

**Syrian FM defends Iran's advisory role** **2**

**Three corrupt individuals handed death penalty** **2**

**Persepolis full of belief ahead of Al Sadd match** **15**

**Resistance film festival receives submissions from 73 countries** **16**

# Trump succeeded to isolate U.S.

## Aluminum production up 10% in 5 months yr/yr

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN**— Iran's major aluminum producers produced 151,691 tons of aluminum during the five-month period from March 21 to August 22, which shows 10 percent growth from the figure of the same period of time in the past year, according to the data released by the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).  
IMIDRO data put the output of these

producers at 137,473 tons during the five-month period of the past year, IRIB reported.  
Last month, the head of IMIDRO announced that a large aluminum production plant will be put into operation in the south of country by the end of current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2019).  
Mehdi Karbasian said that the 300,000-ton capacity plant will be the largest and most modern aluminum production plant in Iran.



## 30 orbital slots in Iran's name: ISA

**TECHNOLOGY** **TEHRAN**— Iran possesses 30 geostationary orbital slots, head of the Iranian Space Agency (ISA), Morteza Barari, announced on Sunday, Mehr reported.  
The country plans to provide infrastructure for filling the slots in the near future, he added.  
According to International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the slots are

time-bound and in case that Iran cannot fill the slots seven years after application, it would be given to other countries, he added.  
He stressed the important role of the private sector in paving the way for filling the orbital slots.  
There are over 140 technologies in the field of space, which have the capacity to be commercialized in the form of spin-off in other industries, he said. **->10**

## Idlib pullout begins but U.S.-backed militants not leaving

The first militant group has begun withdrawing its members and heavy arms from a recently-declared buffer zone in Syria's Idlib Province, a Britain-based monitoring group says.  
The so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) said on Sunday that the Turkey-backed Fatah al-Sham (Sham Legion) militant outfit was the

first to abide by the terms of the Moscow-Ankara agreement on the Idlib demilitarized zone.  
"The group is withdrawing its forces and heavy arms in small batches from southern Aleppo countryside, adjacent to Idlib Province, which is part of the demilitarized zone towards the west," SOHR head Rami Abdulrahman said. **->13**

**ARTICLE**  
**Hamid Bayati**  
Tehran Times journalist

## Putin's S-300 winging to Syria: Tel Aviv's nightmare

A Russian Ilyushin-20 military aircraft with 15 servicemen on board was brought down on September 17 by Syrian anti-aircraft S-200 air defense system systems in northwestern Syria. Moscow blamed Tel Aviv for the incident, and the Zionist authorities fought to cast blame elsewhere.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last week sent a delegation, led by Air Force commander Maj. Gen. Amikam Norkin, to Moscow to present its findings about the incident, but the meeting was brief and the delegation was fast sent back to Tel Aviv after the Russians rejected the Israeli explanations.

According to information leaked to media outlets, the meeting of the Russian Air Force commander with his Israeli counterpart, who had presented details about the incident and claimed innocence, was a complete failure. The Russian general left the meeting and threatened to drop any Israeli fighter close to the Syrian coast and the official spokesman for the ministry, Gen Igor Konashenkov, said that Israel is "fully to blame".

"After the first attack, the Israeli jets pulled back, moving to an area 70 kilometers west of the Syrian coast, turning their radar jamming devices on and apparently making preparations for another attack. The Israeli fighter jets used the Russian Il-20 aircraft as cover against missiles. The Israeli F-16 fighter jets' pilot knew that Russia's aircraft would be the unidentified preferred target for Syrian air defenses," he added.

After the incident, the Zionist authorities, including the Israel's Avigdor Lieberman, did not give up and talked about continuing attacks on Syria. The Russians were also reluctant to announce it will supply Syria's government with sophisticated S-300 air defense systems because they knew it would create controversy. Both the U.S. and Israelis objected. Netanyahu's office in a statement called the transfer of advanced weapons to the Syrian government "major mistake" that will increase the dangers in the region, adding that Israel will continue to defend its security and interests. **->7**

## U.S. running a real risk to international trading system: Lord Lamont

**By Marjohn Sheikhi**  
**TEHRAN (MNA)** — UK PM Trade Envoy to Iran Lord Norman Lamont said in an exclusive interview with Mehr News that U.S. President Trump's extensive use of the sanctions regime is running a real risk to the international trading system.

Mehr News's Marjohn Sheikhi sat down for an exclusive interview with the former UK Chancellor and UK PM Trade Envoy to Iran Lord Norman Lamont at the British embassy in Tehran on Wednesday.

Lamont criticized the extensive use of the "weapon of sanctions" by U.S. President Donald Trump, whether against Iran, Russia, Turkey, or even the threat of sanctions against European allies, saying that the "United States is running a real risk of danger to the international trading system."

The UK's trade envoy to Iran maintained that the strength of his country's support for



the Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in the wake of the U.S.' withdrawal, can be felt in the European country's very different position on the deal from the American administration despite Britain's close ties with the U.S.

He also voiced optimism about the future of Iran-UK economic relations despite the current

setback caused by President Trump's anti-Iran policies, saying that "it is Iran's destiny to be integrated with the world economy."

Below is the full text of the interview:  
■ What is the current standing of economic relations between Iran and UK?

A: Well, Britain, historically, has had a lower level of trade with Iran compared to Germany, France or Italy. Nonetheless, from a low level, trade has been increasing in recent years, by over 20 percent per annum. So, before President Trump, trade was increasing at quite a fast rate from a low level. And that was about all one could have expected, anyway. But before President Trump, many firms in Britain were very excited for the opportunities that existed in Iran, which are many; a very big market, sometimes described as the last great emerging market in the world, young and well-educated population, tremendous opportunities. **->7**

## Al-Saud are valuable for Trump when they pay money: Adib-Moghaddam

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

**TEHRAN** — Professor Arshin Adib-Moghaddam, Chair of the Centre for Iranian Studies at the London Middle East Institute, believes that for the Trump administration, as for most other countries, the al-Saud are only of value when they pay.

Professor in Global Thought and Comparative Philosophies and Chair of the Centre for Iranian Studies at the London Middle East Institute, also says that "the current efforts to bring Qatar back to

the fold are rather more directed at creating a joint front to balance against Iran's regional power."

Here is the full text of the interview:  
■ Camp David meeting is scheduled to be held this autumn in the United States to resolve the crisis in Qatar. Can this American initiative lead to solving this crisis?

A: None of the initiatives that the Trump administration has pursued to resolve this crisis have been successful. As I have repeatedly indicated since Trump assumed office in January 2017: This President couldn't be a bigger blessing to the challengers of the United States in

the international system, especially Russia and China, but also Iran. He is mercurial, feeble and impulsive. This is why the political class in the U.S. is so nervous. They know that this President has weakened the position of the country almost beyond repair. The fall-out of the crisis over Qatar which Trump initially fuelled by likening Qatar's behavior to terrorism, has been too severe to patch it up with a few meetings. The erratic changes in the U.S. attitudes which turned from indicting Qatar for funding terrorism to hailing the country as an ally in combating terror movements does not bode well for any serious diplomacy. **->7**



## Street exhibition on Sacred Defense Week

A street exhibition showcasing the military equipment was held in Baharestan square, downtown Tehran, on the occasion of the Sacred Defense Week (September 22- September 28).

The Sacred Defense Week (in Persian hafta defa moqaddas) is held annually to honor the sacrifices of the soldiers and people who resisted the invading Saddam Army in the 1980s. It is marked by military parades as well as exhibitions and commemoration of martyred war veterans.

## How did Netanyahu bring fame to Turqzabad?

**TEHRAN (MNA)** — After the Israeli Prime minister accused Iran of hiding nuclear material at a secret warehouse in Turqzabad, a village in the south of the capital Tehran, Iranians have taken to social media ridiculing Netanyahu's false accusations.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ridiculous accusations at the United Nations General Assembly once again this year have sparked much debate among Iranian netizens on social media.

For Iranian Persian-language speakers, Turqzabad refers to a remote area in the middle of nowhere, but actually it is a village in the south of Tehran, which became world-famous after Netanyahu's UN address.

Turqzabad is a village in Kahrizak Rural District, Kahrizak District, Rey County, Tehran Province, Iran. According to the 2006 census, it has a population of 2,803, in 669 families. As the residents recall, the village is named after its history of cotton producing business. As they say Turqz stands for a part of cotton flower which used to be separated to produce cotton.

Soon after Netanyahu's UN address, Iranian netizens started looking for the exact location of Turqzabad on Google map. The social media users produced satirical photos and remarks, laughing at Netanyahu for possibly being fooled by Iranian intelligence authorities who have handed him fabricated documents.

An Iranian filmmaker Esmaeil Manavi, for example, wrote on his twitter account that "I'm amazed at how that person who gave Netanyahu false information about Turqzabad could have managed to stop himself from bursting into laughter."

"I seriously believe that some people have pulled a prank on Netanyahu and this time they have referred him to Turqzabad," Seyed Abbas Araghchi the political deputy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran, said in a video on his Instagram account.

Meanwhile, some have taken selfies in front of the alleged site while some others have commented under their photos saying that the site is a carpet cleaning factory showing aerial photos of red carpets being put in the sun to get dry.

Following the Iranian netizens' campaign against Netanyahu, the Israeli army showed photos of precisely-guided missiles factories near a football stadium next to Beirut international airport in retaliation.

This was not the first time that Netanyahu was mocked on social media by Iranians. He had claimed back in 2013 that Iranians were not allowed to wear jeans. At the time Iranians used social media to mock him.

**MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS**



**Three corrupt individuals handed death penalty: Judiciary**

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — Iran's Judiciary spokesman announced on Sunday that the special courts on fighting corruption have in recent days convicted 35 individuals of corruption, among whom three were handed death penalty.

The verdicts were reached by the primary court and will be referred to the Supreme Court, IRNA quoted Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Eje'i as saying.

He added that the other 32 individuals were sentenced to imprisonment. Mohseni-Eje'i also thanked the people for their constructive cooperation with the Judiciary.



**Majlis committee to host 28 European diplomats**

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — The Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee is set to host a meeting on Monday with ambassadors of 28 European countries to Iran, the committee chairman said on Sunday.

Speaking to Mehr, Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh said the meeting is scheduled to focus on economic relations between Iran and European countries.

It comes a week after President Hassan Rouhani met with top European leaders on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly conference in New York to discuss the 2015 nuclear deal and economic relations.



**Iran, Pakistan stress closer co-op against terrorism**

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — Qadir Nezami, the deputy chief of the Iranian Armed Forces, and Pakistan's Secretary of Defense Iqramul Haq held a meeting in Tehran on Sunday, during which they voiced mutual resolve to develop defense cooperation in combating terrorism.

During the meeting, General Nezami and Lieutenant General Iqramul Haq discussed various aspects of military, defense, and security cooperation and exchanged views on ways to develop ties based on mutual interests, Mehr reported.

They also discussed security at common borders, joint approaches against terrorism and organized crime and adoption of strategies to further develop defense and military cooperation.



**Syrian FM defends Iran's advisory role**

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — The foreign minister of Syria has voiced support for Iran's advisory assistance in the war against militants.

In an interview with RT Arabic in New York aired on Sunday, Walid Muallem dismissed the Western opposition to the presence of Iranian military advisors in Syria, saying Iran has provided legal advisory help for Syria at the request of Damascus, while the U.S. presence in Syria is "hostile and invasive" and an act of occupation.

Hailing ties between Syria and Iran as two independent and sovereign states, Muallem said his country will never compromise on friendship with Iran.



**Austria: U.S. JCPOA exit undermines mutual trust**

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — Austrian Foreign Minister Karin Kneissl on Saturday said the 2015 nuclear deal is the result of multilateral diplomacy and said the U.S. pullout from the deal has undermined mutual trust, IRNA reported, citing Russia Today.

"The JCPOA is the outcome of international action and subject to independent verification regime which must be preserved," Kneissl said, addressing the 73rd session of the UNGA.

On May 8, President Donald Trump withdrew the United States from the JCPOA and restored sanctions on Tehran. The first batch of sanctions was snapped back on August 6 and the second batch will be restored on November 4.



**'Switzerland ready to boost trade ties with Iran'**

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — The Swiss Ambassador to Tehran, Markus Leitner, said on Sunday that his country is ready to strengthen trade ties with Iran.

"There are many industrial capacities in different parts of the country (Iran)," said Markus Leitner during a visit to Markazi province.

The two countries of Iran and Switzerland enjoy high potential to strengthen trade and business ties, he remarked, Mehr reported.

Ambassador Leitner also hailed "warm relations" between Iran and Switzerland, saying such trips can help expansion of relations between the two sides' private sector.

**General suggests close ties with the East to offset sanctions**

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — Yahya Rahim Safavi, a top military adviser to the Leader, suggested on Sunday that Iran should expand relations with the Eastern bloc in order to counter the U.S. sanctions.

"We should not just look at the 4+1 countries. The 15 countries neighboring to us have very good capacities in economic and political diplomacy. As Leader of the Islamic Revolution [Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei] has remarked, our view should be on the East instead of the West. We should have our economic and political diplomacy based on expanding relations with the Eastern bloc's countries," he said during a speech at the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran.

The 4+1 countries is a reference to the remaining parties to the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran which includes four permanent members of the UN Security Council (France, Britain, Russia and China) plus Germany.

General Rahim Safavi particularly attached great importance to expansion of ties with Russia and China.

The former IRGC chief, who now teaches geopolitics at Shahid Beheshti Univer-



sity, also said that Iran should become a permanent member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

**'U.S. is really the enemy of Iran'**

The top military advisor to the Leader also said there are certain people who do not consider the U.S. "enemy", but the U.S.

is really enemy to the Iranian people.

U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew Washington from the nuclear deal on May 8 and reimposed sanctions against Iran.

The first batch of sanctions was snapped back on August 6 and the second batch will

be reimposed on November 4.

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

Trump exited the nuclear accord despite the fact that it has been endorsed by the UN Security Council resolution 2231.

**'Different views should not affect economic strategy'**

Rahim Safavi suggested that the Iranians should unitedly help to confront the economic war waged against the country by the Trump administration.

"All should get united and counter the threats unitedly in order to be successful. We should be united in decision making. Certain ones do not consider the U.S. enemy, but the U.S. is really enemy to the Iranian people. We should not let different views affect our economic strategy," he said.

"Enemies sought to impose military war in the past and today, they seek to impose economic war and psychological warfare," he said.

Elsewhere, he said that the U.S. unilateralism will face defeat.

**Zarif says Trump succeeded to isolate U.S.**

**Saudis fund terrorists**

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif says President Donald Trump has succeeded to isolate the United States.

The chief Iranian diplomat made the remarks in an interview with CNN's Fareed Zakaria on Sunday.

He also said that Saudi Arabia was behind a recent terror attack in Iran's Ahvaz, noting that the Saudis had predicated payments to the mercenaries upon performing terror acts in Iran.

**Iran, Europe about to reach oil deal**

On Saturday evening, Zarif also said that Tehran was closing in on an agreement to sell oil to European nations despite American threats of sanctions against any countries that do business with Iran.

In an hour-long conversation with reporters, Zarif sounded far more optimistic than he had in recent months that he could peel away America's traditional allies to break U.S. President Donald Trump's effort to cut off Iran's revenues, according to the New York Times.



"This is for us to sell our oil and get the proceeds," Zarif said, noting that under the United Nations resolutions passed once the 2015 agreement was reached, countries have the legal right to trade with Iran.

Answering a question if the United States might attack key

Iranian facilities, he said, "If the U.S. believed it would have succeeded in such an attack, it would have done so already."

**Atomic warehouse or cleaning facility for Persian rugs**

On the subject of claims by the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, that Iran had hidden nuclear-related components in a warehouse in Tehran, Zarif said he believed that it was a cleaning facility for Persian rugs. But he would not commit to letting inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency visit.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Zarif said Iran might pull out of the nuclear deal if the special mechanism being created by the Europeans doesn't work, according to the Washington Post.

"The actual mechanism would be to avoid dollars," he said, adding, "You can use your own currency. Sell stuff in your own currency, buy stuff in the other country's currency, and at the end of a specific period, balance it out in a non-dollar currency. It's quite possible and may even be profitable."

**Netanyahu desperate to 'find a smokescreen': FM**

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has slammed claims by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that Tehran is concealing a "secret atomic warehouse", saying he is desperately seeking to find a pretext to hype up Iran's nuclear program.

"He's just trying to find a smokescreen... Nonsense," Zarif said in an interview with the CBS, excerpts of which aired on Sunday.

His remarks came in response to Netanyahu's latest attempt at the United Nations General Assembly, where he showed a satellite image claiming it is a nuclear weapons storage site.

Photos taken by ISNA news agency show that the claimed warehouse is a facility for washing rugs.

The top Iranian diplomat stressed that the Israeli PM had repeatedly been proven wrong in his claims about Iran's nuclear program as shown by recurrent probes of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

"He's been wrong about the previous [allegations] and he's wrong about this one," said Zarif. He added, "The previous allegations that Netanyahu made have been investigated by the IAEA and have been rejected."

Zarif had earlier rejected Netanyahu's claims about Iran's secret nuclear sites, saying in a tweet on Thursday that the Israeli regime was the only entity in the world that had always refused to disclose facts about its nuclear weapons.

**Iran urges NAM to back Palestinians for self-determination**

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — A top Iranian diplomat said on Saturday that it is impossible to find a "just solution" to the Palestinian issue without observing the rights of the Palestinian nation, urging nations member to the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to back fully back Palestinians.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the view that without paying attention to the legitimate demands of the Palestinian people, including the exercise of their right to self-determination, the cessation of all acts of aggression and occupation against them as well as the restoration of justice and dignity rendered to them, it would be impossible to find a just solution for the crisis," Gholam-Hossein Dehqani told a NAM ministerial meeting on Palestine.

(See website for full story)

Second Announcement



**INTERNATIONAL TENDER No. : 97 / K - 244**

- Tender Holder: Security Paper Mill of Central Bank of I.R.Of Iran.
- Tender Subject: purchasing 50,000 kg Madorit chemical powder .
- Tender Deposit: an unconditional and extendable Bank guarantee from Iranian Bank for the amount of 6,703 Euro or 687,500,000 Iranian Rials.
- Deadline for receiving tender documents: Maximum ten days after second advertisement
- How to get document: Bidder can receive the tender documents by sending their written inquiry to Fax: +981143132566 or sending letter to email address [Info@takab-cbi.ir](mailto:Info@takab-cbi.ir) or refer to national\_database portal of Iran Tenders Information [http:// Iets. Mporg.ir](http://Iets.Mporg.ir)
- Deadline for submitting offers: Maximum until dated 2018 November 10 (97/08/19)
- Time period of financial offers: Maximum tow week after deadline submitting offer
- Validity period of financial offers: The offers must be valid for ninety days after 2018 November 10 (97/08/19)
- The offers no sign, conditional, altered and the offers that submit after the expiration of the period of bid submission will be considered as null and void.
- Tender Holder reserves the rights to reject some or all of the offers.
- The winner of tender must be submitting an unconditional and irrevocable performance bond guarantee equal to 10% of value of the contract.
- Place for receiving and submitting tender documents: 7<sup>th</sup> km Chamestan Road, Amol, Mazandaran, Iran, Security paper Mill- Department of the commercial department building
- Delivery time: 4 month after signing the contract for further information, prospective bidder may contact us via the following

Tel:+981143132739 , 43132630 Fax: +981143132588

Web site: [http:// www.takab-cbi.ir](http://www.takab-cbi.ir) E-mail: [info@takab-cbi.ir](mailto:info@takab-cbi.ir)

# Dubai airport hit in second Yemeni drone strike

Yemen's army and its allies have staged a drone strike on Dubai International Airport in retaliation for the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) role in stepped-up House of Saud regime attacks on the impoverished country, a television report says.

A Samad-3 drone hit the world's third busiest airport during several attacks early Sunday, al-Masirah TV network reported, citing an informed source at the drone unit of Yemen's army and popular committees.

The army and popular committees announced their first retaliatory attack on Dubai airport in August, saying it had disrupted air traffic, but which Emirati authorities denied.

The UAE is part of a Saudi regime bombing campaign and ground invasion which has faced heavy criticism for a high civilian death toll in its airstrikes and for a crippling air, sea and land blockade on much of Yemen.

The House of Saud regime and Emirati troops and their proxies are currently fighting a dragged-out battle to occupy the Mediterranean port of Hudaydah through which flows almost 80 percent of Yemen's imports.

They have intensified their attacks since a fresh United Nations attempt for peace in Yemen failed earlier this month after Saudi Arabia prevented Ansarullah (Houthi) movement delegates from flying to the venue of the talks.

After the first drone strike, a spokesperson for the Ansarullah military forces said that it had been in response to the Saudi regime coalition's "crimes" in Yemen.

The Ansarullah movement and its allies in the Yemeni army said after the bombing of Dubai airport with a Samad-3 drone that the UAE's strategic areas were all within the range of their fire.

Yemen's fighters previously claimed in July to have targeted Abu Dhabi airport with a similar drone. That report was also denied by the UAE.

Their capability to attack an airfield some 1,600 kilometers away from the territory they control has increasingly worried the invaders who have already seen the Ansarullah movement successfully hit targets inside Saudi Arabia.

In March, one person was killed when the Ansarullah fired a barrage of ballistic missiles at Riyadh, over 540 miles away from northern Yemen.

Last month, they fired two missiles at a gathering of Saudi regime soldiers in neighboring Jizan and Najran which allegedly left heavy casualties.

**Yemeni ballistic missiles hit targets in Saudi Arabia's Jizan region**

Elsewhere, Yemeni armed forces have reportedly fired a domestically-designed and developed ballistic missile at a military target in Saudi Arabia's southwestern border region of Jizan, in retaliation for strikes by a Saudi regime-led military coalition waging war on Yemen.

Yemen's Arabic-language al-Masirah television network, citing an unnamed military official from the missile unit of the Yemeni army, reported that a gathering of the Saudi regime-led forces in Tabba Reshash area near the mountainous region of al-Doud had been targeted with a short-range Zelzal-1 (Earthquake-1) missile late on Friday, without giving the number of potential casualties of the strike.

Yemeni army also hit two other gatherings of Saudi-led mercenaries in the east of al-Doud and in the Majaza border area of the southwestern province of Asir in early on Thursday and late on Wednesday, respectively, with the same type of missile.

They also managed to strike a group of the Saudi regime-led military hardware and equipment in the Midi Desert in Yemen's northwestern Hajjah Province with Zelzal-1 missile earlier on Wednesday, inflicting damage.

Meanwhile, al-Masirah reported that at least two Yemeni civilians lost their lives and three others wounded after an airstrike carried out by the Saudi regime-led warplanes hit a vehicle in the city of Abs in Hajjah.

Furthermore, a Yemeni citizen was killed and a number of others sustained injuries after the Saudi regime-led fighter jets conducted an airstrike on Munirah city in the western province of Hudaydah.

Saudi Arabia and some of its allies, including the United Arab Emirates, Morocco, and Sudan, launched a brutal war against Yemen in March 2015 in an attempt to reinstall Yemen's former president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi and crush the country's popular Ansarullah movement, which has played a significant role, alongside the Yemeni army, in defending the impoverished nation against the Saudi regime war machine.

The aggression initially consisted of a bombing campaign but was later coupled with a naval blockade and the deployment of ground forces to Yemen. Some 15,000 Yemenis have so far been killed and thousands more injured.

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

The Saudi regime-led war has also taken a heavy toll on the country's infrastructure, destroying hospitals, schools, and factories. The United Nations has said that a record 22.2 million Yemenis are in dire need of food, including 8.4 million threatened by severe hunger.

A number of Western countries, the United States and Britain in particular, are also accused of being complicit in the ongoing aggression as they supply the Riyadh regime with advanced weapons and military equipment as well as logistical and intelligence assistance.

(Source: Press TV)

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## Iraqi Kurds elect first parliament since secession fiasco

Voters in the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region in northern Iraq have headed to polling stations to elect the first parliament since a disastrous separation referendum last year.

Voting began on Sunday, with almost 3.1 million people eligible to partake across three provinces that make up the region.

As many as 673 candidates from 29 political movements are vying for seats in the 111-member chamber.

The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) of Massoud Barzani who was Kurdistan's president from 2005 until 2017 and its traditional rival, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), are the main contestants.

The KDP currently holds 38 seats, while the PUK has 18 at the local legislature.

The main opposition Goran (Change) party has 24 seats but observers say it is not expected to fare any better in the polls after performing badly during Iraq's general elections in May.

The region suffered heavily after the secession vote last September, which led to a crisis in ties with the federal government in Baghdad.

After the referendum, Baghdad banned flights to the region and imposed economic penalties. It also retook control of the northern oil-rich city of Kirkuk, which had been overrun by Kurdish militants.

Since 2014, Iraqi Kurdistan has borrowed more than \$4 billion to stay afloat, according to some experts. Before the failed referendum, it had built up a debt of around \$12 billion.

(Source: Press TV)

## Official: Russia's S-300 delivery to Syria to pose 'serious challenge' to Israel

A senior Israeli official has admitted that Russia's delivery of S-300 anti-aircraft missile defense systems to Damascus will pose a serious "challenge" to the regime.

Tensions have been rising between Moscow and Tel Aviv following the downing of a Russian warplane in Syria this month.

The official, whose name was not released in the Sunday report by the Times of Israel, said Tel Aviv was working on "different ways" to deal with Russia's recent move.

"The S-300 is a complex challenge for ... Israel. We are dealing with the [decision] in different ways, not necessarily by preventing shipment [of the anti-aircraft systems]," he said.

(Source: Press TV)

(Source: Press TV)

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## Trump pushing Saudi regime to buy more U.S. weapons

The United States President Donald Trump has called on the House of Saud regime to increase its military spending, with an eye on more weapons sales to the "rich" kingdom.

Speaking at a campaign rally in West Virginia on Saturday, Trump said he had complained that Washington was not getting what it should from Saudi Arabia during a phone conversation with King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

Trump said he had told King Salman that Riyadh has "trillions of dollars" and could pay its military bills.

"I love Saudi Arabia. They are great, King Salman, I spoke with him this morning. I said, king, you have got trillions of dollars. Without

us, who knows what's going to happen. ... With us they are totally safe. But we don't get what we should be getting," he said.

Trump further threatened to end what he claimed to be subsidies for the Saudi regime military.

"We are subsidizing their military. I said let me ask you a question. Why are we subsidizing the military — it's one thing if a country is in deep trouble and in danger," he noted. "I said 'Saudi Arabia, you are rich, you have got to pay for your military. You have got to pay for your military, sorry.'"

Last year, the U.S. president signed the largest arms deal in history with the Saudi

regime despite warnings that he could be accused of being complicit in the regime's war crimes in Yemen.

During Trump's visit to Riyadh in May 2017, the House of Saud regime agreed to buy \$110 billion worth of the U.S. weapons and signed "investment" deals worth billions more.

The kingdom has one of the highest rates of spending on its military in the world, which stood at 10.3 percent of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2017, according to World Bank data.

Analysts say Trump is milking wealthy Persian Gulf Arab states and exploiting conflicts in the Middle East to boost the U.S. arms sales

to the oil-rich states.

Before his presidency, Trump described Saudi Arabia as "a milk cow" which would be slaughtered when its milk runs out.

The House of Saud regime and its allies launched a brutal war, code-named Operation Decisive Storm, against Yemen in March 2015 in an attempt to reinstall the country's former Riyadh-allied regime and crush the Ansarullah (Houthi) movement.

The Western-backed imposed war, however, has so far failed to achieve its stated goals, thanks to stiff resistance from Yemeni troops and allied Ansarullah fighters.

(Source: Press TV)

## Regional alliance with U.S. at risk over Persian Gulf spat: Qatar

A high-ranking Qatari official says a proposed NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)-like regional alliance, which brings together Persian Gulf littoral states, Egypt, Jordan and the United States, is at risk of credibility if a dispute between Doha and several of its Arab neighbors is not resolved.

"Regarding the alliance and the creation of the alliance, by ignoring the PGCC (Persian Gulf Cooperation Council) rift, we don't think that, even if it's initiated, that it will be initiated effectively," Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani said in New York.

"There is a serious challenge among the states and we need to address this challenge, in order also to prove the credibility of this alliance. And we believe there's an opportunity over here," he added.

The Qatari foreign minister further noted that there had been "no progress" in resolving the dispute with Saudi Arabia and its allies.

Al Thani, however, insisted that Doha remained "open to dialogue" with Riyadh and its partners.

The House of Saud regime, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain and Egypt all cut off diplomatic ties with Qatar on June 5 last year, after officially accusing Doha of "sponsoring terrorism."

The administration of the Saudi regime-backed and former Yemeni president, Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, Libya, the Maldives, Djibouti, Senegal and the Comoros later joined the camp in ending diplomatic ties with Doha. Jordan downgraded its diplomatic relations as well.

Qatar's Foreign Ministry later announced that the decision

to cut diplomatic ties was unjustified and based on false claims and assumptions.

On June 9, 2017, Qatar strongly dismissed allegations of supporting terrorism after the Saudi regime and its allies blacklisted dozens of individuals and entities purportedly associated with Doha.

Later that month, Saudi Arabia and its allies released a 13-point list of demands, including the closure of Al Jazeera television network and downgrade of relations with Iran, in return for the normalization of diplomatic relations with Doha.

The document containing the demands by the Saudi regime, Egypt, the UAE and Bahrain also asked Qatar to sever all ties with the Muslim Brotherhood and the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement.

(Source: Press TV)

## Indonesia's Sulawesi tsunami death toll tops 800 amid search for survivors

The death toll from an earthquake that prompted a tsunami on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi has risen to 832, the national disaster mitigation agency has said, adding it assessed the affected area to be bigger than initially thought.

Many people were reported trapped in the rubble of buildings brought down in the magnitude 7.5 earthquake which struck on Friday and triggered tsunami waves as high as six meters (20 feet), agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho told a news conference.

Amid the levelled trees, overturned cars, concertinaed homes and flotsam tossed up to 50 meters inland, survivors and rescuers struggled to come to grips with the scale of the disaster.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo arrived on the island of Sulawesi on Sunday to take stock of the situation.

Dozens of people were reported to be trapped in the rubble of a hotel and a mall in the city of Palu. A young woman was pulled alive from the rubble of the Roa Roa Hotel, the news website Detik.com reported. The owner of the hotel said that up to 60 people were believed trapped in the rubble.

"We managed to pull out a woman alive from the Hotel Roa-Roa last night," Muhammad Syaugi, head of the national search and



rescue agency, told AFP news agency. "We even heard people calling for help there yesterday."

Authorities are bracing for much worse as reports filter in from outlying areas, in particular, Donggala, a region of 300,000 people north of Palu and closer to the epicenter of the quake.

Speaking from Jakarta, journalist Tomi Soet-jipto told Al Jazeera 11 of the recorded deaths were from Donggala, but a clear picture on the situation there has yet to emerge.

The nearby city of Mamuju was also ravaged, but little information was available due

to damaged roads and disrupted telecommunications.

"Two helicopters from Indonesian Red Cross have been dispatched to Donggala to bring in emergency supplies. We don't know if emergency workers have been able to reach the city by road. There is no official assessment of the damage caused by earthquake and Tsunami," Tomi Soetjipto, a journalist based in Jakarta, said.

More than half of the 560 inmates in Palu's prison escaped after its walls collapsed during the quake, according to state news agency Antara, while more than 100 inmates

escaped from a prison in Donggala.

The military has started sending in aircraft with aid from Jakarta and other cities, authorities said.

C-130 military transport aircraft with relief supplies managed to land at the main airport in Palu, which re-opened to humanitarian flights and limited commercial flights, but only to pilots able to land by sight alone.

Satellite imagery provided by regional relief teams showed the severe damage at some of the area's major sea ports, with large ships tossed on land, quays and bridges trashed and shipping containers thrown around.

Hospitals were overwhelmed by the influx of those injured, with many people being treated in the open air. There were widespread power blackouts.

It's the latest natural disaster to hit Indonesia, which is frequently struck by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis because of its location on the "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin.

In December 2004, a massive magnitude 9.1 earthquake off Sumatra island in western Indonesia triggered a tsunami that killed 230,000 people in a dozen countries.

Last month, a powerful quake on the island of Lombok killed 505 people.

(Source: agencies)



The official said Israel enjoyed the United States support and reserved the right to protect itself, without elaboration.

"[Russian President Vladimir] Putin made a move, but it's a big playing field and he understands that," the official said.

Moscow vowed to bolster Syria's air defense capabilities by sending modern S-300 surface-to-air missile systems to the country within two weeks after the recent accidental downing of a Russian Il-20 reconnaissance aircraft.

The aircraft was shot down by Syrian air defenses while they were responding to a wave of Israeli airstrikes.

Russia's decision to provide Syria with the S-300 system infuriated Israel, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu describing it as "irresponsible."

Netanyahu told Putin in a phone conversation that Israel "will continue to do what it has to do to defend itself."

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Friday Russia has already started delivering the S-300 system to Syria as part of efforts to ensure the safety of Russian forces in the country.

The Russian plane with 15 servicemen on board disappeared from radars on September 17 as four Israeli F-16 warplanes were attacking state institutions in Syria's Latakia Province, which is home to Russia-run Hmeimim airbase.

Russia's Defense Ministry held Israel responsible for the incident, saying the regime's warplanes "created a dangerous situation" that led to the downing of the Russian aircraft by Syria's S-200 missile defense system.

(Source: Press TV)

## Trump on Kim Jong Un: 'We fell in love after beautiful letters'

Donald Trump has told a cheering crowd that he and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un "fell in love".

During a campaign rally in West Virginia, the U.S. president said: "He wrote me beautiful letters and they're great letters. We fell in love."

Trump joked about the criticism he would receive following his positive comments about the North Korean dictator, saying some would consider it "presidential".

Putting on the voice of a news reader, he said: "Why has President Trump given up so much?"

He then added: "I didn't give up anything."

In June, Trump met with the North Korean leader in Singapore as part of an attempt to push his regime into denuclearization.

The leaders shook hands at least nine times during the summit, with Trump describing the North Korean dictator as "very talented."

They signed a joint statement with agreements including security guarantees for North Korea, new peaceful relations and the intention to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula.

During the West Virginia rally, Mr. Trump told supporters that Kim is interested in a second meeting.

"We're doing great with North Korea," he said.

"We were going to war with North Korea. Millions of people would have been killed. Now we have this great relationship."

He claimed his growing closeness to Mr. Kim has resulted in the end of rocket tests, helped free hostages and is getting the remains of American servicemen returned home.

Despite this, negotiations between the US and North Korea have stalled since the Singapore summit.

(Source: Sky News)

STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	195104.0
IFX	228.6

Sources: tse.ir, ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	48,750 rials
GBP	54,720 rials
AED	11,430 rials

Source: isna.ir

COMMODITIES

WTI	\$73.25/b
Brent	\$82.73/b
OPEC Basket	\$80.88/b
Gold	\$1,193.75/oz
Silver	\$14.71/oz
Platinum	\$821.80/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

NEWS IN BRIEF



**'Rail transportation \$600m more economic than road'**

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — The Managing Director of Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) Saied Mohammadzadeh announced that transporting loads via railway can save up to \$600 million in comparison with road transportation, Mehr news agency quoted him as saying on Sunday.

Addressing the signing ceremony of an MOU on building Jolfa-Poldasht-Cheshmeh Sorayya railroad, Mohammadzadeh said that domestic rail network is ready to add 30 billion tons of goods to its present capacity.



**Trade regulations system to be established in trade ministry**

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — The Iranian parliament (Majlis) on Sunday gave approval to a bill on the establishment of a trade regulations system in the Ministry of Trade within three months, IRNA reported.

The move is in line with the necessity of notifying trade regulations in trade processes such as in exports and imports and related regulations should be announced to the public as of the law enforcement.

**China widens income tax exemption for foreign investors**

China has widened income tax exemption on re-invested profits for foreign firms, the finance ministry said on Sunday, to try to boost foreign investment amid trade tensions.

The ministry said last December it would temporarily exempt foreign firms from paying provisional income tax on profits they re-invest in the country. But such policies only covered investment into sectors encouraged by the Chinese government.

The scope of the tax exemption has been expanded to all sectors where foreign investment is not prohibited, the finance ministry said in a statement.

The move will help "further encourage foreign investment in China", the finance ministry said on its website.

The tax exemption expansion is retroactive from Jan. 1 this year, which means firms that have paid taxes this year will be refunded.

China's standard corporate tax rate is 25 percent although it gives firms more leeway to make profit deductions when they make charitable donations.

The government has taken steps to attract foreign investment, as part of policy steps to support the slowing economy amid rising trade tensions with the United States. (Source: Reuters)

**Indonesia hikes rates again to defend its currency, but analysts see further weakness**

Indonesia's central bank has made another attempt to curb further sell-off in the rupiah, but analysts said the currency would remain under pressure in the coming months against the backdrop of rising U.S. Treasury yields and an escalation in global trade tensions.

In a widely expected move, Bank Indonesia on Thursday raised its benchmark policy rate by 25 basis points to 5.75 percent. The latest move took the country's total interest rate hikes this year to 1.50 percentage points. The central bank in Southeast Asia's largest economy has been one of the most hawkish in the region.

The rupiah strengthened slightly against the greenback on Friday, with one U.S. dollar buying around 14,890 rupiah compared to 14,912 rupiah the previous day. So far this year, the currency has depreciated by more than 8 percent against the U.S. dollar — one of the worst hit currencies as investors flee emerging markets deemed vulnerable in the current climate.

"Our move, as we conveyed yesterday, basically is to strengthen our external resilience and to strengthen the stability of our economy, especially the rupiah," Perry Warjiyo, governor of Bank Indonesia, told CNBC's "Squawk Box". (Source: CNBC)

**Over 2000 rooftop PV systems to be installed across Iran by March 2020**

**ENERGY TEHRAN** — Iranian households are going to install 2000 new rooftop photovoltaic power stations (known as PV systems) across to country by the end of the next Iranian calendar year (March 2020), pushing the number of such small-scale power plants to reach 4000, IRIB reported on Sunday quoting an official.

"We have already 2000 operational PV systems across the country and 2000 more are under installation", Seyyed Mohammad Sadeqzadeh, head of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (known as SATBA), said.

As the official noted, 150 to 200 megawatts will also be added to the country's renewable power generation capacity

through large-scale renewable plants by the mentioned date.

According to Sadeqzadeh, 85 large-scale renewable power plants are currently operational across the country, 50 percent of which are solar plants.

Renewables, including hydropower, account for just six percent of energy generation, versus natural gas' 90 percent share.

The country's current capacity of generating electricity from renewable resources stands at 650 MW and with near 500 MW of new power plants under construction, the figure is expected to reach 1100 MW by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2019).

Overall, in the next five years, Iran is



aiming for a 5,000 MW increase in renewable capacity to meet growing domestic demand and expand its presence in the regional electricity market.

**TEDPIX at about 200,000 points**

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE)'s main index (TEDPIX) gained 7,697 points to stand at 195,104 points on Sunday, registering a new record again, IRNA reported.

IFX, the main index of Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market known also as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), rose 77 points to 2,228 on the same day, as 1.102 billion securities worth 6.87 trillion rials (about \$163.5 million) were traded.

The rising trend of TEDPIX began on June 13, which was named 'Golden Wednesday of Stock Market', when TEDPIX gained 2,767 points to stand at 99,146 points. Then on June 17, players in Iran's capital market witnessed a historic record in growth of TEDPIX which gained 3,306 points to hit 102,452 points, something unprecedented in



the 50-year history of the country's stock market.

Capital market indices have generally experienced a positive trend since then.

This happened under the conditions that domestic markets are awaiting the new wave of U.S.-led sanctions in November, following by the first round of sanctions posed

in early August.

The growth can be explained regarding the dominant recession on other domestic markets, which has guided a big sum of liquidity from other markets such as auto, foreign currency, housing and coin to the capital market.

The government's recent focus on supporting and expanding the capital market, can also explain the recent jump in indices.

The low tax rate, liquidity transparency, and other provided instruments by the government has presently given the investors in the capital market the confidence about low liquidity risk in the stock market and has led to attraction of a large volume of capital and expansion of trade and cooperation among private companies.

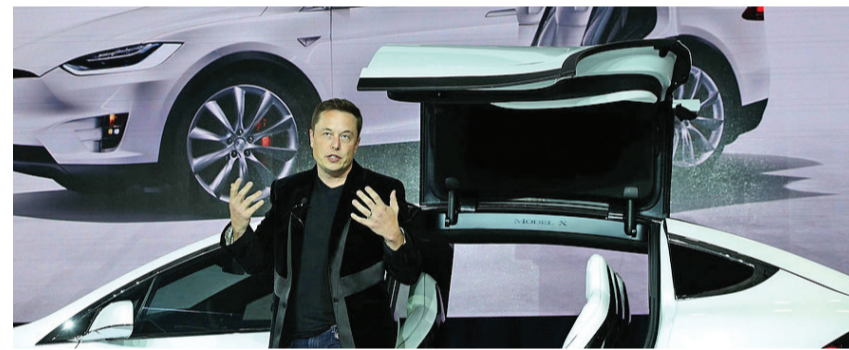
**Elon Musk settles with SEC, will remain Tesla CEO but resign as chairman**

The Securities and Exchange Commission reached a settlement of fraud charges on Saturday with Tesla Inc. and Elon Musk that forces Musk's removal as chairman of the Tesla board and the payment of \$40 million in penalties.

Musk will pay \$20 million of the penalty personally, without using insurance or other assistance, and will be ineligible to be re-elected chairman for three years. Tesla will pay the other \$20 million and must name two new independent directors, one of which can be the new chair.

The SEC filed a complaint against Musk on Thursday afternoon that alleged when he tweeted on Aug. 7 that he would consider taking Tesla TSLA, -13.90% private at \$420 per share — a substantial premium to its trading price at the time — Musk knew that the potential transaction was uncertain and subject to numerous contingencies. Instead, Musk proclaimed that funding for the transaction was "secured," and that the only remaining uncertainty was a shareholder vote.

According to the SEC, Musk had not discussed specific deal terms, including price, with any potential financing partners, and his statements about the prospective transaction lacked an adequate basis in fact. Musk's misleading tweets caused Tesla's stock price to jump by more than 6% on Aug. 7,



and led to significant market disruption, including hundreds of pages of complaints filed with the SEC, according to reporting by The Outline, whose reporters said they had obtained 147 pages of complaints about Musk from investors in Tesla.

The SEC also charged Tesla on Saturday with failing to have in place the required disclosure controls and procedures relating to Musk's tweets, a charge that Tesla also has agreed to settle and which will result in comprehensive corporate-governance modifications and other reforms at Tesla. In addition to Musk's removal as chairman of the Tesla board, to be replaced by an independent chairman, Tesla will also be required to appoint two new independent

directors to its board. If one of the new directors is also chairman, it could be only two new board members total.

The chairman of the SEC, Jay Clayton, took the unusual step of putting out his own statement after the settlement was announced Saturday, saying it is "in the best interests of our markets and our investors." He stressed that the agency seeks to punish bad actions as a deterrence while not punishing investors for the sins of an executive.

"It often is the case that the interests of ordinary shareholders — who had no involvement in the misconduct — are intertwined with the interests of offending officials and the company," Clayton wrote, specifically bringing up cases in which the

"skills and support of certain individuals may be important to the future success of a company."

At the SEC, Clayton said, "the interests of ordinary investors are at the front of our minds and, in matters involving misconduct, we seek to serve those interests to the extent practicable while also ensuring that we remediate and deter misconduct."

Musk was expected to remain a member of the board of directors under terms of the settlement, which are subject to court approval. A Tesla spokeswoman did not immediately respond to a request for comment late Saturday.

Musk and Tesla agreed to settle the charges against them without admitting to nor denying the SEC's allegations.

Joshua Mitts, an associate professor at Columbia Law School, told MarketWatch that the Saturday settlement was a "win-win."

"The SEC," he said, "achieves its goal of punishing and deterring securities fraud. Elon is only required to step down as chairman of Tesla's board. And, most importantly, Tesla's shareholders are better off [with] the appointment of two independent directors and the new committee of independent directors. That is really a key step, which shows the SEC is putting shareholders first." (Source: MarketWatch)

**China factory sector hurt in September as trade frictions bite**

Growth in China's manufacturing sector sputtered in September as both external and domestic demand weakened, two surveys showed on Sunday, raising the pressure on policymakers as U.S. tariffs appear to be inflicting a heavier toll on the Chinese economy.

A private survey showed growth in the factory sector stalled after 15 months of expansion, with export orders falling the fastest in over two years, while an official survey confirmed a further manufacturing weakening.

Taken together, the business activity gauges - the first major readings on China's economy for September - confirm consensus views that the world's second-largest economy is continuing to cool, which is likely to prompt Chinese policymakers to roll out more growth-support measures in coming months.

"We should make policy preparations as the external pressure on the economy is rising and it will increase further next year," said Tang Jianwei, senior economist at Bank of Communications in Shanghai.

Some cushion for the slowing economy might come from services, which account for more than half of China's economy. The official non-manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), released by the National Bureau of Statistics on Sunday, showed services expanded at a faster rate in September.

For manufacturing, the official index fell to a seven-month low of 50.8 in September, from 51.3 in August and below a Reuters poll forecast of 51.2. That index has stayed above the 50-point mark, which divides expansion from contraction, 26 straight months.

But the Caixin/Markit Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell more than expected to 50.0 from 50.6 in August. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast 50.5 on average.

For the private survey, September was the first time China's factories had not seen business improve since May 2017, when activity contracted.

**Shrinking new export orders**

The official data covers a much larger number of companies, while the private poll focuses more on small and medium-sized firms, which are vital to China's job creation. Chinese officials



have pledged to prevent extensive job losses as trade risks mount. In the Caixin survey, new export orders - an indicator of future activity - contracted at the fastest pace since February 2016, with companies attributing the shrinking orders to trade frictions and subsequent tariffs.

In the official survey, the new export orders sub-index fell to 48.0 from 49.4 in August, contracting for a fourth straight month.

"Expansion across the manufacturing sector weakened in September, as exports increasingly dragged down performance and continued softening demand began to have an impact on companies' production," said Zhengsheng Zhong, director of macroeconomic analysis at CEBM Group.

"Downward pressure on China's economy was significant," said Zhong.

Tang of Bank of Communications said he expects China's economic growth to slow to 6.6 percent in the third quarter from 6.7 percent in April-June.

**Long fight ahead?**

The Trump administration has pointed to growing signs of economic weakness in China and its slumping stock markets as proof that the United States is winning the trade war, but Beijing has remained defiant, vowing to stimulate domestic demand to cushion the blow from any trade shocks. Washing-

ton slapped tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods on Sept. 24 and is threatening to impose duties on virtually all of the goods China exports to the United States.

Plans for fresh trade talks collapsed in recent weeks, and both sides appear to be digging in for a long fight, casting a pall over the outlook for global economic growth.

Long Guoqiang, deputy head of the Chinese Cabinet's think tank the Development Research Centre, told reporters on Sunday the impact of the tariffs on some exporters would be harsh.

"Some will cut production, some will cut workers, and some may even shut down," Long said.

While China's official export data has proved surprisingly resilient so far, many analysts believe companies have been rushing out shipments to the United States to beat successive rounds of tariffs, raising the risk of a sharp drop off once duties are actually imposed. The deepening slump in export orders may be bearing that theory out.

Export-reliant Chinese cities and provinces are already showing the strain.

Guangdong, China's biggest province by gross domestic product, reported a drop in exports in the first eight months from a year earlier.

Demand in China had already been slowing before the U.S. trade row flared, a multi-year crackdown on riskier lending and debt started to push up companies' borrowing costs. Fixed-asset investment growth has sunk to a record low.

Policy makers have shifted focus in recent months to growth boosting measures to cushion the economy and weather the trade storm. They have sought to bring financing costs down, boost lending to smaller businesses, cut taxes and fast-track more infrastructure projects.

But analysts note it will take some time for such measures to put a floor under the slowing economy, with some predicting things will get worse before they get better.

China is likely to place increased hopes on its services sector, with rising wages for people in it giving consumers more spending power. The official PMI index for September put services at 54.9, the highest level since June, from 54.2 in August. (Source: Reuters)

# What oil at \$100 a barrel would mean for the world economy

Rising oil prices are prompting forecasts of a return to \$100 a barrel for the first time since 2014, creating both winners and losers in the world economy.

Exporters of the fuel would enjoy bumper returns, giving a fillip to companies and government coffers. By contrast, consuming nations would bear the cost at the pump, potentially fanning inflation and hurting demand.

The good news is that Bloomberg Economics found that oil at \$100 would mean less for global growth in 2018 than it did after the 2011 spike. That's partly because economies are less reliant on energy and because the shale revolution cushioning the U.S.

Ultimately, much depends on why prices are pushing higher. A shock amid constrained supply is a negative, but one due to robust demand just reflects solid growth. Both forces are now in play, driving Brent crude up about 22 percent this year.

Higher oil prices would hurt household incomes and consumer spending, but the impact would vary. Europe is vulnerable given that many of the region's countries are oil importers. China is the world's biggest importer of oil and could expect an uptick in inflation.

There are also seasonal effects to consider, with winter looming in the Northern hemisphere. Consumers can switch energy sources to keep costs down, such as biofuels or natural gas, although not quickly. Indonesia already has instituted measures to push more use of biofuels and limit the economy's reliance on imported fuel.

For a sustained hit to global growth, economists say oil would need to hold above \$100. The dollar's gain of this year doesn't help though given crude is priced in greenbacks.

**■ 2. How can the world economy absorb oil at \$100?**

Bloomberg Economics found that \$100 oil will do more harm than good to global growth. Yet there are important differences



in the condition of the world economy today compared with 2011.

"The shale revolution, lower energy intensity, and higher general price levels mean the impact will be smaller than it once was," economists led by Jamie Murray wrote in a recent report. "The price of a barrel will have to go much higher before global growth slips on an oil slick."

**■ 3. How will Iran and Trump impact the market?**

Geopolitics remains a wild card. Renewed U.S. sanctions on Iran are already crimping the Middle East nation's oil exports. While Donald Trump is pressuring the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to pump more, there is limited spare production capacity. In addition, supply from nations including Venezuela, Libya and Nigeria is being buffeted by economic collapse or civil unrest. Still, Goldman Sachs analysts predict \$100 will not be passed.

**■ 4. Who wins from higher oil prices?**

Most of the biggest oil-producing nations are emerging economies. Saudi Arabia leads the way with a net oil production that's almost 21 percent of gross domestic product as of 2016 -- more than twice that of Russia, which is the next among 15 major emerging markets ranked by Bloomberg Economics. Other winners could include Nigeria and Colombia. The increase in revenues will help to repair budgets and current account deficits, allowing governments to increase spending that will spur investment.

**■ 4. Who loses?**

India, China, Taiwan, Chile, Turkey, Egypt and Ukraine are among the nations who would take a hit. Paying more for oil will pressure current accounts and make economies more vulnerable to rising U.S. interest rates. Bloomberg Economics has ranked major emerging markets based on vulnerability to shifts in oil prices, U.S. rates and protectionism.

One of the biggest winners might also find itself on the losing end: Oystein Olsen,

Norway's central bank governor, warned that Western Europe's biggest petroleum producer risks problems if the industry takes its eyes off controlling costs.

**■ 5. What does it mean for the world's biggest economy?**

A run-up in oil prices poses a lot less of a risk to the U.S. than it used to, thanks to the boom in shale oil production. The old rule of thumb among economists was that a sustained \$10 per barrel increase would shave about 0.3 percent off of U.S. output the following year. But tallies now, including that of Moody's Analytics chief economist Mark Zandi, pencil in a hit of around 0.1 percent.

While the diminishing American reliance on imported oil has positive economic consequences at the industry level, poorer households would feel the weight of higher prices at the pump. They spend about 8 percent of their pre-tax income on gasoline, compared to about one percent for the top fifth of earners.

**■ 6. Will it lead to higher inflation around the world?**

Energy prices often carry a heavy weight in consumer price gauges, prompting policy makers including those at the Federal Reserve to focus simultaneously on core indexes that remove volatile energy costs. But a substantial run-up in oil prices could provide a more durable uptick for overall inflation if the costs filter through to transportation and utilities.

**■ 7. What does it mean for central banks?**

If stronger oil prices boost inflation, central bankers on balance will have one less reason to keep monetary policy loose. Among the most-exposed economies, central bankers in India already are warning about the impact as the nation's biggest import item gets more expensive. Greater overall price pressures also could prompt faster monetary policy tightening in economies such as Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines and South Africa.

(Source: Economic Times)

## Oil's leap toward \$100 softens the blow of Russia sanctions

When former U.S. President Barack Obama first imposed sanctions on Russia in 2014, a plunge in global crude prices turned the penalties into a crushing blow. This time round, oil markets are doing the opposite.

As U.S. lawmakers mull a new round of "crippling" sanctions, some traders are predicting the price of Russia's main export will hit \$100 a barrel for the first time since 2014. The windfall from higher oil revenue could end up mitigating the effect of even the harshest measures under discussion in Washington and investors are picking up Russian government bonds on the back of crude's gains.

"The surge in oil prices should outweigh the sanction fear," said Viktor Szabo, a portfolio manager at Aberdeen Standard Investments in London. "Russia is one of the strongest among emerging markets in terms of fundamentals."

The renewed threat of U.S. penalties lumped Russian assets in with the worst performers amid the summer's broader emerging-markets slump, but the subsequent crude-oil rally and central bank ruble support have sparked a rebound. In Washington meanwhile, U.S. lawmakers continue to brandish sanctions that could see a ban on new sovereign debt sales and even shut Russian banks out of the international financial system.

**■ Strong position**

Paul McNamara, a London-based fund manager at GAM UK Ltd. with an overweight position in Russian ruble bonds, says he added to his holdings after the Russian central bank paused its policy of topping up reserves with hard-currency purchases to avoid exacerbating ruble weakness.

While he concedes that the tougher version of the penalties would mean "more downside" for Russian markets, "major macro issues" can be avoided with oil trading where it is. And if sanctions don't materialize in their harshest form, current oil prices "put Russia in a very strong position," he said.

The ruble trimmed its third weekly advance on Friday, the longest winning run since January. Yields on 10-year local debt have fallen 14 basis points this week to 8.55 percent, the lowest level since Aug. 16.

Daleep Singh, a former Treasury official who helped pen the sanctions against Russia in 2014, admitted in a recent testimony that most of the economic contraction in the country was caused by the decline in oil, not by limiting some Russian companies' access to capital markets. "Most credible estimates" are that 10 percent to 40 percent was caused by U.S. sanctions, Daleep said.

**■ Roller-coaster**

After skipping four local bond sales in a row, the longest stretch since the 2014 crisis, Russian officials say they have no need to rush back into the market and meet investors' demand for a yield premium. The recent ruble weakness and elevated oil prices mean that the value of a barrel of Brent in ruble terms is close to a record, bolstering the budget and helping the government meet its local-currency spending goals.

"The higher price of oil helps because it insulates the economy from needing access to the debt markets, if that were touched in a worse-case scenario," said James Barrineau at Schroders, who has also been picking up local OFZ debt. "It will help sovereign savings to grow and thus make market access less important in the short term," as well as giving the government funds to support banks should the U.S. curtail their market access, he said.

While the impact of oil on the economy is easy to put a number on, the background threat of sanctions that may or may not materialize can't be quantified. The U.S. Congress is unlikely to pass any new sanctions on Russia before the U.S. midterm elections in November, according to a Republican aide and a lawmaker.

"Sanctions are a roller-coaster," Erich Arispe, director of sovereigns at Fitch Ratings Ltd said in an interview. "What we've seen repeatedly is that sanctions don't stop. We are factoring that in for the foreseeable future."

(Source: Bloomberg)

## Exxon-led Russian consortium to pay Rosneft \$230 million to settle production dispute

Russia's Sakhalin-1 consortium, led by ExxonMobil, has agreed to pay Russian energy giant Rosneft \$230 million in an out-of-court settlement of an oil production dispute, an executive of an Indian consortium partner said.

Rosneft had filed a \$1.4 billion lawsuit in the Sakhalin district arbitration court in Russia's Far East, accusing the consortium of unjust enrichment, an allegation the consortium denied.

The dispute centered around how oil should be shared between the Sakhalin-1 concession and an adjacent Rosneft field. "Rosneft was demanding that it should be paid \$1.4 billion ... We have agreed for an out-of-court settlement and will be paying \$230 million as Rosneft entered the other area in 2011," N.K. Verma, managing director of India's ONGC Videsh, a partner in the Sakhalin-1 consortium, told Reuters.

Rosneft, which also has a stake in the Sakhalin-1 consortium, declined to comment. ExxonMobil in Moscow declined immediate comment.

"We don't have anything we can share," said Suann Guthrie, an ExxonMobil spokeswoman in the United States.

P.K. Rao, director for operations at ONGC Videsh, said the out-of-court settlement was reached about 10 days ago.

The row was over oil "cross-flows" from Northern Chayvo oilfield, controlled by



Rosneft.

Sakhalin-1, off Russia's Pacific Ocean coast, is operated by Exxon Neftegas Ltd. through which ExxonMobil owns 30 percent in the project. Rosneft and ONGC control 20 percent each. Japanese consortium Sodeco owns 30 percent.

ONGC's Verma said production at Sakhalin-1 reached 250,000 barrels per day (bpd), up from some 200,000 bpd, as Russia had lifted output restrictions as part of a global deal with OPEC.

Russia's total oil production hit a post-Soviet high of 11.347 million barrels per day this month.

The dispute between Rosneft and the Sakhalin-1 consortium unfolded against the background of a wider rift between Russia and the United States over what Washington called Moscow's meddling in a 2016 presidential election.

(Source: Reuters)

## Petrobras in \$853m settlement of bribery case that rocked Brazil

Petrobras has agreed to pay \$853.2m in penalties over the "Lava Jato" bribery scandal that rocked Brazil's establishment and led to a jail sentence for Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, the former president.

The deal, announced on Thursday, is one of the biggest ever corruption-related settlements. It resolves U.S. Department of Justice claims that Brazil's state-run oil company violated the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act as well as related cases with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and Brazilian authorities.

Former Petrobras executives and board members "facilitated the payment of hundreds of millions of dollars in bribes to Brazilian politicians and political parties and then cooked the books to conceal the bribe payments from investors and regulators", Brian Benzckowski, U.S. assistant attorney-general, said.

Petrobras noted that it had not been charged with, and had not admitted to, paying bribes. In a statement, the company said that under the settlement it accepted "responsibility under U.S. criminal law for the acts of certain former Petrobras executives and officers that gave rise to violations of books and records".

The amount to be paid is very manageable because the company is generating a lot of cash at current oil prices. Petrobras was at the center of a



sprawling investigation in Brazil launched in 2014 known as Lava Jato, or Car Wash, which led to the 12-year sentence for Lula da Silva\*.

The probe uncovered a bribery scheme in which politicians and former Petrobras directors received payments in return for awarding billions of dollars of contracts to construction companies and others.

Odebrecht, the Brazilian construction group also involved in the scandal, agreed to pay up to \$2.6bn to authorities in Brazil, the U.S. and Switzerland in 2016.

The scandal has snared much of Brazil's political and business elite, creating strong anti-establishment sentiment before the country's presidential election next month.

The U.S. justice department and the SEC will each receive 10 percent, or \$85.3m, of the penalty, with Brazil receiving the remaining 80 percent, or \$682m.

(Source: Financial Times)

## Why India's largest solar tender got tepid response

India's plan to push solar farm developers to also make photovoltaic panels received a tepid response, forcing the government to extend the deadline for the largest such auction the second time.

The tender asking developers to also make 50 percent of the panels used in a project attracted only one bidder in Azure Power, according to a person aware of the matter who didn't wish to be identified. BloombergQuint wasn't able to independently verify that, and emailed queries to the company didn't elicit a response.

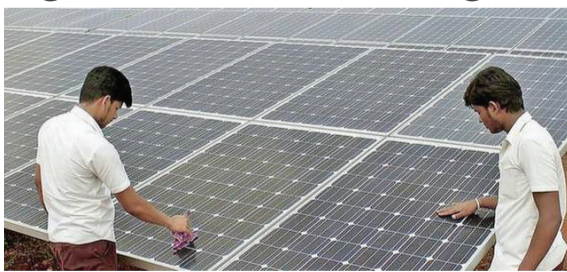
The last day to submit the bids has been extended till Oct. 12, according to a statement by the state-run Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd. It had earlier extended the first Aug. 27 deadline by a month. While it didn't give reasons, a senior official from the corporation said requesting anonymity that players sought more time to tie up with global manufacturers for bidding.

India plans to more than quadruple its solar capacity to 100 gigawatts by 2022. That's part of its 175GW renewable energy target by then to help lower fossil fuel imports and meet emission caps under the Paris agreement. To boost local manufacturing, it has already imposed a safeguard duty on solar cells imported from China and Malaysia that, according to a parliamentary panel, account for 90 percent of the market share. The integrated power generation and panel making auction is also aimed at that.

But costs can be prohibitive. Bloomberg New Energy Finance pegs it at \$200-300 million (about Rs 1,400-2,100 crore) per gigawatt for setting up a fully integrated module making facility, depending on the level of automation.

That will be over and above the solar project cost of Rs 7000 crore per gigawatt, according to Kameswara Rao, partner (energy, utilities and mining) at PwC. An integrated solar manufacturing facility requires a very large capital expenditure and has limited applications, he told BloombergQuint over the phone. That becomes a challenge when guaranteed volumes are limited and operating margin is low since tariff is capped, he said.

The Solar Energy Corporation first issued the tender on May



26. According to the original bid document reviewed by BloombergQuint:

Bidders will have to develop a total of 10 GW of generation capacity along with 5 GW of manufacturing capacity, making it the largest such tender.

Each bidder will have to set up manufacturing capacity of at least 500 megawatts since the minimum bid size was 1GW.

The bidder was required to submit a single price that will be applicable for 25 years.

The Solar Energy Corporation, according to a report by Mercom India, eased some of the terms, the corporation:

Lowered the manufacturing capacity to 3 GW while maintaining the generation tender size at 10 GW.

The minimum bid size of 600 MW generation and 300 MW manufacturing ability.

Time allowed to set up manufacturing capacity reduced to two years from three earlier.

The successful bidder will have to commission 40 percent of the allotted capacity within 21 months of signing the power purchase pact.

It will have to bring the remaining capacity on-stream within three years of letter of allotment.

Tariff cap reduced from Rs 2.93 per kilowatt hour to Rs 2.75,

excluding safeguard duty.

Yet, that leaves little or no room for bidders to absorb the higher capital costs needed to set up a fully integrated production line for modules, according to an emailed response by Allen Tom Abraham, India analyst at Bloomberg New Energy Finance. The Solar Energy Corporation is finding it increasingly difficult to find buyers at prices above Rs 2,500 a megawatt hour, he said.

The government allows bidders to avail existing fiscal incentives like accelerated depreciation, lower customs and excise duties and tax holidays available for such projects.

Still, there are few takers for manufacturing since there is no long-term business visibility, said Gautam Bafna, clean energy analyst at Care Ratings. The timeline is also aggressive as it's not feasible to complete the project within three years, he said. "It will require environmental clearances; that would push the timeline to over three to four years."

India imported solar cells worth Rs 17,000 crore from China in the year through March. Cheaper inbound shipments have helped power producers quote lower prices, bringing tariffs to all-time lows. The government imposed a 25 percent safeguard duty on imported panels in the first year, and 20 and 15 percent in the two subsequent six-month periods, respectively, to boost domestic output.

Still, module makers are hesitant to build any production facility which does not get adequate incentives to compete with China and has contracted volumes for just a few years, Shantanu Jaiswal, head of India research at Bloomberg New Energy Finance, said in an emailed reply. If the government is really serious about spurring manufacturing growth in India, then it has to show the players a long-term market for modules produced by them. "A possible solution could be to increase the volume and timeline of photovoltaic projects associated with this tender."

(Source: Bloomberg)

## Higher energy exports help cut Algeria's Jan-Aug trade deficit

Algeria's energy earnings rose 21.23 percent in the first eight months of 2018 compared with the same period a year ago, helping to reduce the trade deficit by 75 percent, official data showed on Saturday.

Oil and natural gas exports, which accounted for 93 percent of the country's total sales abroad, reached \$26.33 billion, up from \$21.72 billion in January-August last year, according to customs figures.

The overall value of exports reached \$28.342 billion versus \$22.952 billion in the first eight months of 2017, while imports fell 2.4 percent to \$30.394 billion.

Algeria's government has imposed import restrictions for some products in an attempt to reduce spending on foreign-made goods.

(Source: Reuters)

## Present at the destruction



By Mark Leonard

As world leaders gathered in New York last week for the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly, it was clear to most that the post-war multilateral system is now an artifact of a bygone era. The new world order that is currently emerging will be defined less by shared principles, and more by the whims of individual leaders and governments.

At the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly this month, there was a widespread sense of foreboding among world leaders. The anxiety went beyond standard concerns about what U.S. President Donald Trump would say, do, or tweet. Even before the summit began, Europeans, Canadians, Mexicans, South Koreans, and Japanese had been consulting in earnest about the need for a new alliance to save the multilateral system.

In the late 1960s, former U.S. Secretary of State Dean Acheson looked back at the immediate post-war era and felt as though he had been “present at the creation” of a new world based on shared rules and multilateral institutions. But at the UNGA this year, many attendees felt as though they were present at the destruction of that world.

There are a number of reasons for this. But many of them are linked to Trump, whose attacks on the Paris climate accord, the Iran nuclear deal, NAFTA, NATO, the World Trade Organization, and the UN Human Rights Council have made it clear that he regards the international system as an unnecessary constraint on his administration.

To Trump’s mind, multilateral institutions tend to strengthen the hand of weaker powers vis-à-vis the U.S., and are thus facilitating China’s bid for global dominance. Hence, his solution is to destroy the global order and then negotiate with other countries on a bilateral basis. That way, the U.S. will always have the upper hand, enabling it to change the rules in its favor.

But Trump is far from the only threat to the multilateral order. Chinese President Xi Jinping has sought to portray himself as a savior of the international system, and yet his goal is not to defend the institutions on which global governance depends, but rather to bolster China’s power. By deprioritizing human rights, Xi will be free to pursue ambitious projects such as the Belt and Road Initiative, the aim of which is to enhance China’s influence throughout Eurasia and the Asia-Pacific region.

Moreover, Trump and Xi are just two among a larger group of alpha leaders who are challenging the traditional Kantian international order.

The task ahead for the remaining multilateralists is to avoid becoming guardians of a status quo that is already dead. That will require carefully identifying the weak spots of the existing order, and forging coalitions of the willing to address them. On

**Even before the summit began, Europeans, Canadians, Mexicans, South Koreans, and Japanese had been consulting in earnest about the need for a new alliance to save the multilateral system.**

The trickiest part of this strategy will involve knitting together a critical mass of countries that can uphold liberal values even when great powers will not. This will be essential as the world moves away from the vision of multilateralism that prevailed at the turn of the century.

When I was in Beijing a few weeks ago, Chinese strategists were debating

whether the new order will be multipolar or bipolar. Most agreed that it will center on a bipolar confrontation between the U.S. and China; but they doubted that it will resemble the Cold War and interwar periods. Instead, many expect a return to the geopolitics of the pre-World War I era.

In my view, the new world disorder will have four key features. First, “connectivity wars” will be commonplace. The ties that bind countries together will not be severed, but nor will they create the conditions for true multilateralism. Instead, the major powers will weaponize their interconnections, giving rise to more trade wars, cyber attacks, sanctions regimes, and electoral interference.

Second, non-alignment will become the default foreign policy. While the Cold War pitted the Western alliance against the Soviet bloc, the new bipolar world will allow for much more promiscuity. Rather than pledging allegiance to China or the U.S., most countries will keep their options open, working with the Chinese on some issues and with the Americans on others.

Third, strongmen will continue to reign. As geopolitical competition heats up, voters will turn to tough leaders whom they trust to uphold narrow national interests. But this lurch toward centralized decision-making will produce inconsistent and radical policies, along with perpetual cheating. Without an empowered multilateral system to police abuses, countries governed by strongmen will increasingly break their promises, lie, and peddle conspiracy theories – Trump’s modus operandi.

Lastly, foreign policy will become more domestically oriented. Rather than trying to influence other countries or lead on the world stage, political leaders will focus on consolidating their base at home.

When confronting this kind of disorder, committed multilateralists will have to stay focused on defending the most critical aspects of the international system. That means they should be willing to play hardball against the alpha leaders. With their respective responses to Trump’s trade bluster, the European Union, Canada, and Japan have shown that this is possible. But now they must go further, by developing a comprehensive approach to defending global rules in an age of national misrule. (Source: Project Syndicate)

# Trump needs to start worrying about Saudi Arabia’s reform efforts

## The United States has a profound interest in helping Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman avoid his own worst impulses

By John Hannah

For those of us who have been strong supporters of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman’s unprecedented reform efforts, the past several months have given cause for concern. There’s been a steady stream of bad news, and good news has grown less frequent. I’m certainly not ready to hit the panic button yet — those who thought the process of yanking Saudi Arabia into the 21st century would proceed smoothly, without its share of setbacks, were surely fooling themselves. But there have been enough warning signs now for the Trump administration to start taking greater notice — and, more importantly, taking greater action to curb some of Mohammed bin Salman’s less constructive impulses.

The latest sign of trouble was the news last month that Saudi Aramco, the state-owned oil company, was putting off its long-anticipated initial public offering. Though Khalid al-Falih, the Saudi energy minister, was quick to insist that the government remains committed to selling off a 5 percent stake in Aramco “at a time of its own choosing,” few were convinced. Since Mohammed bin Salman first unveiled the idea with great fanfare in 2016, it’s been one delay and missed deadline after another. Now the deadlines have disappeared altogether. Indefinitely postponed seems to be the most charitable euphemism one could use to describe the IPO’s current status. Collapsed is probably closer to the truth.

Mohammed bin Salman’s father, King Salman, reportedly delivered the coup de grâce. According to Reuters, during the month of Ramadan, which ended in June, the king received a number of complaints from princes, bankers, and Aramco executives about the pending IPO. Their primary concern: Any listing on one of the world’s major stock exchanges would require too much disclosure of Aramco’s financial dealings, potentially exposing irregularities and weaknesses that could embarrass and undermine not only the company, but also the legitimacy of the House of Saud itself.

Observers inevitably perceived the cancellation as a serious blow to Mohammed bin Salman’s reformist credentials. For better or worse, the crown prince had consistently portrayed the selloff as an essential element of his audacious Vision 2030 program to transform the Saudi economy. He insisted that Aramco would be valued at an eye-popping \$2 trillion (making it easily the most valuable company in the world) and that the \$100 billion raised by the IPO would help cover the enormous costs of the Vision 2030 plan to diversify the economy by reducing its dependence on oil and building a future based on innovation, technology, and a vibrant private sector.

But the importance of the sale went far beyond exploiting Aramco as a convenient cash cow. It was also meant to serve as a massive signal of reassurance to foreign investors whose participation will be essential to Vision 2030’s success. Listing shares of Saudi Arabia’s most important asset on one of the world’s major exchanges was supposed to mark the kingdom’s opening to Western-style standards of transparency, accountability, and the rule of law.

Instead, the IPO’s scrapping has had the opposite effect. Investors rapidly determined that Mohammed bin Salman’s \$2 trillion valuation was grossly exaggerated, although insufficient information existed to assess with any accuracy what the real figure should be. The Saudi government has neither offered an authoritative explanation for the IPO’s constant delays nor made any effort to articulate its concerns surrounding the sale. Rather than tearing down the wall of opacity around the kingdom, the IPO process helped reinforce it. And rather than boosting investor confidence, it underscored the extent to which major economic decisions are still subject to the murky political calculations, infighting, and arbitrary interventions of the Saudi ruling elite.

Mohammed bin Salman is now seeking to mitigate the IPO failure by insisting that Aramco instead take on tens of billions of dollars in foreign debt to purchase a controlling stake in Sabic, the petrochemical company owned by Saudi Arabia’s sovereign wealth vehicle, the Public Investment Fund. The fund would in turn use the money from the sale to finance Vision 2030’s reforms. While such a fallback plan might make up for the funds that the IPO was supposed to generate, it would seem a less-than-ideal substitute when it comes to bolstering the kingdom’s attractiveness to global investors. Executives from both Aramco and Sabic have privately made known their lack of enthusiasm for the deal and hinted that the only reason it’s being considered is because of a royal command to do so. Potential investors could be forgiven for thinking that the transaction has



**Indeed, there’s a widespread perception that the administration’s Saudi policy has been on autopilot. In turn, the crown prince has been left alone, flailing at times, without the benefit of sustained U.S. counsel on the wide array of growing challenges that he confronts—not just at home but regionally as well, including the costly quagmire of the war in Yemen and the divisive conflict with neighboring Qatar.**

the markings of a government-mandated forced transfer of assets.

The IPO’s unraveling may have been the most significant sign of trouble for Saudi reform over the past six months, but it wasn’t the only one. Just weeks before the kingdom lifted its ban on women driving in June — an occasion that should have looked like a moment of great triumph for Mohammed bin Salman — a number of well-known female activists who had long campaigned in favor of the change were arrested. The charges against them included trumped-up accusations of seeking to “destabilize the kingdom” and “mar the national consistency” (whatever that means). They were pilloried as traitors serving foreign interests in a well-coordinated hit job by the state-owned media. The message seemed all too clear: Any societal change flows strictly from the top down, a function of the beneficence and wisdom of Mohammed bin Salman — not through any process of grassroots activism on the part of the kingdom’s citizens. No doubt meant to shore up the crown prince’s power and authority at home, the move to Western eyes came across as heavy-handed and oppressive, driven as much by fear as strength. Not a particularly good look for foreign investors.

The kingdom’s overreaction to a handful of tweets (including one in Arabic) by the Canadian Foreign Ministry that mildly criticized the arrest of two more human rights activists in early August made matters worse. Virtually overnight, Saudi Arabia expelled the Canadian ambassador, canceled flights to Canada, ordered Saudi students home, liquidated investments in Canada, and froze new Canadian-Saudi business trade and investment. Defenders rushed to explain that the move had nothing to do with Mohammed bin Salman’s reformist bona fides and everything to do with shoring up his strength at home. In this telling, precisely to preserve his ability to continue driving the modernization process forward, the crown prince had no choice but to respond vigorously to Canada’s perceived affront to Saudi sovereignty — lest powerful reactionary forces within the kingdom, both tribal and religious, use it to beat him for failing to protect the prestige of the Saudi state. Perhaps. But for Western audiences, including the investor class, the over-the-top response added detail to a growing narrative that portrays Mohammed bin Salman as less a historic reformer than an impulsive authoritarian, prone to temper tantrums and flights of irrational decision-making.

All of these unfortunate recent developments, of course, occurred against the stark backdrop of last November’s notorious anti-corruption campaign, in which hundreds of wealthy Saudis, including powerful princes, former government ministers, and businessmen, were arrested, forcibly detained in Riyadh’s Ritz-Carlton hotel, and coerced into surrendering billions of dollars in cash and property. Allegations of physical abuse, even torture resulting in death, were widespread.

Needless to say, this has cast a long shadow over the kingdom’s investment climate.

The numbers tell an alarming story. Over the past two years, there has been massive capital flight from Saudi Arabia. Some \$80 billion in 2017. Another \$65 billion projected this year — and that was before the diplomatic spat with Canada. Reports suggest that the numbers might have been even higher if not for Saudi government measures to stem the rush to the exits. Wealthy Saudis believe their bank accounts are now being monitored. Small cash transfers have been questioned by government officials. Larger transfers have been blocked outright. Efforts to exchange Saudi riyals for other currencies have allegedly been denied, all part of what one Saudi wealth manager described to the Financial Times as “targeted — but huge scale — capital controls.”

The flight of money out of the country has coincided with a collapse of incoming investment. A report issued by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in June provided the gory details. In 2017, new foreign direct investment plunged to a 14-year low. Since 2016 alone, FDI dropped more than 80 percent, from \$7.5 billion to \$1.4 billion — making Vision 2030’s target of attracting \$18.7 billion in FDI by 2020 appear to be a pipe dream. Even Jordan, oil-poor and perennially teetering on the economic abyss, and Oman, a country with an economy a tenth the size of Saudi Arabia’s, attracted more foreign inflows than Saudi Arabia did last year. And while Saudi FDI was in freefall in 2017, Qatar — the target of a devastating Saudi-led economic boycott — actually saw a small increase in foreign investment.

As worrisome as these mounting difficulties may appear, the right reaction from Washington shouldn’t be giving up on Mohammed bin Salman and Vision 2030. It remains the case that the United States has a profound interest in seeing the kingdom successfully reform. Whatever his shortcomings, in recent years Mohammed bin Salman has taken a series of unprecedented liberalizing steps that — for many longtime observers of the kingdom — once seemed unthinkable.

Their significance shouldn’t be easily dismissed or taken for granted. With breathtaking speed, Mohammed bin Salman has launched groundbreaking changes to challenge extremist ideology, empower women, loosen cultural restrictions, reduce budget-busting subsidies, and impose taxes. In the process, he’s almost certainly alienated and angered powerful domestic constituencies — especially within the ruling family and Wahhabi religious establishment. His domestic politics are no doubt real and complex. Calculating when to press ahead and when to retreat, when to steamroll opponents and when to appease them can’t be easy — in particular for an inexperienced 33-year-old seeking to transform one of the most hidebound and consensus-driven governing systems in the world. Mistakes, even serious ones,

are inevitable.

That said, as Saudi Arabia’s most important ally, the United States should be working actively but quietly to help Mohammed bin Salman avoid needless errors where possible, while mitigating the consequences of those already made. U.S. President Donald Trump, to his credit, moved early on to repair ties with key Middle Eastern partners, especially the Saudis, that had badly frayed under his predecessor — in particular, by adopting a much tougher posture toward Iran. The president and his senior advisor and son-in-law, Jared Kushner, also bet heavily — and correctly — that Mohammed bin Salman would rapidly emerge as the country’s dominant decision-maker, and they conspicuously conferred U.S. backing for his meteoric rise.

Although the administration has occasionally used its increased leverage to press the Saudis on several discrete issues — such as buying additional U.S. weapons and pumping more oil to reduce gasoline prices — it has largely demurred when it comes to systematically engaging Mohammed bin Salman on his historic reform agenda. Indeed, there’s a widespread perception that the administration’s Saudi policy has been on autopilot. In turn, the crown prince has been left alone, flailing at times, without the benefit of sustained U.S. counsel on the wide array of growing challenges that he confronts — not just at home but regionally as well, including the costly quagmire of the war in Yemen and the divisive conflict with neighboring Qatar.

That should change as quickly as possible. The administration needs to recognize Mohammed bin Salman’s escalating difficulties and quickly develop a strategy to bring U.S. advice and interests to bear on his decision-making. The aim should be to encourage and support his best impulses, while tempering the worst ones. In other words: more economic liberalization, empowerment of women, and promotion of moderate Islam, and fewer arrests of sympathetic human rights activists, diplomatic blowups with industrialized Western democracies, and poorly executed foreign-policy adventures.

In this regard, the fact that the administration has still not named an ambassador to Saudi Arabia nearly two years in is a serious failure. Getting a new U.S. envoy to Riyadh in short order, one with deep experience and whom both Trump and Mohammed bin Salman hold in high regard, should be a top priority. The administration should also resurrect the high-level U.S.-Saudi strategic dialogue, with the aim of better coordinating approaches on key shared interests — especially with respect to Saudi reform and regional security.

Saudi Arabia’s trajectory could be one of either great promise or great peril for the future of the Middle East and vital U.S. interests. The issue is too important for the United States to leave to Mohammed bin Salman alone. It’s time that the Trump administration got off the sidelines and into the game. (Source: Foreign Policy)

# U.S. running a real risk to international trading system: Lord Lamont

1 → ■ How has the impending re-imposition of U.S. economic sanctions against Tehran changed the level of trade transactions between the two countries so far?

A: Well, it's too early to say what the impact of U.S. sanctions will be, but undoubtedly they will have some negative impact. The position of the British government is that we believe that the JCPOA was a big achievement and a win-win situation, as [Iranian Foreign Minister] Mr. Zarif has said. The British government, along with other governments, is taking measures to protect UK firms from the effect of sanctions, and that legislation, which is a European legislation, is now in force. But of course, the government will have to take further measures to protect trade.

■ How effective is the capacity of the two countries' private sectors for compensating for the limitations and obstacles hampering trade transactions between states after the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA?

A: Well, as far as the UK is concerned, it's the private sector that is the main engine of economy. I think the situation is different in Iran, where the role of the state is probably bigger. And there are a lot of semi-state organizations [in Iran]. We in the UK rely very much on the private sector to stimulate the Britain's exports. [The private companies] were fully prepared to do that, but the trouble is Mr. Trump has unilaterally torn up the JCPOA, which makes it very difficult for large companies in the UK because many of them have business in America and some of them have to choose between doing business in America or doing business with Iran.

■ Which large British companies have already abandoned their projects in Iran due to concerns over U.S. sanctions?

A: Well, I'm not sure that I should name them because they may not have yet made a formal announcement, but obviously there are energy companies that are no longer here. British Airways has unfortunately had to suspend its service here. Jaguar Land Rover have, I think, canceled put on hold their plan to have a showroom here and sell their cars. And there are quite a number of British companies which have been affected in the energy sector.

■ And what about those small companies which may have decided to remain in Iran?

A: Well, I think small companies can cover a whole range of industries, but in many ways it's more difficult for small companies to come here. On another hand, they have the advantage of not having links with the United States, and therefore they are in many ways outside the reach of the jurisdiction of authorities in America.

■ So would you say that SMEs could be a way to overcome the limitations facing Iran's trade with UK after the reinstatement of U.S. sanctions?

A: Well, I don't think that SMEs could really make up for the departure of large energy companies. But small companies could be subcontractors to larger companies. The problem is, they don't often have the knowledge of large companies. They don't know the market. They don't have the resources. Small companies are sometimes very enterprising and imaginative. I am constantly amazed at what small companies do. They turn up in the most unlikely places, but it's not very easy to predict.

■ And what about cooperation between Iran and UK's chambers of commerce?

A: The British-Iranian chamber of commerce in London works very closely with the Iranian-British chamber [in Tehran]. We try to keep each other informed of the developments. We also have a system for supporting visa applications, which is one of the main sources of cooperation [between us]. The Tehran branch of the Iran-Britain chamber contacts us about visa application and we try to support them. We also try to



inform members about investment opportunities or public procurement opportunities, all these sorts of things. So the two work quite closely together.

■ Would UK strengthen its national currency in foreign trade transactions after Brexit? And if so, would the use of national currencies make a significant impact on the level of trade transactions between Iran-UK trade ties?

A: When UK leaves the EU, that's not going to affect our currency. Britain does not use the euro. It uses the pound and will continue to use the pound. I don't see that would affect it very much. Brexit for many people offers the opportunity to lay an emphasis on trade with non-European emerging markets. So many people might actually be more inclined to look at Iran after Brexit.

■ In a joint statement after a ministerial meeting between Iran and the remaining signatories to the nuclear deal on Sep. 24, EU promised the establishment of a "Special Purpose Vehicle" to facilitate trade with Iran. What does this mechanism actually entail, and is it really effective enough to escape U.S. sanctions?

A: Well, it doesn't yet exist and it is still in the preliminary stages, so it's difficult to answer the question as you put it. The problem that is being addressed is that European banks and UK banks that have connections to the American financial system often do not want to do business with Iran because they do not want to be denied connection to the American financial system. There are not many banks in the UK that don't have connections to America. So the idea of forming an SPV is to create a channel that will have no connection to the United States and could facilitate trade exclusively between European countries and Iran. This is a European initiative but Britain is part of it and a very keen supporter of it.

■ What is your personal opinion about the overall effectiveness of this mechanism?

A: Well, I think it's a very good idea. We've got to do something like this, because one of the urgent requirements of Iran, after sanctions are renewed in November, is the ability to get paid for their export of oil, gas, condensates, petroleum products, petrochemical products, etc. This is very much designed to help Iran with that particular challenge.

■ What is Britain's stance towards U.S. foreign policies, particularly with respect to its trade war antics?

A: I can only speak personally. I don't, individually myself, support all of President Trump's actions on sanctions. It's not so much about a particular country. I think it's a danger

that President Trump is using the weapon of sanctions far too extensively; sanctions against Russia, sanctions against China, sanctions against Turkey, sanctions against Iran, threat of sanctions against Europe, sanctions possibly against Canada. I personally think the United States is running a real risk of danger to the international trading system. Although I do think that President Trump has something on the case against China on intellectual property, I think one has to proceed carefully because if China and the United States start imposing tariffs on each other's trade, I think this could have big consequences for the world.

■ Iranian people took to the Twitter with the hashtag #nosanctionnow to express their frustration and objection to U.S. sanctions, which they say are actually targeting the ordinary people rather than the government as the U.S. claims. What is your opinion on this?

A: Well, I'm not a great supporter of sanctions in general. And I think there are very few cases in history where sanctions have been effective in bringing about a political objective. One possible exception might be South Africa, or Burma, I'm not sure. But I don't think sanctions are generally very effective. And I think one of the reasons is that they hit ordinary people rather than the elite. The elite are often the people who can benefit from sanctions. They may have access to smuggling, to privileged supplies, [sanctions] hit them far less.

■ Iran says Trump's administration's unilateralism and contempt against allies and adversaries alike has isolated U.S. What is your take on the future of U.S.' global standing if Trump's particular brand of foreign policies continues to persist?

A: Well, Britain is quite a close ally to the United States, but I think it shows UK's strength of feeling on the JCPOA that we have chosen nonetheless to take a very different position from the American administration. I think Britain will nonetheless remain quite close to America on a whole host of foreign policy issues and trade issues, but many people are nervous about the way in which the White House is handling international relations.

■ How do you evaluate the future of economic relations between Iran and UK in the light of the current situation?

A: Well, it's a bit of a setback what has happened with the American president, but I still believe that there are tremendous opportunities. I don't believe the present setup will last forever. And I believe that it is Iran's destiny to be integrated with the world economy.

## Putin's S-300 winging to Syria: Tel Aviv's nightmare



1 → ■ However, the Russian Foreign Minister said the delivery of the S-300 system to Syria will create more stability and not lead to added tensions. According to the Russian Foreign Ministry, the S-300 system is a defensive system, contrary to what the United States claims. Russian officials also said it is an inalienable right of any state to provide defense industry assistance to its allies.

### Putin apparently did not accept Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's displays of sorrow over the death of the plane's crew and took a cautious stance on the incident.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a telephone call with his Syrian counterpart Bashar al-Assad a few days ago that the S-300 systems will be deployed to Syria by early October. The system is capable of intercepting incoming missiles at a distance of more than 250 kilometers, which covers most of the airspace including Lebanese airspace along the coast of the Levant. Command posts of the Syrian air defense will also be equipped with Russian automated systems, which guarantee the identification of Russian aircraft. According to the Russians, this will facilitate centralized control over all forces and resources of the Syrian air defense, help monitor the situation in the air and ensure operative issuance of orders. Most importantly, it will guarantee the identification of all Russian aircraft by the Syrian air defense systems.

Russian President Vladimir Putin apparently did not accept Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's displays of sorrow over the death of the plane's crew and took a cautious stance on the incident. He warned that Russia will respond by "taking additional steps to protect our servicemen and assets in Syria."

Putin had for a long time delayed supplying the S-300 system to Syria, even after the deal had been signed. But the shoot down of the unarmed Russian plane was too much to tolerate. Even so, the Israelis are claiming they will destroy S-300 sites in Syria once they are established on the ground. This is likely to be a hollow threat since the Russians are not playing games this time and will target Zionist aggression against Syria.

### Russian Academy of Sciences Sergey Sedov told Sputnik that seven S-300 systems will completely cover Syria's airspace, but three to four systems will cover vast areas of Syria.

Russian Academy of Sciences Sergey Sedov told Sputnik that seven S-300 systems will completely cover Syria's airspace, but three to four systems will cover vast areas of Syria. Anyway, it is clear that the fall of the Russian plane, followed by the crisis between Tel Aviv and Moscow, was a golden gift for Damascus that may end Israeli attacks on Syria. The Israelis no longer dare enter Syrian airspace, and have often attacked from Lebanese airspace. Given the change in the conflict rules, the possible delivery of the S-300 to Damascus, as well as the sending of military equipment and other reinforcements, the use of Lebanese airspace may no longer be possible. It may all prove to be a nightmare for the Israelis.

## Al-Saud are valuable for Trump when they pay money: Adib-Moghaddam



1 → ■ Trump acts like a market merchant in international affairs. He is always out to sell something to the highest bidder. This mentality is coarse and undeducated, because it sells out U.S. National interests and the interests of anyone allied to the country. The crisis over Qatar is a case in point: Trump's outrageous comments towards the Canadian government and the EU are equally indicative for his primitive and rather hysterical approach to international diplomacy. There is, of course, always also an opportunity with a leader like this: If Iran continues to steer the ship calmly in these rocky waters, the country will emerge out of this recent bout of confrontation initiated by the U.S. government with renewed strength and global prestige. At that time, Iran's domestic politics have to be adjusted to fully capitalise upon a favourable international climate. First and foremost, Iran needs to continue to work on its human rights record and public accountability of governmental institutions in close liaison, as I have always argued, with the country's most important partners in the European Union.

■ Some believe the reason that United States is at the head of the initiative to solve the crisis in Qatar is Showing Washington's

dissatisfaction with Riyadh to solve regional problems. What do you think?

A: For the Trump administration, as for most other countries, the al-Saud are only of value when they pay. The current efforts to bring Qatar back to the fold are rather more directed at creating a joint front to balance against Iran's regional power. Beyond the oil question, Saudi Arabia never really was a strong strategic partner for the United States, not least because no one wants to follow the Saudi model in the Arab world. The Arab intelligentsia knows very well, that the al-Saud monarchy has probably been the most consistent anti-democratic force in Arab affairs. This is why leading opponents of the Saudi state, for instance Madawi al-Rasheed, have recently called for regime change in the country. In support of such voices, I would like to add that there is no alternative to democracy, social emancipation and freedom in West Asia and North Africa. Iran too has to learn the lessons of history with patience, yet with a determining march towards a system that represents all Iranians, inside and outside of the country.

■ According to the terms of Saudi Arabia and its allies, is Qatar ready to give points to the opposite side? If so, what areas may

there be a compromise?

A: So far, the Trump administration had to repeatedly postpone any meetings for reconciliation. For any successful diplomatic negotiation, political science teaches us, there needs to be a) a competent and neutral chief negotiator - the Trump administration does not play this role and b) a negotiating process that ensures the benefit for all stakeholders in an equal manner (positive-sum game) which is not the case here as the position of Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain has been largely uncompromising and rather insulting to Qatar.

■ According to U.S. relations with Saudi Arabia and Qatar, how can Washington re-

solve the crisis to keep the two sides happy?

A: U.S. relations with these two actors are largely determined by U.S. interests, so there has never really been a concerted effort to forge a reciprocal arrangement. In the absence of a comprehensive settlement, the Trump administration will be content to pursue the economic calculus that underlies the country's relationship with countries such as Qatar and Saudi Arabia. As long as they pay in treasure, oil and gas, they will find a partner in any capitalist society, in particular the United States of course. Whether or not such a client-patron relationship is sustainable indefinitely is - of course - another question.

### Public Notice for Prequalification of Investor of Investor (First Announcement-Second Stage)



Municipality of Bandar-e Mahshahr, by virtue of Investment Procedure Letter No. 12404/1/3 dated April 24, 2011 of the Interior Ministry and License No. SH/1133 dated Oct. 9, 2015 of the City Islamic Council intends to transfer construction operation of Grand Hall and Hotel Project of the municipality with 80 percent physical progress to the qualified investor.

Therefore, qualified domestic and foreign investors, who have high potentials and financial affordability, are cordially invited to refer to the Investment Department of the Municipality of Bandar-e Mahshahr after publication of second announcement of the notice to receive tender documents.

For further information, interested applicants may get in touch with the following phone number in business hours: 061-52339114 - 16.

Investment Department of Bandar-e Mahshahr Municipality

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Therefore, qualified domestic and foreign investors, who have high potentials and financial affordability, are cordially invited to refer to the Investment Department of the Municipality of Bandar-e Mahshahr after publication of second announcement of the notice to receive tender documents.

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# Older persons to form 20% of Iran's population by 2050: expert

**HEALTH** TEHRAN — An Iranian demography expert has predicted that by the year 2050 older persons will make up 20 percent of the country's population, ISNA reported on Sunday.

Census reports of 2016 indicate that the number of persons, aged 60 years or older, has increased by 1.5-fold over the past decade (2006-2016) in Iran. In 2006, some 5.1 million people were 60 or older, but the number rose to 6.1 million in 2011 and to 7.4 million in 2016. Currently, the country's total population stands at about 80 million, of which some 9.3 percent is 60 or older.

Shahla Kazempour explained that in the Iranian calendar year 1365 (March 1986-March 1987) 46 percent of the country's population aged under 15, 51 percent aged between 15 and 64 and only 3 percent aged 65 years or older.

In 2016, the population of those aged under 15 stood at 23 percent, people aged between 15 and 64 reached 71 percent and some 6 percent aged 65 and older, she added.

She went on to say that after the Islamic Revolution in 1979 some 2 million births were reported while 400,000 died and last year (March 2017-March 2018) 1.5 million were born and 400,000 died.

Zero population growth can be achieved when the birth rate of a population equals the death rate, this has not happened in the country yet, but it is projected that by 2050 birth rate of a population equals the death rate in the country, Kazempour said.

While older persons (aged 65 or older) constitute 6 percent of the population by 2050 they will grow more than three-fold, she highlighted.

According to the United Nations, almost 700 million people are now over the age of 60. By 2050, 2 billion people, over 20 percent of the world's population, will be 60 or older. The increase in the number of older people will be the greatest and the most rapid in the developing world, with Asia as the region with the largest number of older persons, and Africa facing the largest proportionate growth.

The composition of the world population has changed dramatically in recent decades. Between 1950 and 2010 life expectancy worldwide rose from 46 to 68 years, and



**In 1979, some 2 million births were reported while 400,000 died and last year (March 2017-March 2018) 1.5 million were born and 400,000 died. Zero population growth can be achieved when the birth rate of a population equals the death rate, this has not happened in the country yet, but it is projected that by 2050 birth rate of a population equals the death rate in the country.**

it is projected to increase to 81 by the end of the century.

It should be noted that at present women outnumber men by an estimated 66 million among those aged 60 years or over. Among those aged 80 years or over, women are nearly twice as numerous as men, and among centenarians women are between four and five times as numerous as men. For the first time in human history, in 2050, there will be more persons over 60 than children in the world.

Resolution 45/106, passed by the United Nations General Assembly on December 14, 1990, declared October 1 to be the International Day of Older Persons. The theme for the 2018 celebration is "Celebrating Older Human Rights champions".

The 2018 theme aims to:  
Promote the rights enshrined in the Declaration and what it means in the daily lives of older persons;  
Raise the visibility of older people as

participating members of society committed to improving the enjoyment of human rights in many areas of life and not just those that affect them immediately;

Reflect on progress and challenges in ensuring full and equal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by older persons; and

Engage broad audiences across the world and mobilize people for human rights at all stages of life.

## Deadly flu season spurs new push for vaccinations

After the deadliest flu season in decades, U.S. public health officials Thursday called on the public to get vaccinated against the disease before this year's season hits with full force.

The 2017-18 flu season, which lasted from October through May, left about 80,000 people dead, U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams, MD, told reporters Thursday.

"One flu death is too many," Adams says. "That's why it's so important for everyone 6 months and older to get a flu vaccine every year."

Though the toll was highest among seniors, the dead included 180 children, "and a majority of them were unvaccinated," Adams says. More than 40% of children didn't get flu shots last year, and the number of children between 6 months and 4 years old who went unvaccinated increased during the 2017-18 season, he says.

In addition to the deaths, the flu put about 900,000 people in the hospital. Flu cases started ramping up in November 2017 and ran high through the following March, according to the CDC. The season was the first to be considered "high severity" among all age groups, the agency says.

"Vaccination makes it less likely you will spread the virus to others," says William Schaffner, MD, the medical director of the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases. "Getting vaccinated is the socially responsible thing to do. While protecting yourself, you're also protecting those around you."

The experts gathered at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., on Thursday urged people to get vaccinated by the end of October. Adams got his own at the event, telling the audience, "I did not feel a thing."

Vaccinations for the elderly, adults with chronic health problems, pregnant women, and children are particularly important, they say.

"Kids have a lot of snot, and they have a lot of drool, and they go to school," says Wendy Sue Swanson, MD, a pediatrician at Seattle Children's Hospital. As a result, they're more vulnerable to picking up the virus from their classmates and bringing it home to parents.

"The damage that flu causes continues even after you recover from the respiratory illness," he says.

And Laura Riley, MD, says pregnant women are more likely to be hospitalized by the flu and more likely to have severe respiratory illnesses. Getting vaccinated not only protects them, but they can pass that immunity onto their infants, protecting them until they're old enough to get a flu shot themselves, says Riley, who heads the obstetrics and gynecology department at New York's Weill Cornell Medical College.

Dan Jernigan, MD, the head of the CDC's Influenza Division, says many of last year's flu cases involved a strain of the virus known as H3N2 that's particularly dangerous to people over 65. Before last year, the deadliest recent flu season -- in 2012-2013 -- killed about 56,000 people, he says.

That's particularly hazardous for the vulnerable people they work with, such as people over 65. Schaffner said that for many older people, the inflammation the flu brings can raise the risk of heart attacks or stroke, and can "knock down the first domino" toward disabling ailments.

(Source: WebMD)

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- 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:  
Farmaniyyeh  
Aghdasiyeh  
Shahrak Gharb  
Shariati-Pasdaran  
Valiasre  
Tajrish  
Jordan  
Vanak  
Arjantin  
Zafar...  
nice cases ready to move in.

## 30 orbital slots in Iran's name: ISA

According to satellitetoday.com, space has become congested. There is not an inexhaustible supply of attractive orbital slots for satellite operators, and as the economy becomes more global, access to this real estate becomes even more important. However, other frequency bands remain widely under-used, so plenty of opportunities exist for satellite operators to find ways to meet the needs of their customers. The challenge is to work within these new parameters.

## Iran registers over 407,000 articles on ISC: official

TEHRAN — Iran has registered more than 407,000 articles on the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC), the ISC president, Mohammad Javad Dehqani, announced on Saturday. The ISC aims to hold workshops, rank universities and report academic statistics of the Islamic countries, he said, Mehr reported.



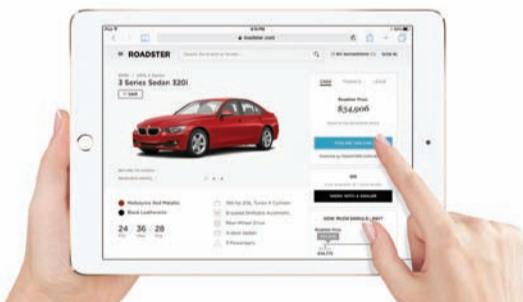
ISC is a citation index established by the Iranian Ministry of Science, Research and Technology after it was approved by the Organization of the Islamic Conference. It only indexes journals from the Islamic world. It was announced in Baku, Azerbaijan, during the Fourth Islamic Conference of the Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research held in October 2008. It is managed by the Islamic World Science Citation Center, located in Shiraz. In 2009, ISC partnered with Scopus that allows ISC's publications to be indexed in Scopus.

### SOCIALLY SAFE

## Safety tips for buying and selling vehicles

It has never been easier to buy or sell a vehicle than it is now ... thanks to the internet. The ability to upload and view photos and vehicle descriptions, and contact buyers and sellers - all with a click - have transformed the business, and people's experience of buying and selling. However, the internet has also made it easier for dishonest buyers and sellers to defraud larger numbers of people, so there are a number of things you need to be aware of before going online to buy or sell a vehicle.

- When buying, always view the vehicle and check its authenticity against documentation, before parting with any payment. If in doubt, ask an expert.



- When selling, do not pay any advance 'shipping' fees, and always receive cleared payment in full before handing over the vehicle. Report vehicle buying or selling fraud to Action Fraud (details at the bottom of this page).
- Fraudulent advertisements placed by criminal gangs posing as sellers, often involving a hoax vehicle at a bargain price, a faulty phone number and demands to transfer money into a payment protection service or abroad.
- Buying a stolen vehicle, which could include one that has had its identification numbers replaced by a set from a written-off vehicle, and have bogus documentation (known as a 'ringer'). If you are unfortunate enough to buy a stolen vehicle, you may still be liable for finance agreement payments when it is returned to its rightful owner.
- Buying a vehicle that has been 'clocked' (ie the mileage recorder has been wound back to make it appear that it has covered fewer miles).
- Buying a vehicle where the remains of two or more vehicles have been welded together to create a 'new' model (known as a 'cut and shut').
- Being charged 'admin fees' by dealers / vehicle supermarkets, which have not been included in the advertised price. These can claim to cover a number of services, including penalties for not taking up the seller's finance.
- Buying a cloned vehicle, which wears the stolen number plates from an identical model. This is not necessarily a stolen vehicle. If you buy a cloned vehicle, you will probably receive demands for parking and speeding fines, or be questioned about crimes in which the original vehicle is involved.
- Phishing emails requesting login and payment card details, claiming to be from vehicle buying and selling websites.
- Fraudulent buyers - thieves posing as potential purchasers - who offer the entire vehicle value paid via a PayPal or similar account created with false credit card details.
- Fraudulent car buying companies asking you to pay a 'refundable' deposit for completion of sale and collection of the vehicle.
- Payment not being made or cleared until after you have released the vehicle, including payments via forged bankers' cheques or fake escrow services. Vehicle export scams - encouraging you to transfer 'shipping fees' to 'buyers' abroad.
- Text messages expressing an interest in your vehicle, but providing excuses as to why they cannot call you. These may be part of a premium rate scam which will charge you large sums of money if you respond with a call or text.
- Phishing emails requesting login and payment card details, claiming to be from vehicle buying and selling websites.

(Source: getsafeonline.org)

# Iran to take part in developing Oman's NanoCity

TEHRAN — The NanoCity project of Oman will be developed in collaboration with Iran Nanotechnology Initiative Council (INIC) over the course of 10 years.

The NanoCity Oman is an industrial park and will be established near the city of Muscat. The NanoCity is a three-phase project. The construction of the first phase will start in April 2019 and will be completed by April 2022.

The second phase will start in December 2023 and will be completed in December 2026. And the third phase will commence in December 2028 and will be completed by December 2031.

In this city, different companies in various industries will produce goods by using nano-technology for local and global market.

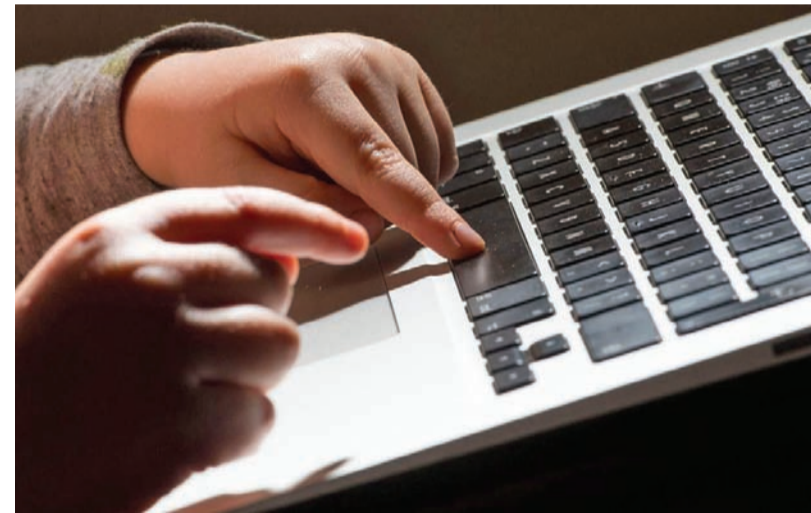
NanoCity has four industrial zones. It also constitutes hotels, schools, shopping centers, health centers and business offices that will be built in an area of 1 million square meters.

The Advanced Universal Tech LLC signed an agreement with INIC to set up the industrial park. NanoCity Oman is the first initiative of its kind, as large scale collaboration between private sectors in Sultanate of Oman and Iran.

The infrastructure cost (phase-1) will be around \$300 million to set up 200 nano industries and nine research and development centers. The NanoCity Oman will be built up based on the achievements of INIC.



## Health experts to set 'safe time limits' for children using social media



The health secretary says he is "very worried" about the impact of unrestricted social media use on young people's mental health.

Medical experts have been instructed by the government to draw up official guidelines for social media use amid fears over its impact on child mental health.

Health Secretary Matt Hancock has asked the UK's chief medical officer, Dame Sally Davies, to start preparing official guidance on safe time limits, like those on recommended maximum alcohol consumption for adults.

In an interview with the Observer before the Conservative party conference, Hancock said he was "very worried" as a father of three children by the growing evidence of the detrimental effect on the health of young people.

"So I have asked the chief medical officer to bring forward formal guidance on its use by children."

He added: "As a parent you want to be able to say, 'the rules say you shouldn't use social media for more than a certain period of time'."

"This is why we have a chief medical officer: to set a norm in society, make judgments on behalf of society, so that individual schools or individual parents don't have to decide."

Some social media platforms, including Facebook and Instagram, have moved to mitigate fears of addiction by introducing tools that enable users to monitor and restrict their time on the services.

Belinda Parmar made a career in tech but now she's worried about its impact on mental health

But Mr Hancock hit out at both platforms over a lack of policing of their rules on age limits.

"The terms of reference of Facebook and Instagram say you shouldn't be on it if you are under the age of 13. But they do nothing to police that," he told the Observer.

"The guidelines for WhatsApp say you shouldn't be on it unless you're 16. But again, they don't lift a finger."

Public campaigns such as Scroll Free September have also been launched to encourage people to use social media less.

(Source: news.sky.com)

## Banks remain wary of blockchain-based electronic payment networks



While blockchain-based payment networks could help eliminate central authorities and their accompanying fees for cross-border transfers, banks and other enterprises see risks.

For all the marketing around B2B electronic payment platforms, many of which are based on blockchain, there are few actual users of the technology - even though it purports to reduce the time needed to send, clear and settle global payments from days to seconds.

The technology enables the representation of digital currency (a "stable coin") backed by traditional fiat money, or the creation of cryptocurrencies (a new asset class) such as bitcoin or Ethereum, Ripple's XRP or Stellar's Lumen, enabling new sources of liquidity. Those digital assets are transmitted across a decentralized network where transactions are recorded on an immutable blockchain ledger.

"The revolution we're seeing is from a cross-border perspective," said Fabio Chesini, a Gartner research director for transaction banking. "If you think about a cryptocurrency like a bitcoin, when you move money from point a to point b, you're

actually encapsulating the message and the settlement in the same transaction. That's possible because a cryptocurrency is the first native digital asset ever created, which means an asset that has no liability from somewhere else."

For example, PNC bank last week announced its PNC Treasury Management division is now a member of RippleNet, a blockchain-based network for transmitting real-time, cross-border payments. Pittsburgh-based PNC is the ninth-largest U.S. bank for assets and the 71st largest bank globally.

PNC is just one of more than 100 firms to join Ripple's global payment network; members now include banks, payment providers and remittance companies.

"As the global economy becomes increasingly digital, the need for real-time payments globally is critical," Chris Ward, executive vice president for PNC Treasury Management, said in a statement. "We are focused on providing our clients with capabilities that enable making secure digital payments in an instant, whether they are sent across the street or across the world."

(Source: computerworld.com)

## What is the churn rate in startups?



The churn rate is the percentage of subscribers to a service who discontinue their subscriptions to the service within a given time period. For a company to expand its clientele, its growth rate, as measured by the number of new customers, must exceed its churn rate.

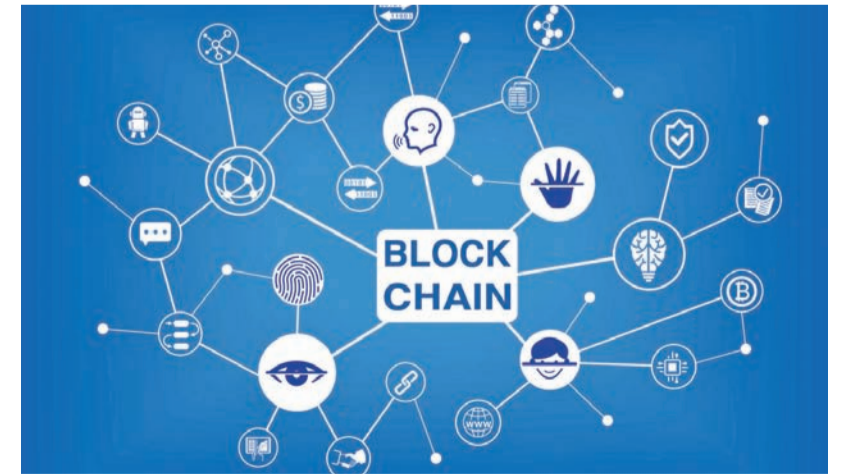
When a business loses customers, its profit and growth may be negatively affected, depending on how high the churn rate is. Churn rate is an important consideration in the telephone and

cell phone services industry. In many geographical areas, several companies are competing for customers, making it easy for people to transfer from one provider to another.

To be counted as part of the churn rate, the customer does not necessarily have to move his service to a different provider; he just has to terminate his relationship with the current provider.

(Source: investopedia.com)

## A beginner's guide to blockchain-part three



**The idea of decentralization**  
By design, the blockchain is a decentralized technology.

Anything that happens on it is a function of the network as a whole. Some important implications stem from this. By creating a new way to verify transactions aspects of traditional commerce could become unnecessary. Stock market trades become almost simultaneous on the blockchain, for instance - or it could make types of record keeping, like a land registry, fully public. And decen-

tralization is already a reality.

A global network of computers uses blockchain technology to jointly manage the database that records Bitcoin transactions. That is, Bitcoin is managed by its network, and not any one central authority.

Decentralization means the network operates on a user-to-user (or peer-to-peer) basis. The forms of mass collaboration this makes possible are just beginning to be investigated.

(Source: blockgeeks.com)

# Bizarre particles keep flying out of Antarctica's ice, they might shatter modern physics

There's something mysterious coming up from the frozen ground in Antarctica, and it could break physics as we know it.

Physicists don't know what it is exactly. But they do know it's some sort of cosmic ray — a high-energy particle that's blasted its way through space, into the Earth, and back out again.

But the particles physicists know about — the collection of particles that make up what scientists call the Standard Model (SM) of particle physics — shouldn't be able to do that.

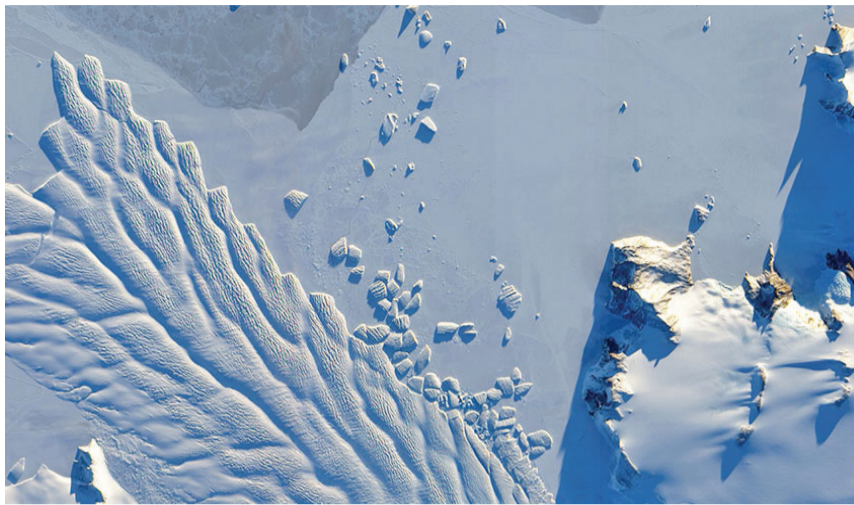
Sure, there are low-energy neutrinos that can pierce through miles upon miles of rock unaffected.

But high-energy neutrinos, as well as other high-energy particles, have "large cross-sections." That means that they'll almost always crash into something soon after zipping into the Earth and never make it out the other side.

## ■ Cosmic rays

And yet, since March 2016, researchers have been puzzling over two events in Antarctica where cosmic rays did burst out from the Earth, and were detected by NASA's Antarctic Impulsive Transient Antenna (ANITA) — a balloon-borne antenna drifting over the southern continent.

ANITA is designed to hunt cosmic rays from outer space, so the high-energy neutrino community was buzzing with excitement when the instrument detected particles that seemed to be blasting up from Earth instead



of zooming down from space.

Because cosmic rays shouldn't do that, scientists began to wonder whether these mysterious beams are made of particles never seen before.

All the explanations were intriguing, and suggested that ANITA might have detected a particle not accounted for in the Standard Model. But none of the explanations demonstrated conclusively that something more ordinary

**Once the water in turn evaporates, what's left behind are a myriad of microscopic air voids, which cause the polymer to appear bright white.**

couldn't have caused the signal at ANITA.

## ■ Similar particles

A new paper uploaded on Sept. 26 to the preprint server arXiv changes that. In it, a team of astrophysicists from Penn State University showed that there have been more upward-going high-energy particles than those detected during the two ANITA events. Three times, they wrote, IceCube (another, larger neutrino observatory in Antarctica) detected similar particles, though no one had yet connected those events to the mystery at ANITA.

And, combining the IceCube and ANITA data sets, the Penn State researchers calculated that, whatever particle is bursting up from the Earth, it has much less than a 1-in-3.5 million chance of being part of the Standard Model.

(In technical, statistical terms, their results had confidences of 5.8 and 7.0 sigma, depending on which of their calculations you're looking at.)

"I was like, 'Well this model doesn't make much sense,'" Fox told Live Science, "but the (ANITA) result is very intriguing, so I started checking up on it. I started talking to my office neighbor Steinn Sigurdsson (the second author on the paper, who is also at Penn State) about whether maybe we could gin up some more plausible explanations than the papers that have been published to date."

(Source: [scientificamerican.com](#))

## Scientists discover termite colonies completely without males

For the first time, scientists have discovered all-female termite colonies, living and flourishing in Japan. While we know of several insect species that easily thrive without any males, this is an exciting new development in our understanding of asexual reproduction.

Most species on this planet reproduce sexually, requiring both male and female gametes in order to produce offspring.

Every now and again, though, a species is able to reproduce asexually. This is called parthenogenesis, and it's been observed in animals such as sharks, lizards, snakes, amphibians and fish.

It also shows up in the insect world. Aphids are one famous example; phasmids such as stick and leaf insects are another.

Meanwhile, bees and ants not only sometimes reproduce asexually, they also live in all-female colonies, producing males solely for mating with the queen before unceremoniously booting them out.

## ■ Ants and wasps

But termites are a completely different order from Hymenopteran ants and wasps — they're Blattodea, making this new discovery all the more exciting.

While termites also have a queen that produces the majority, if not all, of the colony's offspring, they also have her counterpart — a king Anta and wasps — who fathers the offspring. Colonies also typically consist of an equal mix of asexual male and female workers, which work together for the good of the colony.

But when studying colonies of the species *Glyptotermes nakajimai* in Japan, researchers were surprised to discover that some seemed to have not a single male among the insects they counted.

Over the course of a year and a half, they studied 74 colonies from 15 field sites across the country, painstakingly counting



individuals, and found 60 percent of the colonies were male-less.

Next they went looking at reproduction. When a termite queen successfully mates, she reserves some of the king's sperm in a special storage organ. In the all-female colonies, the queens' sperm pouches were empty. They were laying unfertilized eggs — which were hatching at the same rate as fertilized eggs in the mixed colonies.

## ■ Animal societies

"These results demonstrate males are not essential for the maintenance of animal societies in which they previously played an active social role," said evolutionary biologist Nathan Lo of the University of Sydney.

Every now and again, the mixed colonies produced unfertilized eggs, which suggests that the all-female parthenogenetic colonies evolved from the mixed ones. And the all-female colonies were isolated to the small southern islands of Shikoku and Kyushu.

After digging into their genetic material, the team found the schism between the two types of colonies happened around 14 million years ago.

The researchers believe that switching to parthenogenesis may give the bugs an advantage when establishing colonies in a new environment.

"All else being equal, asexual populations grow at twice the rate of sexual populations because only females are required to reproduce," Lo said.

(Source: [sciencealert.com](#))

## Dust clouds can explain puzzling features of active galactic nuclei, researchers believe

Researchers at the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC), believe clouds of dust, rather than twin black holes, can explain the features found in active galactic nuclei (AGNs).

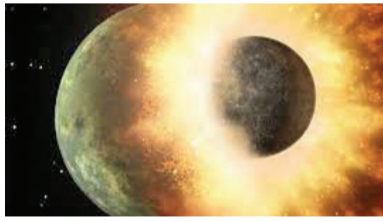
Many large galaxies have an AGN, a small bright central region powered by matter spiraling into a supermassive black hole. When these black holes are vigorously swallowing matter, they are surrounded by hot, rapidly-moving gas known as the "broad-line region" (so-called because the spectral lines from this region are broadened by the rapid motion of the gas).

The emission from this gas is one of the best sources of information about the mass of the central black hole and how it is growing. The nature of this gas is however poorly understood; in particular there is less emission than expected from gas moving at certain velocities. The breakdown of simple models has led some astrophysicists to think that many AGNs might have not one but two black holes in them.

## ■ Broad-line region

The new analysis is led by Martin Gaskell, a research associate in astronomy and astrophysics at UCSC. Rather than invoking two black holes, it explains much of the apparent complexity and variability of the emissions from the broad-line region as the results of small clouds of dust that can partially obscure the innermost regions of AGNs.

Co-author Peter Harrington, a UCSC graduate student who began work on the project as an undergraduate, explained that gas spiraling towards a galaxy's central black hole forms a flat "accretion disk", and the superheated gas in the accretion disk emits intense thermal radiation. Some of that light is "reprocessed" (absorbed



and re-emitted) by hydrogen and other gases swirling above the accretion disk in the broad-line region. Above and beyond this is a region of dust.

## ■ Strong radiation

"Once the dust crosses a certain threshold it is subjected to the strong radiation from the accretion disk", said Harrington. The authors believe this radiation is so intense that it blows the dust away from the disk, resulting in a clumpy outflow of dust clouds starting at the outer edge of the broad-line region.

The effect of the dust clouds on the light emitted is to make the light coming from behind them look fainter and redder, just as the earth's atmosphere makes the sun look fainter and redder at sunset. Gaskell and Harrington developed a computer code to model the effects of these dust clouds on observations of the broad-line region.

The two scientists also show that by including dust clouds in their model, it can replicate many features of emission from the broad-line region that have long puzzled astrophysicists. Rather than the gas having a changing, asymmetrical distribution that is hard to explain, the gas is simply in a uniform, symmetric, turbulent disk around the black hole. The apparent asymmetries and changes are due to dust clouds passing in front of the broad-line region and making the regions behind them look fainter and redder.

(Source: [eurekalert.org](#))

## Strange blobs beneath Earth could be remnants of an ancient magma ocean

Mysterious blobs deep in the Earth's mantle could be minerals that precipitated out of an ancient magma ocean that formed in the collision that also created the moon.

These blobs, called ultralow velocity zones, are found very deep in the mantle, close to the Earth's core. They are known only because when seismic waves from earthquakes travel through them, the waves slow dramatically. This indicates that the blobs are somehow different from other parts of the mantle, but no one knows how.

Now, new research suggests that the blobs could be an iron oxide-rich mineral called magnesio-wüstite. If so, their existence would hint at a former magma ocean that might have existed 4.5 billion years ago, when a huge chunk of space rock rammed into Earth, spun off the material that would become the moon, and possibly melted large portions of the planet.

## ■ A magma ocean

"If one can identify that these patches do contain an amount of magnesio-wüstite that would

be an indication that there was a magma ocean and it crystallized in this fashion where the iron-rich oxide precipitated out and sank down to the base of the mantle," said study leader Jennifer Jackson, a professor of mineral physics at the California Institute of Technology.

The mantle is around 1,800 miles (2,900 kilometers) thick, and the ultralow velocity zones are less than a mile to up to 62 miles (100 km) thick and wide, Jackson told Live Science. They slow down seismic waves that travel through

them from 30 to 50 percent.

Studying these weird blobs directly isn't possible, so Jackson and her colleagues had to mimic the pressures of the deep mantle right at Earth's surface. To find out if the mineral magnesio-wüstite has the kind of properties seen in ultralow velocity zones, the researchers took a small sample of the mineral, put it in a pressure chamber and squeezed it hard with a pair of diamond anvils.

(Source: [eurekalert.org](#))

## IKAC: Construction of IKAC's SALAM Terminal at 95% Physical Progress

Chief Executive of Imam Khomeini Airport City Company Shahram Adamnejad said that construction operation of SALAM Terminal of Imam Khomeini Airport City Company is underway with 95 percent physical progress, the Public Relations Dept. of the company reported.

Equipment and machinery of the terminal including escalators and free exchange X-ray system has been provided, he said, adding, "domestic flights in Imam Khomeini Airport City Company will start from SAMAL Terminal."

Several electronic projects in Imam Khomeini Airport City Company will be unveiled in the presence of Abbas Akhondi Minister of Roads and Urban Development in future.

In the beginning, Shahram Azarnejad pointed to the organizing taxi services of the company and said, "in this regard, routes of airport cabs have been identified precisely."

"We are of the opinion that online Snapp and Tepsi services should not operate in the airport," he opined.

Necessary steps have been taken in this regard for demarcation of a land for Snapp and Tepsi online transport services, he maintained.



Suitable ways have been paved for importing necessary equipment and machinery needed to be installed at the airport, he added.

Elsewhere in his remarks, CEO of Imam Khomeini Airport City company pointed to the construction of SALAM Terminal and said, "effective steps have been taken in this regard in order to complete construction operation of the terminal in the shortest time possible."

Farzad Hamedanchi Manager of SALAM Terminal of IKAC pointed to the construction operation trend of SALAM Terminal and added, "the terminal is comprised of two airside and landside sections which is located on a land area as large as 32 ha, seven ha of which is allocated to the green space."

He pointed to the targeting of construction operation of parking lot with the capacity of 4,000 cars and said, "presently, construction operation of this parking lot, with the capacity of 100 cars, has been finished."

He put the physical progress of this project at 95 percent and said, "this terminal will be constructed in three- and a half stories on a land area as large as 55,000 square meters."

Hamedanchi pointed to the provision of necessary parts and equipment for SALAM Terminal of the airport and said, "most equipment and machinery had been provided in the past but with the planning made in this regard, the capacity of airport increased from 1.5 million passengers to 4.5 million passengers."

In conclusion, he put the apron of the airport at 74,000 square meters.

## Magic mushrooms could be reclassified, experts find

Psilocybin, the active ingredient in hallucinogenic mushrooms, should be removed from the "Schedule I" drug category if it passes the next stage of testing in clinical trials, experts have recommended.

According to the Controlled Substances Act of 1970, drugs are categorized based on criteria that take into account whether they accepted medical use, as well as their safety and potential for abuse.

But despite its classification, psilocybin—alongside other psychedelic substances — is increasingly being recognized by scientists as potentially effective treatments for a number of psychological disorders, such as addiction and depression. However, it must clear what are known as phase III clinical trials before the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will even consider reclassifying it.

Recently, the FDA approved the use of psilocybin in a phase II trial—those which determine whether a drug has any biological effect at all—involving people with treatment-resistant depression.

If these trials are successful and psilocybin goes on to clear the next stage (phase III clinical trials)—which usually involve more participants and assess the effectiveness of the intervention — researchers from Johns Hopkins University recommend that the substance should be recategorized as a schedule IV drug, like prescription sleep aids, but with tighter controls.

The researchers came to their conclusions after reviewing studies examining the safety of hallucinogenic mushrooms for a paper published in the journal *Neuropharmacology*.

"We want to initiate the conversation now as to how to classify psilocybin to facilitate its path to the clinic and minimize logistical hurdles in the future," Matthew W. Johnson, associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, said in a statement.

(Source: [Newsweek](#))

## Engineers study hovering bats and hummingbirds in Costa Rica

Engineers carted their extremely sensitive lab equipment to the forests of Costa Rica, where they teamed up with ecologists to meticulously record over 100 different bats and hummingbirds to learn more about hovering flight.

Each sunrise in Las Cruces, Costa Rica, River Ingersoll's field team trekked into the jungle to put the finishing touches on nearly invisible nets. A graduate student in the lab of David Lentink, assistant professor of mechanical engineering at Stanford University, Ingersoll needed these delicate nets to catch, study and release the region's abundant hummingbirds and bats — the only two vertebrates with the ability to hover in place.

"We're really interested in how hovering flight evolved," said Ingersoll. "Nectar bats drink from flowers like hummingbirds do, so we want to see if there's any similarities or differences between these two different taxa."

Ingersoll's nets worked, and he ended up examining over 100 individual hummingbirds and bats, covering 17 hummingbird and three bat species, during his field study, the results of which the group published in *Science Advances*.

Through a combination of high-speed camera footage and aerodynamic force measurements, he and his fellow researchers found that hummingbirds and bats hover in very different ways. Yet they also found that nectar bats' hovering shares some similarities with hummingbird hovering — which fruit bats do not share. This suggests that they evolved a different method to hover compared with other bats in order to drink nectar.

In addition to learning more about bats and hummingbirds, Lentink and others can apply what they learned to engineering problems, such as designing flying robots. Engineers have already created robots inspired by hummingbirds and bats but haven't known which of the natural counterparts of these robots hover most effectively.

(Source: [Science Daily](#))

## New research says Jellyfish a part of the Ocean's food supply

Scientists had long assumed that few creatures dined on these gelatinous animals. But new research suggests that jellyfish may be an important part of the ocean's food supply.

For a hungry fish in search of a meal, a jellyfish would seem to be a huge disappointment. These gelatinous animals are 95 percent water. As a result, a cup of live jellyfish provides just five calories — one-third the amount in a cup of celery.

It should come as no surprise, then, that marine biologists long ago dismissed jellyfish as an insignificant item on the ocean menu. Other animals rarely bothered eating them, the idea went, and so they represented a dead end in the ocean's food web.



"Historically, they were just ignored," said Thomas K. Doyle, a marine biologist at the University College Cork in Ireland.

But recent research has shown this to be a mistaken view. Many species, from tuna to penguins, seek out jellyfish to eat. The "more we look, the more animals are feeding on jellyfish," said Dr. Doyle. "They're absolutely, really important."

It's even possible that jellyfish help stabilize the ocean's food webs, providing a dining option to other animals when times are tough. "Our perception has switched hugely," said Jonathan D.R. Houghton, a marine biologist at Queen's University Belfast in Northern Ireland. "It's almost a reboot of jellyfish ecology as a central part of the ocean system."

Dr. Doyle, Dr. Houghton and Graeme C. Hays of Deakin University in Australia recently surveyed new evidence supporting this revised view in the journal *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*.

The meager calories in jellyfish weren't the only reason that scientists dismissed them. Animals on the hunt for prey rarely were seen catching jellyfish. When biologists cut open fish or inspected bird droppings, they almost never found jellyfish remains.

(Source: [The NYT](#))

## Govt. allots \$3.5m to combat drought in protected areas

**ENVIRONMENT** TEHRAN — The cabinet of ministers has approved a budget of 150 billion rials (nearly \$3.5 million) to fight drought and reduce its adverse effects in protected areas, the budget office director of the Department of Environment (DOE) has said.

On September 23, the cabinet agreed to allocate the amount with regard to the persistent drought and low precipitations in protected areas and wildlife habitats and their negative impacts on the regions biodiversity, Tasnim quoted Mustafa Kiakajouri as saying on Saturday.



Dredging the springs to deepen or maintain navigable waterways or channels which are possibly too shallow due to sediments, sand and mud to increase the holding capacity of reservoirs, building watering trough to provide drinking water to animals, providing forage for the wild animals, and fighting disease outbreaks are of the projects to mitigate negative consequences of drought, Kiakajouri explained.

He also highlighted that the cabinet has drawn up a budget of 850 billion rials (nearly \$20 million) for restoration of Anzali wetland, northern province of Gilan.

Covering more than 19,000 hectares, the wetland is located near the northern port city of Bandar Anzali, neighboring the Caspian Sea. The wetland was designated as a Ramsar site on June 23, 1975. It is fed by several rivers and separated from the Caspian Sea by a dune system. The lagoon is home to submerged and floating vegetation and also extensive reed beds. It bears international importance in terms of breeding, staging and wintering water birds.

Kiakajouri regretted that over the past few years water level has decreased from 11 meters to 3 meters in the wetland.

The money will be allocated to the "restoration of Anzali Wetland by means of bioremediation using domestic technologies" scheme proposed by researchers at Isfahan Science and Technology Town which is approved by the DOE, he added.

Bioremediation is a process that uses living organisms, mostly microorganisms and plants, to degrade and reduce or detoxify waste products and pollutants.

Sediment deposition in the Anzali wetland is posing a significant threat to it, and is increasing chances of its total disappearance in the near future, so the implementing the scheme may result in minimizing the sediments in the reservoir.

In mid-August, the DOE chief Issa Kalantari put in a request to the head of the Budget and Planning Organization, Mohammad Baqer Nobakht, to financially support the scheme to revive the endangered Anzali wetland.

Kalantari explained that the schemes has been piloted successfully and can reduce the sediments in the wetland within three years should the Budget and Planning Organization allocate the budget.

# Over 300 plains nationwide prone to land subsidence: geologist

**ENVIRONMENT** TEHRAN — Over 300 plains in Iran are at high risk of experiencing land subsidence, and as long as there is virtually no reduction in illegal overuse of groundwater resources, curbing subsidence will coincide with depletion of aquifers, geologist Mohammad Javad Bolourchi has said.

Land subsidence, a gradual settling or sudden sinking of the Earth's surface due to subsurface movement of earth materials is mainly caused by aquifer-system compaction, drainage and decomposition of organic soils, underground mining, oil and gas extraction, hydrocompaction, natural compaction, sinkholes, and thawing permafrost.

Depletion of groundwater resources and pumping water excessively out of the ground at a faster rate than is replenished over the long-term have led to land subsidence and constitute a serious threat to Tehran.

Ismail Najjar, head of National Disaster Management Organization, said on September 26 that land subsidence in Tehran is reported to be 22 centimeters per annum stating that status reports indicate that land subsidence has been slowed.

Bolourchi, who was also the former spokesman for the Geological Survey and Mineral Explorations of Iran, in response to Najjar's comments on whether land subsidence in Tehran has declined, said that if there were satellite imagery or online GPSs in the plains around Tehran, and comparing data was possible, "we could have possibly make sure if land subsidence rate is decreasing or increasing in the area."

"Unfortunately, for the past two years, we have had no satellite data to measure the subsidence rate, unless, the National Cartographic Center, using a GPS network in Tehran's plains, could have find out statistics which indicate a decline in the subsidence rate, he said, adding, satellite tools with such a high-tech capability is only available to Japan and the United States, and is not affordable for Iran.

He further explained that "in order to actually prevent land subsidence, having a proper knowledge of the phenomenon is a must; 30 years of excessive groundwater withdrawal have gradually contributed to the phenomenon, so reversing it will also take years meaning that if we succeed in using groundwater resources sustainably one day it would definitely take 5 to 10 years to stop land subsidence."

**■ Tehran plain sinks 1mm per day**  
Studies in the Iranian calendar years of 1388 (March 2009-March 2010), 1390 (March 2011-March 2012), and 1392 (March 2013-March 2014), indicated that the plains in southern Tehran are subsiding by an average of one millimeter a day (36 centimeters a year), Bolourchi said.

Islamshahr, Dodangeh, Robot Karim and Shahrivar counties in Tehran plain are most affected by land subsidence.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Bolourchi noted that in the Iranian calendar year of 1384 (March 2005-March 2006), the subsidence rate in Tehran plain has been measured at 17 centimeters a year, it has been measured 12 centimeters in Varamin county, in southern Tehran.

But it is not unlikely that Varamin county is sinking lower than Tehran, since agriculture is being practiced more in Varamin plain than Tehran plain, he regretted.

Industries and urban areas have replaced agricultural lands in Tehran, and that the aquifers in plains southern Tehran are no longer capable of supplying agricultural



**30 years of excessive groundwater withdrawal have gradually contributed to land subsidence, so reversing it will also take years. It means that if we succeed in using groundwater resources sustainably one day it would definitely take 5 to 10 years to stop land subsidence.**

water as they are severely depleted, so, it is likely that subsidence rate of Varamin plain would exceed Tehran plain, he explained.

Head of water affairs of Varamin county Ahad Davoudi also said on September 26 that there are 1,032 illegal and 7,170 legal wells in the region which pump some 124 million cubic meters annually, and only 70 illegal wells are closed down for good.

This is while the run-down in plains of Mashhad or Rafsanjan, which has set the record high for this phenomenon since the Iranian calendar year 1345 (March 1966-March 1967), is certainly higher, regarding the reduction in precipitation rate, Bolourchi stated.

"Snowfall has already turned into rainfall, which has led lower infiltration rate, in addition to numerous water wells, whether legal or illegal, depleting aquifers, which all exacerbate the subsidence.

**■ Groundwater withdrawal not yet to be reduced**

Bolourchi highlighted that intensive use of groundwater has not yet been diminished, while in 1384 (March 2005-March 2006), "we warned that subsidence is not like an earthquake which causes extensive damage once it hits, land subsidence inflict damage gradually and should be managed promptly."

Today, the plains that are sinking or has cracked open are the result of an overuse of groundwater resources over the past 10 to 20 years, which has not produced any significant economic benefit, he lamented.

Over 90 percent of the country's water supplies is consumed in agriculture sector, which generates only 17 percent of the country's employment, he said, adding,

on the other hand, only 2 percent of the water supplies is consumed in the industrial sector, while it provides some 50 percent of the country's employment.

"This is alarming, so, water consumption in the country needs to be fully optimized and managed, and wastewater must be reused in industrial sector," he suggested.

**■ Underground water withdrawal banned in over 350 plains**

Unfortunately, despite not having accurate data showing subsidence in all the plains of the country, the groundwater removal in nearly 350 to 390 plains is prohibited, Bolourchi highlighted.

In other words, the water withdrawn from the plains will not be reproduced in fall and winter, so that over 300 plains are prone to subsidence, he also added.

He went on to say that for instance, Fars province having the highest record in agricultural development in recent years, also demonstrate an excessive use of groundwater, as 50 percent of the water supplies in the province is provided by the groundwater resources.

**■ Aquifers on the verge of total depletion**

Bolourchi pointed out that it is late to revive aquifers and qanats, as most of them are compacted by land subsidence.

If aquifers are not managed properly in the country, undoubtedly, no underground water will remain within the next few years, and many issues happens, as water resources are the most strategic source of each country, he regretted.

"Our surface water totally depends on climate change. One year we may receive above normal rainfall and the other year

suffer rainfall shortages, but groundwater resources can be managed, but unfortunately no plans are being implemented to manage these sources," he concluded.

**■ Groundwater-related subsidence a major threat to developing countries**

Groundwater-related subsidence is the subsidence (or the sinking) of land resulting from groundwater extraction. It is a growing problem in the developing world as cities increase in population and water use, without adequate pumping regulation and enforcement. One estimate has 80 percent of serious land subsidence problems associated with the excessive extraction of groundwater, making it a growing problem throughout the world.

The arid areas of the world are requiring more and more water for growing populations and agriculture. Groundwater can be considered one of the last free resources, as anyone who can afford to drill can usually draw up merely according to their ability to pump (depending on local regulations).

However, pumping induced draw down causes a depression of the groundwater surface around the production well. This can ultimately affect a large region by making it more difficult and expensive to pump the deeper water. Thus, the extraction of groundwater becomes a tragedy of the commons, with resulting economic externalities.

Land subsidence can be problematic as they can cause damage to buildings and infrastructure such as roads and canals, increased flood risk in low-lying areas, and lasting damage to groundwater aquifers and aquatic ecosystems.

## LEARN ENGLISH

### Business Plan

A: I've had it! I'm done working for a company that is taking me nowhere!

B: So what are you going to do? Just quit?

A: That's exactly what I am going to do! I've decided to create my own company! I'm going to write up a business plan, get some investors and start working for myself!

B: Have you ever written up a business plan before?

A: Well, it can't be that hard! I mean, all you have to do is explain your business, how you are going to do things and that's it, right?

B: You couldn't be more wrong! A well written business plan will include an executive summary which highlights the idea of the business in two pages or less. Then you need to describe your company with information such as what type of legal structure it has, history, etc.

A: Well that seems easy enough.

B: Wait, there's more! Then you need to introduce and describe your goods or services. What they are and how they are different from competitors? Then comes the hard part, a market analysis. You need to investigate and analyze hundreds of variables! You need to take into consideration socioeconomic factors from GDP per capita to how many children on average the population has! All this information is useful so that you can move on to your strategy and implementation stage, where you will describe in detail how you will actually execute your idea.

A: Geez. Is that all?

B: Almost, the most important piece of information for your investors will be the financial analysis. Here you will calculate and estimate sales, cash flow and profits. After all, people will want to know when they will begin to see a return on their investment!

A: Umm. I think I'll just stick to my old job and save myself all the hassle of trying to start up a business!

#### Key vocabulary

**legal structure:** organization of the business

**to execute:** to put into effect; carry out

**financial analysis:** report on financial stability and profitability return on

**one's investment:** profit made from one's investment

**hassle:** a great deal of trouble; difficulty; nuisance

#### Supplementary vocabulary

**entrepreneur:** person who organizes, operates, and assumes the risk for a business

**venture credentials:** evidence of authority, status, rights

**vision statement:** statement describing what you ultimately envision your business to be

(Source: irlanguage.com)



## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Tehran refinery oil leak contaminates ground water resources

Oil leak from Tondgouyan refinery, southern Tehran, to nearby groundwater resources used for irrigation has contaminated the water and caused it to become unsafe and unfit for human use.

As per a report quoting chief of Tehran province department of environment, Kiyomars Kalantari, oil leak has polluted agricultural wells surrounding the area, JYC reported on August 6.

Unfortunately lack of supervision has resulted in oil leak in the area and the district department of environment has filed a complaint against the company, Kalantari said, adding that those who are in charge will be prosecuted.

## نشست نفت به آبهای زیرزمینی اطراف پالایشگاه نفت شهید تندگویان تأیید شد

نشست نفت به آبهای زیرزمینی و به چاههای آب کشاورزی و زمین های اطراف پالایشگاه نفت شهید تندگویان نفوذ کرده است و باعث آلودگی آبهای زیرزمینی منطقه گردیده است.

کیومرث کلانتری مدیرکل حفاظت محیط زیست استان تهران نشست نفت به چاههای آب کشاورزی اطراف پالایشگاه نفت شهید تندگویان را تأیید کرد.

وی با بیان اینکه پالایشگاه نفت تهران به ضوابط و مقررات محیط زیستی توجه ننموده و باعث آلودگی آبهای زیرزمینی منطقه گردیده است، گفت: در این رابطه اداره حفاظت محیط زیست شهرستان ری بلافاصله در دستگاه قضایی طرح دعوی نموده و مسئولین نفتی باید پاسخگوی اعمال خود در خصوص این آلودگی محیط زیستی باشند.

### PREFIX/SUFFIX

#### "trans-"

■ **Meaning:** across, beyond

■ **For example:** You'll be **transferred** to the Birmingham office.

### PHRASAL VERB

#### Empty out

■ **Meaning:** to remove everything that is inside something

■ **For example:** Did you empty the dishwasher?

### IDIOM

#### In the heat of the moment

■ **Explanation:** while temporarily angry, excited, or engrossed, and without stopping for thought.

■ **For example:** In the heat of the moment Nick threatened to resign.

# Idlib pullout begins but U.S.-backed militants not leaving

➔ 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.

The deal stipulates a demilitarized zone of 15-20 kilometers in Idlib along the contact line between the armed opposition and Syrian government troops by October 15. It also involves the withdrawal of "radically-minded" militants, including the al-Nusra Front (Jabhat al-Nusra/Jabhat Fatah al-Sham), from the region.

Under the Idlib agreement, 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."

A United States-backed militant group however on Saturday rejected the deal in Idlib, the last major terrorist bastion in the country.

The Jaysh al-Izza faction (Army of Glory/Union of Glory), affiliated with the Turkish-backed so-called Free Syrian Army, said the Idlib demilitarized zone would only encompass territory currently controlled by anti-Damascus militants.

The buffer zone, it added, should be carved out equally from both terrorist-held areas and nearby regions under the control of Syrian government forces.

"We are against this deal, which eats into liberated (occupied) areas and bails out [Syrian President] Bashar al-Assad," Jaysh al-Izza head Jamil al-Saleh told AFP.

With an estimated 2,500 members, the Jaysh al-Izza militant outfit is mainly operating in Syria's west-central Hama Province, bordering Idlib.

The group, which has been supplied with anti-tank missiles by the U.S., refused to join the so-called National Liberation Front (NLF), a recently formed alliance of militant factions supported by Ankara.

Last week, the NLF rejected laying down its arms or surrendering the territory under its control in Idlib.



Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (Organization for the Liberation of the Levant/Levant Liberation Committee/Tahrir al-Sham/HTS/al-Qaeda in Syria) has yet to state its position on Idlib deal but on Thursday, a senior militant official told Reuters that the militant outfit had sent secret feelers to the Turkish army signaling they would comply with the buffer zone agreement.

Over the past few months, Syrian forces have made sweeping gains against Takfiri elements, especially in the country's southern areas and Damascus suburbs.

Now, the Syrian army is preparing for peacefully ridding Idlib from several foreign-sponsored terrorist groups.

**U.S.-led coalition doing everything but fight against terror**  
Meantime, in a dramatic speech, Syria's top diplomat has told the world that his country's "battle against terrorism is almost over" and that, after more than seven years of brutal foreign sponsored war, Syria is now ready to welcome back the more than 5 million people who fled the country.

Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Muallem said the U.S.-led coalition purportedly

fighting the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) Takfiri terrorist group has been doing everything it could since the onset of its airstrikes but combat terrorism and militant outfits wreaking havoc in the country.

Addressing world leaders at the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Saturday, Muallem described the military alliance as "illegitimate" and censured the "hegemonic policies" pursued by certain countries against Damascus.

The U.S.-led coalition has been conducting airstrikes against what are said to be ISIL targets inside Syria since September 2014 without any authorization from Damascus or a UN mandate.

The military alliance has repeatedly been accused of targeting and killing civilians. It has also been largely incapable of achieving its declared goal of destroying ISIL.

Muallem noted that thousands of displaced Syrians were returning home after government forces reclaimed previously militant-held territories.

"The Damascus government will spare

no effort to provide basic commodities to refugees and ensure that their basic needs are met. Present conditions are conducive to voluntary repatriation of refugees," the top Syrian diplomat pointed out.

He added that the Syrian government supported a political solution to the ongoing foreign-sponsored conflict, emphasizing that Damascus was opposed to any initiative which paves the way for foreign inference in Syria's internal affairs.

"Syria welcomes reconstruction aid from counties not involved in the conflict. Those states which offer conditional aid are neither invited nor willing to assist," Muallem said.

The Syrian minister went on to say that his country did not pursue a chemical weapons program, as all its chemical weapon stockpiles had been destroyed under the supervision of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

He also said the so-called White Helmets aid group was indeed affiliated to the al-Nusra Front, and was set up by Britain's secret intelligence service under a humanitarian guise.

Muallem then leveled strong criticism at neighboring Turkey, stating that it had served as a "terror hub and corridor" ever since the Syrian crisis began in March 2011.

He also called on France, the U.S. and Turkey to immediately withdraw their troops from the Syrian soil.

"Any foreign military presence in Syria without the government's consent amounts to flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter," Muallem said.

He also condemned Israel's continued occupation of the strategic Golan Heights, and the U.S. withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear agreement, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), with Iran.

"The Syrian government will never compromise on the country's national interests," Muallem concluded.

(Source: agencies)

## Iran's CORC meets French delegation

TEHRAN — Hossein Shirzad, Deputy Minister and Head of the Central Organization for Rural Cooperatives of Iran (CORC), met with the President and members of the French National Federation of Seed Maize and Seed Sorghum on Saturday in Tehran.



In the meeting, Shirzad explained the duties and functions of the CORC organization, and proposed avenues of cooperation between the two organizations.

The CORC network, as the country's largest supplier of food and agriculture, has a strong desire to establish supply chains and in light of its legal structure is prepared to receive project funds, Shirzad explained.

The CORC receives project funds in the following ways:  
- Companies and unions  
- National agricultural funds  
- State agricultural banking credit  
- Joint domestic investment

Shirzad suggested collaboration avenues between the two countries organizations as following:

- Joint investment  
- Collaboration in the development of internal and external chains  
- Agricultural contracts  
- Marketing, Branding and Manufacturing Participation  
- Creating a systematic way to connect Iran's production and supply chain to the global market  
- Transfer of various and advanced technologies across Iranian agricultural chains

## Merkel warns Trump against 'destroying' UN

German Chancellor Angela Merkel Sunday warned U.S. President Donald Trump against "destroying" the United Nations.



"I believe that destroying something without having developed something new is extremely dangerous," Merkel said at a regional election campaign event in Bavaria.

The veteran leader -- a close ally of Trump's bugbear Barack Obama while he was president -- added that she believed multilateralism was the solution to many of the world's problems.

Trump failed to see the possibility for win-win solutions, she said, instead seeing only one winner from any international negotiation.

In his second appearance before the U.N.'s annual gathering last week, Trump told the General Assembly that he and his administration "reject the ideology of globalism, and we embrace the doctrine of patriotism".

"Global governance" is a form of "coercion and domination" that "responsible nations must defend against", he charged.

Merkel's opposing view to the U.S. leader puts her in the same camp as U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres, who warned before Trump took the podium in New York Tuesday that "today, world order is increasingly chaotic".

(Source: AP)

## Typhoon Trami heads to mainland after battering Okinawa, Japan

A powerful typhoon hurtled toward Japan's mainland on Sunday after injuring dozens on southern islands, as weather officials warned that fierce winds and torrential rain could trigger landslides and floods.

The typhoon has already led to flight cancellations and power outages in several cities.

Typhoon Trami, rated Category 2, is the latest storm to threaten Japan in a year of grim weather-related woes, including punishing heat, heavy rains and landslides. The category 5 is the highest.

Japan issued evacuation orders and warnings to about 700,000 households in southern and western Japan.

More than 300,000 households have suffered power outages in southern Okinawa and Kagoshima prefectures, said public NHK television, adding nearly 50 people had been injured in Okinawa and Kagoshima.

Local officials said no one was feared dead as a result



of the storm.  
Kansai International Airport in Osaka, western Japan, which was heavily flooded by a typhoon last month, said it had closed its runways from 11am (02:00 GMT) on Sunday

until 6am on Monday. The airport only fully reopened on September 21.

Airlines cancelled or plan to cancel more than 930 flights, NHK said. Most of local trains and bullet trains in western areas will suspend operations on Sunday, operator West Japan Railway said.

Trami is currently heading towards Japan's northeast. It will cross the islands of Kyushu and the main island of Honshu between Sunday and Monday, a path similar to that taken Typhoon Jebi early in September.

Jebi, the most powerful storm to hit Japan in 25 years, brought some of the highest tides since a 1961 typhoon.

Rainfall of up to 400mm was forecast for the Amami island region and up to 250mm for Okinawa by noon Sunday, while the storm could generate waves up to 13 meters high around the regions, forecasters said.

(Source: agencies)

## Brazil: Thousands of women rally against far-right Bolsonaro

Thousands of people took to the streets and marched in cities across Brazil on Saturday as part of a women-led protest against far-right, frontrunner presidential candidate Jair Bolsonaro.

The demonstrations, a manifestation of the #EleNao (#NotHim) movement that has gathered steam on social media in recent weeks, began early afternoon in scores of cities nationwide including metropolis Sao Paulo and the capital, Brasilia.

In Rio de Janeiro, Bolsonaro's political base, men and women gathered in the city's Centro neighborhood to show their objections to the former army captain's controversial campaign.

Chanting "not him", protesters of all ages marched, with many holding anti-Bolsonaro signs.

Bolsonaro, a Rio de Janeiro congressman since 1991, has made several overtly misogynistic comments in the past, as well as controversial statements on issues relating to race, sexuality and Brazil's military government, which was in power between 1964 and 1985.

In 2014, the 63-year-old told fellow congresswomen Maria do Rosario: "I would never

rape you because you do not deserve it". He was repeating a claim he made in 2003.

In December 2015, Bolsonaro was convicted by a lower court of committing moral damage and fined about \$2,500. A higher court upheld the conviction in August 2017 after he appealed the ruling. He has since appealed again and the case is now with Brazil's Supreme Court.

Last year, he said having a daughter was a "weakness".

Despite making up 52 percent of Brazil's electorate, women hold just 13 of 81 seats in the country's upper house senate. Fewer than 11 percent of the 513 seats in the lower house Chamber of Deputies are held by women.

Brazil ranks 156th in the world for female representation in parliament, placing it in the lowest 20 percent globally, according to the latest data compiled by global organization for national legislatures the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Bolsonaro's rejection rate among women is 50 percent, according to the latest polling by the Brazilian Institute of Public Opinion and Statistics (IBOPE), and 33 percent among men.

Hours before the demonstration in Cen-

tro got under way, hundreds of Bolsonaro supporters gathered along Rio's Copacabana beachfront in support of his candidacy.

Bolsonaro, a member of the Social Liberal Party, was stabbed earlier this month in an apparent assassination attempt. The September 6 attack left him hospitalized until Saturday and unable to campaign.

Occupying a small section of the palm-tree lined sidewalk, supporters clad in the classic green and yellow of the Brazilian flag chanted "Him Yes" and decried the political left, in particular the Workers' Party (PT), as thieves and liars.

Several other supporters cited security as their key concern, saying they would vote for Bolsonaro because he has pledged to crack down on crime and ramp up public security.

Violence in Brazil, home to seven of the world's 20 most violent cities, is one of voters top concerns this election, alongside the country's stuttering economy.

Last year, homicides rose to a record high figure of 63,880, up 2.9 percent from 2016, according to the Brazilian Forum of Public Security.

Beyond his proposals for security issues, a number of other Bolsonaro supporters said

## Macedonians vote on whether to change country's name

Macedonians vote in a key referendum on whether to rename their country North Macedonia in a bid to settle a long-running row with Greece and unlock its path to NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) and European Union (EU) membership.

Polls for some 1.8 million voters opened at 7am local time (5GMT) and close at 7pm. The question on the referendum ballot is: "Are you for NATO and EU membership with acceptance of the agreement with Greece".

The referendum is not binding, but a 'yes' majority would give parliament a political mandate to change the constitution.

If the deal is passed through the referendum and is ratified by two-thirds of MPs (Member of Parliament), the Greek parliament will be called on to give the final stamp

of approval.

While the Macedonian government plans to call any significant majority in favor of the deal a success, the right-wing opposition may question the vote's credibility if turnout is below 50 percent.

Macedonia has struggled for recognition of its name since its birth in 1991 when the landlocked country declared independence from Yugoslavia.

Greece, which has its own northern province called Macedonia, has always maintained that Macedonia's name represented a claim on its territory.

It vetoed Macedonia's entrance into NATO and the EU, and forced it to enter the United Nations under a provisional name as the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia or FYROM.

Macedonian Prime Minister Zoran Zaev argues that accepting a new name is a price worth paying for admission into the EU and NATO.

But nationalist opponents say it would undermine the ethnic identity of the country's Slavic majority population. President Gorge Ivanov, who is allied with the nationalist, has said he will boycott the referendum.

The dispute stretches back nearly three decades, with both countries claiming links to Alexander the Great's ancient empire of Macedon, which spanned the territories.

A grandiose "antiquisation" project under Macedonia's former government that plastered Skopje with neo-classical facades and statues of Alexander the Great added fuel to the fire.

(Source: agencies)

## Pakistan chopper comes under fire in Kashmir

The prime minister of Pakistan-held Kashmir said Sunday his helicopter came under Indian fire while flying close to the highly militarized Line of Control (LoC) but he escaped unhurt.

The incident happened in Havaily district in Poonch sector while Raja Farooq Haider was on his way to a nearby village to give condolences to the family of a local politician who had died.

"My helicopter had not even committed any violation and was flying well within our side of the LoC when Indian troops opened fire," Haider said in a statement from Islamabad.

Raja Arshad, a senior local administration official in Havaily, confirmed the incident and said Haider was unhurt and there was no damage to the helicopter.

The LoC serves as a de facto border dividing the contested Himalayan region between India and Pakistan.

There has been a surge of shelling along the LoC in recent months as tensions between nuclear-armed rivals India and Pakistan rose.

The two countries have been in dispute over Kashmir since independence from Britain in 1947, and fought two of their three wars over the territory.

New Delhi has long accused Islamabad of supporting militant groups waging an insurgency in Kashmir. Pakistan denies the accusation, calling the uprising in Kashmir an indigenous freedom struggle.

This month, India blamed postage stamps released by Pakistan depicting Kashmiri freedom struggle as part of its reason for cancelling rare talks between the neighbors in New York.

(Source: AFP)

## Chelsea to host Lampard's Derby in Carabao Cup

Frank Lampard will make a quick return to Chelsea as his Derby County side drew his former club from his playing days in the Carabao Cup fourth-round draw on Saturday.

Less than two months into his first season as Derby manager, Lampard's reward for winning at Manchester United in the previous round is a trip to Stamford Bridge, where he spent most of his playing career.

In his time at Chelsea from 2001-14, Lampard became the club's record scorer with 211, made 649 appearances, and was the heartbeat of teams that won three English Premier Leagues, four FA Cups, the Champions League once, and two League Cups.

The other big clubs left in the draw largely avoided each other as Manchester City will host Fulham and Arsenal are at home against Blackpool, while Tottenham will face a derby away to West Ham.

Elsewhere, League One side Burton will host Nottingham Forest, where Brewers boss Nigel Clough spent the majority of his playing career and whom his father famously managed to a pair of European titles.

(Source: Goal)

## Manchester United dismiss Zidane rumours as 'nonsense' - sources

Manchester United are not in the process of lining up Zinedine Zidane as their next manager despite mounting pressure on current boss Jose Mourinho, sources have told ESPN FC.

United were beaten 3-1 by West Ham on Saturday to extend their winless run to three and prompt renewed speculation former Real Madrid coach Zidane, who was in London this week, is in the frame to take over at Old Trafford.

However, sources close to the club told ESPN FC dismissed talk of an approach to Zidane, who is available after leaving the Bernabeu in the summer, as "nonsense."

Mourinho's position is under the spotlight after a draw with Wolves and the Carabao Cup exit to Championship side Derby County was followed up with a dire defeat at the London Stadium.

The result leaves United nine points behind Premier League leaders Liverpool and Manchester City after just seven games.

It is also their worst start to a league campaign since David Moyes was in charge in 2013-14.

Executive vice chairman Ed Woodward appeared to back Mourinho on Tuesday by insisting the club was working hard to win trophies under the Portuguese coach's stewardship.

Mourinho has faced a week of controversy, first stripping Paul Pogba of the vice-captaincy then being captured in a tense exchange with the midfielder at Carrington.

United are next in action against Valencia in the Champions League on Tuesday night before a Premier League clash with Newcastle.

(Source: Soccernet)

## Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi anger FIFA chief Gianni Infantino

FIFA president Gianni Infantino is furious with Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi for their failure to attend this year's The Best awards ceremony in London.

The game's governing body welcomed many of the world's biggest footballers to Royal Festival Hall last week, but the absence of Ronaldo and Messi was very much an elephant in the room.

The Juventus and Barcelona stars, who have shared the award equally over the last decade, cited schedule clashes but it is widely believed they chose not to show up after learning the main prize would go to Luka Modric.

However, that excuse may not fly in the future if Infantino gets his way. According to Spanish newspaper AS, the FIFA chief is instructing lawyers on ways they can legally obligate finalists to attend the event, essentially forcing them to come.

Ronaldo eventually finished second in a ten-man shortlist while Messi came a surprisingly low fifth with under ten per cent of the votes.

Mohamed Salah of Liverpool (third) and PSG's Kylian Mbappe (fourth) finished above the Argentine.

Not only did Ronaldo miss out on the main Men's Player of the Year award but also the Puskas Award, given to the perceived best goal of the year.

As it was fan voted, Salah's strike against Everton won with over 30 per cent from a list of ten. It is assumed that most of Salah's votes came from a combination of Liverpool and Egypt fans.

(Source: Daily Mail)

## Sevilla announce 10 fans hospitalised after barrier collapses

Sevilla announced 14 supporters were injured and 10 hospitalised after a barrier at Eibar's Ipurua collapsed under pressure on Saturday.

Fans were injured when a barrier in the away supporters' section buckled during Sevilla's 3-1 victory against Eibar in LaLiga.

Amid the celebrations for Ever Banega's 59th-minute penalty, spectators spilled onto the pitch as the railing gave way under pressure.

Sevilla chairman Jose Castro and sporting director Joaquin Caparros visited the hospitalised fans at Mendaro Hospital.

The team announced some staff would remain at the hospital until Sevilla supporters were discharged.

Sevilla are third in LaLiga and only one point adrift of Barcelona and Real Madrid following three consecutive wins.

(Source: Four Four Two)

# Hamilton wins in Russia with help of team orders

SOCHI, Russia -- Lewis Hamilton took a big step towards a fifth world title with victory at the Russian Grand Prix, as title rival Sebastian Vettel finished third.

Hamilton was helped on his way by teammate Valtteri Bottas, who led from the start of the race but was told to move over for Hamilton on lap 25. Mercedes was concerned that Vettel, who had managed to get ahead of Hamilton at the pit stops only to be repassed by the Mercedes driver two laps later, would take advantage of a blister on Hamilton's left rear tyre and attempt to repass.

Bottas was being held up by Max Verstappen, who had taken a temporary lead of the race with a long first stint from 19th on the grid, and was backing Hamilton into Vettel. The orchestrated move came on the entry to Turn 13, with Mercedes head of strategy James Vowles telling Bottas: «There was a risk with Lewis against Vettel, he had a small blister [on his tyres]. I had to do this to make sure we secure this. I understand.» Team boss Toto Wolff also spoke on the radio after the race to reassure Bottas, who had asked if the positions would be swapped again at the chequered flag moments before, that all would be explained after the finish.

Despite Bottas' disappointment on missing out on his first race victory of the season, Mercedes will leave Russia in high spirits with Hamilton taking a commanding 50-point lead in the drivers' championship with five races remaining. Even if Vettel wins every race until the end of the year, Hamilton only has to finish second once and third four times to secure the title.

Ultimately, Ferrari did not have the pace to challenge for victory in Sochi. Vettel attempted to pass Hamilton at the start of the race following a good start, but was outdragged



by the Mercedes on the run to Turn 2 as Hamilton got a tow from teammate Bottas at the end of the straight.

With Mercedes leading Ferrari at the end of the first lap, the attention turned to the first pit stops and whether Vettel could manufacture a way past with tyre strategy.

Mercedes acted first, pitting Bottas from

the lead on lap 12, which appeared to be a strategic move to pre-empt Ferrari. Vettel pitted on the next lap, and with a fresh set of soft tyres had a significant pace advantage over Hamilton, who was now leading but still on the set of ultra-softs he started the race on. When Hamilton pitted on lap 15, he emerged behind Vettel as a result of the

pace difference, creating a huge headache for Mercedes.

«How did that happen, man?» Hamilton asked his race engineer over the team radio. The TV feed didn't broadcast the answer, but Hamilton decided to take matters into his own hands and went on the attack on the next lap.

(Source: ESPN)

## Messi says Barcelona shouldn't have to rely on him to get results

Lionel Messi said Barcelona have good enough players to not have to depend on him to bail them out every week after helping salvage a 1-1 draw against Athletic Bilbao.

The debate about Barca's dependence on Messi is not a new one, but it resurfaced on Saturday when the Argentine came off the bench to help them salvage a point at Camp Nou as their winless run extended to three games.

Messi, who was introduced in the 55th minute, had already hit the post and seen

a free kick cleared off the line when he set up Munir El Haddadi to equalize with five minutes to play.

«We have the squad and the players to be a great team, to be a strong team and not depend on anyone,» Messi told BeIn Sports when asked if Barca were too reliant on him.

«This is Barca. We have enough players, we don't need to depend on one. These results have been a shame, but we have to stay calm because it's a long season.»

Striker Luis Suarez also said Barca, whose tie with Athletic followed a midweek defeat to Leganes and a draw with Girona, should be able to cope without Messi.

«We have the best player in the world but we can't depend on Leo coming on to sort things out,» the Uruguayan said to reporters.

«There are a lot of us here on our own merits, for having shown a lot at other clubs, and it doesn't depend only on Leo coming on. We should have won the game before he came on.»

Barca travel to Tottenham in the Champions League on Wednesday, their fourth game in 10 days, and coach Ernesto Valverde said that was the reason for leaving Messi on the bench.

«I looked at the games we had, I thought what could happen and I thought that Messi and [Sergio] Busquets needed to rest, knowing that Wednesday is a big game and we have a big squad,» Valverde said in a postgame news conference.

«If we won 2-1 the question wouldn't even exist. I know it's a risky decision [leaving Messi out]. I took that risk and haven't won. It's absolutely my responsibility.»

Most worrying is the fact they have conceded eight goals already but, while admitting there are areas to improve, Messi said there is no need to panic at this stage of the campaign.

«There's no anxiety,» he added. «The season's long and it's early days. We're angry about recent results because they weren't what we expected. But we were good in the first half at Leganes and we lost. Today we created enough to win, but we couldn't.»

(Source: Eurosport)



## Cristiano Ronaldo's reasons for leaving Real Madrid are revealed in new report

Real Madrid said goodbye to Cristiano Ronaldo in July of this year, but the player's journey through the Estadio Santiago Bernabeu exit doors began in May of 2017.

His problems with the Spanish tax authorities kicked off a series of discussions and decisions which ultimately led him to Turin and to Juventus.

This is according to a fresh report published by El Mundo.

They reveal that Ronaldo held a meeting at the home of his agent Jorge Mendes in May of 2017, with his advisors in attendance.

«I said I didn't want any risks,» Ronaldo told his advisors, referring to the legal troubles that had been caused by tax non-payments. «I didn't study and the only thing I've done in my life is play football, but I'm not stupid and I don't trust anyone.»

«That's why I always pay 30 percent more than is requested when I hire an assessor.»

«It's because I don't want problems.» Lawyer Carlos Osorio, who was at the meeting, explained that he had been in charge of these fiscal issues, but urged Ronaldo not to worry.

Some months later, when he had to make a pact with the tax authorities, he became very angry.

«I never said not to pay taxes!» he exclaimed to his advisors.

«I want to know what happened.»

«I don't understand anything, as the taxes should be paid by sponsors, so why do they accuse me?»

Having had to fork out payments to the Spanish tax authorities, Ronaldo hoped that Real Madrid would offer him an improved contract to soften the financial hit, as he believed Barcelona had done with Lionel Messi. Yet the capital city club wanted to keep a distance from Ronaldo and his legal issues, which he viewed as a betrayal.

He also considered it a lack of respect that Messi was earning double his wages and that Neymar had moved ahead of him in the salary rankings after the Brazilian's move to Paris Saint-Germain.

His anger became so much that Zinedine Zidane reportedly spoke to the directors to ask them to solve the issue, claiming that Ronaldo was discussing it too much in the dressing room.

On top of all that, the Portuguese was also irritated by the fact that Alfredo Di Stefano was continually discussed ahead of him when it came to the topic of Real Madrid's best ever player.

«They always put me behind Di Stefano and I don't know what more I have to do,» he is believed to have said.

In the end, the relationship with Real Madrid reached a point where he decided to leave and to move on, joining Juventus and beginning a new adventure in Italy.

(Source: Marca)



## LeBron James impressed with Lonzo Ball's return from July surgery

After just a couple of practices together, LeBron James says Lonzo Ball looks like someone who did not miss most of the summer due to a knee injury.

«I didn't know he was gonna be full go so fast,» James said after the Los Angeles Lakers' practice Saturday. «He's been going through live drills the last 2½ days. His bounce is there. His speed is there.»

«So I don't even know if he even had surgery,» James added, jokingly.

Ball underwent surgery on a torn left meniscus in mid-July, and the Lakers have since brought him along slowly. He will not play in the preseason opener against Denver on Sunday in San Diego.

However, James said it's been hard to tell during the past few practices that Ball did not play for much of the offseason.

Ball tried to stay off his knee and strengthen it at the start of the offseason, including treating it with platelet-rich plasma injections, before opting for surgery in mid-July. He spent much of his offseason working in the weight room and film room until his knee recovered, returning to full-contact practice Thursday.

Coach Luke Walton said he was «shocked how good he looked» over the previous few days as far as his feel, considering he hadn't played since his rookie season ended in April.

Ball, who has tweaked his jump shot by not bringing the ball over as much to his left side as he shoots, admitted he was rusty in his first contact practice. But the most important thing, Walton said, is that Ball didn't suffer any setbacks.

«We're gonna be patient,» Walton said. «No need to rush

it right now. We'll put minutes restrictions on him as he starts coming back in the preseason. And everything will be, 'How do you feel?' the next day, 'How do you feel?' that night. As long as we keep checking those off and he's fine, the minutes restrictions will go up and up until we decide to get rid of it altogether.»

«[There's] nothing with the injury now. It's just the fact that he hasn't played in a long time. We want to make sure we bring him back slow.»

While Ball works his way back, the Lakers will not have first-round pick Moe Wagner for the entire preseason. Wagner, the 25th overall pick out of Michigan, is out with a left knee contusion. The Lakers said the center will be re-evaluated after the preseason ends in mid-October.

(Source: ESPN)

# Ex-Esteghlal player Jloyd Samuel had a secret life in Iran

**S P O R T S** Singer Helia Sahimi has called the late Aston Villa footballer 'the best husband I could have ever asked for'

TRAGIC fireball crash footballer Jloyd Samuel had a secret second wife, The Sun on Sunday can reveal.

Singer Helia Sahimi has called him "the best husband I could have ever asked for" among a string of posts since his death.

Wife Emma Samuel, 38, mum to his three kids, is said to be in shock after learning of their relationship.

Ex-Aston Villa ace Jloyd, 37, was killed after his Range Rover hit a van and burst into flames in May.

His family were devastated at the loss of a "loving son, father, husband and brother".

But Helia, who Jloyd met when he played in Iran, has also spoken of her grief.

On Thursday she posted a video of a message where Jloyd told her: "When you feel sad you will look at this and feel we will be together soon."

She wrote: "I am so lonely and missing you." She added cryptically: "There are only 2 months and 8 days left to the date of our agreement."

Another post in June referred to him having apparently changed faith in secret so they could be together.

She wrote: "Do you remember the day you became a Muslim and a party that we had private and wish we could tell someone sooner?"

Emma wed Jloyd in 2008, when they already had two sons, now 14 and 12. She had a girl a year later and settled near Lymm, Cheshire, when Jloyd played for Bolton, giving up her job as an interior designer.

Jloyd then went to play in Iran from 2011 to 2015, only returning "every 14 weeks or so".

This month Helia posted a pic of them hugging, and wrote: "I spend all my days looking at our pictures from Africa." She added: "You were my mine and I was yours...?..?..? you're the best kind of man."



Helia also posed in one of Jloyd's shirts from Tehran-based Esteghlal. Her posts also suggest she has a close bond with Jloyd's mother Caron, 54, and his sister Leslie-Ann, 38.

She referred to Caron as "an angel" and said: "Thank you for bringing Jloyd to the world so I could taste real love." She ended one post with "only daughter in law".

It is unclear whether they married or she merely referred to him as her husband.

Last night Emma declined to comment. But a source said: "To say she is stunned and devastated would be an understatement."

A woman at the home of Jloyd's sister and mother also declined to comment.

## Al Sadd star Akram Afif warns Persepolis



Al Sadd star Akram Afif has warned Persepolis his performance is only getting better the further the 2018 AFC Champions League progresses ahead of their semi-final clash against the Tehran giants on Tuesday.

Leading scorer Baghdad Bounedjah and Spanish superstar Xavi may have hogged the headlines as Al Sadd reached the AFC Champions League semi-finals, but it is young Qatari talent Akram Afif who has been one of the real success stories of the Doha club's continental campaign.

And according to the 21-year-old forward, who was recently named AFC Champions League Toyota Player of the Week, the best is very much still to come.

"I am very happy with my progress, which has been aided by the coaching staff and my teammates," said Afif, who netted in both legs of the quarter-final as Al Sadd defeated Tehran's Esteghlal 5-3 on aggregate.

"My performance is improving from game to game and I always strive for the best.

"We are delighted to go through to the semi-finals, despite having a tough time against Esteghlal. Seven of our players were away from the team during the pre-match preparations, due to international commitments.

"We could only come together just four days before the game. But we managed to

deal with the game in the proper way and kept hold of our advantage from the first leg.

"We are now focusing on preparation for the big game against Persepolis in the AFC Champions League semi-finals," he added.

Meanwhile, Al Sadd head coach Jesualdo Ferreira said he expected his side to score a "big number" of goals against Persepolis on Tuesday.

"I am satisfied to see the team continue winning both in Asia and domestically, and not waste points. At Al Sadd, we have a strong squad and I am reassured by the team's performances until now," said the Portuguese.

"It is very important for us to have a strong strike force, as we have a crucial game coming up in the AFC Champions League. We should work towards scoring a big number of goals in the first leg, so that it can be of benefit in the second leg in Tehran."

Ferreira also spoke about his team's win against Qatar Sports Club this week in the QNB Stars League.

"The temperature was very high, but the Al Sadd players were very impressive. In the first 30 minutes, we had many chances, through which we scored three goals. After that, I asked the players to slow down the tempo of the game to endure through the game.

(Source: GulfTimes)

## Shoji strike steers Japan to win over Oman



Toyama Shoji's 81st minute strike earned Japan a place in the AFC U-16 Championship 2018 semi-finals and their ticket to the 2019 FIFA U-17 World Cup after they edged Oman 2-1 in their last eight tie at the National Stadium on Sunday.

Japan will play the winners of the Australia-Indonesia quarter-final in the last four on Thursday after overcoming a spirited Oman who impressed with their fighting performance.

It was a battle of former champions at the National Stadium, with both teams having previously won two titles each but Group A winners Japan held the lion's share of possession in the early minutes but hardly tested Omani goalkeeper Mitham Ali Al Ajmi.

Japan's first clear chance came in the 14th minute, when Nishikawa Jun sent a brilliant through pass behind the Oman backline, setting up Naruoka Hikaru who had just the 'keeper to beat but his shot to the bottom right missed the target by mere inches.

However, the East Asians were ahead just a minute later with Araki Ryotaro lobbing the ball over the Oman defenders to find a surging Jun, who beat the offside trap and forced Al Ajmi to parry his effort, only for sliding defender Issa Khalfan Al Naabi to steer it into the empty goalmouth.

(Source: the-afc)

Having won the title in 1996 and 2000, Oman were undeterred by the goal and moved confidently in their search of the equalizer.

In the 21st minute, Oman threatened from the right flank and their quick exchange of passes flustered the Japanese defence, allowing Al Azhar Hamza Al Balushi to send in a cross into the box and Tariq Khamis Al Mashary rose highest to head the ball home.

Japan continued to dominate proceedings but Oman were solid in defense, and the match was finely poised as both teams went into the half time break.

Yoshiro Moriyama's charges maintained possession in the second half but were cautious moving forward as Oman looked dangerous on the counter-attack.

Jun came close to breaking the stalemate in the 54th and 59th minutes but Al Ajmi was on top of his game, making fine saves.

Oman had a scare in the 71st minute when a cross from deep in the Japan half caught them off guard, with Jun dashing down the left but substitute Toyama Shoji failed to get a boot to his teammate's pass.

However, Shoji made no mistake 10 minutes later from close range, courtesy of Jun's impressive low cross as Japan held on for the win.

## Persepolis full of belief ahead of Al Sadd match

Four teams remain in the hunt for the right to be crowned kings of Asia ahead of the hotly anticipated first legs of the 2018 AFC Champions League semi-finals in the coming week.

The 2011 winners Al Sadd of Qatar host 2017 semi-finalists Persepolis of Islamic Republic of Iran on Tuesday, before Japan's Kashima Antlers welcome two-time continental champions Suwon Samsung Bluewings of Korea Republic a day later.

### Al Sadd v Persepolis

Al Sadd are the only side left in the competition to have won the AFC Champions League, while they were also the last team from West Asia to lift the coveted trophy when they defeated Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors in the 2011 final.

The Doha team have overcome Saudi Arabia's Al Ahli and Iran's Esteghlal in the knockout rounds and have not lost since the group stage as they aim to repeat the feat of seven years ago and end East Asian dominance.

But their last defeat was to Tuesday's opponents when Persepolis secured a 1-0 win in Tehran to top Group C, before the Iranian side knocked out Al Jazira in the last 16 and claimed a remarkable come-from-behind victory



over another Qatari team, Al Duhail, in the quarter-finals.

Persepolis are appearing in their second successive semi-final after advancing for the first time last year, before eventually losing to Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal. They will return full of belief after ousting a side who had previously won all nine of their matches on the continent.

### Al Sadd (QAT) v Persepolis (IRN)

● Venue: Jassim bin Hamad Stadium, Doha Kick-off: October 2, 18:15 UTC+3

● Kashima Antlers v Suwon Samsung Bluewings  
Kashima Antlers will compete in the AFC Champions League's last four for the first time when they take on Suwon Samsung Bluewings at Kashima Soccer Stadium on Wednesday.

The teams twice met in the group stage, sharing a win apiece, before Kashima ousted Shanghai SIPG in the last 16 in what was their first ever knockout stage win and then eased past another Chinese side, Tianjin Quanjian, 5-0 on aggregate in the quarter-finals.

Suwon won the now defunct Asian Club Championship twice in the early 2000s but have only once before, in 2011, reached the semi-finals, before being knocked out by eventual winners Al Sadd.

But having eliminated domestic rivals Ulsan Hyundai in the last 16 and then edged past two-time winners Jeonbuk on penalties in the previous round, they have a chance to advance to the showpiece event for the first time.

### Kashima Antlers (JPN) v Suwon Samsung Bluewings (KOR)

● Venue: Kashima Soccer Stadium, Kashima Kick-off: October 3, 19:00 UTC+9

(Source: the-afc)

## Real Madrid welcome Ahed Tamimi to the Bernabeu

Palestinian teenager Ahed Tamimi was welcomed to the Estadio Santiago Bernabeu by Real Madrid on Friday after spending eight months in prison for slapping an Israeli soldier in December 2017.

Tamimi became a globally recognisable figure of Palestine when a video of her and her mother in an altercation with a soldier went viral, originally on Facebook.



A military court sentenced both Ahed and her mother to eight months in prison for the slapping and pushing soldiers.

Along with her family, the teenager has been spending time in Spain this week and has taken part in several political and social events and Emilio Butragueno received her at the Bernabeu, handing over a shirt with her name and the No.9 printed on the back.

(Source: Marca)

## Canada's Karen O'Neill receives prestigious honour

The achievements and leadership of Canadian Paralympic Committee's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Karen O'Neill have not gone unnoticed, as she was selected to receive the Sports Executive of the Year award by Sports Media Canada.

O'Neill, who took on her role as CEO in 2013, oversaw a year that saw Team Canada complete a successful 2018 Paralympic Winter Games in PyeongChang, South Korea. The nation finished with 28 medals including eight golds.

"A huge congratulations to Karen and all of the honorees on this outstanding recognition," said Marc-Andre Fabien, president, Canadian Paralympic Committee. "Karen is a wonderful leader, extremely well-respected in the international sports community, and a tireless advocate for inclusion and Paralympic sport. The Paralympic Movement in Canada has advanced immensely under her leadership, and this year has already been one to celebrate thanks to Canada's best-ever Paralympic Winter Games in PyeongChang.

"Karen is so well-deserving of this award, but ever modest, she would most certainly want this recognition to be shared amongst the entire organization, and it is reflective of the great work of the entire staff and all of our sport members and partners."

The annual awards recognize the great work of members of the Canadian sports media and sports community. The 2018 Sports Media Canada Achievement Awards will be presented in Toronto on 15 November.

(Source: Paralympic.org)

## Sri Lankan Perera to officiate Al Sadd v Persepolis

**TASNIM** — Hettikamkanage Dilan Perera has been chosen to officiate the first leg of the AFC Champions League semi-final between Al Sadd of Qatar and Iran's Persepolis.

The match will be held in Doha's Jassim bin Hamad Stadium on Tuesday.

Dilan Perera, 40, has been a full international for FIFA since 2004. He refereed some matches in AFC Champions League.

He will be assisted by his two compatriots in this match. Al Sadd and Persepolis met in the AFC Champions League for the very first time in this year's group stages. Both sides won their respective home games.

Al Sadd has reached the AFC Champions League semi-final for the second time after 2011, when it eventually went on to win the competition.

Persepolis has reached the semi-final for the second time in its history and the second time in a row after 2017.

## Egypt Olympic committee wants legal action against club head

**CAIRO (AP)** — Egypt's Olympic Committee has appealed to the country's parliament to lift the immunity of the chairman of a Cairo club it sanctioned for misconduct, saying his abuse of the privilege has left his victims without recourse to justice.

Murtada Mansour of Zamalek FC was sanctioned Saturday by both the Confederation of African Football and the Egyptian Olympic Committee for insulting the head of CAF and for his unethical conduct. Mansour reacted defiantly, threatening to burn down CAF's Cairo headquarters, throw it out of Egypt or preventing its head, Ahmad Ahmad, from entering its offices.

"It's a conspiracy against Zamalek," he said in a video clip posted online late Saturday. He said no one could stop him from attending matches and framed the crisis in nationalistic terms, seeking to take advantage of the wave of xenophobia that has gripped Egypt in recent years and which is often stoked by the pro-government media.

This is a case of "enlisting the aid of a foreign party against an Egyptian citizen," he said in the video, alluding to the meeting Saturday between delegates of the Egyptian and international Olympic committees to discuss his case.

The state-owned daily al-Ahram published Sunday the Olympic committee's full statement on Mansour. Its call on the 596-seat parliament to lift his immunity so he can face legal proceedings appeared to be a thinly veiled criticism of the pro-government chamber, which has repeatedly declined requests to waive that privilege.

"The purpose of immunity is not to empower those who have it to insult, slander and stain the reputation of sports figures who have no recourse to justice before the courts," said the statement, which accused Mansour of breaking the law and violating the constitution.

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## Leader's commendation for "Farangis" published

**CULTURE** TEHRAN – The Islamic Revolution Cultural Research Institute has published a commendation from Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei for the memoirs of war heroine Farangis Heidarpar. The commendation was unveiled in a special ceremony on Sunday at the institute.



A copy of the commendation Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei wrote for "Farangis".

"Farangis" written by Mahnaz Fattahi is Heidarpar's account of her confrontation with Iraqi soldiers after their village Evazin near the border between Iran and Iraq was invaded during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war. "A significant and untold portion of the war stories can be observed in the memoirs of this brave and devoted lady," Ayatollah Khamenei wrote. "Brave lady Farangis has conversed with us with her strong spirit, the honest and kindly language of a villager, and the genuinely pleasant feelings of a woman. She has also shown us an unknown and important area of the imposed war geography in detail."

The Leader also praised Fattahi for her creative writing. "Farangis" was published in 2015 by Sureh-Mehr, a major publishing company affiliated with the Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization.

## Lebanon to screen "Damascus Time"

**A R T** TEHRAN – "Damascus Time", Ebrahim Hatamikia's latest drama on the atrocities of the Daesh war in Syria, will hit the silver screens in Lebanon next week, a public relations team announced.



"Damascus Time" by Ebrahim Hatamikia.

A special screening has been arranged for Beirut on Monday October 8, which will be attended by a number of Lebanese artists and cultural officials.

The film will go on public screen October 11, and will be screened for one month in several Lebanese cities.

"Damascus Time" is about an Iranian pilot and his copilot son who are captured by Daesh forces in Syria while they are in the country to deliver a cargo of humanitarian relief supplies to people in a war-torn region.

Hadi Hejazifar and Babak Hamidian from Iran and several Syrian and Lebanese actors star in the movie that brought Hatamikia a Crystal Simorgh for best director at the 36th Fajr Film Festival in Tehran in February.

The film has already been screened in Syria and Iraq.

## "Between Two Waters" wins Golden Shell at San Sebastian 2018

**LONDON (Screen Daily)** – Spanish production "Between Two Waters" (Entre Dos Aguas) by Isaki Lacuesta has won the top award at the San Sebastian Film Festival, marking a second Golden Shell for the Spanish director who after claiming the top prize in 2011 for "The Double Steps".

"Between Two Waters" tells the story of two Roman brothers who meet again after years apart, one having spent some time in prison, the other in the army.

The title is a Spanish expression that translates to "neither here nor there", and is also the title of a classic flamenco theme by guitarist Paco De Lucia.

Working with non-actors, Lacuesta picked up a fictional story he started in a previous film, La Leyenda Del Tiempo, 12 years ago. Entre Dos Aguas – distributed by BTeam Pictures and sold by Filmmax – is faithful to the Catalan director's style of fiction with a documentary feel.

The jury of the 66th edition of the San Sebastián Film Festival, presided by Alexander Payne, awarded the Silver Shell for Best Director to Benjamin Naishtat for "Rojo", a Latin American and European period thriller set in the turbulent 1970s in Argentina. The film arrived in San Sebastian for its European premiere after premiering in Toronto.

# Resistance film festival receives submissions from 73 countries

**A R T** TEHRAN – The 15th International Resistance Film Festival (IRFF) has received submissions from 73 countries, the organizers announced on Sunday.

Most of the submissions are from American and French filmmakers, and 691 documentaries and 215 feature films have also been submitted by directors from Germany, Turkey, England, Italy, Canada, Spain, Brazil and dozens of other countries.

The festival is dedicated to productions on wars and the repercussions of armed conflicts in the world.

It also puts a spotlight on the resistance of the Palestinian people against the Zionist regime, ISIS and their terrorist attacks in the region, as well as the world's tyrants and their backing of ISIS.

The festival has been organized by the Revayat Cultural Foundation and the Film Association of the Islamic Revolution



tion and the Sacred Defense in collaboration with different cultural organizations.

The 15th edition of the festival will be running in late November in Tehran.

## Tehran institute displays works by Eternal Figure artists



Art aficionados visit the Frame of Manifestation exhibit at the Iranian Artists Forum on September 28, 2018. (ILNA)

**A R T** TEHRAN – The Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) is playing host to an exhibition displaying a selection of artworks by a group of artists that were honored with the title of Eternal Figure.

Works by master miniaturist Mahmud Farshchian, calligraphers Mohammad Ehsai, Gholamhossein Amirkhani, Yadollah Kaboli, Esrafil Shirchi, and Javad Bakhtiari, painter Ali-Akbar Sadeqi and several other artists have been selected for the exhibit named "Frame of Manifestation".

Speaking at the opening ceremony on Friday, IAF director Majid Rajabi-Memari praised the secretary of the exhibit, Mahmud As'adi, for his great efforts in organizing the showcase with artworks on the theme of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, which is known as the Sacred Defense in Iran.

As'adi also called the exhibit a good opportunity for the young generation to get to know the elite artists.

He lamented that ordinary people cannot purchase works by these masters to hang in their homes, and added, "It is not motivating when the masters' works are only found in private collections since they are collected only for investment and would be rarely seen by the public."

The exhibit will be running until October 7 at the Forum located on Musavi St., off Taleqani Ave.

The Eternal Figures in various fields of art and science were selected annually during the Eternal Figures Gathering by the Iranian Science and Culture Hall of Fame in collaboration with Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting. The gathering has not been organized over the past few years.

## "Momma Yerma" wins awards at Belarus Teatralny Kufar festival



Director Farzin Nobarani (L) and actor Shabnam Eskandari pose after being honored at the 15th Teatralny Kufar International Student and Youth Theater Festival in Minsk, Belarus on September 28, 2018. (IRNA)

**A R T** TEHRAN – "Momma Yerma" from Iran has won two awards at the 15th Teatralny Kufar International Student and Youth Theater Festival in Minsk, Belarus on Friday.

The play was performed by the Creative Theater Company led by director Farzin Nobarani, and received the award for Best Professional Play while its star, Shabnam Eskandari, was named best actress, a public relations office announced on Sunday.

"Momma Yerma" has been written based on Spanish dramatist Federico Garcia Lorca's "Yerma" that deals with the themes of isolation, passion and frustration but also the underlying themes of nature, marriage, jealousy and friendship.

The group performed the play at Tehran's Entezami Theater in February

2017. The Belarussian Telegraph Agency – BelTA also announced that "The Others" by the Karman Theater from Russia won the Grand Prix of the Teatralny Kufar festival.

The Grand Prix of the children's program was presented to the Artist Creative Center from Russia for "Chernobyl Prayer".

Groups from Belarus, Great Britain, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Croatia, Uzbekistan and several other countries attended the festival, which is organized annually by the Belarussian State University.

Iranian troupes are the frequent visitors to the Teatralny Kufar festival.

The Papion Theater Group from Tehran won the Grand Prix for "The Chairs" during the festival in 2014.

## "Star Wars" chief Kathleen Kennedy's Lucasfilm deal extended for three years

**LOS ANGELES (Hollywood Reporter)** – After the box office disappointment of "Solo: A Star Wars Story", the studio plans to expand the universe with new characters introduced in movies and television shows.

Kathleen Kennedy has reignited her lightsaber. The lead producer and architect of the Star Wars franchise has renewed her contract to remain president of Lucasfilm for another three years, through 2021, The Hollywood Reporter has learned.

The move is a vote of confidence in Kennedy, who took command of Lucasfilm after Disney's \$4 billion acquisition from George Lucas in 2012 and has overseen the relaunch of Star Wars, one of the most revered movie properties in cinematic history. Disney's four new Star Wars films have grossed almost \$4.5 billion at the worldwide box office. Ancillary and merchandising have brought billions more into the studio's coffers.

But it hasn't always been easy money. Kennedy has had to replace directors on two movies that were either in production or post-. Chris Lord and Phil Miller were fired from "Solo: A Star Wars Story" on June 20, 2017, less than a year before the film's release. Kennedy also effectively replaced "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" director Gareth Edwards with helmer Tony Gilroy, though Edwards kept his directing credit. Last year, Colin Trevorrow, who was to have directed "Star Wars: Episode IX", was fired and replaced with the series' Episode VII helmer, J.J. Abrams, a week later.

Kennedy's position is one of the most visible, and her actions the most highly scrutinized, in Hollywood due to the immense popularity of Lucasfilm's franchises, which also include Indiana Jones. So it's notable that her renewal follows this summer's "Solo: A Star Wars Story", the first big-screen box office disappointment for the franchise, grossing "only" \$392 million worldwide and leading



Lucasfilm president Kathleen Kennedy (Alberto E. Rodriguez/Getty Images for Disney)

analysts to estimate a loss for the film at \$50 million to \$80 million or more. (In contrast, 2017's The Last Jedi and 2016's Rogue One grossed \$1 billion globally, and 2015's The Force Awakens topped \$2 billion in receipts.)

Kennedy's deal extension also follows a polarizing reaction to Last Jedi – which sits at 91 percent fresh on review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes but was flooded with unusually angry fan complaints on social media about key plot choices. The reaction to Last Jedi and Solo is resulting in a shift in studio strategy, with Disney making plans to slow the output of movies. "You can expect some slowdown," Disney CEO Bob Iger told THR in an interview published on Sept. 20, adding, "but that doesn't mean we're not going to make films."

The only Star Wars film currently underway is Episode IX, currently shooting in London, and due for release Dec. 20, 2019. Sources tell THR that Episode IX will be the last of the "chapter" installments, with Disney planning on touting it as a selling point in the promotion campaign for the film in the year leading up to its release. Lucasfilm is developing feature projects from "Game of Thrones" creators David Benioff and D.B. Weiss, as well as a potential trilogy from Rian Johnson, the filmmaker behind "Last Jedi". Johnson, however, is currently prepping to shoot a detective thriller that is to star Daniel Craig.

## Roman Polanski's "J'Accuse" is filmmaker's first in the post-#MeToo Era

**LOS ANGELES (Hollywood Reporter)** – Roman Polanski, who has spent four decades as the accused, will explore one of the most famous miscarriages of justice in his new film, "J'Accuse".

French producers Legende Films confirmed that Polanski, who fled the U.S. after admitting to the statutory rape of a 13-year-old girl in 1977, will begin shooting on the film in Paris later this year.

The spy thriller is based on the real-life story of Captain Alfred Dreyfus, a French-Jewish soldier wrongly accused of spying for the Germans, whose trial for treason became a cause celebre in Paris in the 1890s. French Oscar-winner Jean Dujardin (The Artist) will star as the counter-espionage officer who proved, after his conviction, that Dreyfus was, in fact, innocent.

Louis Garrel will play Dreyfus. Mathieu Amalric, Olivier Gourmet and Polanski's wife, actress Emmanuelle Seigner, co-star.

Polanski has been developing the film, whose working title in English is "The Dreyfus Affair", for six years now. British novelist Robert Harris, who worked with Polanski on the 2010 thriller "The Ghost Writer", penned the script. The French title of the film, which means "I Accuse" comes from the famous open letter written by novelist Emile Zola in support of Dreyfus.

The director of "Chinatown", "Rosemary's Baby" and "Tess" first announced the Dreyfus project in Cannes in 2012. He had initially planned to make the film in English, arguing the story was "absolutely relevant" for what's happening in today's world, "the age-old spectacle of the witch hunt on a minority group, security paranoia, secret military tribunals, out-of-control intelligence agencies, governmental cover-ups and a rabid press," he said.

But the timing of the production means "J'Accuse" will be Polanski's first film to arrive in the post-#MeToo era and its reception is certain to be colored by the changed political climate.

In 2003, Polanski's "The Pianist" won three



Roman Polanski (Andreas Rentz/Getty Images)

Oscars, including one for best director, and there were calls for the director to be pardoned and allowed to return to the U.S.

By last May, in the wake of #MeToo, the mood had completely changed. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences expelled the director, saying Polanski's actions did not conform with the Academy's new ethical standards regarding the "respect for human dignity."

Polanski has called the expulsion "illegal" and has threatened legal action. In an interview with the Polish edition of Newsweek, done before the Academy ruling but published shortly afterwards, the director called the #MeToo movement a form of "collective hysteria."

Polanski was arrested and charged with raping 13-year-old Samantha Geimer in 1977. He pled guilty and was imprisoned for 42 days, after which he was released and put on probation as part of a plea bargain. When Polanski learned that a judge was planning to revoke the plea deal, the director fled Paris before the sentencing. He has remained a fugitive ever since, despite repeated attempt to extradite him. He lives in France, which does not extradite its own citizens.

Polanski himself will be portrayed by Polish actor Rafal Zawierucha in Quentin Tarantino's upcoming film "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood", which is a reimagining of the period in the late 1960s before Polanski's pregnant wife Sharon Tate was murdered by the Manson Family.