice@gmail.com

**We give service with a
difference... We care!**
✓ Long & Short term rentals
✓ Purchase Properties

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

OFFICE

From 50 to 8000 sq.m available
With all facilities in different
areas

Jordan
100 sq.m,3
rooms,parking,brand new
3rd fl.,\$1700

Valiasre
150 sq.m brand new, all
facilities,5th fl.,\$2300

Vozara
250 sq.m,all facilities
8th fl.,,\$4000

Mirdamad-Naft
120 sq.m,6th fl., \$1700

vanak
shariati
pasdaran
shahrak gharb
saadatabad
4000-3000-5000-4000-1000
sq.m,full,reasonable price

FOR: EMBASSY/COMPANY

Jordan,
4-storey building,1000 sq.m,
all facilities,\$10000

Zaferaniyeh
Triplex villa,800 sq.m,built
up,1000 sq.m land,12
rooms,\$8500

Niavaran
Triplex villa,2000 sq.m
land,600 sq.m built up ,spj,all
facilities,\$15000

Darous
Duplex villa,600 sq.m built
up,1000 sq.m land ,all
facilities,\$8000

Other areas:
Farmaniyeh
Aghdasiyeh
Shahrak Gharb
Shariati-Pasdaran

Valiasre
Tajrish
Jordan
Vanak
Arjantin
Zafar...
nice cases ready to move in.

Over 93000 online jobs were created in IT in 1396

TECHNOLOGY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Over 93,700 job opportunities were created in the field of smart transportation system, e-commerce and mobile applications in Iran during the previous Iranian calendar year 1396 (March 2017- March 2018), the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) announced in a press release last week.

The development of digital economy as a crucial field in strengthening knowledge-based economy was a high priority during the past year, the ministry announced.

The ministry has provided long-term and short-term approaches in order to support entrepreneurship in the field of ICT in recent years.

According to a recent report by the E-Commerce Development Center of Iran, in the previous calendar year 72 percent of e-commerce businesses were run with less than five persons and only six percent of them were companies with more than 30 staff.

Some 43 percent individuals who are active in the field of e-commerce are 30 to 40 years old, and 36 percent between 20 to 30 years old. Meanwhile, only nine percent of e-commerce managers are women.

SOCIALLY SAFE

Spam and scam email safety tips

Email is both an excellent communication tool and also a way that companies can inform you about their latest products and services. However, email is frequently used to deliver unwanted material which is at best, annoying and at worst, malicious — causing considerable harm to your computer and yourself.

These include the following:

■ Spam (or Junk) email

- Always be vigilant when receiving or responding to emails.
- Make sure your spam filter is always switched on to minimise the risks.



The vast majority of email sent every day is unsolicited junk mail. How spammers obtain your email address?

- Using automated software to generate addresses.
- Enticing people to enter their details on fraudulent websites.
- Hacking into legitimate websites to gather users' details.
- Buying email lists from other spammers.
- Inviting people to click through to fraudulent websites posing as spam email cancellation services.
- From names/addresses in the cc line, or in the body of emails which have been forwarded and the previous participants have not been deleted.
- The very act of replying to a spam email confirms to spammers that your email address exists.

■ How to spot spam

Spam emails may feature some of the following warning signs:

- You don't know the sender.
- Contains misspellings designed to fool spam filters.
- Makes an offer that seems too good to be true.
- The subject line and contents do not match.
- Contains an urgent offer end date (for example "Buy now and get 50% off").
- Contains a request to forward an email to multiple people, and may offer money for doing so.
- Contains a virus warning.
- Contains attachments, which could include .exe files.

■ The risks

- It can contain viruses and spyware.
- It can be a vehicle for online fraud, such as phishing.
- Unwanted email can contain offensive images.
- Manual filtering and deleting is very time-consuming.
- It takes up space in your inbox.
- Use email safely
- Do not open emails which you suspect as being scams.
- Do not forward emails which you suspect as being scams.
- Do not open attachments from unknown sources.
- If in doubt, contact the person or organization the email claims to have been sent by ... better safe than sorry.
- Do not readily click on links in emails from unknown sources.

Instead, roll your mouse pointer over the link to reveal its true destination, displayed in the bottom left corner of your screen. Beware if this is different from what is displayed in the text of the link from the email.

- Do not respond to emails from unknown sources.
- Do not make purchases or charity donations in response to spam email.
- Don't click on 'remove' or reply to unwanted email.
- Check junk mail folders regularly in case a legitimate email gets through by mistake.

When sending emails to multiple recipients, list their addresses in the 'BCC' (blind copy) box instead of in the 'To' box. In this way, no recipient will see the names of the others, and if their addresses fall into the wrong hands there will be less chance of you or anybody else receiving phishing or spam emails.

- Similarly, delete all addresses of previous parties in the email string, before forwarding or replying.
- If you are suspicious of an email, you can check if it is on a list of known spam and scam emails that some internet security vendors such as McAfee and Symantec feature on their websites.
- Most Microsoft and other email clients come with spam filtering as standard. Ensure yours is switched on.
- Most spam and junk filters can be set to allow email to be received from trusted sources, and blocked from untrusted sources.

When choosing a webmail account such as gmail, Hotmail and Yahoo! Mail, make sure you select one that includes spam filtering and that it remains switched on.

Most internet security packages include spam blocking. Ensure that yours is up to date and has this feature switched on.

(Source: getsafeonline.org)

‘Iran provides infrastructure for e-government’

TECHNOLOGY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran already enjoys infrastructure for electronic government, Information Technology Organization of Iran (ITO) Secretary General Mehdi Faqihi told the ILNA on Friday.

"However, we show weakness in joining the state-run organizations to the e-government network," he lamented.

The e-government is based on citizens' demands and inquiries, he added.

It provides a bilateral relationship between government and citizens, which means that the services are verified according to the feedbacks provided by the users, Faqihi explained.

He urged state-run data centers to have a good cooperation between other organizations in order to perform the e-government in Iran.

For example, the judicial system and the Law Enforcement Forces do not cooperate with the e-government because of their concern about personal privacy of citizens, he said.

"However, such problems can be solved by an appropriate and safe websites of the organizations which provide electronic services to citizens, which is possible with the aid of the technical section," Faqihi stated.

■ Mobile Government in Iran

The first phase of e-government services project in Iran officially came on stream under the title of 'Mobile Government' in mid-May 2018.

The project aims to facilitate some government services, reduce unnecessary expenses and ease traffic jam, which is the main cause of air pollution in big cities.

It is based on the National Information Network, an ongoing project to develop a secure and stable infrastructure network in the country.



Iranian universities to hold Middle East-Europe Forum



TECHNOLOGY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Five Iranian universities will hold the Middle East-Europe Forum (MEEF) from October 19 to 21 on Kish Island's International Convention Center.

The forum aims to boost collaboration in translational research for sustainable future.

The organizers are the University of Tehran, Sharif University of Technology, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Amirkabir University of Technology and Iran University of Medical Sciences.

As it is mentioned on the University of Tehran's website, the hosting universities aim to establish and strength a network of key decision makers in the science systems of Middle Eastern and European research institutions and find solutions to overcome

hurdles for collaboration.

Non-communicable diseases, renewable energy, water and smart cities are the main themes of the event.

Researchers and academics from different European countries including Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland will attend the event.

Participants from Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Palestine, Syria, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Yemen will also attend the forum.

The event aims to bring together a combination of decision makers, strategists, research foundations, universities, researchers and practitioners.

Tehran to host Inter-Islamic Network on Virtual Universities



TECHNOLOGY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran will host the 1st General Assembly of the Inter-Islamic Network on Virtual Universities on September 24.

Tehran's Payam-e Noor University will host the event, which will be held on innovation and development in regional Islamic countries.

Following the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Charter and according to the Article 15 of Resolution of the 14th General Assembly Meeting of Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTech), the COMSTech Inter-Islamic Network on Virtual Universities (CINVU) was suggested to be established to support the

educational and research networks based on ICT technology and knowledge engineering.

The CINVU aims to establish concepts of quality and strategic management patterns in the field of higher education among Muslim countries particularly the OIC member states.

It also aims to promote the status and role of online, open, distance and virtual universities in national, regional and international development projects of Muslim countries, particularly the OIC member states.

The event is cosponsored by the OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

What does Key Performance Indicator mean?



A Key Performance Indicator (KPI) is a measurable value that demonstrates how effectively a company is achieving key business objectives. Organizations use key performance indicators at multiple levels to evaluate their success at reaching targets. High-level KPIs may focus on the overall performance of the enterprise, while low-level KPIs may focus on processes or employees in departments such as sales, marketing or a call center.

■ What makes a KPI effective?

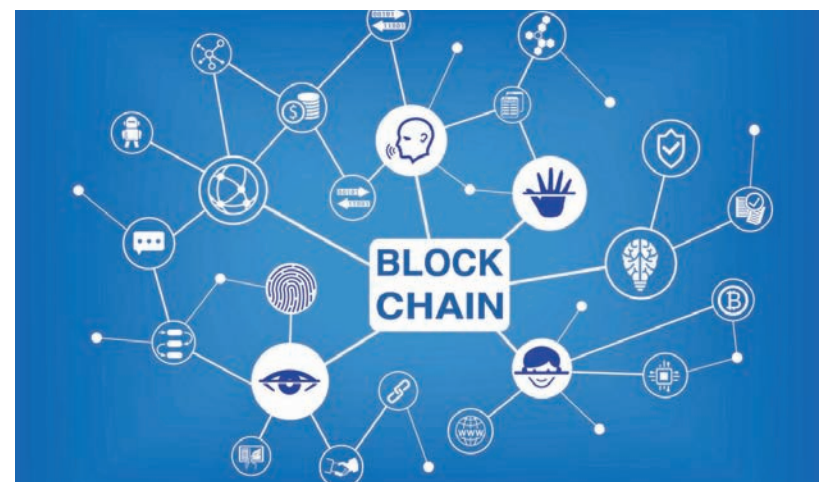
Now that we know KPI stands for key performance indicator it is only as valuable as the action it inspires. Too often, organizations blindly adopt industry-recognized KPIs and then wonder why that KPI doesn't reflect their own business and fails to affect any positive change. One of

the most important, but often overlooked, aspects of KPIs is that they are a form of communication. As such, they abide by the same rules and best-practices as any other form of communication. Succinct, clear and relevant information is much more likely to be absorbed and acted upon. KPIs are an effective tool to help build better performing teams.

In terms of developing a strategy for formulating KPIs, your team should start with the basics and understand what your organizational objectives are, how you plan on achieving them, and who can act on this information. This should be an iterative process that involves feedback from analysts, department heads and managers.

(Source: klipfolio.com)

A beginner's guide to blockchain-Part three



■ Blockchain durability and robustness Blockchain technology is like the internet in that it has a built-in robustness. By storing blocks of information that are identical across its network, the blockchain cannot:

- Be controlled by any single entity.
- Has no single point of failure.

Bitcoin was invented in 2008. Since that time, the Bitcoin blockchain has operated without significant disruption. (To date, any of problems associated with Bitcoin have been due to hacking or mismanagement. In other words, these problems come from bad intention and human error, not flaws in the underlying concepts.)

The internet itself has proven to be durable for almost 30 years. It's a track record that bodes well for blockchain technology

as it continues to be developed.

■ Transparent and incorruptible

The blockchain network lives in a state of consensus, one that automatically checks in with itself every ten minutes. A kind of self-auditing ecosystem of a digital value, the network reconciles every transaction that happens in ten-minute intervals. Each group of these transactions is referred to as a "block". Two important properties result from this:

- Transparency data is embedded within the network as a whole, by definition it is public.

- It cannot be corrupted altering any unit of information on the blockchain would mean using a huge amount of computing power to override the entire network.

(Source: blockgeeks.com)

Praying mantises can actually catch fish, researchers suggest

Praying mantises are what scientists call “generalist” hunters, meaning they eat pretty much whatever they want. Despite their eclectic taste, however, no one has ever seen a praying mantis eat fish — until now.

These formidable insects have been observed to eat other insects (especially fly-like bugs), lizards, frogs, snakes, turtles, mice, and even small birds (namely hummingbirds and brown creepers). Mantises are able to do so on account of their excellent 3D vision and powerful front legs, which they use to snatch unwary prey.

So yes, their taste in prey is diverse, but apparently it's even more diverse than we thought. Last year in India, a team of scientists led by Roberto Battiston from the Museums Canal di Brenta in Italy watched as a single mantis munched on nine guppy fish over several days. The resulting paper, published yesterday in the *Journal of Orthoptera Research*, is now the first to document fish-eating behavior in a mantis species.

■ In terms of versatility
The unprecedented observation is changing what we know of praying mantises in terms of their versatility, physical capabilities, and intelligence.
Observations of this 2.2-inch-long male mantis (*Hierodula tenuidentata*) are made



in a private roof garden in Karnataka, India. The garden may be artificial, but the researchers say it's a very close approximation of mantises' natural habitat, featuring wasps,

butterflies, spiders, and several planters. The team observed the mantis as it hunted and devoured the guppies, also known as rainbow fish, in a pond, which it did for five

The unprecedented observation is changing what we know of praying mantises in terms of their versatility, physical capabilities, and intelligence.

days in a row. In total, the mantis ate nine fish, at a minimum rate of two per day.

In seven cases, the mantid started eating from the tail. On a single occasion, he started from the head and on another, from the top side. On the first four of the five days, the mantid was observed to hunt and devour two fish. The second fish was hunted within 10–30 mins of consuming the first one. After the fifth day, the mantid disappeared and was not observed again at the pond.

■ Human interference
The feedings were not manipulated by the observers and occurred without any human interference, according to the paper. The mantis reached the fish by perching on leaves of water lilies and water cabbage. First, it shows how amazingly adaptable these insects really are. Fish don't move like lizards, locusts, hummingbirds, or flies, yet this mantis was able to snatch the guppies when they swam near the surface.
The mantis devoured nine of the 40 fish in the pond over a five-day period, “showing the potential for a single invertebrate to have a strong impact on the fish community and, since guppies, like many other small fish, are active predators of aquatic insects, indirectly on the whole pond ecosystem,” the authors write.

(Source: gizmodo.com)

Japan’s Hayabusa 2 mission lands on the surface of a distant asteroid

The coolest mission you haven't heard of just hit a major milestone: the Japanese Hayabusa 2 probe has reached its destination, the asteroid Ryugu, and just deployed a pair of landers to its surface. Soon it will touch down itself and bring a sample of Ryugu back to Earth.

Hayabusa 2 is, as you might guess, a sequel to the original Hayabusa, which like this one was an asteroid sampling mission. So this whole process isn't without precedent, though some of you may be surprised that asteroid mining is essentially old hat now.

But as you might also guess, the second mission is more advanced than the first. Emboldened by and having learned much from the first mission, Hayabusa 2 packs more equipment and plans a much longer stay at its destination.

That destination is an asteroid in an orbit between the Earth and Mars named Ryugu. Ryugu is designated “Type C,” meaning it is thought to have considerable amounts of water and organic materials, making it an exciting target for learning about the possibilities of extraterrestrial life and the history of this (and perhaps other) solar systems.

It launched in late 2014 and spent the next several years in a careful approach that would put it in a stable orbit above the asteroid; it finally arrived this summer. And this week it descended to within 55 meters of the surface and dropped off two of four landers it brought with.

■ Hopping around the surface
The “MINERVA” landers are intended to hop around the surface, with each leap



lasting some 15 minutes due to the low gravity there. They'll take pictures of the surface, test the temperature, and generally investigate wherever they land.

The landers had apparently safely landed but were on the far side of the asteroid and had not made contact with the mothership.

Waiting for deployment are one more MINERVA and MASCOT, a newly developed lander that carries more scientific instruments but isn't as mobile. It'll look more closely at the magnetic qualities of the asteroid and also non-invasively check the minerals on the surface.

The big news will come next year, when Hayabusa 2 itself drops down to the surface with the “small carry-on impactor,” which it will use to create a crater and sample below the surface of Ryugu. This thing is great. It's basically a giant bullet: a 2-kilogram copper plate mounted in front of an explosive, which when detonated fires the plate towards the target at about two kilometers per second, or somewhere around 4,400 miles per hour.

(Source: techcrunch.com)

Researchers say new battery gobbles up carbon dioxide

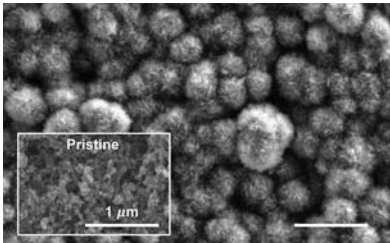
A new type of battery developed by researchers at MIT could be made partly from carbon dioxide captured from power plants. Rather than attempting to convert carbon dioxide to specialized chemicals using metal catalysts, which is currently highly challenging, this battery could continuously convert carbon dioxide into a solid mineral carbonate as it discharges.

While still based on early-stage research and far from commercial deployment, the new battery formulation could open up new avenues for tailoring electrochemical carbon dioxide conversion reactions, which may ultimately help reduce the emission of the greenhouse gas to the atmosphere.

The battery is made from lithium metal, carbon, and an electrolyte that the researchers designed. The findings are described today in the journal *Joule*, in a paper by assistant professor of mechanical engineering Betar Gallant, doctoral student Aliza Khurram, and postdoc Mingfu He.

■ Carbon-capture systems
Currently, power plants equipped with carbon capture systems generally use up to 30 percent of the electricity they generate just to power the capture, release, and storage of carbon dioxide. Anything that can reduce the cost of that capture process, or that can result in an end product that has value, could significantly change the economics of such systems, the researchers say.

However, “carbon dioxide is not very reactive,” Gallant explains, so “trying to find new reaction pathways is important.” Generally, the only way to get carbon dioxide to exhibit significant activity under electrochemical conditions is with large energy inputs in the form



of high voltages, which can be an expensive and inefficient process.

Ideally, the gas would undergo reactions that produce something worthwhile, such as a useful chemical or a fuel. However, efforts at electrochemical conversion, usually conducted in water, remain hindered by high energy inputs and poor selectivity of the chemicals produced.

Gallant and her co-workers, whose expertise has to do with nonaqueous (not water-based) electrochemical reactions such as those that underlie lithium-based batteries, looked into whether carbon-dioxide-capture chemistry could be put to use to make carbon-dioxide-loaded electrolytes -- one of the three essential parts of a battery -- where the captured gas could then be used during the discharge of the battery to provide a power output.

This approach is different from releasing the carbon dioxide back to the gas phase for long-term storage, as is now used in carbon capture and sequestration, or CCS. That field generally looks at ways of capturing carbon dioxide from a power plant through a chemical absorption process and then either storing it in underground formations or chemically altering it into a fuel or a chemical feedstock.

(Source: eurekalert.org)

Diverse tree portfolio weathers droughts better, ecologists find

You've probably heard the financial advice that a diversified portfolio is better in turbulent times? Well that same wisdom may hold true for our stocks of trees. Because ecologists say forests with a diversity of trees are better at weathering drought. The reason:

“There's a huge difference and a huge diversity of water transport strategies in trees,” William Anderegg is an ecologist at the University of Utah. “It's everything from having deeper roots or shallower roots, to having these pipes that are incredibly well armored to withstand drought or incredibly weak in the face



of drought.”
Anderegg and his team studied droughts in 40 forests around the world. And the

forests with diverse tree populations, with a mix of water-management strategies, did better than forests made up of just one or a few species. Could be a couple reasons for that.

“One is that there are other forces that are acting on the ecosystem at the same time. Other stressors like insect attack, or other things they're competing for, competing for light and for nutrients, and this is why a more diverse forest is going to be more functional. It'll be more resilient to drought but maybe also have higher carbon uptake rates over the long term.”

The second possibility, he says, is that

a monoculture of drought-ready trees may look really resilient to drought. “Up until the drought is severe enough that a whole bunch of the trees shut down or even die. That threshold cliff response you would get in a one species forest and you may not get in a diverse forest.” The full report is in the journal *Nature*.

The lesson for land managers, he says, is that forest restoration efforts following wildfires and disease outbreaks might want to focus on planting a diverse portfolio of tree species. So that even if water plummets, tree stocks will, hopefully, remain stable.

(Source: Scientific American)

SINA Bank Appreciates Partnership of Depositors in Interest-Free Saving Accounts

SINA Bank praised philanthropic and humanitarian behavior of depositors of the bank in opening interest-free saving accounts, the Public Relations Dept. of the bank reported.

For this purpose, outstanding and philanthropic act of depositors was praised in Interest-Free Saving Account Festival.

The deadline for participating in the drawing lot festival ended on Sept. 22 and winners of the drawing lot will be announced in late Oct.

The bank cordially requested fellow countrymen to maintain the balance of their account up to the organizing date of

drawing lot intact in order to take advantage of valuable prize at the second edition of the drawing lot for interest-free loan saving accounts.

The cash gifts of the bank include as follows: five cash gifts for purchasing house, each worth 1 billion rials, 5 cash gifts for

purchasing Iranian made car, each worth 250 million rials, 10 cash gifts for purchasing domestic product, each worth 100 million rials, 10 cash gifts for making pilgrimage to the holy sites, each worth 20 million rials, as well as billions rials of other cash prizes, the Public Relations Dept. of the bank concluded.

Immunizing Oil Transfer Pipeline Using Composite with High Mechanical Properties in Isfahan

A knowledge-based company in Isfahan province embarked on immunizing oil transfer pipeline using composite with high mechanical properties, the Public Relations Dept. of Iranian Oil Pipeline & Telecommunication Company (IOPTC) reported.

The immunizing operation using composite method with high mechanical properties launched in Isfahan province.

For his part, Rahmatollah Mesbah Head of Corrosion Protection Unit of the company said, “at the unsparing and unflinching effort of expert engineers of the company, the operations of identifying, drilling, strengthening pipeline using composite method was conducted in 124-147 km away from oil transfer pipelines numbers 3 and 4 in Isfahan province.

Using composite with high mechanical

properties is one of the methods of strengthening pipeline, he said, adding, “the aforementioned areas have had vast corrosions in the length of route due to the vicinity with the residential houses and farmlands. According to the available information, relevant composite was designed by one of the knowledge-based companies and all defects were removed completely.”

Alireza Moradpour Head of Mechanic Unit of Isfahan revealed the reverse engineering of conical valve gearbox of metering system of Shahid Beheshti Oil Transfer Center.

Expert engineers of the unit managed to manufacture the desired parts and equipment using facilities of the private sector through reverse engineering, the Public Relations Dept. of the company concluded.

Scientists solve the mystery of dickinsonia: The ‘holy grail’ of paleontology

Scientists have found molecules of fat believed to be from the earliest confirmed animal that existed some 550 million years ago.

Australian National University researchers discovered a well-preserved Dickinsonia fossil, with the organic matter still intact, in a remote area northwest of Russia near the White Sea. They call the discovery a “game changer.”

The Dickinsonia, a jellyfish-like creature, has long been a puzzle for the scientific community. It was classified as Ediacaran biota, a now-extinct life form that emerged from the seas as early as 570 million years ago. The Ediacaran biota critters are also the earliest complex life on Earth.

However, scientists have always found it a problem to determine what exactly is the creature. It has been classified as either fungus, a protist, or an animal but no one knows for sure.

To study the fossil, the team of researchers developed a new approach to unlock the history that was coded into it. While paleontologists usually study the structure of a fossil, researchers from ANU extracted molecules inside the fossil to make the breakthrough.

“Most rocks containing these fossils such as those from the Ediacara Hills in Australia have endured a lot of heat, a lot of pressure, and then they were weathered after that,” explained Ilya Bobrovskiy, a co-author of the study, “these are the rocks that paleontologists studied for many decades, which explained why they were stuck on the question of Dickinsonia’s true identity.”

Bobrovskiy also said that Dickinsonia and other Ediacaran biota fossils hold the key to understanding the time between the world dominated by bacteria and the emergence of large animals 540 million years ago called “Cambrian explosion.” The Cambrian explosion happened when complex animals, as well as macroscopic organisms, began dominating the fossil record around the world.

(Source: Tech Times)

NASA’s Mars Maven craft captures selfie on fourth birthday

The MAVEN mission to Mars entered the upper atmosphere of the planet four years ago as of Friday and NASA is celebrating with one of its signature space selfies.

The composite image, made up of 21 images, was released Friday on NASA’s website and shows the craft taken by the Imaging Ultraviolet Spectrograph, or IUVS, instrument on the craft.

The craft is in orbit around the planet studying the interaction between the upper atmosphere and the solar wind and the sun. Usually, the IUVS is used to image the ultraviolet emissions coming from the upper atmosphere of the planet, according to NASA.

NASA has a history of making it possible for its craft to take selfies in space, the Mars Curiosity Rover has taken many over the years it's been on the planet. The MAVEN's IUVS is mounted on the end of boom, similar to a selfie stick.

While Friday was the anniversary of the craft entering orbit it actually launched nearly five years ago, in November 18, 2013, from Launch Complex 21 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. The rocket used to launch it was a United Launch Alliance Atlas V and it took the craft 10 months to reach Mars.

The craft is working to study the climate of Mars and how that climate has changed over the years, to help provide insight into how Earth's climate is changing over thousands of years. It has already made a series of discoveries about Mars.

MAVEN found that the loss of the atmosphere on Mars contributed greatly to the climate change on the Red Planet and found two new types of auroras occurring on the planet as well. It's primary mission concluded nearly three years ago in November of 2015 and was extended because it was still doing productive work.

(Source: Newsweek)

Gaia hints at our Galaxy’s turbulent life, scientists say

ESA’s star mapping mission, Gaia, has shown our Milky Way galaxy is still enduring the effects of a near collision that set millions of stars moving like ripples on a pond.

The close encounter likely took place sometime in the past 300-900 million years. It was discovered because of the pattern of movement it has given to stars in the Milky Way disc -- one of the major components of our Galaxy.

The pattern was revealed because Gaia not only accurately measures the positions of more than a billion stars but also precisely measures their velocities on the plane of the sky. For a subset of a few million stars, Gaia provided an estimate of the full three-dimensional velocities, allowing a study of stellar motion using the combination of position and velocity, which is known as ‘phase space’.




In phase space, the stellar motions revealed an interesting and totally unexpected pattern when the star's positions were plotted against their velocities. Teresa Antoja from Universitat de Barcelona, Spain, who led the research couldn't quite believe her eyes when she first saw it on her computer screen.

One shape in particular caught her attention. It was a snail shell-like pattern in the graph that plotted the stars' altitude above or below the plane of the Galaxy against their velocity in the same direction. It had never been seen before.

“At the beginning the features were very weird to us,” says Antoja. “I was a bit shocked and I thought there could be a problem with the data because the shapes are so clear.”

But the Gaia data had undergone multiple validation tests by the Gaia Data Processing and Analysis Consortium teams all over Europe before release. Also, together with collaborators, Antoja had performed many tests on the data to look for errors that could be forcing such shapes on the data. Yet no matter what they checked, the only conclusion they could draw was that these features do indeed exist in reality.

(Source: Science Daily)




N.I.O.C
1397.2932

Second Announcement

Call for public tender (First/Second publish)
One Stages tender

Subject of Tender: P/F " GEO-DATA" MUD LOGGING UNIT



National Iranian Drilling Company

- Tender descriptions:**

| The Tender holder | Registration No. through national electronic tendering system | Tender No. /Indent No. | Estimated value (Rial/Euro) |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|
| National Iranian Drilling Company | 3,174,968 | Tender No.: FP/12-97/026 Indent No.: 08-23-9645064 | 2,921,695,257 |

- Qualitative evaluation of tenderers**

| Method | |
|--------|--|
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The evaluation will be made subject to submission of needed certificates in meeting for opening the received tenderer's proposals. |

- Purchasing & Submitting**

| | | |
|--|---------------------------|---|
| Tender Document Distribution by Company | Distribution Place | Hall No. 113, 1 st floor, Foreign Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN |
| | Submitting Method | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of 510,000 Iranian Rials under account number 4001114004020491 (Shaba No. IR 520100004001114004020491) in name of "NIDC Income Centralized Fund" issued by I.R. of Iran Central Bank. Submitting formal Request for the purpose of receiving Tender Documents. |
| Documents Receiving Method | Closing date | Days after the last time of Purchasing. (closing date 1397/08/21 - Nov 12,2018) 35 (The envelopes will be opened At 9 a.m On 1397/08/22 -- Nov 13,2018 |
| | Address | Hall No. 107, 1 st floor, Tender Committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. Tel: +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569 |

- Tender Guarantee**

| | |
|---|---|
| Value of guarantee | 146,100,000 Rial/ 3,012 Euro |
| Type of guarantee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt under account number 4001114006376636 (Shaba No. IR 350100004001114006376636) in name of "NIDC saving account" by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran. |
| Duration of credit & quotation | Tender Guarantee and quotation should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one time in initial validity duration. |

(Contracts Department)

Guarantee and More of this & other tenders are accessible by click on:

www.nidc.ir <http://sapp.ir/nidc-pr>

تهران تایمز نوبت اول ۹۷/۰۷/۱ نوبت دوم ۹۷/۰۷/۲

Crisis in Yemen: Drivers stand in long queues in Sana'a to get fuel

A major fuel shortage has hit the Yemeni capital Sana'a, with drivers queuing for hours just to get a can of fuel from overcrowded petrol stations.

Severely restricted imports due to fighting in the port city of Hudaydah account for much of the fuel shortage. The Red Sea port reportedly accounts for around 70 percent of Yemen's basic commodity imports, including fuel. A plunge in the value of the Yemeni rial against the dollar has also reportedly seen fuel prices double on the black market in the past week.

■ **UAE completes withdrawal of troops from Yemen's Mahrah province: report**

Meantime, the last batch of Emirati troops, who had served in the House of Saud regime-led military coalition in Yemen's eastern province of Mahrah, have arrived home after Abu Dhabi ordered them to withdraw.

Informed sources, requesting anonymity, told Arabic-language Yemen Shabab television network on Saturday that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) withdrew its forces the previous day, and handed over buildings used by its troops to local authorities.

The sources added that mercenaries and military advisers from African countries would most likely replace Emirati soldiers. The UAE is Saudi Arabia's key ally in its deadly war against Yemen.

On Saturday, Yemeni army soldiers, supported by allied fighters from Popular Committees, targeted the positions of Saudi-sponsored militiamen loyal to Yemen's



former president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi at the al-Alab border crossing of the kingdom's southern region of Asir.

There were no immediate reports about possible casualties or the extent of damage caused.

Separately, an elderly woman sustained injuries when Saudi rockets and mortar shells rained down on residential areas in the Razih district of Yemen's northwestern mountainous province of Sa'ada.

Moreover, two civilians lost their lives and another two suffered serious injuries when a Saudi regime airstrike hit a cold

storage at Kilo 16 area of al-Hali district in the strategic western Yemeni province of Hudaydah.

A Saudi regime airstrike against a car rental company in the July 7 area of the same Yemeni province also injured two civilians and left a number of cars burnt out.

■ **High-profile Saudi regime-backed commander slain in northern Yemen**

Additionally, a senior commander of Saudi mercenaries has been killed during clashes with Houthi Ansarullah fighters in Yemen's northern province of Hajjah.

Brigadier General Ali Hazza al-Sayadi, the commander of the Special Forces Brigade in Harad, was reportedly targeted in the Harad district of the province on Saturday evening.

■ **Yemeni ballistic missile targets Saudi Jizan Airport**

Meanwhile, Yemeni army forces, supported by allied fighters from Popular Committees, fired a domestically-designed and -developed ballistic missile at a strategic economic target in Saudi Arabia's southwestern border region of Jizan in retaliation for the Riyadh regime's devastating military aggression against their impoverished country.

A Yemeni military source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the short-range Badr-1 missile struck Jizan Airport, also known as King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Airport, with great precision, Arabic-language al-Masirah television network reported.

The House of Saud regime and a number of its regional allies launched a devastating military campaign against Yemen in March 2015, with the aim of bringing the government of Hadi back to power and crushing the country's popular Ansarullah (Houthi) movement.

Some 15,000 Yemenis have been killed and thousands more injured since the onset of the Saudi-led aggression.

More than 2,200 others have died of cholera, and the crisis has triggered what the United Nations has described as the world's worst humanitarian disaster.

(Source: Press TV)

U.S. rights groups slam new immigration rules

Rights groups in the United States have slammed a plan by the United States President Donald Trump administration to deny green cards to immigrants who receive public benefits such as food stamps.

On Saturday, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) listed a wide range of benefits which, if claimed, could disqualify the U.S. immigrants seeking visas or green cards, or prevent immigrants already in the U.S. from changing their legal status.

People applying for green cards already have to prove that they will not become a burden on the state, and are penalized for claiming cash benefits.

The new rules would extend those measures to non-cash benefits, such as food stamps and housing vouchers, which are considered "heavily weighed negative factors" in obtaining legal permanent status.

"This proposed rule will implement a law passed by Congress intended to promote immigrant self-sufficiency and protect finite resources by ensuring that they are not likely to become burdens on American taxpayers," Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said in a statement issued on Saturday.

Immigration rights groups condemned the proposal. Marielena Hincapie, executive director of the National Immigration Law Center, called the plan "another cruel step" by the Trump administration.

"How you contribute to your community - and not what you look like or the contents of your wallet - should be what matters most," she said in a statement.

"This proposed rule does the opposite and makes clear that the Trump administration continues to prioritize money over family unity by ensuring that only the wealthiest can afford to build a future in this country."

In a tweet, the American Civil Liberties Union said the move constituted a "new attempt to kick and keep immigrants out of our country and attack people with disabilities".

The Legal Aid Society echoed concerns that the rule could create a situation where immigrants forgo much-needed assistance for fears of negatively impacting their applications.

"If adopted, the rule will create a nationwide health crisis impacting millions, and deter families from seeking vital medical care when they need it the most," Attorney-in-Charge Adriene Holder said in a statement.



"This proposal is radical and dangerous, and wholly against our values and principles as a nation founded by immigrants."

The DHS estimated the rule would affect just over 382,200 immigrants applying to adjust their status to lawful permanent residents each year.

(Source: agencies)

U.S. Supreme Court nominee's accuser agrees to testify before Senate

Christine Blasey Ford, the woman who has accused the United States Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual assault, has agreed to testify before a Senate panel.

The Senate Judiciary Committee and lawyers for Ford reached a tentative agreement on Saturday for her to publicly testify before the panel on Thursday.

"Dr. Ford accepts the Committee's request to provide her first-hand knowledge of Brett Kavanaugh's sexual misconduct next week," Debra Katz and Lisa Banks, attorneys representing Ford, wrote in a message to the committee.

This comes after a brief call late on Satur-

day between the woman's lawyers and aides to Senator Charles E. Grassley of Iowa, the Republican chairman of the Judiciary Committee. Aides to Senator Dianne Feinstein of California, the committee's top Democrat, were also part of the negotiations.

They decided to continue the negotiations over the conditions of the testimony on Sunday morning, according to three people familiar with the call.

Meanwhile, Kavanaugh's allies quickly reacted to the agreement, saying that it does not mean that Ford accepted the committee's invitation to testify.

"This is not an 'acceptance' of anything

at all. The email doesn't even say she will testify. It says she will 'provide her firsthand knowledge' but it doesn't say how. It says she will do so 'next week' but doesn't say when. And it says the rest of the terms are still up for negotiation. It 'accepts' nothing at all, but the language is very carefully calculated to give her credit for having accepted," a source close to the process who is a supporter of Kavanaugh told CNN.

White House spokeswoman Kerri Kupec also responded in kind, saying, "Brett Kavanaugh has been clear from the beginning — he categorically and unequivocally denies this allegation and is eager to testify

publicly to defend his integrity and clear his good name."

President Donald Trump said on Friday that Kavanaugh was born to be one of the judges on the Supreme Court, emphasizing that "it's going to happen."

The Senate panel postponed the vote on Kavanaugh's confirmation after Ford disclosed the allegation of assault last week, saying that the judge sexually assaulted her back in the 1980s.

The panel must approve Kavanaugh's confirmation before a vote by the full Senate, where Republicans hold a 51-49 majority.

(Source: agencies)

U.S. says won't hesitate to impose sanctions over fuel to North Korea

The United States State Department said on Saturday that Washington would not wait to impose sanctions on any shippers helping to get fuel to North Korea, in an apparent warning to Russia days after the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations accused Moscow of cheating on the measures.

North Korea continues to employ tactics to evade UN sanctions, Heather Nauert, the State Department spokeswoman, said in a statement, adding that UN member states are required to prohibit ship-to-ship transfers of petroleum fuel to the hermit country.

"The United States will not hesitate to impose sanctions on any individual, entity, or vessel supporting North Korea's illicit activities, regardless of nationality," Nauert said.

The 15-member UN Security Council (UNSC) has unanimously boosted sanctions on North Korea since 2006 in a bid to choke funding for Pyongyang's nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

But the United States and Russia have recently shown cracks in the unity of the council over the sanctions.



Washington has "evidence of consistent and wide-ranging Russian violations" of the sanctions, the U.S. ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley said on Monday. Russia was helping North Korea illegally obtain fuel through transfers at sea, had refused to expel a North Korean whom the Security

Council blacklisted last year, and had pushed for changes to an independent UN report on sanctions violations to cover up breaches by Russians, she said.

Russia said after Haley's comments that Moscow had not pressured the authors of the UN report and blamed Haley for heightening tensions.

With the warning on fuel shipments, the Trump administration signaled it was keeping pressure on Pyongyang even after saying there has been progress. President Donald Trump this week hailed a summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, and said there had been "tremendous progress" with North Korea on several fronts including Pyongyang's denuclearization.

Washington has tracked some 148 cases this year of tankers delivering fuel to North Korea in breach of a UN cap of 500,000 barrels a year. Haley has not said how many of those transfers may have involved Russia.

(Source: Reuters)

Iraq not allowing Turkish troops back to Bashika: report

Iraq has refused to allow Turkish troops back into the country following a leave from their bases, a government-affiliated think tank in Baghdad has reported.

According to Al-Nahrain Center for Strategic Studies, the move is in line with the Iraqi government's efforts to put an end to Turkish military presence in the country.

The measure had been adopted over the previous months, withholding visas to the Turkish forces who sought to return to Iraq, Iraqi News website reported on Sunday.

Watheq al-Hashemi, director of the center, said the decision had helped reduce the number of Turkish troops significantly.

"The government's stance of not allowing Turkish soldiers to return will end the Turkish military presence in Bashika without any diplomatic or military friction," he said.

The Bashika camp, al-Hashemi said, is totally cordoned by Iraqi troops and Turkey cannot carry out any plans without the knowledge of Iraqi troops. Turkey has been conducting air raids against areas in northern Iraq, which

serve as safe havens for the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK/Partiya Karkerên Kurdistanê) militants. The militants have been fighting a deadly separatist war against Ankara.

In 2014, Turkey sent troops to Bashika in northern Iraq under the banner of fighting the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group which was defeated in the country late last year.

Baghdad has repeatedly called on Ankara to pull out its forces but Turkey says they will stay as long as the PKK threat persists.

Last Sunday, Iraq announced plans to deploy troops along the border with Turkey in an effort to defend the frontier against any "violations" of its territory and airspace.

The decision was made during a meeting of the Iraqi Ministerial Council for National Security chaired by Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi. The meeting also instructed the Foreign Ministry to "take the necessary measures to document the Turkish violations of Iraqi airspace to the United Nations."

(Source: Press TV)

Turkish-backed militants accept Idlib deal, but reject disarmament

➡ Following the meeting, Putin told a joint news conference with Erdogan that they had agreed to create a demilitarized zone of 15-20 kilometers in Idlib along the contact line between the armed opposition and government troops by October 15.

The agreement involved the withdrawal of "radically-minded" militants, including the al-Nusra Front (Jabhat al-Nusra/Jabhat Fatah al-Sham), from the region, he added.

Erdogan said both Turkey and Russia would carry out coordinated military patrols on the borders of the buffer zone in a bid to detect and prevent "provocation by third parties and violations of the agreement."

On Friday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov announced that Moscow and Ankara had agreed on borders of the demilitarized zone around Idlib.

The Huras al-Din (Guardians of Religion Organization) militant group which includes foreign elements rejected the Idlib buffer zone deal, however.

The terrorist outfit also advised its members "in this decisive and dangerous phase ... (to) begin military operations against the enemies ... to thwart their plans."

Tahrir al-Sham (Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham/Organization for the Liberation of the Levant/Levant Liberation Committee/HTS), the most powerful Takfiri terrorist group in Idlib, has not declared its stance on the Idlib agreement yet.

Idlib hosts several foreign-sponsored militant groups and separating what Turkey describes as moderates from extremists is almost impossible.

In recent weeks, the Syrian army has been preparing for the liberation of Idlib, drawing support from Iran and Russia, but concerns from Turkey which says it would unleash a fresh influx of Syrian refugees.

(Source: Press TV)

Eight Afghan children killed playing with unexploded mortar shell

Eight children, including four siblings, were killed in Afghanistan when a mortar round they were playing with exploded, adding to the ever-growing civilian death toll in the 17-year war.

Another six children were wounded in the blast on Friday, including two who lost limbs and were in critical condition in a hospital in the northwestern province of Faryab.

All the children were aged between five and 12, relatives said on Saturday.

"They found an unexploded mortar shell and brought it near our house," Shukrullah, an uncle of four of the children killed, told AFP news agency.

"They didn't know what it was and were trying to open it when it suddenly exploded."

Officials were quick to blame the explosion on the Taliban, which last week captured Koh-e-Sayad, the village where the children lived.

Children are often killed or maimed by explosive devices left over from decades of conflict, carelessly discarded, or deliberately planted.

Civilians, including children, have borne the brunt of the conflict that began with the United States-led invasion in 2001 that toppled the Taliban regime.

The United Nations figures show that 3,179 children were killed or wounded in 2017, accounting for almost one-third of the total civilian casualties for the year.

Improvised explosive devices, such as remotely detonated or pressure-plate bombs, killed or wounded 545 children. Unexploded ordnance claimed the lives of 142 children and wounded 376 in the same period.

(Source: AFP)

Change is coming, but when is the question

➡ For the U.S. it's a losing game, if not immediately, then eventually. Countries are beginning to pull away from the U.S. financial "system" and the weaponized dollar like never before. Trade will be increasingly conducted in national currencies, not dollars in coming years.

Countries under attack with sanctions by the U.S., including Iran, can have no better example than Vladimir Putin, who has enshrined a degree of patience and forbearance like few other leaders ever have in perilous circumstances. The callous and cynical ploy by the Zionists to set up a Russian aircraft for destruction off the coast of Syria is an example of this. After the aircraft went down and took the lives of 15 Russians, the Internet was abuzz with a desire to see Putin neutralize Israel and, at the least, establish a no-fly zone over Syria to preclude further Zionist aggression on Syria.

But Putin merely concluded the incident was some sort of "accident", a glitch in the chains of command. It is debatable but had Putin retaliated by shooting down an Israeli aircraft or two, he might have started World War 3? On the other hand, his reaction was measured and sensible: but he won't forget what happened, and if there happens to be a next time, he probably will respond militarily with the full support of most countries.

One day the entire world will understand that there is not a single "war" in the Mideast that the Israelis did not start themselves directly or by pushing its poodles, the U.S. and even Saudis, to aggressive actions. The Zionist regime bears, I think, the ultimate responsibility for millions of deaths in the Middle East over the past 30 years, and wrecked U.S. standing worldwide even if, for the time being, the threat of further U.S. and Israeli aggressions at the margin more or less maintains U.S. dominance, albeit a waning one, across the Mideast and elsewhere.

The U.S. needs a political and policy housecleaning like no other country ever has in my memory, and the sooner the better, for the sake of humanity at large. But if were to occur, perhaps fomented initially by crashing financial markets, it would be difficult for an economy so dependent on the Military Industrial Complex and for "average" Americans, who must somehow discover and grasp the wisdom of radical internal change. As an observer within the U.S., more and more Americans oppose Washington and Trump.

Insigne scores twice in Napoli win

Napoli are second in Serie A after Italy forward Lorenzo Insigne scored twice to help his side win at Torino.

The 27-year-old rifled home the first inside the opening five minutes before Simone Verdi doubled the lead after being set up by Dries Mertens.

Torino scored through Andrea Belotti's penalty before Insigne made it 3-1 with a shot in off the post.

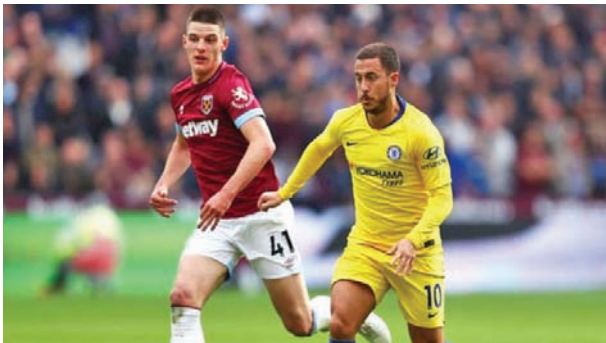
Napoli have won four of their first five league games under former Chelsea boss Carlo Ancelotti.

They entertain mid-table Parma on Wednesday (20:00 BST) before travelling to meet leaders Juventus next Saturday (17:00 BST).

Ancelotti's side are at home to Liverpool in the Champions League on 3 October

(Source: BBC)

Chelsea drop first points of season in draw at West Ham



Chelsea dropped their first Premier League points after a frustrating London derby at West Ham.

The visitors enjoyed 71% of possession at London Stadium, but failed to score for the first time this season.

Despite seeing little of the ball, West Ham had the best chance to win it as Robert Snodgrass picked out the unmarked Andriy Yarmolenko on 78 minutes, but the Ukrainian sent his header wide.

Second-half substitute Alvaro Morata almost made an instant impact for Chelsea, but he was unable to steer the ball past Lukasz Fabianski from close range, as Chelsea missed their chance to keep pace with league leaders Liverpool.

Maurizio Sarri's men remain third after Manchester City won on Saturday, while Manuel Pellegrini's side stay in 17th.

(Source: BBC)

Ravanelli quits after three months as Arsenal Kiev boss



Former Middlesbrough, Juventus and Italy striker Fabrizio Ravanelli has resigned as Arsenal Kiev manager after three months in charge.

Ravanelli oversaw one win, a draw and seven defeats in his nine games, and the side are bottom of the Ukrainian Premier League.

The 49-year-old has complained about "difficult conditions" and players not being paid.

His final match was a 3-1 home defeat by Olympic Donetsk on Saturday.

Ravanelli, who played in the Premier League with Middlesbrough and Derby County, signed a one-year contract with the newly promoted side in June, but said at the time his "wife wasn't very happy with this".

He was a youth coach at Juventus for two years, but Ravanelli's only previous managerial experience was in 2013 when he spent 12 games in charge of French Ligue 1 side Ajaccio.

(Source: Goal)

Real Madrid will 'categorically refuse' U.S. La Liga game - Florentino Perez

Real Madrid president Florentino Perez has said the club would not play a La Liga game in the United States if asked.

La Liga plans to play a domestic game in the U.S. from this season, but players are against the idea and have not ruled out strike action.

The organisation's president, Javier Tebas, is working on getting permission from the Spanish Footballers' Association, the Royal Spanish Football Federation and other organisations to play Girona's home game against Barcelona in Miami on Jan. 26.

Tebas has said whoever does end up going to the U.S. will do so voluntarily, and Perez has said that will not be Madrid.

"We will not go to the United States," he told the club's assembly on Sunday. "I don't know in whose interest it [a game in the U.S.] is, but it is not in the interests of the clubs and the fans. We will categorically refuse."

Diario AS reported that Tebas had said playing a game in the U.S. is "not obligatory for any club" but added: "I'd like to remind that the project to go to play in America was born precisely a year ago with the same company that did the tour with Real Madrid in the U.S."

(Source: ESPN)

Joshua retains heavyweight crowns with Povetkin TKO



Britain's Anthony Joshua delivered a devastating technical knockout in the seventh round to defeat Russian Alexander Povetkin at Wembley Stadium on Saturday and retain his WBA, IBF, WBO and IBO world heavyweight championship belts.

In front of about 80,000 fans, Joshua moved on to 22 fights unbeaten in his professional career by handing the 39-year-old Povetkin only his second defeat but his first by TKO.

Joshua, returning to the arena where he knocked out Ukrainian Wladimir Klitschko in April, 2017 to become a unified heavyweight world champion, was given a hero's reception by the almost capacity crowd.

However, early on it was the smaller challenger who appeared the more inspired by the occasion, despite the constant boos and jeers from the partisan crowd, and he caught the Briton late in the first round with an uppercut on the nose.

Both men had won Olympic gold medals, but it was the youthful energy of the 28-year-old Joshua which proved decisive as Povetkin visibly tired halfway through the contest.

Joshua began dictating with his movement from the fourth round and started to find his range with his right hook.

That was what did for Povetkin, the WBA mandatory challenger, in the seventh when a fearsome right-hander from Joshua landed square on his jaw and sent the Russian to the canvas. He got back to his feet but not for long as an onslaught of punches from the champion led referee Steve Gray to intervene one minute and 59 seconds into the round and give Joshua his 21st win by knockout.

"Povetkin is a very tough challenger, he proved that tonight with good left hooks and

counter punches," Joshua said from inside in the ring.

"I came in here to have fun, and give it my best, I knew he was strong to the head but weak to the body. I was just mixing it up.

"It could have been seven, maybe nine, maybe 12 rounds to get him out of there. But the ultimate aim was to be victorious.

Anderson beats Djokovic again in Laver Cup as Team World hits back



Kevin Anderson took down Novak Djokovic for a second straight night as Team World rallied to win the final two matches and reel Team Europe's lead back to 7-5 after the second day of the Laver Cup in Chicago on Saturday.

South African Anderson led the charge by blasting 17 aces past the Serbian world number three in a 7-6(5) 5-7 10-6 victory that shifted the momentum after the World side had lost the opening two matches of the day to fall 7-1 behind.

"We've had some really close matches haven't gone our way and I really wanted to put us back in there," Anderson, who lost the Wimbledon final to Djokovic earlier this year, told reporters.

"It's not easy playing one of the best players of all time, but what an amazing atmosphere. I felt I played a great match - beating Novak on any stage is great and here in Chicago makes it extra special."

It was another disappointing night for Djokovic, who teamed up with Roger Federer on Friday when the duo suffered a shock

doubles loss to Anderson and Jack Sock.

The 14-times major champion again faltered in a third set, firing a forehand into the net to seal the loss.

"Unfortunately, two lost matches," Djokovic said. "I gave it my best to beat Kevin. He was playing fantastic."

American Sock and Australian Nick Kyrgios combined to win the doubles match finale, beating Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov and David Goffin of Belgium 6-3 6-4.

Earlier in the day, Federer and German Alexander Zverev sparked Europe by winning their singles matches, the Swiss rolling past Kyrgios 6-3 6-2.

Zverev had to grind out his win against American John Isner, the 21-year-old being forced to save a match point before ultimately prevailing 3-6 7-6(6) 10-7.

Team Europe needs another six points to retain the title they won in the inaugural competition last year heading into Sunday's final day, when three points are on the line in each of the four matches.

(Source: Mirror)

Santi Cazorla says Arsenal lacked belief to challenge under Arsene Wenger



Arsenal lacked belief under Arsene Wenger but will have "a great season" under new manager Unai Emery, says former midfielder Santi Cazorla.

Cazorla left the Gunners in the summer to return to Villarreal and is playing again after long-term injury problems.

"We needed to believe in ourselves more," he told Football Focus.

"To believe that we were capable of competing with the big sides in the Premier League and not just settling for third or fourth."

The 33-year-old Spaniard won two FA Cups in six seasons with Arsenal but the closest he came to a title was a second-placed finish in 2015-16, when Wenger's side finished 10 points adrift of champions Leicester.

Arsenal finished fifth in 2016-17 and sixth last season. They have started 2018-19 with three wins and two defeats from their opening five league games and host Everton on Sunday at 16:00 BST.

Cazorla rejected the notion that Arsenal

However, his plan to become the undisputed world heavyweight champion may have to wait a little longer as WBC title holder Deontay Wilder announced earlier on Saturday a showdown with Joshua's compatriot and former world champion Tyson Fury on Dec. 1 in the United States.

(Source: Reuters)

Efficient Pliskova proves too strong for 'tired' Osaka



Former world number one Karolina Pliskova utilised her big serve to full effect to ease to a 6-4 6-4 victory over home favourite and U.S. Open champion Naomi Osaka in the Pan Pacific Open final in Tokyo on Sunday.

Osaka, supremely confident and in top form coming into the contest on the back of 10 consecutive wins, appeared uncertain throughout the match as her Czech opponent broke serve once in each set to triumph in 64 minutes.

Prior to the final, Pliskova had spent 419 minutes on court, more than any other player and almost twice as long as Osaka, but the Japanese player soon wilted and was unable to match the brilliance that secured her a first Grand Slam title.

Pliskova, meanwhile, was more than happy to take advantage of Osaka's sloppiness, converting both her break point opportunities and reeling off the last 11 points to secure a second WTA title of the campaign.

"It was important for me to play just two sets and not go to a third one. I needed a match like this," the 26-year-old world number eight told reporters.

"Also confidence gets higher and higher with every match that you win and I won a lot of tough matches here, a lot of tough sets against tough opponents, so I'm proud of this."

The usually aggressive Pliskova said she had adjusted her game plan based on her previous two meetings with world

number seven Osaka, which the pair had split.

"I didn't want to try to overpower her because I think she just has more power than me. So I just wanted to be patient and wait for my chances," Pliskova added after capturing her 11th career WTA title without offering up a single break point.

"I was just trying to serve well, to mix the speed also

a little bit, to play lots to her backhand," she added. "She was missing quite a lot today so it was working, so I didn't change anything."

SO TIRED

Osaka's defeat was her second in the tournament final, having also been runner-up in 2016, as the 20-year-old seemed to finally succumb to the after-effects of her emotional U.S. Open triumph earlier this month.

"I have literally never been so tired in my entire life," she told reporters. "I haven't really had much time to rest, so I feel tired right now."

When asked to explain her lacklustre performance, Osaka replied: "If I know I would have fixed it. As I am feeling very tired today, maybe I wasn't doing the little things well."

She can still, however, take heart from her recent run of form as she looks to finish the year on a strong note.

"To play the final of the U.S. Open and then to come here, I think I did pretty well," Osaka said.

"So if there is anything I can take from this it is that I am proud of myself."

In clinching the title, Pliskova took a big step towards securing her spot at the season-ending WTA Finals in Singapore, the victory putting her just ahead of Kiki Bertens for the eighth and final berth in next month's field.

(Source: Euronews)

China defend title at AVC Cup for Women, Iran eighth

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Reigning champion China claimed the title of the 6th Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) Cup for Women for fifth time on Sunday.

China beat Japan in straight sets (25-23, 25-20, 25-17) in the final match at the Korat Chatchai Hall, in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand.

Earlier in the day, Thailand finished in third place after defeating Chinese Taipei 3-0 (25-20, 25-19, 25-20).

Chinese spiker Liu Yanhan was named as the competition's Most Valuable Player.

Iran finished in eighth place after losing to Australia 3-1 (22-25, 26-24, 26-24, 25-18).

Team Melli had defeated Australia two times in the tournament.

In the previous edition in Vinh Phuc, Vietnam two years ago, Iran had finished in sixth place overall.

"This is the third time we met Iran in this tournament. I think one thing that is consistent for us for the whole tournament has been our serving and blocking. The game is our best game and I'm happy with the result," Australia head coach Shannon Winzer commented after the match.

"This is the last competition this year. We will return to the club professionally and will come back together next year hopefully for VNL continental qualifiers and Asian Senior Championship," she added.

The 2018 AVC Cup for Women was the sixth edition of the Asian Women's Volleyball Cup, a biennial international volleyball tournament organized by the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) with Thailand Volleyball Association (TVVA).

The tournament was held in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand, from 16 to 23 September 2018.



Iran win Women Classic International Tournament



S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — The Iranian women wrestling team made history by winning the First International Tournament Women Classic Style on Sunday.

Iran claimed two gold and two bronze medals in the two-day tournament held in Beirut, Lebanon.

Fatemeh Nikbakht took the gold medal in the 60kg after defeating opponents from Syria, Georgia and Iraq.

Masoumeh Khanlar won Iran's second gold, beating Syrian and Iraqi rivals.

In the 50kg category, Fatemeh Mohammadi defeated a wrestler from Kyrgyzstan in the bronze medal match.

Zahra Yazdani also claimed the bronze medal in the 55kg. She defeated her Kyrgyz rival in the third-placed match.

The Top three athletes received 500 USD, 300 USD and 200 USD respectively.

The Iranian women wrestling team is headed by Maryam Hosseini. Iran claimed the team title with 99 points, followed by Iraq (83) and Syria (67) points.

Iran to play Brazil in Qatar tournament: report



S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iran national football team will reportedly play Brazil in a four-team tournament, to be held in Doha, Qatar in March 2019.

Iranian media reports suggest that the Qatar Football Association (QFA) has invited Iran to the tournament, however the Iranian federation has yet to announce its readiness to participate in the tournament.

The name of the fourth team will be

announced within the next few days by the QFA officials.

Iran lost to Brazil 3-0 in a friendly held in Abu Dhabi in October 2010.

The Football Federation of Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Qatar Football Association (QFA) in December 2017 to strengthen the mutual relationship for further development of the sport in the two countries.

Iran suffer third successive defeat at FIVB World Championship

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iran lost to the U.S. in straight sets (25-23, 26-24, 26-24) at the 2018 FIVB Men's World Championship on Sunday.

Iran had already lost to Bulgaria and Canada in Pool G and failed to advance to the next stage.

Benjamin Patch led the U.S. with 13 points and Milad Ebadipour was Iran's topscorer with 10 points.

The 2018 championship is the 19th staging of the FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship, contested

by the senior men's national teams of the members of the Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB), the sport's global governing body.

The final tournament is being held in Italy and Bulgaria from September 9 to 30. For the first time the tournament is jointly-hosted by more than one country.

The final six will be hosted by Italy at the Pala Alpitour in Turin.



Fears grow that boxing will lose Olympic status for Tokyo 2020

There are growing fears that boxing will be dropped from the next Olympics in Tokyo in 2020.

The sport has been mired in an on-going controversy at international level since the Rio Olympics and the crisis will come to a head at the forthcoming Congress of AIBA, the sport's world governing body, which takes place in Moscow on November 2-3.

The key issue is the election of a new

president. Following the ousting of the previous incumbent, Dr CK Wu in the wake of an internal revolt within the AIBA executive, the position has been held on an interim basis by Gafur Rakhimov, a controversial figure with links to organised crime in central Asia, which he denies.

The President of the International Olympic committee Thomas Bach has warned that Rakhimov's election as President could put

boxing's place at Tokyo in jeopardy.

Bach said boxing's Olympic future 'greatly depends' on the outcome of the Congress in the Russian capital which has been interpreted as a clear warning to members of the AIBA.

While the organisation may resent the fact that an outside body appears to be adopting a dictatorial attitude towards them, the reality is they face a stark choice.

In the event of Rakhimov being elected,

boxing faces expulsion from the Tokyo Games which could effectively spell the death-knell of the sport at elite amateur level.

Even though the Irish boxing team failed to secure a medal at the Rio Olympics, boxing remains the country's most successful Olympic sport by some distance with Irish fighters winning a total of 16 medals since 1952.

(Source: Independent.ie)

Zlatan Ibrahimovic unsure about returning to LA Galaxy

Zlatan Ibrahimovic admitted his future is uncertain and declined Friday to commit to another season with the LA Galaxy.

Ibrahimovic has had a remarkable debut season in MLS, scoring 17 goals in 22 games, and is under contract for next year, but the 36-year-old told reporters he's not ready to make a decision about spending a second year in Southern California.

"I don't know. This I have to discuss," he said, according to the Los Angeles Times. "This is not the moment to talk about that. It's something I'll discuss with the club. What they want, what I want. So let's see."

The Swedish striker is coming off a major knee injury he suffered with Manchester United a year ago, but he said he would be fine as the season winds down with the Galaxy chasing a Western Conference playoff spot.

"I have five games," he said. "I'm happy. Physically I feel strong, I feel good. I'm producing. So I just need to win games and then everything is perfect."



Ibrahimovic has previously voiced frustration with the fortunes of the Galaxy, who are in the midst of a seven-game winless streak and sacked coach Sigi Schmid earlier this month, and said it was a new experience to play for a struggling club.

"It's a different challenge," he said. "The team I played for [before], I had that feeling like we were unbeatable. Nobody can destroy us. We will destroy everybody."

On Friday, Ibrahimovic told Swedish journalist Calle Schulman that he had an offer to return to Malmo, the club he played for as a youth and made his senior debut with in 1999.

His wages may be part of the issue in MLS, as he is making just \$1.5 million this year -- the fourth-highest paid player on the Galaxy -- in part because of the uncertainty over his knee.

Meanwhile, Giovanni dos Santos is making \$6m, the fifth-highest compensation in MLS, but the Mexico international has been criticized during an injury-plagued season in which he has scored just three goals in 13 games.

Ibrahimovic's pocketbook was made a little lighter earlier on Friday as MLS fined him an undisclosed amount for the second time in a month for putting his hands on an opponent's head.

(Source: ESPN)

Carlos Queiroz extends contract with Iran: top official

TASNIM — Head of Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) Mehdi Taj said Carlos Queiroz has extended his contract with Iran until the 2019 AFC Asian Cup.

Queiroz had no contract with Iran after the 2018 World Cup in Russia and now the Portuguese has penned a contract until the AFC Asian Cup, according to Taj.

Iran have been drawn in Group D along with Yemen, Iraq and Vietnam in the AFC Asian Cup. In the previous edition, Iran failed to advance to the semi-final under guidance of Queiroz after being defeated by Iraq in penalty shootout.

Tehran University wins title of int'l basketball champs

IRNA — Tehran University basketball team was crowned champion in the Asia-Pacific Inter-University Basketball Championships held in China.

Iranian representative defeated the Chinese rival at the finals with a narrow 61-59 lead.

In the third place playoff, the Zhengzhou University won Henan University 78-73 and stood in the third place.

Iranian player Asghar Kardoust was selected as the best player of the tournaments.

The second Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific (AUAP) Inter-University Basketball Championships was held at Sias International University located in the Zhengzhou city of the eastern Chinese province of Henan.

The tournament is underway on September 17-24.

Asensio: I was not offered No. 7 when Cristiano Ronaldo left

Marco Asensio says he was never given the option to assume No. 7 in the Real Madrid squad after it was vacated by Cristiano Ronaldo in the summer.

"They didn't offer me the No. 7," he told reporters after scoring the only goal in a 1-0 win over Espanyol on Saturday night. "The club never said anything to me about it and I didn't have the chance to decide."

The 22-year-old, who wears the No. 20 shirt, is assuming more responsibility this season under Julen Lopetegui following Ronaldo's move to Juventus.

The No. 7 shirt was subsequently taken by new signing Mariano Diaz.

Asked if he liked the No. 10 as an alternative, Asensio said it already has a good owner in Luka Modric.

"It's a number I always liked," he said. "But now it's in good hands. In the future I would like it."

Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos said recently that it was time to give Asensio more responsibility, in order for him to develop and show his importance to the club, by using a metaphor about putting more stones into his teammate's backpack.

"Give me all the stones you want," Asensio said when that was put to him. "That's what I'm here for."

(Source: Soccer.net)

Aubameyang slams Gabon appointment of father

Gabon captain Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang has criticised the country's football federation (FEGAFOOT) after they appointed his father as national team coach and said Pierre Francois did not want the job.

The Arsenal striker expressed anger at what he called the "amateurism" of the national federation, who this week named his father and Daniel Cousin, ex-Gabon captains, as joint coaches to succeed former Spain manager Jose-Antonio Camacho.

"You were wondering why I have problems with you, why I don't want to come and play for the national team," Aubameyang wrote on Instagram in a post that tagged the Gabon federation.

"You have told the whole world about my father, the so-called coach of the national team, when you did not even get his agreement!"

"The president of the federation called my dad but did not even care to ask about his state of health. He's sick at the moment."

"To rush out and hold a press conference [on Wednesday] when my father said he would give his answer only the next day is another demonstration of why."

"His decision, by the way, is negative. You didn't even give him a chance to negotiate about his staff members or other things."

FEGAFOOT agreed it went ahead in haste with the announcement but blamed the ministry of sport for instructing it to do so.

"[Francois], who was in London for health reasons, had indeed expressed the wish to give his final response on Thursday afternoon to the President of FEGAFOOT," a statement from the federation said on Saturday.

"But the Minister of Youth and Sports [Alain Claude Bilie-By-Nze] instructed FEGAFOOT to make the composition of the technical staff public on Wednesday evening."

"Having no desire to counter him, FEGAFOOT did make the announcement without calling [Francois] back for confirmation."

"This was guided by good faith after assurances received from Daniel Cousin and considering the frequent expressions of goodwill by Pierre [Francois] to always help the national team."

"Subject to the official reaction of Mr [Francois], FEGAFOOT accepts this situation could have been avoided."

Aubameyang, who played in this month's 1-1 home draw with lowly Burundi in the African Nations Cup qualifiers, added: "The day the federation no longer shows amateurism is the day the national team is able to move forward and find consistent results."

Pierre Francois, 53, captained Gabon at their first Nations Cup finals appearance in 1994 and was one of the country's first exports to club football in France, where his son was born.

Cousin, who was a forward at Rangers and Hull City, was previously team manager in charge of logistics.

Camacho was fired last week after a run of only two wins in 17 matches in charge over the last two years.

(Source: Soccer.net)

INTERNATIONAL DAILY
www.tehrantimes.com
■ Managing Director: Ali Asgari
■ Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Ghaderi

» Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
editor@tehrantimes.com
» Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
» Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051450
» Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
» Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
» www.eshterak.ir Distributor: Padideh Novin Co.
Tel: 88911433
» Webmaster: webmaster@tehrantimes.com
» Printed at: Rooztab - ISSN: 1017-94

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran
P.o. Box: 14155-4843
Zip Code: 1599814713

Art Bureau to hold exhibits on Ahvaz terrorist attacks

A R T TEHRAN — The Art Bureau is planning to hold nationwide poster exhibitions, censuring the shooting attack on a military parade that killed 25 people in Iran’s southwestern city of Ahvaz on Saturday.



In the statement published by the Art Bureau on Sunday, interested artists are asked to submit their works to the following email address: posterforahvaz@gmail.com.

Condemning terrorism, tributes to the martyrs, respect to the devoted soldiers, and unity and solidarity of people and the officials can be among the topics for the posters.

Children, women and a journalist were among the dead.

The selected works will be displayed in different exhibits across the country in the near future.

Notes of music and color enchant Missoni’s dreamy night

MILAN (Reuters) — A poetic and dreamy collection sparked in the lights of Milan’s new skyscrapers on the notes of composer Michael Nyman, in a celebration of the 65th anniversary of Italian fashion house Missoni.

“I wanted to let a romantic side come out, as well as a fantastic one... just like a dream,” artistic director Angela Missoni told Reuters at the end of the show.

She added that there was a lot of research in the weaves and fabrics used in the textiles of the new spring-summer 2019 collection, which did not use any of the company’s extensive archive material.

The house founded in 1953 by Angela’s parents, Rosita and late Ottavio as a knitwear business, is famous for its rainbow colored creations and its signature ‘Fiammato’ — flamed, zig-zag pattern.

The hues in the collection on Saturday were neutral and softer than usual, with darker tones appearing only towards the end of the show, along with glittery sheer fabrics.

“There is a lot of lightness and simplicity but the techniques are complicated,” Missoni added.

Models were introduced and accompanied throughout the show by Nyman, playing on a stage at the start of the runway.

Rock band Wolf Alice wins Britain’s Mercury Prize

LONDON (Reuters) — Rock band Wolf Alice won Britain’s Mercury Prize on Thursday for album “Visions of a Life”, beating off competition from the likes of Noel Gallagher’s High Flying Birds and the Arctic Monkeys.

The four-member band from north London, which first began as a duo in 2010, took the 25,000 pound (\$33,165) prize and “album of the year” trophy, which has been awarded to a wide range of music artists since it began in 1992.

“Visions of a Life”, the group’s second studio album, won praise from critics when it was released last year and reached no. 2 in the UK album charts.

“This has never really happened to us ... we’ve been nominated before but we’ve never won,” band member Joel Amey told Reuters. “It’s hard to gage how these things really go in your favor but so far the Mercury (nomination) has done wonders for us getting to new people.”

The Mercury Prize, which is less mainstream than Britain’s annual BRIT Awards, honors music by British and Irish acts and organizers said this year’s shortlist celebrated musicians “at all stages of their careers.”

It also included albums by bands Florence + The Machine and Everything Everything, singers Lily Allen, Nadine Shah, Jorga Smith and King Krule, MC Novelist, jazz group Sons of Kemet and the collaborative “Everything is Recorded”, spearheaded by XL Recordings founder Richard Russell.

Past winners of the prize include grime artist Skepta and musicians PJ Harvey and Benjamin Clementine.



Christie’s offers works by contemporary Iranian masters of art

A R T TEHRAN — On October 24, Christie’s in London will be offering Middle Eastern, Iranian and Turkish Modern and Contemporary Art for the first time in the history of international auction houses.

After more than ten years of developing the regional art market and successes at auctions in Dubai, Christie’s will take its fall auction to London with exceptional prices for Iranian masters such as Hossein Zenderudi and Mohammad Ehsai.

A selection of 23 artworks from Iran, 20 from Syria, 17 from Egypt, 13 from Lebanon and many more from Iraq, Tunisia and Turkey will be put on view from October 20 to 23 ahead of the auction on October 24.

Among the highlights are works by renowned sculptor Parviz Tanavoli, and famous painters Sohrab Sepehri, Mohammad Ehsai, Farhad Moshiri and Reza Derakhshani, all from Iran.

Works by Egyptian artists Abdel Hadi Al Gazzar and Mahmoud Saïid, and Lebanese artist Shafic Abboud are also among the works in the spotlight at the auction.



“He Is the Merciful” by Mohammed Ehsai auctioned at Christie’s International Modern and Contemporary Art in Dubai, April 2008

Filmmaker and translator Parviz Tayidi dies at 81



Parviz Tayidi in an undated photo

A R T TEHRAN — Parviz Tayidi, Iranian film and theater director and the translator of “An Actor’s Work on a Role” by Russian theater practitioner Konstantin Stanislavski (1863-1938), has died in Tehran. He was 81, Persian media reported on Sunday.

Tayidi had a great role in introducing theater to Iranian stage actors through his Persian translation of “An Actor’s Work on a Role”.

He also penned the book “Theory of Stanislavski in Training an Actor” in Persian.

“Last Hamlet” and “Attack of Crabs” are among the films he directed in addition to several shorts including “Iranian Historical Monuments”, “Art of Persian Carpets”, “Soil”, “Wind” and “Fire”.

His other Persian translations also include “Nights of Cabiria”, an Italian drama by Federico Fellini, “Citizen Kane” by Orson Welles and “The Blue Angel” by Josef von Sternberg.

His funeral procession will begin today at the Iranian House of Cinema, and he will be buried in the artists’ section of the Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery in Tehran.

Rap mogul Marion ‘Suge’ Knight pleads to manslaughter days before murder trial

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — Rap mogul Marion “Suge” Knight pleaded no contest in a Los Angeles court to a charge of manslaughter for a 2015 hit-and-run killing, accepting a 28-year prison sentence under a deal with prosecutors days before his murder trial was to begin.

In pleading no contest, equivalent to a guilty plea under California law, the 53-year-old co-founder of influential hip-hop label Death Row Records admitted using a “deadly and dangerous weapon” when he ran down two men with his pickup truck.

One of the victims, 55-year-old Terry Carter, later died of his injuries. The second man, Cle “Bone” Sloan, was left with a badly mangled left foot and head injuries.

The deadly confrontation occurred on Jan. 29, 2015, outside a hamburger stand in the Los Angeles suburb of Compton, following a heated argument on the set of a commercial for the film “Straight Outta Compton.”

Knight, who was out on bail in a robbery case at the time, fled the scene but was later arrested.

Had Knight been convicted of murder and attempted murder as originally charged, he would have faced a mandatory sentence of 25 years to life in prison.

As part of the agreement to plead no contest to a single count of voluntary manslaughter, all other charges in the case were dropped. Two separate criminal cases in which he was charged with robbery and making criminal threats will also be dismissed when he is formally sentenced on Oct. 4, prosecutors said.

Knight’s lawyers previously contended he accidentally struck the two men with his vehicle while trying to flee what he thought was an ambush attempt.

But prosecutors said Knight traded punches with Sloan through the window of his truck before putting the vehicle into reverse, knocking Sloan and Carter to the ground, then pulling forward to run over both men. The incident was captured on



Marion “Suge” Knight (L), with attorney Albert DeBlanc, appears in Los Angeles Superior Court for a fatal 2015 hit-and-run, in Los Angeles, California, U.S., September 20, 2018. (Gary Coronado/Los Angeles Times/Pool via Reuters)

videotape by the restaurant’s surveillance cameras.

Knight, sporting a graying beard and wearing an orange jail uniform and dark-rimmed glasses, said little during Thursday’s proceedings, mostly giving one- or two-word answers to a series of procedural questions from Superior Court Judge Ronald Coen.

But at one point when asked by the judge if he understood his plea could lead to deportation were he not a U.S. citizen, Knight joked: “Is ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) gonna come and get me?”

Knight has long been known as much for his run-ins with the law and brushes with violence and as for his career as a rap music executive who promoted the likes of Snoop Dogg, Dr. Dre and Tupac Shakur in the 1990s.

Knight was sent to prison in October 1996 for violating probation on a previous assault case when he allegedly kicked a man during a scuffle at a Las Vegas hotel.

That scuffle in September 1996 took place hours before Shakur was shot to death in a drive-by attack while riding in a car with Knight after a Mike Tyson boxing match. Knight, who was at the wheel, was slightly wounded himself.

Shorts from Iran to compete in UK festival



A scene from “Like a Good Kid” by Iranian director Arian Vazirdaftari

A R T TEHRAN — The Iranian short films “Like a Good Kid” and “The Fog” will be competing in the Crossing the Screen Film Festival running in Sussex, UK from November 29 to December 2, the organizers have announced.

The two films are competing in the Narrative Short Films category with a selection of films coming from different countries including India, Mexico, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Italy, and Hungary.

“Like a Good Kid” by Arian Vazirdaftari tells the story of Sara, a 24-year-old girl who is supposed to babysit Matin, a 6-year-old boy, for the day, while his mother is at work. In the morning, Matin tells Sara a story of a fight with his mother from the night before that leads to a series of events throughout the day which will change Matin and Sara for the rest of their lives.

“The Fog” by Ali Shurvarzi centers on a woman who is a corpse washer. She has not washed any children since the death of her own child, but after a while she finds herself in a situation in which she has to wash a dead child.

Cosby sentencing is new milestone for #MeToo movement

NEW YORK (Reuters) —When a grainy video of standup comedian Hannibal Buress making a joke about Bill Cosby’s rape allegations on an October night in 2014 went viral, the rallying cry of #MeToo was years away.

The men the movement would lay low were still at the height of their powers. That same evening, Bill O’Reilly was on his top-rated Fox News show, railing against political correctness, while the next morning, Charlie Rose told CBS This Morning’s audience about an Ebola outbreak.

But the Buress clip was the first rumble of an avalanche bearing down on Cosby, prompting dozens of women to come forward with their own stories of abuse by the entertainer, eventually leading to his arrest and subsequent conviction.

When the comedian, once known as “America’s Dad”, is sentenced to what could be up to 10 years in prison this week for drugging and sexually assaulting a woman in 2004, it will be perhaps the starkest evidence yet that the #MeToo movement has permanently altered the way the country reckons with sexual misconduct by powerful men.

“I’m hoping that’s a permanent change — that there isn’t the idea that you get to a point of success that you can do whatever you want,” said Aviva Orenstein, a law professor at Indiana University who has studied assault cases.

Cosby, once the beloved star of the 1980s television comedy “The Cosby Show”, eventually faced accusations from some 60 women stretching back decades, some of which had long been known but previously failed to gain traction.

His arrest in late 2015 predated the #MeToo movement, which gained steam following multiple allegations against movie mogul Harvey Weinstein, by nearly two years.

But Deborah Tuerkheimer, a law professor at Northwestern University and an expert on sexual assault cases, said Cosby’s case, as well as the election of U.S. President Donald Trump in 2016, helped “seed the ground” for the coming wave.



Bill Cosby reacts while being notified a verdict is in, at the Montgomery County Courthouse in his assault retrial, in Norristown, Pennsylvania, U.S., April 26, 2018. (Mark Makela/Pool via Reuters)

“I do think you can draw a line between the Cosby case and where we are now,” she said.

The movement itself may have helped convict Cosby, after his first trial in mid-2017 for sexually assaulting a former friend, Andrea Constand, ended with a hung jury. By the time he faced his retrial, the #MeToo campaign had exploded.

Defense lawyers grilled prospective jurors before the trial on whether they could set aside their feelings about #MeToo. The judge who oversaw both trials, Steven O’Neill, allowed prosecutors to call five additional accusers to tell their stories at the second proceeding, bolstering Constand’s account.

“[The movement] may have influenced the judge’s willingness to allow more witnesses,” Orenstein said.

In closing arguments, prosecutors specifically called out Cosby’s lawyers for targeting the women’s credibility, saying those attacks discourage victims from speaking up.

Experts said the #MeToo movement’s work is far from over. In Cosby’s case, he was only convicted after a jury heard from several women, rather than only one, underscoring the challenges sole accusers can face. That dynamic is on display in the controversy surrounding U.S. Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, Tuerkheimer said, with Kavanaugh and his allies denying allegations from a woman that he assaulted her in high school.