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## ICJ starts hearing Iran’s complaint against U.S.

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## Indian companies to ship in Iranian oil in November

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — India’s Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Monday that two Indian companies have placed orders to buy Iranian oil in November, Reuters reported.

India, the world’s third-biggest oil importer, will buy nine million barrels of Iranian oil in November, Reuters reported on Friday, citing two industry sources. “Refiners have placed November nominations to lift 1.25 million tons (about 9 million barrels) of oil from Iran,” the Friday report said. **→4**

## Rouhani set to name four new ministers

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani is expected to introduce four new candidates to lead the ministries of industry, transport and urban development, labor, and economy to the parliament on Tuesday. According to a report posted on ILNA website on Monday, Farhad Dejjasand is expected to be named as minister of economy; Reza Veyseh as minister of

industry, mining and trade; Ali-Akbar Haj-Mohammadi as minister of transport and urban development; and Mohammad Shariatmadari as minister of labor and social welfare. Dejjasand has a PhD in economy from Azad University and is currently an associate professor at Shahid Beheshti University’s School of Economics and Political Sciences. **→2**

## Iranian ambassador meets new Iraqi president

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Iraqi Masjedi, the Iranian ambassador to Baghdad, held talks on Sunday with Barham Salih, the newly elected Iraqi president. Masjedi extended Iranian President Hassan Rouhani’s congratulation to Salih. Ambassador Masjedi said Iraq is a powerful country that will overcome difficulties.

On October 2, Iraq’s parliament elected Salih as new president. Salih, of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, won 220 votes out of the 273 lawmakers who were present in the parliament. He was among 20 candidates for the post, including one from the rival Kurdistan Democratic Party. The two parties have dominated Kurdish politics for decades. **→2**



**EDITORIAL**  
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## The new unbearable crime of the Saudis

Turkish officials speaking to The Washington Post and Reuters on Saturday said that prominent Saudi journalist-turned-critic Jamal Khashoggi was killed in the Saudi Arabian Consulate in Istanbul this week.

Khashoggi has been missing since he entered the consulate in Istanbul on Tuesday. “Based on their initial findings, the police believe that the journalist was killed by a team especially sent to Istanbul and who left the same day,” the government source said.

The Washington Post columnist was known as a sharp critic of crown prince Mohammad Bin Salma, and criticized his domestic and regional measures. There are some points in this regard that should be taken into considerations:

1- As expected, European officials, who along with the United States, are among Saudi Arabia’s main arms-suppliers, have avoided to take any explicit, formal, and serious stance on the missing of the Saudi journalist. Al-Saud’s petrodollars in the accounts of European governments have caused them to remain silent at this time in spite of Saudi family’s obvious crimes.

The way Western officials encountered with the case of Jamal Khoshoggi has once again challenged the selective approach of human rights-defenders to this issue. Meanwhile, Western authorities have used both their public and covert diplomacy capacities to avoid turning the issue into a hot topic in their citizens’ minds. However, the key question is whether this effort will be effective or not?

2. It is certain that the vicious efforts of the Western officials to cover those cases such as Jamal Khashoggi’s murder, aren’t going to succeed at the present time! The United States and the occupying regime of Quds, as the main two players involved in kidnapping and murdering Khashoggi, spent a lot on setting up their “political” and “media” games in the international system. But the power of the independent media and the disclosures made by independent journalists in such cases prevent the implementation of this vicious cooperation. **→7**

## Most Middle East dictators owe their power to Western patrons: Jahanpour

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

**TEHRAN** — Professor Farhang Jahanpour, part-time tutor on Middle Eastern affairs in the Department of Continuing Education, University of Oxford, and a member of Kellogg College says that current Middle Eastern leaders who serve Western interests, while lacking legitimacy in the eyes of their own people. However, once they are not needed any more or act against Western interests they will be toppled.

Former Senior Research Scholar at Harvard adds that “Most Middle East dictators owe their power to their Western patrons, because they have no popular base, or at least they have not been elected to their current positions of power

to know if they have a popular base or not.”

Following is the full text of the interview:  
■ Speaking at a rally in Mississippi a few days ago, President Trump humiliated Saudi King Salman by saying: “King – we’re protecting you – you might not be there for two weeks without us – you have to pay for your military.” Why is he humiliating his close ally at this time?

A: What President Trump said is mere common sense. He has a habit of speaking bluntly, and this is a very blunt warning to the Saudi king. A very important fact that most leaders in the third world who are reliant on a major power forget is that they are not courted because they are liked or because of their great qualities, but because they serve the interest of big powers. This has the story of all former leaders who were strongly

backed by foreign powers so long as they served the interest of the big powers, and once they had outlived their usefulness they were dropped.

At one time, Taliban leaders were entertained in Texas and were received by senior US officials because the United States was hoping to build a pipeline between Turkmenistan and Pakistan to transport gas. However, when that plan did not materialise and when the Taliban gave shelter to Osama bin Laden they were attacked and toppled. At another time, Saddam Hussein was an American ally and was visited by Donald Rumsfeld as the special envoy of President Reagan, and he was provided with intelligence to attack Iranian forces during the Iran-Iraq war, even with chemical weapons. However, when his policies diverged from US policies, Iraq was invaded and he was toppled and executed. **→7**

## ‘India to continue with Iranian oil imports despite U.S. sanctions’

**INTERNATIONAL** **TEHRAN** — In a significant development that is likely to raise eyebrows in Washington, two major Indian oil companies have placed orders to import Iranian crude next month, in defiance of U.S. sanctions.

Indian Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, speaking at an event titled ‘The Energy Forum’ in New Delhi on Monday, reaffirmed India’s commitment to bolster oil trade with Iran, saying New Delhi did not know whether it would receive a waiver from U.S. sanctions.

On Friday, India’s state-run news agency PTI quoted sources to report Indian Oil Corp (IOC) and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) have contracted 1.25 million tonnes of Iranian oil for import in November.

“Iran has been off-and-on taking rupee payments for oil it sells. This rupee it uses for paying for imports of medicines and other commodities. A similar arrangement is in works,” a source told PTI, adding details of the payment mechanism would emerge in the next few weeks.

Mr. Pradhan further said that the country was considering evolving a different payment system to import Iran’s oil and that it could pay using Indian rupees, in an attempt to dump the U.S. dollar.

Earlier this week, a report in Economic Times said, citing a government official familiar with the situation, that the Reserve Bank of India and Ministry of Finance had been tasked with exploring the viability of rupee and barter-based trade agreements with crude oil producing nations

such as Russia, Iran and Venezuela.

These developments are seen as a rebuff to Trump’s administration call to countries to completely cut oil trade with the Islamic Republic of Iran. U.S. sanctions against Iran’s crude oil exports come into force from November 4, so Washington has been ratcheting pressure, but to no avail.

Trump administration has failed to garner international support against the Iran deal, which Tehran has continued to abide by even after the unilateral withdrawal of the U.S. Last month, the EU announced that China, France, Germany, Russia and the U.K. would develop an alternative payment system to skirt the U.S. and continue doing business with Iran. India seems to be following the suit. **→6**



**ARTICLE**  
**Syed Zafar Mehdi**  
Journalist  
from New Delhi

## 17 years of America’s disastrous Afghanistan venture

On Sunday, the protracted war in Afghanistan completed 17 years. It was on October 7, 2001 the U.S. government and its allies launched the so-called ‘Operation Freedom’ apparently to topple the Taliban regime in Kabul, following the 9/11 attacks. Yet 17 years later, America’s longest war still grinds on, despite more than \$2 trillion investment and thousands of casualties.

Bearing testimony to America’s disastrous venture in Afghanistan, in the 24 hours corresponding with the 17th anniversary of its invasion, at least 54 people were killed across the war-ravaged country, including 35 Afghan security forces and 19 civilians. It is a grim reminder that the war has only got deadlier with time and the Taliban has managed to reinvent itself, belying tall claims of the U.S. generals that the insurgency was waning in Afghanistan.

It started a few weeks after the 9/11 attacks when the George Bush administration launched the so-called ‘Global War on Terror’. Bush’s defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld, flanked by Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Richard Myers, announced what were to be America’s longest war and the biggest disaster.

On the afternoon of Oct. 7, 2001, as the U.S. and its allies started the deadly and indiscriminate air raid in Afghanistan, Rumsfeld said the objective of the ‘campaign’ was to decimate the Taliban and al Qaeda hideouts in the country. Bush, in an address to the nation, declared the war against the Taliban and al-Qaida, vowing to “crush” them.

As of today, the war has completed 17 years, consumed thousands of lives, and cost U.S. taxpayers more than \$150 billion. All this without achieving the stated objectives.

The U.S. government, prior to the 9/11 attacks, had been asking the Taliban to hand over Osama bin Laden, the ‘most-wanted terrorist’ who had previously fought alongside the U.S. forces against Soviets in Afghanistan. The Taliban had asked for evidence of his complicity in crimes and a commitment to conduct a trial in a third country. **→6**



## Iran observes Children’s Day

As the name suggests Children’s Day is a day recognized to celebrate children. Iran, too, played part in celebrating the day on Sunday as Mohammad Bat’haei, the education minister, attend a ceremony at the Center for Intellectual Development of Children and Youth in Tehran.

The day is celebrated on various calendar dates in different countries; however, Iran annually celebrates it on October 8.

The United Nations’ Children Fund (UNICEF) in Iran has chosen “Listen to Kids!” as the main theme for a year celebration, according to the UNICEF’s website.



MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



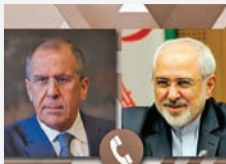
Iran to sue U.S. over medicine sanctions

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri said on Monday that Iran's Foreign Ministry will pursue the cases of U.S. medicine sanctions and its obstacles on Iran's drug imports through international courts.

Jahangiri made the remarks during a meeting on management of supply of medication and medical equipment affected by sanctions, Mehr reported.

He also said that pharmaceutical companies, especially active knowledge-based ones, play an important role in supplying the pharmaceutical needs of the country.

Some 96 percent of the country's required drugs is produced domestically and Iran is proud of this, he added.



Zarif, Lavrov discuss energy cooperation

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov discuss energy cooperation in a phone conversation on Monday.

According to Reuters, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the ministers also exchanged views on international and regional issues.

On Monday, Zarif also met with Vladimir Norov, the chief of Uzbekistan's Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies and the future secretary general of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

The Iranian foreign minister also received the credentials of the new ambassador of South Africa to Tehran.



MP: EU renews call for opening office in Tehran

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee Chairman Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh has said European ambassadors to Iran have renewed calls for opening a European Union office in Tehran.

Parliamentary committee hosted a meeting of 26 ambassadors from the European countries on October 1.

In the gathering, the Austrian envoy whose country holds the EU rotating presidency, and a number of other ambassadors stressed the need for the establishment of an EU office in Iran, the senior lawmaker said.

In November 2017, First Vice-President Es'haq Jahangiri said the establishment of an EU office in Tehran was on the agenda of the Foreign Ministry.



'Zionists won't dare to wage a new war in the region'

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Hossein Amir Abdollahian, a senior foreign policy advisor to the parliament speaker, said on Sunday that the Zionist regime would not dare to trigger a new war in the region.

In a meeting with the members of the Arab and Islamic forum for supporting the resistance movement, Amir Abdollahian also said the American-Israeli alliance is trying to weaken the Resistance Axis, Mehr reported.

He further criticized the United States' policies in the region and the wider world, saying that the Americans' main tool to confront the resistance movement and Iran has been threats, sanctions, political pressure, and psychological warfare.



Defense Ministry delivers 12 UAVs, 6 copters to police

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — In a ceremony on Monday, the Defense Ministry delivered 12 upgraded UAVs named Mohajer and Sadeq, 6 helicopters and different types of advanced urban and border security equipment to the police, ILNA reported.

Defense Minister Amir Hatami felicitated police forces on the occasion of Law Enforcement Week and praised their efforts and sacrifices, saying his ministry is ready for close cooperation with the police.

Hatami said police forces are expected to use the new military equipment to maintain and enhance Iran's security and counter threats against social order and security.



14 governors to be laid off under retirees' employment ban

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Interior Ministry spokesman Salman Samani has said that 14 governors will be laid off under the law on prohibition of the employment of retirees, ISNA reported on Monday.

"According to the examination conducted so far, 14 provincial governors, 11 deputy provincial governors, 5 governors, 12 directors of the Interior Ministry, 12 individuals from 31 provincial offices must leave their post," Samani explained.

He further added that prohibition of the employment of retirees is part of the Rouhani administration's policy to employ the younger generations in top state jobs and such trend will continue.

# Despite plots Iran's security is exemplary: IRGC chief

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Chief of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps Mohammad Ali Jafari said on Monday that in spite of enemies' plots, Iran's security is exemplary. "We do not have any problem in the areas of defense and security, but we should make more efforts in the areas of soft, media and economic war. We are making preparations and gaining experience to counter enemies' plots," he said during a speech at a ceremony naming the new managing director of the IRGC representative in Hormozgan province.

He said that the Zionist regime of Israel supports the Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) and the monarchists to undermine security in Iran.

He added that Iran has achieved many successes in a situation in which any country, except Iran, would have collapsed.

Basij and the IRGC have the heavy responsibility in the spheres of defense, security, culture, society and politics, Jafari said.

He added that the IRGC is implementing eight plans to promote Basij.

Elsewhere, he said that enemies have focused on economic pressure, however, the Iranian people will defeat them through resistance which is a "long, dangerous and difficult path".

U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew Washington from the 2015 nuclear deal in May and ordered re-imposition of sanctions against Iran.

The first round of sanctions were snapped back in August and the second round will be returned in early November.

Trump'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.



The IRGC commander says the Zionist regime of Israel supports the Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) and the monarchists to undermine security in Iran.

## Tehran seeks close interaction with Eurasia: Larijani

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani said on Monday that Tehran seeks to expand economic interaction with the Eurasian countries.

Larijani made the remarks before his departure to the Third Meeting of the Speakers of Eurasian Parliaments in Antalya, Turkey.

"Expansion of economic interaction with the Eurasian countries is among the objectives of trip to Turkey. The parliaments should make efforts to facilitate the interaction

through legal ways," Larijani stated.

He said that the meeting is a good opportunity for the parliament speakers to discuss relations.

The meeting started on Monday and was scheduled to end on Tuesday.

Larijani plans to meet with a number of his counterparts including Binali Yildirim, the Turkish parliament speaker.

20 parliament speakers and 17 parliamentary delegations from Asian and European countries were scheduled

to attend the meeting.

Economic cooperation, environment and sustainable development in Eurasia will be the key topic of the event.

In 2016, the State Duma of Russia and the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea acted as initiators for the meeting format of speakers of Eurasian parliaments.

The first and second meetings of the parliament speakers of Eurasian states were held in South Korea and Russia.

## Rouhani set to name four new ministers



**1 →** He has served as deputy head of Iran's Budget and Planning Organization under the Rouhani administration. He currently serves as the director of Center for Development and Foresight Studies of the Budget and Planning Organization.

Veyseh currently serves as deputy coordinator and supervisor of Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri. He served as chairman of the board of directors of the Industrial Development & Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO) from 2000 to 2004.

Since 2009, Veyseh has been chairman of the board of directors of Sharif Foundation at Sharif University of Technology.

Haj-Mohammadi has been a senior advisor to the Budget and Planning Organization. He was appointed as director of Monitoring,

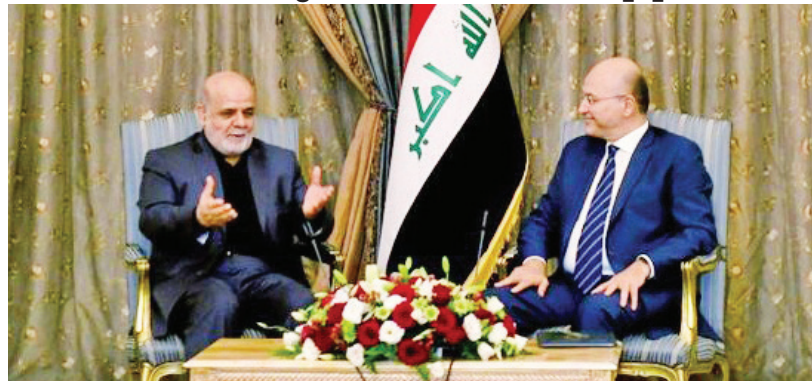
Evaluation and Information Management of the Budget and Planning Organization by Mohammad Baqer Nobakht.

Holding a master's degree in commercial management, Shariatmadari has been serving as minister of industry, mining and trade since August 2017. He had served as vice president for executive affairs since Rouhani took office in 2013.

Shariatmadari had also served as acting minister of sports and youth from October to November 2013. He was the minister of commerce from 1997 to 2005 under President Mohammad Khatami.

He became a member of Central Revolution Committee following the 1979 revolution. He is among the founders of the Intelligence Ministry and served as its deputy chief.

## Ambassador Masjedi meets new Iraqi president



**1 →** The new president will have 15 days to task the nominee of the largest parliamentary bloc with forming a new government. The prime minister-designate will then have 30 days to submit his cabinet to parliament.

**■ Saleh lauds Iran's fight against terrorism**

In his meeting with the ambassador, Salih praised Iran's role in fighting terrorism in the region and attached great importance to expansion of relations.

The president added that cooperation is beneficial to both the Iranian and Iraqi people.

The Iraqi president also said the current tension in the West Asia region is "unacceptable".

He noted that Iraq seeks "deep di-

alogue" about sensitive issues, saying that Iraq will turn into the "center of regional and international consensus".

Iran and Iraq are very close allies supporting each other against terrorists including ISIS. The two countries' relationship started growing after the downfall of Saddam Hussein in 2003. Iran was the first country that rushed to the support of Iraqis when ISIS launched a surprising attack on the country in 2004.

The economic ties between the two neighbors have also increased greatly. Iran is now Iraq's third biggest trade partner after Turkey and China.

Iran also has four consulate generals in Basra, Sulaymaniyah, Erbil and Karbala.

## A weak, helpless Iran is the objective of U.S., Israel: expert

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — It is the objective of the United States and Israel to have a weak and helpless Iran, a political expert and former diplomat believes.

"America and Israel are fighting Iran's defense, missile, and arms capabilities. They have boycotted Iran weapons-wise in order to weaken it militarily and be able to attack it any time they decide to," Hossein Mousavian said in an interview with IRIB aired on Sunday.

Mousavian, now a Princeton University researcher, pointed out that since the U.S. and Israel consider Iran the number one threat to their security in the region, they are ignoring the International Atomic Energy Agency's dozen reports that confirm Iran's commitment to the 2015 nuclear deal.

This is why, he indicated, these two countries are investing in manipulating the public mind about Iran in order to block trade with Iran and mount political pressure on Tehran in order to prevent foreign investment in Iran.

"To counter Iran's support for popular forces like the Hashd al-Shabi and Hezbollah, America and Israel have capitalized on terrorist groups like al-Qaeda and Daesh, whose objective is not only Iran, but to disturb the entire Islamic world and the region."

It is their plan to bring Iran to the Security Council by using the nuclear issue, which is much handier for them than human rights and terrorism options, noted Mousavian who was among a team nuclear negotiators during the Khatami adminis-

tration from 2003-2005.

He also said that they plan to clear the region of powerful countries such as Iran and Turkey which are opposed to Israel.

"America and Israel want to magnify the Iranian issue in order to push the Palestinian issue to the margin."

Destroying Iran's economy and creating civil unrest inside the country are also among other the major schemes of the U.S. and Israel, he added.

He went on to note that Arab countries like Saudi Arabia and the UAE did not reveal their hostility toward Iran prior to the presidency of Donald Trump. "After which their joint meetings with America and Israel are held regularly in Washington, aimed at bringing Iran to its knees." "Israel has found a historic opportunity.

It is not only employing some Arab powers to serve regime change and disintegration in Iran, but collecting the cost from them. They are pursuing the same disintegration plan that Saddam Hussein did by invading the Iranian soil after the revolution, but now in different dimensions."

On Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's claims about Iran's nuclear activities, he said, "This is a long-term strategy which the Israelis started 30 years ago, presenting every two or three years fake documents that Iran is making a nuclear bomb. Netanyahu did the same thing in 2013 at the UN General Assembly. And he will do the same two years from now. His goal is to keep the media and the world's public opinion obsessed with the issue of Iran."

## ICJ starts hearing Iran's complaint against U.S.

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — The International Court of Justice on Monday started hearing Tehran's complaint against the United States for seizing Iran's assets.

Iran filed a complaint against the United States with the ICJ in June 2016, months after the U.S. Supreme Court, in a purely politically motivated move, ruled that nearly \$2 billion in frozen Iranian funds should be awarded to families of victims of the 1983 bombing of U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut.

Washington has been claiming the attack was orchestrated by Iran without providing any evidence.

In the first round of oral argument that kicked off on

Monday, the U.S. side argued that the United Nations' highest judicial body doesn't have the jurisdiction to probe the case brought by Iran.

U.S. lawyers have urged the ICJ to dismiss an Iranian lawsuit.

Monday's hearing comes a week after the 15-member panel unanimously ordered, in a separate case, that the United States ease sanctions re-imposed on Iran earlier this year.

Specifically, the court ordered the United States to remove those sanctions dealing with "medicine and medical devices, food and agricultural commodities and spare parts and equipment necessary to ensure the safety of civil aviation."

The United States immediately cried foul with John Bolton, Trump's national security advisor, claiming the ICJ had allowed itself to be used "as a forum for propaganda" by Iran.

But the sanctions dispute was not the only contention made by Iran before the ICJ. The international court also said the United States had acted illegally in unilaterally withdrawing from the Iran nuclear accord.

The ICJ sided unanimously with Iran in its contentions regarding sanctions against products and services necessary for humanitarian aid. The ruling also declared that the international community viewed the reimposition of sanctions by the United States as illegal.



# Turkey seeks access to search Saudi consulate in Khashoggi case

Turkey has formally requested access to search Saudi Arabia's consulate in Istanbul as part of what Turkish officials say is a murder investigation into the case of missing Saudi critic Jamal Khashoggi.

Officials in Istanbul told Al Jazeera they "expect [Saudi Arabia's] full cooperation during the investigation" into the fate of the missing journalist, amid reports that he may have been killed.

Khashoggi disappeared after entering the Saudi consulate on October 2 to sort out paperwork, and Turkish sources told Reuters news agency on Saturday they believed he was killed inside the building in what they described as a "premeditated murder".

On Sunday, Turkish Deputy Minister Sedat Onal summoned the Saudi ambassador to Turkey to the foreign ministry for a second time since Khashoggi's disappearance, sources at the ministry told Al Jazeera.

Onal told the ambassador that Turkey expects Saudi Arabia to cooperate fully during the investigation process.

On Monday, Turkey formally requested to be given access to the Saudi consulate for a full forensic search of the premises.

Following the disappearance of Khashoggi, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he is hopeful about the fate of missing Saudi journalist.

Erdogan told reporters on Sunday that authorities were looking into all video surveillance footage of the mission's entrances and monitoring all inbound and outbound flights since the writer disappeared on Tuesday.

"I am following the [issue] and we will inform the world whatever the outcome [of the official probe]", Erdogan said.

"God willing, we will not be faced with a situation we do not want. I still am hopeful," adding that "it is very, very upsetting for us that it happened in our country".

An unnamed source inside the consulate was quoted by the official Saudi Press Agency as denying the claims, saying the accusations were "baseless".

A leading critic of the Saudi government's reform programme under the stewardship of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS), Khashoggi had been living in self-imposed exile in the US for over a year.

## ■ Criticism of Saudi Arabia

Khashoggi, regular contributor to the Washington Post and former editor-in-chief of Al Arab News Channel, has been an outspoken critic of the Saudi government.

Speaking on Al Jazeera's UpFront earlier this year, Khashoggi said that there was no space for debate in Saudi Arabia with intellectuals and journalists jailed for questioning policies. "As we speak today, there [are] Saudi intellectuals and journalists jailed. Now, nobody will dare to speak and criticise the reforms [initiated by the crown prince]," he said, adding that "it would be much better for him to allow a breathing space for critics, for Saudi intellectuals, Saudi writers, Saudi media to debate".

Asked whether Saudi Arabia could ever become democratic under Bin Salman, Khashoggi said: "Not on his watch. I hav-



en't heard him make even the slightest inference that he would open the country for power-sharing, for democracy."

In his writings for the Washington Post, the Saudi commentator slammed Saudi policies towards Qatar and Canada, the war in Yemen, and a crackdown on dissent and the media in the kingdom.

## ■ 'Breach of sovereignty'

The incident, if proven true, will be interpreted as a major breach of Turkey's sovereignty.

Turkish-Saudi relations will worsen, even though it is very hard to imagine how those relations could get any worse.

For at least the past decade, certainly for the last three years, these relations have deteriorated in near all relevant issues to both countries within the region and outside it.

There is a huge leverage possible from Washington towards Riyadh if President Donald Trump wants to use it. Unfortunately, he has hesitated since his visit to Saudi Arabia at the outset of his tenure.

In fact, he considers them his best friends and he has been giving them his full support.

Saudi authorities barred Khashoggi from writing as a journalist when he was still in Saudi Arabia because he criticised Trump and his discourse towards the Muslim world.

Al Jazeera's Jamal Elshayyal, reporting from Istanbul, said Turkish authorities are trying to walk a fine line so as not to damage relations between the two countries further.

"There is an attempt by the Turkish government to try to find a way out of this whereby there isn't a full collapse of diplomatic relations, at least a temporary freeze between Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

"Because, if indeed, Turkish authorities can prove unequivocally that Saudi agents essentially murdered a journalist inside the

consulate in Istanbul, it would require some sort of strong reaction."

Earlier on Saturday, sources told Al Jazeera that a delegation of 15 Saudi officials arrived in Turkey the day Khashoggi, 59, disappeared.

"The Saudi officials flew into Istanbul on two different flights on Tuesday," Elshayyal quoted his sources as saying, adding that it was not clear if the Saudi delegation consisted of security or diplomatic officials.

On Friday, Turkey's foreign ministry summoned Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Ankara over the issue.

Later that day, the crown prince said Saudi authorities would allow Turkey to search its consulate.

"We will allow them to enter and search and do whatever they want to do... we have nothing to hide," Bin Salman told Bloomberg on Friday.

Saudi Arabia invited a group of journalists into the Istanbul mission on Saturday, in an effort to show that Khashoggi was not on the premises.

"I would like to confirm that... Jamal is not at the consulate nor in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the consulate and the embassy are working to search for him," consul-general Mohammad al-Otaiba told Reuters.

Khashoggi had entered the consulate's premises at around 1pm (10:00 GMT) on Tuesday to secure paperwork in order to marry his Turkish fiancée, Hatice Cengiz.

Cengiz said she waited outside after Khashoggi entered the Saudi consulate on Tuesday and never re-emerged. Following the initial announcement by Turkish sources of Khashoggi's killing, she tweeted in Arabic her refusal to believe that is the case.

## ■ 'Abysmal new low'

Rights groups have condemned the alleged

murder of Khashoggi.

In a press release, Amnesty International said Khashoggi's death "would set an abysmal new low".

"Such an assassination within the grounds of the consulate, which is territory under Saudi Arabian jurisdiction, would amount to an extrajudicial execution. This case sends a shockwave among Saudi Arabian human rights defenders and dissidents everywhere, eroding any notion of seeking safe haven abroad," Amnesty International's Middle East Research Director Lynn Maalouf said.

"The Persian Gulf Kingdom routinely uses draconian laws to crack down on peaceful dissent at home, and has even arrested dissidents abroad in the past. But the enforced disappearance - and now reported assassination - of one of its citizens who had sought asylum abroad should set alarm bells ringing," Maalouf added.

"If the reports are true, they must immediately launch an independent investigation and those responsible, however high their rank or status, must face justice."

Reporters Without Borders (RSF), an organization said that if Khashoggi was indeed assassinated by Saudi authorities, it would constitute an "absolutely unacceptable assault on press freedom".

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) also condemned the news, urging the Saudi authorities to "give a full and credible accounting of what happened to Khashoggi inside its diplomatic mission."

Khashoggi's suspected killing may further strain relations between Turkey and Saudi Arabia, who are on opposite sides of the multinational blockade of Qatar and other regional crises.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

## Pompeo visit to China kicks off with frosty exchange



A meeting of top U.S. and Chinese diplomats got off to a frosty start Monday, with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Chinese Foreign Minister and State Councillor Wang Yi airing grievances amid worsening bilateral relations.

While the exchange included typical diplomatic pleasantries, and the two officials emphasised the need for cooperation, their remarks before journalists at the start of their meeting at Beijing's Diaoyutai Guest House were unusually pointed.

"Recently, as the U.S. side has been constantly escalating trade friction toward China, it has also adopted a series of actions on the Taiwan issue that harm China's rights, and has made groundless criticism of China's domestic and foreign policies," Wang said at the joint appearance with Pompeo.

"We believe this has been a direct attack on our mutual trust, and has cast a shadow on China-U.S. relations," Wang said.

"We demand that the U.S. side stop this kind of mistaken action," he said. Pompeo, who was briefing Wang following his visit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, said, "The issues that you characterised we have a fundamental disagreement."

"We have great concerns about the actions that China has taken, and I look forward to having the opportunity to discuss each of those today because this is an incredibly important relationship."

A senior U.S. State Department official said the United States still expected cooperation with Beijing on efforts to denuclearise North Korea, whose chief ally is China.

"I would certainly expect so," the official said. "That's a very important issue and they recognize that and accept that and realize that."

Pompeo and Wang openly disagreed over which side had called off a bilateral security dialogue that had been due to take place in Beijing this month.

Last week, Vice President Mike Pence stepped up the U.S. pressure campaign against Beijing, going beyond the trade war by accusing China of both "malign" efforts to undermine President Donald Trump ahead of next month's congressional elections and of reckless military action in the South China Sea.

(Source: reuters)

## Nationalist parties win Bosnia's parliamentary vote, preliminary results show



Croat, Muslim and Serb nationalist parties won Bosnia's parliamentary election, State Election Commission preliminary results showed Monday.

The three parties will dominate all layers of Bosnia's complex government in the next four years, with opposing views of the country's future that could deepen ethnic division and slow EU integration. The SNSD party of Bosnian Serb pro-Russian nationalist leader Milorad Dodik appeared to be the strongest party in Bosnia, set to dominate with its coalition partners the Serb caucus in the national parliament and the parliament of the autonomous Serb Republic. Dodik also won the Serb seat in the country's tripartite presidency and his ally Zeljka Cvijanovic won the job of the Serb region's president, leading with 47.5 percent over his main rival.

The largest Muslim Bosniak SDA party secured the most votes in Bosnia's autonomous Bosniak-Croat Federation and its Bosniak-dominated cantons. Its candidate Sefik Dzaferovic won the Bosniak seat in the inter-ethnic presidency.

A coalition led by the largest Croat party HDZ won the most votes of Croats in the Federation parliament and in the majority Croat cantons. However, its leader Dragan Covic lost the seat in the presidency to moderate Croat Zeljko Komisc.

About 1.7 million voters took part in the presidential and parliamentary elections on Sunday, choosing members of Bosnia's tripartite inter-ethnic presidency, consisting of a Bosniak, a Croat and a Serb, and lawmakers for parliament's lower house.

The ballot was a test for Bosnia to determine if it will progress towards European Union membership and NATO integration or remain held back by ethnic rivalries. More than two decades after a war in which 100,000 people died, leading Serb, Croat and Muslim Bosniak parties campaigned on nationalist tickets, reviving wartime pledges while failing to offer clearly defined economic or political visions.

The country also voted for leaders and assemblies of its two autonomous regions - the Serb Republic and the Bosniak-Croat Federation - and of the federation's 10 cantons.

There is still a possibility that the formation of the Federation parliament's upper house may be blocked after the Bosniak and Croat parties failed to agree on changes to the election law before the vote. Dodik, a pro-Russian leader who has repeatedly advocated secession of the Serb Republic and integration with Serbia, proclaimed victory on Sunday evening.

"My first priority will be the position of the Serb people and of the Republika Srpska," Dodik said, referring to the autonomous region where he previously served as regional president. "I believe that Bosnia-Herzegovina also may progress if everyone is respected."

(Source: Reuters)

## Pakistan: Ex PMs, journalist appear in court on treason charges

A Pakistani court has withdrawn arrest warrants issued against a prominent journalist and ordered travel restrictions on him to be removed, as hearings in a treason case against him and two former prime ministers continue.

On Monday, a three-member bench of the Lahore High Court adjourned proceedings in the case against former Prime Ministers Nawaz Sharif and Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, as well as journalist Cyril Almeida.

Sharif is accused of committing "treason" for implying that Pakistan's military and intelligence services allowed attackers involved in the 2008 Mumbai attacks, which killed more than 160 people, to operate with impunity.

"Militant organizations are across the border and kill 150 people in Mumbai? Explain it to me. Why can't we complete the trial?" Sharif said in the interview with Almeida published in Dawn newspaper in May.

Sharif was dismissed as prime minister on corruption charges last year, and subsequently jailed after being convicted by an anti-corruption court. Last month, Sharif, his daughter Maryam and son-in-law Muhammad Safdar were released on bail in that case as their appeals continue to be heard.

Almeida was named in the petition as having allegedly abetted Sharif. Former PM Abbasi, who succeeded Sharif, is accused of having leaked national security secrets to Sharif.



## ■ 'A worrying precedent'

Last month, the court ordered Sharif to appear before it for the hearing, issued arrest warrants for Almeida and placed international travel restrictions on him.

On Monday, the court appeared to take a more lenient view, as Almeida appeared before the bench personally.

"The [restrictions] were only to ensure that he was present," judge Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi told a packed courtroom, where Abbasi and Sharif were also present.

The court ordered the government to provide a formal reply on whether or not it was prepared to move ahead with placing treason charges against the former prime ministers.

member states.

The commission vice-president, Frans Timmermans, said he was "shocked by the horrendous murder" of Marinova. He tweeted: "Again a courageous journalist falls in the fight for truth and against corruption. Those responsible should be brought to justice immediately by the Bulgarian authorities."

The German government condemned the "brutal and dreadful murder" of Marinova and said it was imperative that "there is a fast investigation and that this horrible event will be illuminated as comprehensively as possible."

(Source: The Guardian)

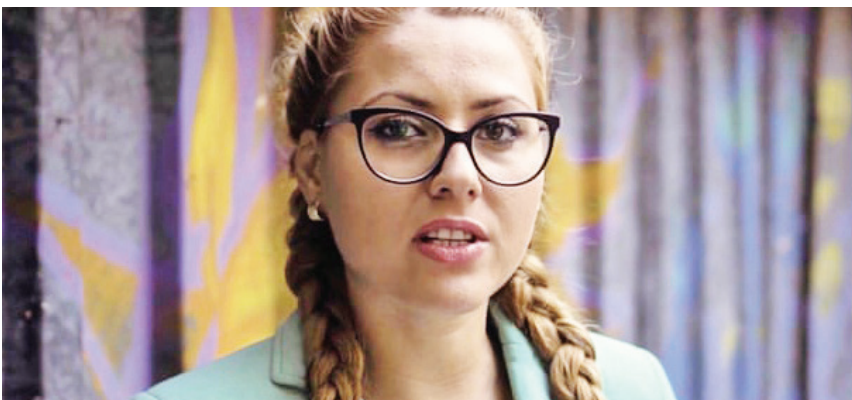
## Viktoria Marinova the latest victim of journalist killings

A television reporter who was investigating alleged fraud in relation to EU funds has been found dead in a park in Bulgaria.

Police say 30-year-old Viktoria Marinova was raped and murdered in the northern town of Ruse.

Her death and the disappearance of Jamal Khashoggi are just the latest in a growing list of threats against journalism globally.

The European commission and German government have urged Bulgarian authorities to bring to justice those responsible for the brutal killing of the journalist Viktoria Marinova, who had been reporting on alleged corruption in one of the EU's newest





STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	175185.5
IFX	1980.48

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	48,360 rials
GBP	55,060 rials
AED	11,430 rials

Source: isna.ir

COMMODITIES

WTI	\$73.61/b
Brent	\$83.21/b
OPEC Basket	\$84.09/b
Gold	\$1,187.65/oz
Silver	\$14.38/oz
Platinum	\$818.25/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

NEWS IN BRIEF



Rail transportation services exempted from VAT

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Saeed Rasouli, the deputy head of Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI), announced that the rail transportation sector has been exempted from paying a nine-percent-Value Added Tax (VAT), IRIB reported on Monday.

“All the private railway transportation companies are qualified for the VAT exemption, which would reduce the final costs of their provided services for nine percent, as well,” Rasouli said. “The act will improve competitiveness among domestic companies and would result in quality services,” he added.



TCCIMA to host Syrian trade delegation on Oct. 20

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — A Syrian trade delegation will visit a number of Iranian traders and businessmen at the place of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) on October 20, TCCIMA portal reported.

The delegates active in the fields of foodstuff, vehicle, chemical and petrochemical products, constructional materials, machinery, household appliances, agriculture equipment and machinery, weaving, leather, electronic equipment, and minerals are planned to negotiate possible areas of cooperation with their Iranian counterparts during their stay in Tehran.



Cooperation on oil, gas wells digging discussed between Iran, Oman

**ENERGY** **TEHRAN** — Iran and Oman explored the ways to cooperate on the digging operation of oil and gas wells, Shana reported on Monday.

In a meeting between Iran’s North Drilling Company’s Managing Director Hamidreza Golpayegani and Ali Abdullah Al-Riyami, the director general of oil and gas marketing at Oman’s Ministry of Oil and Gas, on Tehran on Sunday, the two sides stressed the exports of technical-engineering services and also Omani companies’ investment making in the upstream projects in Iran.

Indian companies to ship in Iranian oil in November

**1 →** India was discussing its options to buy Iranian oil with all authorities, Pradhan said.

The United States plans to impose new sanctions targeting Iran’s oil sector on November 4.



A U.S. government official said the Trump administration is “in the midst of an internal process” of considering waivers for countries that are reducing imports of Iranian crude. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in India last month that the Trump administration would consider waivers for Iranian oil buyers such as India but they must eventually bring the imports to zero.

Progress of South Pars phases 22-24 at 91%

**ENERGY** **TEHRAN** — Iran’s South Pars gas field’s phases 22, 23, 24 of development have 91 percent progress at the moment, according to the operator of these phases.

Farhad Izadjou also said that these phases are planned to produce 28 million cubic meters of gas per day by winter, Public Relations Department of Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC), which is in charge of the gas field development, announced.

Platform SPD-22, which is the first platform of the phases 22, 23, 24, was installed on its designated offshore spot in the Persian

Gulf in late May.

Four platforms have been envisaged for the mentioned phases.

Platform 24A will be loaded in the beginning of the next Iranian calendar month of Aban (starts on October 22), to be installed on its offshore spot, according to Izadjou.

The operator of phases 22-24 also said that the offshore part of these phases will be complete by the end of next spring.

Phases 22-24 are expected to produce 56 million cubic meters of sour gas, 75,000 billion barrels of gas condensate, and 400 tons of sulfur per day, in addition to 50 mil-

Saffron output to reach 400 tons by March 2019

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iran’ Ministry of Agriculture has announced that the saffron output in the country will reach 400 tons by the end of current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2019), IRIB reported on Monday.

The annual saffron production stood at 320 tons during the previous year.



Brexit uncertainty is “starting to bite” for UK firms

Britain’s businesses are suffering from Brexit-related uncertainty as exports slow, recruitment difficulties mount and investment plans are scaled back, two surveys showed on Monday.

The British Chambers of Commerce said its survey of 5,600 companies, the largest of its kind in Britain, showed services firms were having the most trouble finding staff since the survey began in 1989, and growth in factory exports was the slowest since late 2016.

“These figures reinforce what we are hearing from businesses up and down the country — the uncertainty over Brexit, and the lack of bold moves to boost business at home, are starting to bite,” BCC director general Adam Marshall said.

Last week Prime Minister Theresa May told her Conservative Party to back her plan to leave the European Union as Britain entered “the toughest part of the negotiations”.

Diplomatic sources told Reuters on Friday the EU’s Brexit negotiators see a divorce deal as “very close”.

Britain’s economy has lagged behind the growth rate of many other rich countries for much of the period since the 2016 Brexit vote.

The BCC’s quarterly survey showed that the percentage of services businesses looking to recruit more staff over the next three months fell to 47 percent from 60 percent, the lowest since the first quarter of 1993. Seventy-two percent of firms reported recruitment difficulties, the highest on record.

For manufacturers, growth in both export sales and new export orders was the slowest since the end of 2016.

“Weaker sterling is no longer providing a boon to many of our exporters, while consumer spending is failing to boost the domestic market,” Marshall said.

Separately on Monday, accountancy firm Deloitte said its survey of chief financial officers pointed to slower business spending and hiring after Brexit.

Only 13 percent of CFOs were more optimistic about the prospects for their company than they were three months ago, down from 24 percent in July, Deloitte said.

Seventy-nine percent said they expected the long-term business environment to be worse as a result of leaving the EU, the highest share since the 2016 Brexit vote.

David Sproul, chief executive of Deloitte North West Europe, said confidence could recover if Britain secured a Brexit deal.

“A deal with a sensible transition period would remove the uncertainty and should deliver a real boost to business spirits,” he said.

Economists polled by Reuters expect official data due on Wednesday to show solid economic growth of 0.6 percent for the three months to August, though the year-on-year performance is predicted to be less impressive at 1.5 percent.

Much of the growth in the economy this year has been driven by stronger-than-expected spending by consumers, despite a continued squeeze on their spending power by inflation running higher than wage growth.

Last month the BCC predicted growth for 2018 would slow to 1.1 percent, its weakest since the end of the 2008-09 recession. *(Source: Reuters)*

UK welcome to join Pacific trade pact after Brexit, says Japanese PM

Japan’s prime minister, Shinzo Abe, has said Britain would be welcomed into the Pacific free trade pact “with open arms” after it leaves the European Union. His comments followed warnings from Japanese carmakers that a no-deal Brexit could hit production and force them to rethink their investments.

In an interview with the Financial Times in Tokyo, Abe said Britain would lose its role as a gateway to Europe after Brexit, but would still be “equipped with global strength” — remarks that will encourage staunch leavers who argue that Brexit will allow Britain to strike free trade deals with countries outside the EU.

Abe, a key architect of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), is attempting to bolster the 11-nation agreement after Donald Trump took the US out of the deal on his first day in office, calling it “a potential disaster for our country”.

But British membership of the TPP would be dependent on its withdrawal from the EU customs union, which would allow it to set its own tariffs.

Japan, Singapore and Mexico have ratified the agreement, while Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, and Vietnam have all signed it.

The UK would be the first member of the agreement that does not have borders on the Pacific Ocean or the South China Sea, although the bloc does not include China or South Korea.

Abe encouraged London and Brussels to avoid a “disorderly” deal that would affect Japanese businesses with investments in the UK.

“I hope that both sides can contribute their wisdom and at least avoid a so-called disorderly Brexit,” Abe said, adding that



Theresa May with Shinzo Abe on a visit to Japan.

Japanese businesses would need time to adjust after Britain leaves the EU on 29 March next year.

He added: “I truly hope that the negative impact of Brexit to the global economy, including Japanese businesses, will be minimised.”

Britain would have much to lose from even a partial withdrawal by Japanese businesses that felt the terms of the Brexit deal were detrimental to their long-term interests.

Companies such as Nissan and Hitachi have invested more than £40bn in the UK since the 1980s. More than 1,000 Japanese firms together employ about 140,000 people in Britain in manufacturing, pharmaceuticals and financial services.

In its most candid comments on Brexit to date, Nissan last week said there would be “serious implications” for Britain’s



lion cubic meters of methane, 2,900 tons of LPG and 2,750 tons of ethane.

South Pars gas field, which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf, covers an area of 9,700 square kilometers, 3,700 square kilometers of which, called South Pars, are in Iran’s territorial waters. The remaining

6,000 square kilometers, called North Dome, are situated in Qatar’s territorial waters.

The field is estimated to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world’s reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate.

China’s markets tumble after the central bank moves to spur the economy

China’s stock markets tumbled on Monday, as investors were unnerved by the central bank’s decision to slash the amount of cash that the country’s lenders must hold as reserves, in a bid to help spur economic growth.

The People’s Bank of China (PBOC) announced measures on Sunday to cut the reserve requirement ratio (RRR) — or the amount of cash that most commercial banks need to set aside at the central bank.

The move, the central bank’s fourth in 2018, came amid concerns about the economic impact of Beijing’s ongoing trade war with Washington.

The RRR currently stands at 15.5 percent for large institutions and 13.5 percents for smaller banks, and will be cut by 100 basis points from Oct. 15, the central bank said.

One economist said the move was not really a surprise.

“We were expecting that we would see a triple-R cut in October for a number of reasons,” Sian Fenner, senior economist at Oxford Economics, told CNBC’s “Street Signs” on Monday.

“They clearly want to boost liquidity,” she said. “This month we’ve got tax repayments, we’ve also got some maturing of some debt but also, they want to make sure that they’re increasing their credit growth which has been quite sluggish ... because of earlier deleveraging of financial risks.”

It is important for Beijing to manage those risks for longer term growth, she said, adding that “the focus is now on growth.”

With the increase in U.S. tariffs likely to start “being a drag” on Chinese exports,

Fenner said Beijing wants to “shore up and provide some support for domestic demand.”

Other market observers, however, said the cuts were bigger than expected.

A cut of 1 percent by the Chinese central bank was unexpected because it would “release something like 700 billion yuan (approximately \$101.72 billion)” into the country’s banking system, Francis Lun, the CEO of Geo Securities, told CNBC.

“That is quite a lot of money going around,” Lun said. “I think ... the government’s really worried that the economy will slow down and the stock market will tank.”

On the back of the central bank’s announcement, China’s mainland markets traded in negative territory for much of their first trading day following the Golden Week holiday. Both the Shanghai composite and the Shenzhen composite fell more than 3.7 percent by the end of the trading day.

The Shanghai composite usually sees gains after the week-long holiday. According to Chinese financial services firm Wind Information, the Shanghai composite has closed higher on the first day of trading after the national holiday for the past five years. In all, seven out of the last 10 years saw higher closes on the first post-holiday session.

Shares of all the major Chinese banks also fell in the aftermath of the PBOC decision. At the end of the trading day, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China was lower by 3.64 percent, China Construction Bank tumbled 4.28 percent while Agricultural Bank of China lost 2.57 percent.

*(Source: CNBC)*

manufacturing industry if it left the EU without a deal.

“Today we are among those companies with major investments in the UK who are still waiting for clarity on what the future trading relationship between the UK and the EU will look like,” Nissan said.

The firm, which employs 7,000 at its plant in Sunderland, added: “We urge UK and EU negotiators to work collaboratively towards an orderly balanced Brexit that will continue to encourage mutually beneficial trade.”

Earlier, Toyota warned that a no-deal Brexit would temporarily halt output at its plant in Burnaston, Derbyshire, which employs 2,500 people and produced almost 150,000 cars last year, 90% of them for export to the EU.

“My view is that if Britain crashes out of the EU at the end of March we will see production stops in our factory,” Marvin Cooke, managing director at the Burnaston plant, told the BBC. Despite announcing a £240m investment in Burnaston last year, Toyota said a no-deal Brexit would adversely affect the plant’s future.

“The UK market in itself is not big enough to justify a plant that size,” said Johan van Zyl, president and chief executive of Toyota Motor Europe. “If we cannot sell into the European market, it will have an impact on the future of our plant.”

Major Japanese banks have already announced plans to scale down their presence in London. They are worried about the potential loss of the “EU passport”, which enables banks based in London to operate freely across the continent’s financial markets. *(Source: The Guardian)*

Trump is trying to ‘de-globalize’ the Chinese, U.S. economies, former WTO chief says

President Donald Trump is trying to “de-globalize” the U.S. and Chinese economies, the former head of the World Trade Organization (WTO) told CNBC on Monday.

Trump has imposed tariffs on Chinese goods since the start of the year in an attempt to reduce the U.S.’s trade deficit. The controversial policy is intended to reduce the attractiveness of Chinese products, given that they become pricier with tariffs imposed on them. But the decision to impose tariffs on China has led to retaliatory measures from Beijing, which has

also increased the price of U.S. imported goods for Chinese consumers.

The ongoing dispute will make both economies less “entwined” and thus less globalized, Pascal Lamy, former director-general of the WTO told CNBC’s “Squawk Box Europe.”

“The U.S. is trying to push back on China and Donald Trump’s view is that the U.S. and the Chinese economy are too much together, and they need to be more separated. The purpose is a sort of de-globalization of the U.S. and China, which he thinks it is necessary to contain China’s

rise,” Lamy, who is President Emeritus of think tank, the Jacques Delors Institute, said.

He explained that this separation between the Chinese and the U.S. economies “will have trade consequences.”

“My own expectation is that these economies will be disentangled slowly but surely ... We will have a less homogenous globalization, that’s the real issue, which we have to take care of in the short-term,” he added.

Lamy believes that globalization will remain a dominant feature of global trade, and it will

involve the U.S. and China — but not the two countries together. For instance, the U.S. will still look to be close to the European Union in terms of trade. The Trump administration also agreed last week to a newly-revised version of a trade deal with Canada and Mexico.

Lamy said domestic attitudes towards global trading relations had changed in the last decade. “The mood has changed from where it was 10 years ago on opening trade. I think the main feature of that is not a trade issue, it is a domestic issue,” he said. *(Source: CNBC)*



# Oil drops to around \$83 on expectations Iran will maintain some exports

Oil dropped to around \$83 a barrel on Monday, pressured by expectations that some Iranian oil exports will keep flowing after the U.S. reimposes sanctions, easing a strain on supplies.

Two companies in India, a big buyer of Iranian oil, have ordered barrels in November, India's oil minister said on Monday.

The Trump administration is considering waivers on sanctions, a U.S. government official said on Friday.

"One way or another, it looks as though India is going to take some Iranian crude," said Olivier Jakob of Petromatrix, adding that the development was helping oil to "retrace some of the price surge we saw last week."

Brent crude, the international benchmark, was down \$1.07 to \$83.09 per barrel at 0817 GMT. It hit a four-year high of \$86.74 last week.

U.S. crude was down 93 cents at \$73.41.

U.S. sanctions will target Iran's crude oil exports from Nov. 4, and Washington has been putting pressure on governments and companies worldwide to cut their imports



to zero.

"This is one of the single biggest supportive factors for crude," said analysts at JBC Energy of the U.S. re-imposition of Iran sanctions. "Having said that, it may well be that we are already in the most supportive phase

coming from this change and the effect will soon begin to ease."

Oil also dropped as investors focused on rising output from other producers, such as top exporter Saudi Arabia, to compensate for lower Iranian supplies.

(Source: Reuters)

## China's Aug. oil product consumption rises 6% on year: NDRC

China's consumption of oil products rose 5.9 percent year on year to 28.41 million metric tons (mt) in August, latest data released by the National Development and Reform Commission showed.

The growth was led by gasoline consumption, which rose 9.5 percent on year, while gasoil consumption rose 2.7 percent over the same period, NDRC said, without providing a breakdown of volumes for the two grades.

August oil product consumption was also up 3.2 percent from July, the second month in a row of month-on-month growth, according to S&P Global Platts calculations based on the NDRC data.

Gasoline consumption continued to rise in August as higher temperatures boosted demand for car air conditioning, market sources said.

Meanwhile, China processed 48.89 million mt of crude oil in August, edging up 0.4 percent on year, NDRC data showed.

The country's oil product output rose 3.4 percent over the same period to 30.77 million mt, according to NDRC.

This could imply that the country was cracking more light crude oil this year, market sources said.

China produced 16.1 million mt of crude oil in August, up 0.9 percent year on year,



NDRC said. That uptick ended 33 months in a row of year-on-year falls as the major Chinese oil companies moved to boost domestic production, Platts reported earlier.

Over January-August, China processed 391.41 million mt of crude, up 6 percent on year, while its oil product output rose 8 percent to 244.53 million mt, NDRC data showed.

China's oil product consumption was up 5.8 percent on year at 213.9 million mt over January-August, with consumption of gasoline rising 6.5 percent and gasoil rising 4.5 percent NDRC said, without providing a breakdown of volumes.

The growth of oil product consumption was slower than that of oil product output in the eight-month period, which implies more oil product was exported or went into storage, market sources said.

(Source: Platts)

## Polish refiner PKN Orlen expects shipment of Nigerian oil this month

Polish oil refiner PKN Orlen expects to receive a first ever shipment of Nigerian crude oil next month, its CEO said, as Poland seeks to reduce its reliance on Russian supplies.

State-run PKN Orlen, Poland's biggest refiner, and smaller rival Lotos, which it is taking over, rely mostly on Russian oil delivered via pipelines built in the 1960s but both have increased purchases from other sources.

"Nigeria is our new source of supplies we are exploring. Currently, a batch of 130,000 tonnes of Nigerian oil is on its way to Poland. It is expected to arrive at Naftoport (in Gdansk) in mid-October," PKN's Chief Executive Daniel Obajtek told Reuters in an interview last week.

"If tests confirm the assumed yields structure and margins, further oil supplies from Nigeria will be a viable option," he said.

PKN Orlen signed a long-term agreement on regular oil supplies with Saudi Aramco in 2016 and since then both PKN and Lotos have also purchased oil from Iran and the United States.

Oil supplies from Russia account for around 70 percent of all oil deliveries to PKN, down from around 90 percent in 2015.

"There are also tankers sailing to us from



other new directions, but at this stage it is too early to talk about it. We are holding discussions on medium- and long-term oil supply contracts with a number of parties, including US partners," Obajtek also said.

Obajtek said that the deteriorating quality of Russian Urals crude was also prompting PKN to diversify its supplies.

"Generally, the lower quality may impact contract prices, as it affects our yields," Obajtek said but declined to comment on whether PKN is negotiating new contract prices.

PKN Orlen is taking over Lotos as part of a plan announced in February to improve its negotiating position in oil purchases and to increase investment capacity.

Obajtek said that he hoped to obtain clearance from the European Commission by mid-2019.

(Source: Reuters)

## Is the U.S. using force to sell its LNG to the world?

The Trump Administration trade policy is nowhere as clear as in the energy area. For years it was thought that the younger Bush Administration was one of the most energy industry friendly in history. But the Trump Administration has gone far beyond that.

Hiring Ray Tillerson, the former CEO of ExxonMobil, as U.S. Secretary of State, sent a strong signal to the entire industry, even though his tenure proved to be temporary.

Prior to that, the Administration withdrew from the Paris Climate Agreement, a long-held priority of Exxon and the entire oil industry. Following hard upon that, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reduced or eliminated regulations limiting carbon and other pollutants.

Exxon has for more than a decade underwritten the now discredited, right wing attack on climate change as a hoax. Although the energy industry has now publicly acknowledged climate change as a global threat, in practice the subject is still largely ignored.

Going further, the Trump Administration has removed and reduced regulations that hampered the industry expansion, including allowing drilling on both ocean coast, while easing safety regulations that were brought into effect after BP's Gulf of Mexico disastrous spill, the worst in U.S. history.

Government protected nature preserves are being opened to exploration and drilling for the first time in generations. Added to that was the dropping of regulations that for many years prohibited export of U.S. crude. Since then, the U.S. has become a major player in the global energy industry.

The Administration currently plans to rescind and lower fuel efficiency standards for autos and trucks. That is likely to encourage increased purchase of larger SUVs, increased oil consumption, and rising gasoline prices.

The Administration corporate tax cut, one of the largest in U.S. history, also strongly benefitted the energy industry, as it did other industries.

From the moment he chose to run for President, Trump has embraced the new shale revolution in the U.S. as a major contributor to the country's economic growth and energy independence.

Increasingly, Trump has become the top promoter for increasing exports of U.S. Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) to world markets. He openly threatened to place economic sanctions on Germany if it went ahead with the deal for

Russia's new Nordstream 2 pipeline, that would nearly double natural gas supplies from Russia, Germany's largest supplier.

As most observers noted, the U.S. sanction threat was accompanied by the offer of U.S. LNG to Germany and Europe, as a replacement of Russian gas.

No doubt that Trump's bullying offended European sensibility, but despite the German protest regarding outside interference in its domestic economic affairs, and its intention to complete the Russian pipeline, Germany is quietly building up LNG importing facilities, "as a gesture to American friends."

Most energy experts agree that it is inevitable that U.S. LNG will eventually become a component of European markets, despite its significantly higher price to Russian and Norwegian gas, if for no other reasons to keep the peace with America, Europe's largest ally, and assure Europe's access to the U.S. market.

This will also serve to assuage the U.S. complaints about unfair trade. It matters little that the U.S. trade deficit with Germany centers on its auto industry rather than energy, if the sale of natural gas serves to reduce the U.S. trade deficit.

The same could be said about the U.S./China trade deficit. China, the largest energy consumer, is the one country where solutions to the trade deficit is clearly at hand, involving increased U.S. LNG imports. China already has a long-term, 20-year deal to import LNG from the leading U.S. LNG company, Cheniere Energy.

China could easily reduce the amount of gas imports from variety of other suppliers (i.e., Qatar, Australia, New Guinea, Iran, Russia) and replace these with U.S. supplies. That would be a near costless transaction for China, as it is already paying other producers for natural gas and LNG supplies.

Consider the effects of a possible LNG deal could have on the trade dispute. In terms of the current deficit, China sales to the U.S. is estimated at around \$350 billion, while U.S. sales to the China is around \$150 billion.

Last May, the China signed a \$25 billion deal for importing U.S. LNG. If we assumed that in current negotiations the two countries could strike a modest deal for another \$25 billion in annual U.S. LNG sales to China, U.S. sales to China increases to \$200 billion, reducing China's surplus to \$300 billion.

If that were to take place, the trade deficit would reduce to around \$100 billion, and Trump would no doubt return to the election

campaign trail to boast of the first U.S. trade victory over China.

The risk to this scenario is the presumption that everyone involved really wants a solution to the trade dispute, but there is widespread suspicions that U.S. tariffs on China may be less about fair trade and more about economic warfare to contain China's growth.

George Friedman's "Geopolitical Futures" recently noted that "The U.S. is beginning to see it [tariffs] more as a strategic opportunity to contain Chinese assertiveness than as a play to invigorate U.S. manufacturing."

On various Asian websites, there remains a stalwart band of journalists, led by Pepe Escobar, who maintain that Europe, Russia, China, and Iran will band together to thwart U.S. sanctions on Iran, and that Iran's oil sales will be totally unaffected. They also hold strongly to the opinion that China will not yield to U.S. threats and ultimatum.

This despite the fact that major energy companies, like Royal Dutch Shell and Total have already fled Iran in fear of U.S. sanctions, while major countries are severely cutting Iran imports.

Sanctions against Iran will certainly reduce its exports, with the worst case estimates of a loss to the markets of 1.5 million barrels of oil per day. This will also open opportunities in under supplied markets that will almost certainly be exploited by U.S. and other competitors.

Currently, Japan and India have agreed to major reductions of energy imports from Iran. Recent news has it that Sinopec, China's largest oil and gas refiner, under threats of US sanctions, also agreed to severely cut imports from Iran. It's no secret that nearly all of Iran's competitors, it's OPEC 'partners', will go after those under supplied markets, as will the U.S.

Some observers believe that because the upcoming election is uppermost in the minds of both U.S. political parties, a trade victory with China is extremely important to the Republican election campaign. If so, their thinking goes, a deal will result in easing tariffs with China by November.

Trump himself recently stated that he's ready to talk trade with China, but continues to add the qualifier, "not now." Many Trump watchers interpret this to mean that 'getting tough with China' plays well to Trump's base, boosts the Republican election prospects, and afterwards a trade deal is likely to be struck.

Any trade deal with China could also be

used by the U.S. as a template for deals with Japan, India, and South Korea, the next largest Asian importers of natural gas. It can hardly be coincidence that, as in Europe, these energy importing countries are threatened by US tariffs over unfair trade.

However, Geopolitical Futures states that "the broad impression in China appears to be that Trump isn't actually interested in a deal – certainly not one that China could accept – and that this is just the first major salvo in an emerging Cold War and that instead ... the world needs to get ready for a new cold war with China.

In a recent speech, Richard Haas, president of New York-based think tank Council on Foreign Relations stated that "...the Trump administration initially focused just on trade, "but now it's broadening, and it almost seems as if the administration wants to have something of a cold war with China."

What about Venezuela, a country estimated to have the largest oil reserves in the world, also laboring under U.S. sanctions? It's also a country about which the Administration has made no secret of its plans for a possible U.S. military invasion to topple the Maduro government.

Why go public with that story now, with only a little more than a month towards U.S. Congressional elections?

There is widespread speculation that this announcement may be a trial balloon, as part of the preparation for laying the ground work for an invasion aimed at bolstering Republican election prospects. To date, there has been no sign of opposition to these threats from Democrats.

### Conclusion:

It's no accident that sanctions are aimed at the U.S. largest energy competitors, Russia and Iran, nor is it coincidence that the largest energy importers, Europe, China, Japan, South Korea are also under threat of U.S. tariffs or sanctions.

Instead, it clearly shows that the U.S. is using the threat of economic warfare and possible military conflict as leverage to open markets to the newest player on the world's energy market, American LNG.

If the U.S. is successful in these deals, it's likely that in future, there will be a parallel attempt to make inroads for U.S. crude export to the very same oil importing countries, relying upon the very same LNG game plan.

(Source: oilprice.com)

## Macquarie to invest in A\$22 billion Australian renewable project

Macquarie Group Ltd. has agreed to invest in a wind and solar power development in Australia's Pilbara region, which will provide electricity to mines and mineral processing operations in the region.

The Asian Renewable Energy Hub has also increased its planned generation capacity to more than 11 gigawatts, from 9 gigawatts, according to a statement Monday on the project website. Macquarie will join Intercontinental Energy, Vestas and CWP Energy Asia as part of the project consortium.

The hub will consist of 7.5 gigawatts of wind turbines and 3.5 gigawatts of solar photovoltaic arrays. Total capital investment in the development is expected to be more than A\$22 billion (\$15.5 billion), according to the statement. Financial close for the first phase is expected in 2021 and the project is expected to be constructed in phases over six to seven years.

(Source: Bloomberg)

## Germany reaffirms support for "sensible" Russian pipeline project

The German government continues to regard the much-criticized Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline as a useful project, given that it expects Germany's gas demand to increase over coming years, a government spokeswoman said on Monday.

"We get gas from various countries - from Russia, but also from Britain, Norway and the Netherlands, and Germany's gas needs will grow in coming years, so Nord Stream 2 is a commercial project that the government regards as sensible," she told a regular news conference.

She reaffirmed Chancellor Angela Merkel's earlier statement that clarity was needed on how Ukraine's role as a gas transit country would be sustained once the Russian-backed undersea pipeline, which bypasses Ukraine, is complete.

(Source: Reuters)

## Renewable energy is growing too slow to meet climate goals, IEA warns

The world needs to ramp up adoption of renewable energy, especially beyond the electric power sector — or else it will fall behind in the battle against climate change, the International Energy Agency said on Sunday.

In a new report, the Paris-based policy adviser forecasts that renewable energy sources will provide 30 percent of the world's total electric power generation by 2023. But electricity is just one piece of the pie: Five years from now, renewables will only account for 12.4 percent of the world's total energy demand, the IEA said.

IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol said the low penetration of renewables for transportation and heat in homes and industry — where most of the world's energy is consumed — is a major "blind spot" that needs to be addressed.

"Indeed, their role in heat and transport is often overlooked even though decarbonizing these sectors is a key priority to achieve our long-term climate and sustainability goals," Birol wrote in the IEA's 2018 report on renewable energy.

At the current pace of development, renewables will only account for 18 percent of the energy the world uses by 2040. That is far short of the 28 percent threshold the IEA believes is necessary to mitigate the impacts of climate change, produce cleaner air and provide access to modern energy around the world.

IEA says renewable energy could grow 25 percent faster, if governments enact policies and regulations that give companies and investors' confidence to invest in clean energy.

The group now expects renewables to meet 40 percent of new global energy demand between 2018 and 2023.

By 2023, China is forecast to surpass the European Union as the world's top consumer of renewable energy, thanks to policies aimed at decarbonizing the energy sector and cutting the country's notoriously high pollution levels. The nation will account for 40 percent of the growth in renewable energy over the next five years alone, the agency predicted.



After China, the European Union will see the fastest growth in renewable energy deployment, topping the United States as the 28-nation bloc aims to achieve renewable energy targets in 2020 and 2030.

Renewable energy capacity is still projected to rise by 44 percent in the United States, but the IEA warns that changes to the tax code, trade policy and energy plans under President Donald Trump could hold back growth.

While solar and wind power capture most of the headlines, IEA says most of the growth in renewables will come from bioenergy. The category includes biofuel substitutes for gasoline and diesel, as well as biomass from crop waste and other organic sources used to generate heat in homes and power in factories. About 30 percent of new renewable energy consumption will come from bioenergy through 2023, IEA says.

That's important because bioenergy is the only renewable energy source that contributes meaningfully to providing cleaner power for transportation and heat. Together, those sectors account for 80 percent of the world's energy consumption.

IEA expects renewable sources to meet about a third of the world's new demand for heat between 2018 and 2023. Most of the growth will come from China, the European Union, the United States and India.

In the electricity sector, solar power will add 600 gigawatts of clean energy to the grid, IEA forecasts, more than all other renewable technologies combined. By 2023, the globe will have 1 Terawatt (or 1 trillion watts) of solar capacity, which pencils out to more than twice the total capacity in Japan, the world's third biggest economy.

Wind power is poised to be the second biggest contributor to new clean electric power. IEA projects wind power capacity will increase by about 60 percent, totaling about 325 gigawatts of new supply.

(Source: CNBC)



NEWS IN BRIEF



‘India follows independent policy’

**INTERNATIONAL** **TEHRAN-** Asserting his country’s sovereign right to develop ties with its key allies, Indian army chief Gen. Bipin Rawat has said that India follows an independent policy and was also keen on getting the Kamov helicopters and other weapon systems from Moscow.

In a direct rebuff to the U.S., Gen. Rawat, who returned from his six-day visit to Russia on Saturday, said Russia was an important defense partner for India and the U.S. sanctions won’t affect their relationship.

The army chief said Russians were very keen on associating with the Indian Army and defense forces “because they do understand that we are a strong Army, capable of standing up for what is right for us, based on our strategic thought process,” he said. On his Russian visit, Gen. Rawat recalled a question posed to him by a Russian naval officer that India seemed to be looking westwards at America, which has put sanctions on Russia, and that Washington has also threatened to impose restrictions on New Delhi for dealing with Moscow.

India and Russia concluded the deal notwithstanding the U.S. warning that it would be a “focus area” for it to implement punitive sanctions against a nation undertaking “significant” business deals with the Russians.



‘U.S. viewing Pakistan through India lens’

**INTERNATIONAL** **TEHRAN** — A senior Pakistani minister and Prime Minister Imran Khan’s close aide has alleged that the United States was looking at Pakistan through the “Afghan perspective” or “India lens”.

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, who returned from his 10-day visit to the U.S., has been scathing in his criticism of the U.S. in recent weeks, especially since the Trump administration cancelled aid to Islamabad.

Pakistan’s contribution for peace and stability in the region should be acknowledged, the minister asserted, adding that regional situations keep evolving. Prime Minister Imran Khan also seems to have realized the futility of Pakistan’s alliance with the U.S. At an event in Rawalpindi recently to mark Pakistan’s Defense Day, he said the country “won’t fight the wars of others” anymore. Meanwhile, PM Khan said on Sunday that Pakistan might need to return to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to address its mounting balance of payments crisis but would seek funding from friendly countries first. U.S. had earlier hinted that it would block any move by Pakistan to seek IMF bailout.



UN urges Taliban not to use IEDs

**INTERNATIONAL** **TEHRAN** — The United Nations has called on insurgent groups in Afghanistan to refrain from using improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in civilian areas, after it reported a sharp rise in civilian casualties caused by the explosives this year.

“The killing and maiming of Afghan civilians by improvised explosive devises, particularly suicide devices, has reached extreme levels in Afghanistan,” the U.N. mission in the country said in a report on Sunday.

IEDs caused nearly half of all conflict-related civilian casualties from Jan. 1 to Sept. 30, the report said. It documented 1,065 civilian deaths and 2,569 civilians injured by all IED attacks during that time — a 21 percent increase compared to the same period last year.

The number of civilian casualties caused specifically by suicide IED attacks increased by 46 percent during that time, according to the report.

The number of civilian deaths in Afghanistan hit a new high in the first half of this year, the most recorded since the UN mission in Afghanistan began documenting civilian casualties in 2009. The use of IEDs in attacks by armed opposition groups continued to be the leading cause of civilian casualties in Afghanistan.

UNAMA also expressed concerns over a rise in deliberate attacks on civilians, mostly carried out by the Taliban and ISIS.

Meanwhile, on Sunday, the war in Afghanistan entered its 18th year. The war, which began on October 7 2001 after September 11 attacks in the U.S., has claimed thousands of civilian lives and resulted in wanton destruction.



Bangladesh sets death penalty for drug offenses in draft law

Bangladesh’s cabinet has approved a draft law prescribing the death penalty for drug offenses, despite widespread criticism over a drugs crackdown in which police have shot dead more than 200 people since May.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina launched the campaign ahead of a general election due by December, but the killings have prompted fears among rights groups of a bloody Philippine-style campaign to wipe out drugs.

The Narcotics Control Act defines methamphetamines, also known as “yaba”, and other drugs, such as “shisha,” as narcotics for the first time, Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiul Alam told reporters on Monday after the meeting chaired by Hasina.

Hasina has vowed to continue the campaign until Bangladesh is freed of the drug menace, but critics say it is a sign of her increasingly authoritarian rule ahead of the election.

In more than a third of the killings recorded by Dhaka-based human rights group Odhikar since mid-May, the suspects were arrested before they were killed.

The government has dismissed accusations of extra-judicial killings, saying the crackdown has popular support.

(Source: Reuters)

‘The blame for resurrecting the insurgency in Afghanistan ultimately rests with the U.S.’

By Syed Zafar Mehdi

**TEHRAN** — The war in Afghanistan, which began on October 7, 2001, completed 17 years this week. More than 17 years after invading the country, the U.S.-led international coalition has reluctantly conceded defeat to insurgent groups, after miserably failing in counter-terrorism efforts. Today, security situation remains volatile, government is in disarray, terrorists are stronger than ever, and civilians continue to pay the heavy price.

An acclaimed journalist and author, Anand Gopal has extensively reported from Afghanistan and the Middle East. He is the author of ‘No Good Men Among the Living: America, the Taliban, and the War through Afghan Eyes’, which focuses on U.S. invasion of Afghanistan and the failed war. Through the dramatic stories of three Afghans caught in America’s war on terror, Gopal shows that the Afghan war, often seen as a hopeless quagmire and an intractable conflict, could in fact have gone very differently. This interview, originally published in Afghan Zariza a few years ago, was conducted by magazine editor Syed Zafar Mehdi.

Following are the excerpts:

■ In your book ‘No Good Men Among the Living: America, the Taliban, and the War through Afghan Eyes’, you argue that the U.S. forces pressed the conflict in Afghanistan and resurrected the insurgency. Do you think the blame goes squarely on the U.S.?

A. I believe the blame for resurrecting the insurgency ultimately rests with the U.S., but blame for sustaining and continuing the insurgency is shared equally by the U.S. and Pakistan. Of course, the Afghan government is also to blame, but we cannot look at their actions independently of outside forces, since they are playing by the rules that outsiders set. If we take a longer view, stretching back thirty years, I believe the U.S. and the Soviet



Union are ultimately responsible for the conflict. On the one hand, the Soviet Union killed over a million and destroyed the country; on the other, the U.S. spread extremism and warlordism through their patronage of rebel groups. Furthermore, the U.S. and Saudi patronage in the 1980s transformed the Pakistani state, helping make the ISI what it is today.

■ The top Taliban leadership, you claim, tried to surrender soon after the U.S. invasion. Why was the U.S. not willing to accept them?

A. The mood at the time was that, like Bush said, “You are either with us or against us.” America’s goal was to wage a war on terror, and the fact that its enemies were trying to switch sides was something that did not mesh easily with the ideology of counterterrorism.

■ Your book tells the story of Afghan war through the lives of three Afghans: a Taliban commander, a tribal warlord and a village housewife. Is it just a co-incidence that they are all Pashtun?

A. No, it is not a coincidence—it is because the war is largely being fought in Pashtun areas. Moreover, all three are Pashtuns who lived at

least part of the time in rural areas. There are many excellent works of reporting on Afghans living in cities, and in other parts of the country. However, there is very little about the lives of Pashtuns in rural areas, and I felt that it would be impossible to understand this war without exploring their experiences.

Certainly, there are many other facets of Afghanistan, and many other books waiting to be written about them, but I felt that this slice of life was necessary if we were to have a better picture of the conflict.

■ You have not sufficiently highlighted the role of Pakistan in the resurgence of Taliban. Do you believe Pakistan’s intelligence agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) had no role to play in it?

A. The ISI played a major role in the resurgence of the Taliban by providing safe haven for Taliban leaders, influencing commanders, eliminating those they do not like, and generally by trying to control things behind the scenes. They are a major force of destruction in Afghanistan. However, this is well known, and as such my book focused on the U.S. role,

which was much less-well known.

There is an idea floating around in some circles that Pakistan willed the Taliban back to life in 2002-4, but this simply does not appear to be the case. Rather, real grievances inside Afghanistan were the impetus for the Taliban’s regroupment, and Pakistan saw this process unfold and manipulated it for its own purposes.

■ You have depicted Taliban as oppressed Pashtuns fighting against a corrupt government and foreign invaders. Could you elaborate on that?

A. I think it is important to distinguish between the reasons that led many to join the Taliban initially, and what the Taliban represents as a movement. It is true, and a matter of record, that many joined as a response to the torture, killings, air strikes, night raids, and other crimes committed by the foreign forces and their proxies.

You can travel through Deh Rawud district in Uruzgan, for example, and see many pro-government villages. But in neighboring Char Chino, the majority of territory is held by insurgents. Why such differences? The reasons have to do with local politics and local histories, and particularly, the differing nature of grievances and government connections in those two areas. This is not unique to Afghanistan; many insurgencies around the world stem from real grievances.

To recognize that a group had, at one point, legitimate grievances is not the same as saying the group acts legitimately to address those grievances. Armed groups often take a life of their own, and their ultimate purpose is usually to ensure their own survival and potential for obtaining power.

I describe in the book how the Taliban quickly came to mirror the actions of the very warlords they were fighting. They are a force of oppression, just as many of the other armed actors in the conflict.

‘India to continue with Iranian oil imports despite U.S. sanctions’

**1 →** Iran is India’s third-largest oil supplier after Iraq and Saudi Arabia. It was India’s second biggest supplier of crude oil after Saudi Arabia till 2010-11 but the crippling U.S. sanctions against Iran led to significant reduction of oil imports.

In the previous round of U.S. sanctions on Iran from 2012 to 2015, India continued to purchase Iran’s oil although the volume of oil trade decreased.

In 2013-14 and 2014-15, India bought 11 million tonnes and 10.95 million tonnes respectively from it. Sourcing from Iran increased to 12.7 million tonnes in 2015-16, giving it the sixth spot. In the following year, the Iranian supplies jumped to 27.2 million tonnes to catapult it to the third spot.

Iranian oil is lucrative for Indian refiners as it provides 60 days of credit for purchases, something that refiners in other countries don’t provide, including in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Nigeria, and the US.

The popular opinion in India favors India’s continued oil trade with Iran. In an article on Firstpost website, analyst Suhit Sen wrote that “no country is bound to play along with Uncle Sam’s ingrained prejudices and strategic interests”, referring to International Court of Justice’s (ICJ) recent ruling that the sanctions against Iran must be lifted, especially those pertaining to movement of humanitarian goods.

The BJP led government in New Delhi is under tremendous pressure from opposition parties and general public to defy the U.S. sanctions and continue importing oil from Iran, which they believe is India’s ‘time-tested ally’.

In a significant development that is likely to raise eyebrows in Washington, two major Indian oil companies have placed orders to import Iranian crude next month, in defiance of U.S. sanctions.

Indian Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, speaking at an event titled ‘The Energy Forum’ in New Delhi on Monday, reaffirmed India’s commitment to bolster oil trade with Iran, saying New Delhi did not know whether it would receive a waiver from U.S. sanctions.

On Friday, India’s state-run news agency PTI quoted sources to report Indian Oil Corp (IOC) and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) have contracted 1.25 million tonnes of Iranian oil for import in November.

“Iran has been off-and-on taking rupee payments for oil it sells. This rupee it uses for paying for imports of medicines and other commodities. A similar arrangement is in works,” a source told PTI, adding details of the payment mechanism would emerge in the next few weeks.

Mr. Pradhan further said that the country was considering evolving a different payment system to import Iran’s oil and that it could pay using Indian rupees, in an attempt to dump the U.S. dollar.

Earlier this week, a report in Economic Times said, citing a government official familiar with the situation, that the Reserve Bank of India and Ministry of Finance had been tasked with exploring the viability of rupee and barter-based trade agreements with crude oil producing nations such as Russia, Iran and Venezuela. These developments are seen as a rebuff to Trump’s administration call to countries to completely cut oil trade with the Islamic Republic of Iran. U.S. sanctions against Iran’s crude oil exports come into force from November 4, so Washington has been ratcheting pressure, but to no avail.

Trump administration has failed to garner international support against the Iran deal, which Tehran has continued to abide by even after the unilateral withdrawal of the U.S. Last

month, the EU announced that China, France, Germany, Russia and the U.K. would develop an alternative payment system to skirt the U.S. and continue doing business with Iran. India seems to be following the suit.

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17 years of America’s disastrous Afghanistan venture



“wisdom or courage to call for a withdraw”. Journalists John Dale Grover and Jerrod Laber in an article recently said the U.S. has been “unable to build an Afghan government that is capable of providing for its own security and there is no reason to believe that will change.”

The outgoing top U.S. commander in Afghanistan General John Nicholson was very blunt in his farewell address. “It is time for this war in Afghanistan to end,” he said. John Sopko, who has served as the special inspector general of a U.S. watchdog in Afghanistan for past six years, is also disillusioned. In an interview to Canada’s Global News recently, Sopko noted that 17 years after Western nations invaded Afghanistan, the capabilities of Afghan security forces remain questionable, corruption remains endemic and rampant, and opium production continues to fuel insurgency, complicating matters.

Chukh Pezescki, a professor at Washington State University, also believes that it is time for the American public to demand an end to this pointless war. “Our leaders in both the military

and the government do not know what they are doing, and they are sending our sons and daughters to be killed because of their ignorance and avarice,” he wrote in an article.

These statements show the growing frustration among Americans that the war in Afghanistan was proving an expensive proposition and costing U.S. tax payers billions of dollars.

According to a new Pew Research Center survey, nearly half of Americans think the U.S. has failed to achieve most of its goals in Afghanistan, 17 years after the war kicked off. The previous Pew surveys conducted in 2014 and 2015 had also reported predominantly negative views of America’s longest war. In 2015, 56 percent described the war as “mostly a failure.”

In December 2014, almost 13 years after the war began, President Barack Obama announced the end of so-called ‘Operation Enduring Freedom’. The operations by the U.S. military forces, both noncombat advisers and combat forces, he said, would henceforth take place under the name ‘Operation Freedom’s

Sentinel’. The nomenclature changed, but the war did not.

Seventeen years down the line, almost 56.3 percent of Afghanistan’s districts are currently under government control and at least 30 percent of districts are contested, according to a recent SIGAR report. And, there have been reports recently about secret negotiations between the U.S. government and the Taliban in Qatar, which seems to suggest that the world’s biggest military has surrendered before the Taliban in Afghanistan after 17 years of futile war and bloodshed.

Today, on average, the war in Afghanistan consumes lives of 30 to 40 Afghan forces and at least 13 civilians on daily basis. There appears to be no strategy to contain violence, to prevent civilian casualties, to combat terrorism, to find a way out of this logjam.

Now there is a talk about ‘privatizing the war’. Erik Prince, the founder of notorious U.S. security company Blackwater, which came under scrutiny after its employees were accused of killing Iraqi civilians in 2007, visited Afghanistan last week to sell his proposal.

In an interview, Prince said hiring his contractors to support Afghan forces could end the war in “six months after the program is fully ramped up.” But, it drew sharp reactions from Afghan political and military leadership, including President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Dr. Abdullah Abdullah. The country’s National Security Advisor Hamdullah Mohib termed the proposal “destructive and divisive.”

While the long-standing war stretches and the civilian casualties surge to a record high, sending more U.S. troops or privatizing the war cannot end the stalemate. The only way out is for the U.S. troops to go home and let Afghans take charge of their country.



# Saudi Arabia likely murdered “Jamal Khashoggi”: Askari

**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW**  
By Javad Heirannia

**TEHRAN** — Professor Hossein Askari, an expert on Saudi Arabia who also teaches international business at the George Washington University, believes that Saudi Arabia likely murdered “Jamal Ahmad Khashoggi”.

“If this is what happened, then it had to be ordered and sanctioned by MBS. No one in Saudi Arabia beside him would dare to authorize such an assassination,” Hossein Askari, who served as special advisor to Saudi finance minister, tells the Tehran Times

Following is the text of the interview:

■ **Jamal Ahmad Khashoggi**, Saudi journalist that fled Saudi Arabia on 18 September 2017 killed in Turkey. Turkish sources say they believe that Khashoggi was killed inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on 2 October, by a 15-member “murder”

team from Saudi Arabia. What do you think?

A: Sure, it is possible. But I have no idea if this is what happened. Why do you need 15 people to kill one man in a consulate?

■ Before this event we have saw the behavior of Mohammad Bin Salman with his critics and this lead some convinced that MBS is behind the killing of Jamal Ahmad Khashoggi. What is your opinion?

A: If this is what happened, then it had to be ordered and sanctioned by MBS. No one in Saudi Arabia beside him would dare to authorize such an assassination.

■ What will be the reaction of U.S. and Turkey to this event?

A: Again, if this is what happened the U.S. will do nothing. The Trump Administration is all in with MBS. Turkey may make a little noise behind the scenes to get some financial support from Saudi Arabia but it will do nothing either.



## India will buy weapons from Russia and oil from Iran, ignoring U.S. warnings

India was set to enter lucrative bids for Russian weapons and Iranian oil, despite warnings and potential sanctions from Washington.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin concluded a multibillion-dollar deal Friday for Moscow to provide New Delhi with the advanced S-400 surface-to-air missile system. The agreement was among a number of measures related to defense, economy and energy forged between the two leaders during Putin's two-day visit to India, whose head of state praised the country's “special and privileged strategic partnership” with Russia.

These moves come at a time when the U.S. was trying to crack down on Russia's growing international influence, accusing it of interfering in the 2016 presidential elections and of pursuing destabilizing activities across the globe. Washington has moved to enforce sanctions on those buying Russian arms and, while India has sought a waiver for its purchase of the S-400, the Trump administration has displayed an unwillingness to make exceptions to its economic restrictions.

Friday's joint statement by Modi and Putin also took things a step further by noting that “that military and military-technical cooperation between the two countries is an important element of their strategic partnership,” signaling further cooperation.

The Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, introduced and signed into law last summer, established a list of banned Russian individuals and entities, including those related to the defense and intelligence sectors. The U.S. enforced the act for the first time last month when it targeted the Chinese military's Equipment Development Department for acquiring Russian Sukhoi Su-35 jets and S-400 systems, angering China and sending a message to other prospective S-400 customers such as India, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

On Friday, however, Modi said that India and Russia, which maintained strong ties throughout the Cold War, “are unanimous in strengthening multi-polarity and multilateralism in the rapidly changing world.” In yet another pushback against Washington's attempts to rally the international community, Modi and Putin “stressed the importance of the full and effective implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action,” the official name for the Iran nuclear deal abandoned by Trump in May.

The U.S. exit has been met with opposition from China



and Russia, as well as traditional allies France, Germany and the U.K., all of which signed the accord and continue to support it. While the International Atomic Energy Agency has affirmed Iran was sufficiently curbing its nuclear activities, Trump has accused the revolutionary Shiite Muslim power of propping up powerful militias across the Middle East and developing threatening ballistic missile technology. As a result, those doing business with Iran would be sanctioned and the administration has warned allies specifically.

National security adviser John Bolton told reporters at the White House on Thursday that, in discussions with countries like Iraq and India, the U.S. has “gone to really extra lengths to try and find substitute sellers of oil so that there would be alternative supplies at market rates,” according to Indian newspaper The Economic Times. India's NDTV cited traders and shipping intelligence firm Kpler as indicating that India's imports of Iranian crude shot up nearly five times throughout August as imports from the U.S. fell 75 percent, ahead of the sanctions deadline on November 4.

Nevertheless, India would reportedly continue buying from Iran once this date passes. The Press Trust of India cited top industry sources Friday as saying the country was planning import of about 1.25 million tons of crude oil and

would use the rupee instead of the dollar as the currency for trades. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif also said last month that he was assured India would continue their energy imports, according to Reuters.

The U.S. has struggled to gather international support against the Iran deal, which Tehran has continued to abide by in the wake of Trump's pullout. The EU announced last month that China, France, Germany, Russia and the U.K. would develop an alternative payment system to skirt the U.S. and continue doing business with Iran. The International Court of Justice ruled Thursday that the U.S. must lift some of its sanctions targeting humanitarian trade, food, medicine and civil aviation in Iran, prompting the U.S. to officially discard a 1955 friendship treaty upon which the claim was based.

India and the U.S. have traditionally maintained strong ties and signed their own defense deal last month. India has also worked with both Iran and Russia in an attempt to improve the security situation in Afghanistan, where the Taliban Islamist militant group has challenged a 17-year, U.S.-led war effort. Last month, India and Russia joined Iran's first-ever Regional Security Dialogue, which also included Afghanistan and China.

(Source: newsweek)

## The new unbearable crime of the Saudis



1 → Since 2000 and the presence of George W. Bush presence at the White House, the United States and its European allies have repeatedly failed to overturn and distort the existing facts in the world and in the region. This failure also applies to the case of Khashoggi's murdering. Obviously, despite the desire of the Saudi security agencies, the United States, the Zionist regime and European countries claiming to be the defenders of human rights, the case of Jamal Khoshaghi will become one of the most important “media-security” cases in the near future. Even Saudis' billions of petro-dollars can't prevent the formation of this trend.

3. The likely abduction and murder of Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul occurred exactly at a time when Saudi officials were under constant pressure due to military defeat in Yemen and Syria and political defeat in Iraq, Bahrain and Lebanon. Beyond that, the news from the Saudi court reveals numerous and fundamental disputes existing between the survivors of Abdulaziz!

**the vicious silence of Western leaders against the incident of kidnapping and assassination of Jamal Khashaghchi once again exposed the true face of the claimants of human rights and exposed their true face to the public opinion of the world.**

Disputes that have led to internal conflicts in the court and even attempts to assassinations among Saudi princes. We have recently witnessed an example during the attack on Mohamed bin Salman and the shooting incident at the King's Palace, an incident that Saudi officials had been hardly trying to keep as a secret, but ultimately didn't succeed!

4. Along with the ruling anarchy in the Saudi court, we are witnessing the emergence of serious conflicts in Western countries over the European authorities' support for the Saudi regime. In Germany, for instance, we can once again see that arguments has raised over ban of arms sale to Saudi Arabia for the crimes committed in the Yemeni war. Although the Chancellor of Germany, members of the German Democratic Party, and even the leaders of the Social-Democratic Party are all silent about this, and continue their give-and-take with the criminal regime of Saudi Arabia, but the protest of their citizens, the media and even some opposition parties has caused Angela Merkel and her entourage to be under pressure for this. The same is true in France and the United Kingdom: two veto-power wielded countries in the UN Security Council that have the blood of Yemeni children on their hands. In the end, it must be said that the vicious silence of Western leaders against the incident of kidnapping and assassination of Jamal Khashaghchi once again exposed the true face of the claimants of human rights and exposed their true face to the public opinion of the world.

## Most Middle East dictators owe their power to Western patrons: Jahanpour

1 → The same thing happened to Colonel Qadhafi. At one time, he was entertained by President Sarkozy at the Elyse Palace and was even allowed to pitch his tent in the palace grounds. Last March former President Sarkozy was taken into police custody over allegations that Qadhafi had secretly given him 50 million euros to help him with the 2007 presidential campaign. The British Prime Minister Tony Blair visited him in Tripoli and signed big deals with him. However, later on when he fell out with the West, he was attacked and assassinated, and Sarkozy and Prime Minister Cameron went to Tripoli to congratulate the people for having got rid of a dictator.

The same is true about current Middle Eastern leaders who serve Western interests, while lacking legitimacy in the eyes of their own people. However, once they are not needed any more or act against Western interests they will be toppled. The Saudis' worth to the Americans is what their oil is worth and how much they spend on US equipment, and how they serve America's regional interests. Otherwise, they will be of no value.

The second part of President Trump's remarks was also correct. Most Middle East dictators owe their power to their Western patrons, because they have no popular base, or at least they have not been elected to their current positions of power to know if they have a popular base or not. As a result, as Trump said, they would not last for more than two weeks without Western help. These facts have always been known, but Trump states them more bluntly.

He wants the Saudis to pump more oil to keep the prices low, and to buy more American weapons, and this is why he says that they should pay for their military costs, by which he means paying for the cost of American military in the Middle East.

■ Former President Barack Obama ad-





ressed the countries like Saudi Arabia and told them that their security threat came from inside their own countries and not from other countries. Was Obama's reference to human security, which includes political development, individual liberties, and so on?

A: Certainly! This is the strength of democracies, because when people elect their rulers they support them and the rulers can rely on popular backing and not on foreign support. The other mistake that many Middle Eastern countries make is that instead of responding to the demands of their own people they look for foreign enemies in order to justify their own wrong policies.

The only solution to instability and insecurity in the Middle East is for the countries of the region to resolve their differences through dialog and compromise, rather than through resort to force. Indeed, making use of military power will further isolate them and will make

their situation much more difficult, as we can see in the disastrous war in Yemen that according to the UN has produced the greatest catastrophe of recent times. If the countries in the region can act in a united fashion and work for peace and progress and satisfy their own people they would not face so many domestic or foreign security problems and have to look to big powers for support.

After more bloodshed and hostility, they will eventually come to the realization that they have no other options as neighbors but to live in peace and to overcome their differences. It would be good if they could come to that conclusion before they destroy more lives and more of each other's property. That was what brought the European countries that had been fighting for centuries against each other to form a European Union and Middle Eastern countries should ultimately come to this realization before it is too late.

First Announcement			
 <b>N.I.O.C</b>		 <b>National Iranian Drilling Company</b>	
<b>Call for public tender (First/Second publish)</b> <b>One- Stages (semi compressed) tender</b>		<b>Subject of Tender: PARTS FOR BOMCO TRIPLEX MUD PUMP</b> <b>TYPE F-1600</b>	
<b>1397.3245</b>		<b>1397.3245</b>	
<b>Tender descriptions:</b>			
<b>The Tender holder</b>	<b>Registration No. through national electronic tendering system</b>	<b>Tender No. /Indent No.</b>	<b>Estimated value (Rial/Euro)</b>
<b>National Iranian Drilling Company</b>	<b>3,175,431</b>	<b>Tender No.: FP/17-97/014</b> <b>Indent No.: 48-22-9622031</b>	<b>22,398,567,120</b>
<b>Qualitative evaluation of tenderers</b>			
<b>Method</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Based on minimum scoring (60) made in award criterion reflected in the tenderers pre-qualification forms.		
<b>Purchasing &amp; Submitting</b>			
<b>Tender Document Distribution by Company</b>	The distribution of the documents will be started one day after the publishing of second advertisement and ended on the following tenth day thereof.		
<b>Submitting Method</b>	Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of 510,000 Iranian Rials under account number 400111400420491 (Shaba No. IR 52010000400111400420491) in name of "NIDC Incomes Centralized Fund" issued by I.R. of Iran Central Bank Submitting format Request for the purpose of receiving Tender Documents		
<b>Closing date</b>	Days after the last time of Purchasing the tender documents 14		
<b>Address</b>	Hall No. 107, 1 <sup>st</sup> floor, Tender Committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. Tel: +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569		
<b>Tender Guarantee</b>			
<b>Value of guarantee</b>	1,120,000,000 Rial/ 22,775 Euro		
<b>Type of guarantee</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt under account number 4001114006376636 (Shaba No. IR 350100004001114006376636) in name of "NIDC saving account" by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran		
<b>Duration of credit &amp; quotation</b>	Tender Guarantee & quotation should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one time in initial validity duration.		
<b>(Contracts Department)</b> <b>Guarantee and More of this &amp; other tenders are accessible by click on:</b> <a href="http://www.nidc.ir">www.nidc.ir</a> <a href="http://sapp.ir/nidc_pr">http://sapp.ir/nidc_pr</a>			
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# Weight loss drug may prevent and treat diabetes

The results of a recent clinical trial, published in the journal The Lancet, show that a weight loss drug may prevent and treat diabetes.

A new weight loss pill may prevent diabetes in those who are obese and overweight.

More than 30 million people, or 9 percent of the population of the United States, are living with diabetes, explain the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Overall, more than 100 million U.S. adults, or a third of the adult population, now have either diabetes or prediabetes, report the CDC.

The current treatment options include oral drugs such as metformin, various forms of insulin, and interventions such as weight loss surgery.

New research recently presented at the 2018 Meeting of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes, held in Berlin, Germany, makes a new addition to this treatment arsenal.

The weight loss drug lorcaserin was shown to reduce the risk of diabetes complications, induce diabetes remission, and lower the risk of developing the condition in a clinical trial led by researchers from the Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) in Boston, MA.

BWH scientists from the Thrombolysis in Myocardial Infarction (TIMI) Study Group conducted the trial, and the findings they presented were from the CAMELLIA-TIMI 61 clinical trial. Eisai Inc., the company that manufactures the drug, funded the trial.

Dr. Erin Bohula, a BWH cardiovascular medicine specialist and a staff investigator for the TIMI Study Group, co-led the research together with Dr. Benjamin Scirica, also a cardiovascular medicine specialist at BWH and senior investigator for the TIMI Study Group.

## ■ How lorcaserin affects diabetes, prediabetes

The CAMELLIA-TIMI 61 trial included 12,000 people who were either overweight or obese and were at risk of developing cardiovascular disease. Additionally, over half of the participants had diabetes and a third had prediabetes.



**Given the global prevalence of obesity and its association with type 2 diabetes and complications that can cause death or greatly diminish quality of life, we need therapeutic strategies that can be added to lifestyle modification to prevent and control diabetes.**

Half of the participants were allocated to receive the weight loss drug, while the other half received placebo. The researchers monitored the participants for an average period of over 3 years.

Gene therapy completely reversed markers of diabetes in rodents.

## ■ The trial revealed the following:

Lorcaserin reduced diabetes risk by 19 percent among those who already had prediabetes. So, 172 people out of 2,015 who took lorcaserin and had prediabetes went on to develop diabetes, whereas 204 people out of 1,976 who had prediabetes

but took only placebo developed diabetes.

As many as 9.2 percent of people with prediabetes who took lorcaserin restored their blood sugar levels back to normal, compared with 7.6 percent in the placebo group.

Also, 7.1 percent of the people who had diabetes and took the drug had significant remission in their hyperglycemia, compared with 6 percent of patients who took the placebo.

The drug also lowered the risk of complications from diabetes such as microalbuminuria, diabetic retinopathy, and diabetic

neuropathy by 21 percent.

However, the study authors also report that lorcaserin significantly increased the number of severe cases of hypoglycemia among people who were already taking insulin or other treatments for diabetes known to raise the risk of hypoglycemia.

"We recently presented findings showing that use of lorcaserin resulted in modest but sustained weight loss among obese and overweight patients without increasing risk of heart attack and stroke," explains Dr. Bohula.

In this trial, the drug resulted in a weight loss of 4.2 kilograms, on average, compared with 1.4 kilograms in the placebo group.

"Now we [also] report that, when added to lifestyle interventions, lorcaserin significantly reduced incidence of diabetes, increased rates of diabetes remission, and reduced the risk of diabetic microvascular complications."

Dr. Scirica also comments on the recent findings, saying, "Taken together, these findings reinforce the notion that modest, durable weight loss can improve cardiometabolic health and supports the role of lorcaserin as an adjunctive therapy in chronic weight management."

"It provides another tool in the armamentarium, beyond diet and exercise, for patients hoping to achieve and maintain weight loss."

"And, happily, as we saw, even relatively modest weight loss can improve the diabetes control in those with diabetes and reduce the development of diabetes in those at risk," Dr. Scirica says.

"Given the global prevalence of obesity and its association with type 2 diabetes and complications that can cause death or greatly diminish quality of life, we need therapeutic strategies that can be added to lifestyle modification to prevent and control diabetes," he adds.

"This rigorous and large-scale randomized study demonstrates the potential for improving glycemic control when adding a weight loss agent to a treatment plan."

(Source: Medical News Today)

## How daytime naps could help us make better decisions

A new study, now published in the Journal of Sleep Research, examines the effects of short naps on the brain's ability to process unconscious information.

A short daytime nap could do wonders for our brains' ability to process information, suggests a new study.

Sleep is key in both memory formation and the consolidation of new information.

Cutting-edge technologies now allow scientists to see where in the brain learning takes place, and how sleep deprivation interferes with the brain's neuroplasticity.

Neuroplasticity is the brain's ability to respond and adapt to the stimuli it receives from the environment.

What happens "under the hood" when we are asleep has also been the focus of numerous studies.

According to research that Medical News Today recently reported on, scientists were able to locate specific memories and strengthen them while the study participants were asleep using certain auditory cues.

Now, an intriguing new study focuses on the effect of daytime naps on the brain's ability to process information that we are not consciously aware of.

Additionally, the study examined how daytime naps impact conscious behavior and choice reaction time — that is, the speed with which the brain processes new information.

Liz Coulthard, a consultant senior lecturer in dementia neurology at the University of Bristol Medical School in the United Kingdom, led the new research.

## ■ Naps help process unconscious information

Coulthard and colleagues recruited 16 volunteers for the study and gave the study participants two tasks.

In the first, a "masked prime task," the researchers presented information to the participants very briefly so that they didn't have time to register the information consciously.

In the second (control) task, the participants responded when they were shown a red or blue square on a screen.

A new test may keep drivers from getting behind the wheel if they are seriously sleep-deprived.

After performing the tasks, the study participants stayed awake or took a 90-minute nap. Then, all the volunteers did the tasks again.

The researchers measured the participants' brain activity both before and after the nap using an electroencephalogram. They also tested the participants' choice reaction time.

The study found that naps increased processing speed in the masked prime task, but not in the unmasked control task. This suggested to the researchers that naps specifically aid the processing of information that was acquired unconsciously.

Therefore, even a short period of sleep may help process information, improve our reaction times, and potentially influence our behavior when awake.

These findings strengthen the idea that the information we "perceive" unconsciously is processed during sleep, and that sleep may aid our decision-making when awake.

(Source: flipboard.com)

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8th fl.,,\$4000

Mirdamad-Naft

120 sq.m,6th fl., \$1700

vanak

shariati

pasdaran

shahrak gharb

saadatabad

4000-3000-5000-4000-1000  
sq.m,full,reasonable price

### FOR: EMBASSY/COMPANY

Jordan,

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

Zaferaniyeh

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

Niavaran

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

Darous

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

Other areas:

Farmaniyeh

Aghdasiyeh

Shahrak Gharb

Shariati-Pasdaran

Valiasre

Tajrish

Jordan

Vanak

Arjantin

Zafar...

nice cases ready to move in.



## Eco-lodges in Golestan province more than doubles in H1



**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** – The number of eco-lodges across the northern province of Golestan has more than doubled during the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 21) from a year earlier.

The number of eco-lodges and traditional houses have been surged 130 percent year on year over the first six months of the year, CHTN quoted Ebrahim Karimi, the provincial tourism chief, as saying on October 3.

The Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization has granted operating licenses to 13 of such lodging houses during the six months, he said but didn't mention total number of eco-lodges operational in the province.

He expressed hope that some 200 eco-lodges to be inaugurated in the current Iranian year.

In September, Karimi announced that the number of international arrivals in Golestan rose sharply by 113 percent in the first six months of the year.

The one-millennium-old, UNESCO-registered Gonbad-e Qabus is one of the most significant tourist destinations in Golestan province, which is neighboring the Caspian Sea.

## Tuyserkan holding walnut, woodcarving festivals



**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Tuyserkan, nicknamed Iran's city of walnut, is playing host to walnut festival as its farmers are celebrating an end of the walnut-picking season. Located in western Hamedan province, the city is also holding a woodcarving festival where local artisans introduce their products to domestic and foreign visitors, CHTN reported.

Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization Director Ali-Asghar Mounesan, Hamedan Governor Mohammad-Naser Nikbakht along with several other officials inaugurated the festivals on Monday morning.

Walnut farming has a very old history in Tuyserkan where there is walnut trees as old as 700 years. Tuyserkan walnut has been a brand now and today there are 5,500 hectares of orchard with an annual yield of some 70,000 tons.

Iran's first walnut research center was launched in Tuyserkan some twenty years ago. The center caters to farmers all over the country.

The abundance of walnut wood in the region has laid the ground for a well-developed woodcarving industry that has gained nationwide reputation.



## ROUND THE GLOBE

### Darien National Park

Darien National Park extends across some 575,000 hectares in the Darien Province of Southeastern Panama. The largest protected area in Panama, Darien is also among the largest and most valuable protected areas in Central America.

A World Heritage, the property includes a stretch of the Pacific Coast and almost the entire border with neighboring Colombia. This includes a shared border with Los Katios National Park, likewise a World Heritage property.

From sea level to Cerro Tacarcuna at 1,875 m.a.s.l., the property boasts an exceptional variety of coastal, lowland and mountain ecosystems and habitats.



There are sandy beaches, rocky shores and mangroves along the coast, countless wetlands, rivers and creeks, palm forests and various types of rainforest, including the most extensive lowland rainforest on Central America's Pacific Coast.

The property is also culturally and ethnically diverse, as evidenced by major archaeological findings, as well as Afro-descendants and indigenous peoples of the Embera, Wounaan, Kuna and others living within the property to this day. Darien National Park was groundbreaking by explicitly including a cultural dimension in the management and conservation of a protected area.

(Source: UNESCO)

# Recovered Achaemenid relief to go on tour across Iran

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** – A newly recovered Achaemenid-era (550-330 BC) bas-relief, which President Hassan Rouhani brought it back from the U.S. on September 27, will be put on show in a select of cities across the country.

On Saturday, Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization Director Ali-Asghar Mounesan opened the first leg of the tour, which is being showcased at the National Museum of Iran in downtown Tehran.

The limestone relief, which depicts a Persian guard, was confiscated in October from the Park Avenue Armory in New York, where it was being offered for sale at an art fair. A U.S. judge ruled earlier in June that the exquisite relic should be returned to Iran.

"Following days of being showcased at the National Museum of Iran, the bas-relief will be transferred to a selects of Iranian cities to be visited by enthusiasts," the official said.

"The bas-relief was returned to the country after 80 years... Information about this object was provided to Iran in 2017 only five days before the auction," Mounesan explained.

It is an eight-inch-square piece of carved limestone that was part of a long line of soldiers depicted on a balustrade at the central building on the UNESCO-registered Persepolis in southern Iran.



A newly recovered limestone relief, which depicts an Achaemenid-era Persian guard, is on show at the National Museum of Iran on October 7, 2018.

## Iranian Silk Road Ultramarathon announces winners



**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** – Winners have been announced for the 3rd Iranian Silk Road Ultramarathon, which commenced on September 29 as a tourism event across the UNESCO-registered Lut Desert famed for being one of hottest places on earth.

Iranian athletes Akbar Naqdi and Hossein-Ali Shikh-Langi and Italian runner Alberto Tagliabue were ranked first to third respectively, in the section "Integral 250 km", according to worldrunningacademy.com.

Samuele Perez from Italy and Isobel Grace Tanaka and Kate Macintosh both from New Zealand slipped from first to third in the section "Lite 150 km".

According to the organizers, the "Integral 250 km" comprised stages of 35/45 km per day with a long section of 70 km, and the "Lite 150 km" was composed of 6 stages of 20/30 km per day with a long section of 40 km.

Some 20 runners from Italy, Germany, South Africa, Japan, New Zealand and Iran competed in the ultramarathon that started from Mahan Air's campsite in Malekabad village of Shahdad District in Kerman province and passed through

Shafiabad castle, valley of Dolphins, Gandom Beryan, Rudshour, Howz-e Nader caravanserai and came to an end in Zavar village.

The race took place in total safety considerations, with medical and nursing staff present at checkpoints about every 10 kilometers path and tented camps.

"Undoubtedly, holding such events makes the region more popular," Mehr quoted Kerman province's tourism chief Gholamreza Farrokhi as saying on September 23.

Seven years of satellite temperature data analyzed by NASA has shown that the Lut Desert is the hottest spot on Earth. Based on the research, it was hottest during 5 of the 7 years, and had the highest temperature overall: 70.7°C in 2005.

The big and sprawling Kerman province has been a cultural melting pot since antiquity, blending Persians with subcontinental tribe dwellers. It is home to myriad historical sites and scenic landscapes such as Bazaar-e Sartasari, Jabalieh Dome, Ganjali Khan Bathhouse, Malek Jameh Mosque and Shahdad desert to name a few.

## What to do if your flight is delayed or canceled

By Lucas Peterson

It's never fun. But there are things you can do to mitigate the pain.

As menacing clouds hung heavy over Lower Manhattan, I cruised toward the Holland Tunnel on my way to Newark Liberty International Airport. I refreshed the flight status for my United Airlines flight, and the airline's app showed an on-time departure. Two minutes later, I refreshed it. A red bar suddenly appeared on my smartphone — the flight had gone from "on time" to "canceled." A United rep confirmed by phone that my flight was, indeed, canceled, and I was rebooked on a 6 a.m. flight the following day. I apologized to my Lyft driver, who turned around and took me back to the hotel I'd left just 20 minutes earlier.

Cancellations and delays like that one can leave travelers feeling hapless and helpless. Weather and mechanical delays often leave passengers wondering what, if any, recourse they have. And while you're typically at the mercy of the airline, there are a few tips for mitigating the pain.

### ■ The reason for the delay matters

Bad weather is not your friend, especially when it comes to delays and cancellations. While airlines may offer to pay for hotel and meals during an overnight delay when the reason is the airline's fault — mechanical problems, for example — they typically will not do so when the reason is weather-related. Be prepared to fend for yourself. Use the airline's app, call the customer service number or speak to a gate agent to figure out your options.

### ■ Know the rules, know your rights

Flight schedules are not guaranteed, and under U.S. law, airlines aren't obliged to provide any compensation for delays or cancellations — even when it's their fault. And it can get much worse than a weather delay: In a particularly odd scenario earlier this year, Sun Country airlines canceled its final seasonal flights from Mexico to the United States. It refunded fares and left stranded passengers to find their own way home.

There are exceptions to the no-compensation rule. If your U.S.-based carrier is flying in from Europe, you follow European Union rules, which are far more customer-friendly. That means that if your flight from, say, Dublin to New York is canceled or delayed for more than three hours, you could be entitled to a 600 euro (\$700) payout from the airline.

The other exception is if you're involuntarily denied boarding, otherwise known as getting "bumped" from a flight, which may result from airline overbooking. If this happens to you and the airline cannot arrange to get you to your destination within an hour of your original arrival time, it's required to compensate you in cash, up to \$1,350, depending on the length of the delay.



Two more important notes: When a gate agent asks for volunteers to take a later flight in exchange for a voucher and you accept, you will not be entitled to additional compensation. Another thing to keep in mind is that the number of involuntarily bumped passengers has plunged since Dr. David Dao was infamously removed from a United Airlines flight last year. Between January and March 2017, 900 passengers were involuntarily denied boarding on United flights; this year during the same time period, only 27 people got bumped.

### ■ Check in 24 hours ahead of time

One exception to the bumped-passenger compensation rule is if you didn't check into your flight on time (different carriers have different cutoffs). You should get into the habit of checking in the day before your flight. (You'll typically get an email from the airline prompting you to do so.)

### ■ Download the app

When you get wind of a long delay or cancellation, your first move should be to speak with someone — either in person, at the gate or on the phone. But phone waits can be epic when bad weather strikes an entire geographic region, as can in-person lines. While it isn't foolproof, it's never a bad idea to download the app of the carrier you're traveling with. You can check departure statuses and sometimes easily change itineraries within the app itself.

### ■ Certain credit cards offer protection

Some credit cards, like Chase Sapphire Reserve and the United Explorer Card, offer a trip-delay benefit for common carrier travel (this would exclude things like taxi, commuter rail, and rental vehicle travel) purchased through the card. The delay threshold, which is 12 hours for some cards and six for others, will provide reimbursement up to \$500 for reasonable expenses incurred during a delay. This includes lodging, food, transportation and other necessities. It's worth noting that some high-end travel cards, like American Express Platinum, do not offer this benefit.

### ■ If filing a claim, prepare for a slog

For my Newark cancellation, I filed a claim online through

Chase Card Benefit Services (you can also begin your claim over the phone), which is administered by Allianz Global Assistance. You'll need a considerable amount of information to collect on your claim, including proof of round-trip travel, your old itinerary, your new itinerary, credit card statements and receipts for expenses incurred.

Keep itemized receipts for meals and don't expect to be reimbursed for alcohol or gratuities. There's no reason not to take yourself out to a nice meal, however: After my flight cancellation, I had a somewhat un-frugal late lunch at Balthazar that ran about \$50 before tax and tip.

Sending credit card statements is an annoyance, as they sometimes won't post for weeks after you've made a purchase. Some people put off filing a claim until their statements post and forget to follow through — which is exactly what insurance companies bank on. Don't make that mistake: You can file your claim immediately, even if you don't have all the supporting documents. You can submit them later, provided it's in within the required time frame (in Chase's case, 100 days).

You'll need a statement from your common carrier stating the reason for the delay — again, not the most convenient thing to obtain. Write the airline's customer service email address to request verification of why your flight was delayed or canceled. It may take one or two follow-up emails, but they should oblige.

Finally, persistence is the key with collecting on insurance claims. Photograph receipts and screenshot boarding passes. My claim, which was filed weeks ago with over a dozen attachments, still shows as "pending" in their system. I've called several times to follow up, and if I don't hear back by the end of the week, I'll call again.

### ■ Don't be afraid to ask for what you deserve

Think you deserve compensation for something? Ask for it. When a mechanical issue forced an overnight delay on a recent flight to Los Angeles, I went to the podium and requested hotel and food vouchers. I received a \$109 hotel voucher as well as three \$20 food vouchers, redeemable within the airport and at the Holiday Inn Express where I ended up staying. This wouldn't have happened had I not spoken to a gate agent and asked. The point is: While you may get turned down, you should always (politely) ask for what you think you deserve.

### ■ Be nice

Airline customer service is a stressful job, and the vast majority of employees do their best to get passengers where they need to go in a timely manner. So when it's your turn at the desk, take a deep breath, smile and remember that the person you're speaking to did not personally cause that maintenance issue — or thunderstorm.

(Source: The New York Times)



# Carbon emissions from Amazonian forest fires up to four times worse than feared: research

New research, published in a special issue of the journal Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B, has revealed that the aftermath of 2015 and 2016 forest fires in the Amazon resulted in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions three to four times greater than comparable estimates from existing global fire emissions databases.

The finding is part of a series of results published this week by Lancaster University researchers who were working in the heart of the site of one of the worst forest fires the Amazon has seen in a generation.

Researchers say uncontrolled wildfires in the understory — or ground level — of humid tropical forests during extreme droughts are a large and poorly quantified source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

The study 'Quantifying immediate carbon emissions from El Niño-mediated wildfires in humid tropical forests' looked at a 6.5 million hectare region, of which almost 1 million hectares of primary and secondary forests burned during the 2015-2016 El Niño (an area approximately the size of half of Wales).

## Global fire emissions

Although the area analyzed covers less than 0.2% of Brazilian Amazonia, these wildfires resulted in expected immediate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of over 30 Million tons, three to four times greater than comparable estimates from global fire emissions databases.

"Uncontrolled understory wildfires in humid tropical forests during extreme droughts are a large and poorly quantified



source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. These understory fires completely consumed leaf litter and fine woody debris, while partially burning coarse woody debris; resulting in high immediate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

This analysis covers an area of just 0.7% of Brazil, but the amount of carbon lost cor-

responds to 6% of the annual emissions of the whole of Brazil in 2014."

At the end of 2015, Santarém in the Brazilian state of Pará, was one of the epicenters of that year's El Niño. The region experienced a severe drought and extensive forest fires and the researchers were

working right in the middle of it. Scientists from 'ECOFOR', the international research project led by Professor Jos Barlow from Lancaster University, had installed 20 study plots in Santarém, eight of which burned.

The research team quickly realized they had the opportunity to document in detail how a forest responds to fire on this scale.

Dr. Erika Berenguer of Oxford and Lancaster University, and colleagues found that following the fires, the surviving trees grew significantly more than those located in unburned forests, regardless of their history of previous human disturbance.

## Short-term response

On average trees in burned areas of forest grew 249% more than trees in forests hit by drought but not fire. Although the growth rate is good news, this large increase in growth appears to be a relatively short-term response.

Professor Jos Barlow of Lancaster University said: "Only a few trees can survive these wildfires, as Amazonian forests did not co-evolve with this threat. So even though surviving trees grow faster in burned forests, this does not compensate the large carbon loss that results from tree mortality."

Meanwhile, Camila V. J. Silva of Lancaster University led research including 31 other burned plots across the Brazilian Amazon, which showed that even 30 years after a fire, seemingly 'recovered' forests still hold 25% less carbon than nearby undisturbed primary forests.

(Source: phys.org)

## NASA is looking at how to contain a supervolcano that could wipe out humanity

Asteroids? Perhaps a world war? Climate change? Or even aliens? Even if some of these things are realistic, there's a much greater threat lurking beneath Earth's surface that could put an end to human civilization - and very few know about it.

Below Yellowstone National Park, there's a huge magma reservoir that's responsible for all the geysers and hot basins, bubbling away - and it's precisely this reservoir that has the potential to destroy humanity.

While the reservoir below Wyoming National Park isn't the only potential supervolcano in the world, Yellowstone is ready to erupt.

Roughly every 100,000 years, there's a supervolcano explosion, the consequences of which can be fatal: if Yellowstone were to erupt, it would result in worldwide hunger and a volcanic winter (the cooling of the lower atmosphere).

## Magma chamber rises

The hotter it gets in the volcano, the more gases it produces. The magma continues to melt and the area above the magma chamber rises - and when the heat exceeds a certain threshold, an explosion is inevitable. So the logical solution would be to cool the supervolcano.

To cool the volcano, you need very



large amounts of water that, in theory, you would have to feed into the volcano, but implementation is virtually impossible.

"Building a big aqueduct uphill into a mountainous region would be both costly and difficult, and people don't want their water spent that way," Brian Wilcox of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory told the BBC.

"People are desperate for water all over the world and so a major infrastructure project, where the only way the water is used is to cool down a supervolcano, would be very controversial."

But NASA has an alternative solution: drill 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) deep into the supervolcano and pump water down under high pressure. This would slowly lower the temperature day by day.

(Source: sciencealert.com)

## Global sea level could rise 50 feet by 2300, study says

Global average sea-level could rise by nearly 8 feet by 2100 and 50 feet by 2300 if greenhouse gas emissions remain high and humanity proves unlucky, according to a review of sea-level change and projections by Rutgers and other scientists.

Since the start of the century, global average sea-level has risen by about 0.2 feet. Under moderate emissions, central estimates of global average sea-level from different analyses range from 1.4 to 2.8 more feet by 2100, 2.8 to 5.4 more feet by 2150 and 6 to 14 feet by 2300, according to the study.

And with 11 percent of the world's 7.6 billion people living in areas less than 33 feet above sea level, rising seas pose a major risk to coastal populations, economies, infrastructure and ecosystems around the world, the study says.

Sea-level rise varies over location and time, and scientists have developed a range of methods to reconstruct past changes and project future ones. But despite the differing approaches, a clear story is emerging regarding the coming decades: From 2000 to 2050, global average sea-level will most likely rise about 6 to 10 inches, but is extremely unlikely



to rise by more than 18 inches.

## Greenhouse gas emissions

Beyond 2050, projections are more sensitive to changes in greenhouse gas emissions and to the approaches for projecting sea-level change.

"There's much that's known about past and future sea-level change, and much that is uncertain. But uncertainty isn't a reason to ignore the challenge," said study co-author Robert E. Kopp, a professor in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at Rutgers University-New Brunswick and director of Rutgers' Institute of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences. "Carefully characterizing what's known and what's uncertain is crucial to managing the risks sea-level rise poses to coasts around the world."

(Source: eurekalert.org)

## Wind power makes the ground warmer even as it cools the planet

The solution to climate change is, at least conceptually, simple. Activities that add greenhouse gases to the atmosphere — chiefly the use of fossil fuels — need to be changed or eliminated. Of course, not every alternative to fossil fuels will be equally beneficial. Technologies have to be evaluated for costs and benefits. One thing we know about wind turbines, for example, is that they can alter local temperatures by increasing the mixing of air at and above the surface.

Setting aside inevitable but ignorant claims that "wind turbines are just as bad as coal plants" (they aren't by a long-shot), it does make sense to think seriously about the effect turbines have on local temperature. Harvard's Lee Miller and David Keith set out to fill some holes in our knowledge by simulating a less-than-implausible scenario in which the U.S. produces all its electricity with wind power. At this scale, they wondered, what does the trade-off between fossil fuels and wind power look like?

To find out, Miller and Keith turned to a high-resolution



climate model of the continental United States. In the middle third of the country — where winds are higher — they placed enough virtual wind turbines to produce almost half a terawatt of electricity. This would meet 100 percent of current U.S. demand.

The results of their simulation showed that the continental U.S. got about 0.2°C warmer, on average, with the turbines in

place. Within the wind-turbine-hosting region, that number was more like 0.5°C. That falls roughly in line with previous real-world measurements around wind farms.

## The temperature change

The temperature change is larger at night and smaller during the day, because surface warming and convection driven by the Sun overwhelm the influence of the turbines. But when the air is calmer at night, the turbines help mix warmer air down toward the cooling surface. That's why this is essentially an instantaneous but reversible effect. Turbines don't add energy to the atmosphere — they just move some air around.

The researchers attempt to estimate the climate benefit of these turbines for comparison. But doing this in a truly apples-to-apples way is tricky. While the temperature change caused by turbines mixing air is purely local, the benefit of reduced greenhouse gas emissions is felt globally — meaning that wind turbines in one location are purely beneficial everywhere else in the world.

(Source: arstechnica.com)

## Identifying High Potentials of Domestic Equipment Manufacturers in Tehran: IOPTC

Director of Iranian Oil Pipeline Telecommunication Company (IOPTC) for Engineering Affairs Mir-Shahandeh Hashemi revealed the measurement of high capabilities of domestic manufacturers in the field of manufacturing industrial turbines' parts and equipment in various sectors.

Speaking on the sidelines of Turbine Equipment Exhibition, held in the Operation Department of company in Tehran, pointed to the restriction of supplying parts of gas-operated turbines and reiterated, "it was decided to showcase the relevant parts to domestic manufacturers so as to embark

on providing this equipment."

Identifying new manufacturing companies, exchanging knowhow and establishing direct relationship between domestic manufacturers are of the salient characteristics that were taken into consideration, he maintained.

Afshin Aqapour Head of Warehouse Department of IOPTC was the next speaker who termed identification of able and competent manufacturers in manufacturing parts of industrial turbines and paying due attention to indigenizing that parts as 'important and significant'.

## Constructing DG Power Plants in Gilan Prov., Energy Ministry's Major Policies

Dr. Mohsen Bakhtiar Deputy Ministry of Energy for Planning and Economic Affairs in his visit to Gilan Province Regional Power Company was briefed on the problems facing the company, the Public Relations Dept. of the company reported.

For this purpose, an expert-level meeting was held in the presence of senior officials of Gilan Province Regional Power Company in line with resolving pertinent problems.

In his visit to the semi-finished projects of the company, he said, "construction operation of 20/63 substation in Sepidroud and Soleymandarab of Rasht has enjoyed good physical progress, so that completion of construction operation of these projects is of the important priorities."

"We will make our utmost effort to complete construction



operation of power projects in this province according to the scheduled time," he opined.

Turning to the electricity tariffs, he said, "any tariff hike is not anticipated in this regard but subscribers consuming high electricity rate than the leveled consumption pattern will be fined, he said, adding, "however, optimal consumption management pattern will be enforced, so that the ministry will use a price for balancing consumption of bad subscribers."

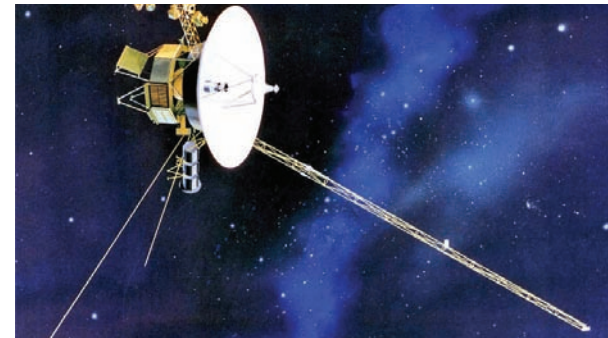
Turning to the determination of fuel for the Distributed Generation (DG) power plants, he said, "fuel price of DG power plants will be calculated similar to the price of fuel used in other power plants provided that they should be connected to the network."

## Voyager 2 shows first signs of entering interstellar space

After 40 years of zipping through the Solar System, Voyager 2 appears to be close to leaving the neighborhood. Currently at a distance of about 17.7 billion km (11 billion mi) from Earth, the probe's instruments have begun picking up radiation signals that suggest it is breaking out of the Sun's protective bubble, and will soon join its sibling in interstellar space.

Voyager 1 and 2 were launched in 1977 before conducting a grand tour of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune, where the probes collected some of the clearest photos and data of the planets for the time. But their job wasn't done yet — given their exit trajectory, astronomers figured they could help study the very boundaries of the solar system.

In a similar way to how the Earth's magnetic field creates a shield that protects it (and us) from the deadly radiation of space, so too does the Sun create its own bubble. Known as the heliosphere, this huge bubble surrounds the entire Solar System and is made up mostly of "solar wind" or plasma ejected from the Sun. Beyond that is the cold expanse of interstellar space, made up mostly of hydrogen and helium gases.



In 2012, Voyager 1 became the first human-made object to leave that bubble and go interstellar. Six years later and it now looks like Voyager 2 is about to follow suit, after journeying through the heliosheath (the very edge of the bubble) for the past decade.

NASA has now reported that the probe's onboard instruments have begun to detect more cosmic rays hitting the spacecraft. Since late August, Voyager 2's Cosmic Ray Subsystem has picked up a five percent increase in the rate of cosmic rays, while the Low-Energy Charged Particle instrument has registered a similar bump.

(Source: New Atlas)

## Astronomers discover sonic boom from powerful unseen explosion

A team of astronomers has detected the sonic boom from an immensely powerful cosmic explosion, even though the explosion itself was totally unseen. The titanic eruption, known as a Gamma Ray Burst (GRB), was generated by the collapse of a massive star in a galaxy nearly 300 million light-years from Earth.

Jets of fast-moving material are propelled outward through a spherical shell of ejected material from the initial explosion of a massive star and its collapse into a black hole.

A team of astronomers has detected the sonic boom from an immensely powerful cosmic explosion, even though the explosion itself was totally unseen.

For years, astronomers have been hunting all over the sky for an example of this strange phenomenon, known as an "orphan afterglow." At last, now they've finally found one.

The titanic eruption, known as a Gamma Ray Burst (GRB), was generated by the collapse of a massive star in a galaxy nearly 300 million light-years from Earth. In the process, the star collapsed into either a dense star called a magnetar, or more likely, a black hole.

The blast generates two jets of gamma rays which travel out from the collapsing star in opposite directions at nearly the speed of light. When these jets are pointed at Earth, astronomers see these focused outpourings of energy as intense flashes of gamma-rays.

But, GRB jets are very narrow, and because the jets from this particular collapsing star weren't pointed at us, the GRB itself was completely undetectable.

However the GRB's jets crashed into the gas that surrounded the original star, producing a huge shock wave akin to a sonic boom. This heated up the gas, producing a glow that radiated radio energy in all directions.

(Source: sciencealert.com)

## Scientists want to create 'Noah's Ark' for beneficial microbes

Scientists want to create a "Noah's Ark," a massive freezer that could protect and preserve good bacteria collected from all over the world.

Similar to the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, a bank storing plants to prepare for a doomsday scenario, scientists wanted to archive good bacteria that help regulate human health to save them from extinction.

Several previous studies have proven the role that the collection of good bacteria play to keep a person healthy and happy. Experts blame the sharp increase of cases of diabetes, asthma, allergies, and obesity to the decline of microbiota (bacteria, viruses, fungi, etc. that live in the human body).

To prevent a scenario where microbiota have perished, a team of scientists has proposed a "Noah's Ark" that will collect all these microscopic life from people around the world, including those who have remained untouched by the modern society.

"We're facing a growing global health crisis, which requires that we capture and preserve the diversity of the human microbiota while it still exists," explained Maria Gloria Dominguez-Bello, a professor at the Rutgers University-New Brunswick and lead author of the study. "Over a handful of generations, we have seen a staggering loss in microbial diversity linked with a worldwide spike in immune and other disorders."

People who live in cities have already lost a chunk of their microbiota diversity due to several factors including antibiotics and poor diet. To compare, the gut flora of Americans is only half as diverse as the gut flora of those who are living in isolated Amazonian villages.

Researchers are already comparing the severity of global microbial loss to climate change in terms of its importance to the future of the human race.

(Source: Tech Times)



Textbooks to show favorable role, face of women: official

TEHRAN — A research center for education and training started a research on “women’s favorable role and face in textbooks”, said Farahnaz Minaeepour, general director for women’s affairs in the Ministry of Education.

The research is made in order to optimize and highlight the true role of women and girls in textbooks, IRNA quoted the official as saying on October 4. The research is underway and the result will be announced in the next 6 months, she explained adding we do not have any percentage of women’s presence in textbooks. The result of this research helps to make changes in textbooks as it happened during the last 2 decades, she concluded.

Communication problem one of the most important issues in families: Ebtekar

TEHRAN — Communication problem is one of the most important complications in today’s families, Masoumeh Ebtekar, vice president for women’s and family affairs said on Tuesday.

International studies show that currently many changes have happened in families which are the result of digital age and vulnerabilities inside the families, Said the VP speaking at a meeting on families held in Khorramabad, Lorestan Province.

The social and scientific changes caused greater attentions to be paid on families, because families are the most sustainable foundation for supporting the next generation. In the family planning scheme, women play a considerable role in economy beside their greater role in the family, however, it is emphasized that men should burden more responsibilities in the economy of the family, Ebtekar noted. The economy of the families and employment are the most important considerations of the government, Ebtekar stated.

I was an ISIS sex slave. I tell my story because it is the best weapon I have: Nadia Murad

Nobel peace prize winner Nadia Murad describes her extraordinary journey from suffering at the hands of Islamic State to human rights campaigner

The slave market opened at night. We could hear the commotion downstairs where militants were registering and organizing, and when the first man entered the room, all the girls started screaming. It was like the scene of an explosion. We moaned as though wounded, doubling over and vomiting on the floor, but none of it stopped the militants. They paced around the room, staring at us, while we screamed and begged. They gravitated toward the most beautiful girls first, asking, “How old are you?” and examining their hair and mouths. “They are virgins, right?” they asked a guard, who nodded and said, “Of course!” like a shopkeeper taking pride in his product. Now the militants touched us anywhere they wanted, running their hands over our breasts and our legs, as if we were animals.

It was chaos while the militants paced the room, scanning girls and asking questions in Arabic or the Turkmen language. “Calm down!” militants kept shouting at us. “Be quiet!” But their orders only made us scream louder. If it was inevitable that a militant would take me, I wouldn’t make it easy for him. I howled and screamed, slapping away hands that reached out to grope me. Other girls were doing the same, curling their bodies into balls on the floor or throwing themselves across their sisters and friends to try to protect them.

While I lay there, another militant stopped in front of us. He was a high-ranking militant named Salwan who had come with another girl, another young Yazidi from Hardan, who he planned to drop off at the house while he shopped for her replacement. “Stand up,” he said. When I didn’t, he kicked me. “You! The girl with the pink jacket! I said, stand up!” His eyes were sunk deep into the flesh of his wide face, which seemed to be nearly entirely covered in hair. He didn’t look like a man – he looked like a monster.

Attacking Sinjar [in northern Iraq] and taking girls to use as sex slaves wasn’t a spontaneous decision made on the battlefield by a greedy soldier. Islamic State terrorist group (ISIS) planned it all: how they would come into our homes, what made a girl more or less valuable, which militants deserved a sabaya [sex slave] as incentive and which should pay.

They even discussed sabaya in their glossy propaganda magazine, Dabiq, in an attempt to draw new recruits. But ISIS is not as original as its members think it is. Rape has been used throughout history as a weapon of war. I never thought I would have something in common with women in Rwanda – before all this, I didn’t know that a country called Rwanda existed – and now I am linked to them in the worst possible way, as a victim of a war crime that is so hard to talk about that no one in the world was prosecuted for committing it until just 16 years before ISIS came to Sinjar. On the lower floor, a militant was registering the transactions in a book, writing down our names and the names of the militants who took us. I thought about being taken by Salwan, how strong he looked and how easily he could crush me with his bare hands. No matter what he did, and no matter how much I resisted, I would never be able to fight him off. He smelled of rotten eggs and cologne.

I was looking at the floor, at the feet and ankles of the militants and girls who walked by me. In the crowd, I saw a pair of men’s sandals and ankles that were skinny, almost womanly, and before I could think about what I was doing, I flung myself toward those feet. I started begging. “Please, take me with you,” I said. “Do whatever you want, I just can’t go with this giant.” I don’t know why the thin guy agreed, but taking one look at me, he turned to Salwan and said, “She’s mine.” Salwan didn’t argue. The skinny man was a judge in Mosul, and no one disobeyed him. I followed the thin man to the desk. “What’s your name?” he asked me. He spoke in a soft but unkind voice. “Nadia,” I said, and he turned to the registrar. The man seemed to recognize the militant right away and began recording our information. He said our names as he wrote them down – “Nadia, Hajji Salman” – and when he spoke the name of my captor, I thought I heard his voice waver a bit, as if he were scared, and I wondered if I had made a huge mistake.

Nadia Murad eventually escaped her ISIS captors. She was smuggled out of Iraq and in early 2015 went as a refugee to Germany. Later that year she began to campaign to raise awareness of human trafficking.

In November 2015, a year and three months after ISIS came to [my home town] Kocho, I left Germany for Switzerland to speak to a UN forum on minority issues. It was the first time I would tell my story in front of a large audience. I wanted to talk about everything – the children who died of dehydration fleeing ISIS, the families still stranded on the mountain, the thousands of women and children who remained in captivity, and what my brothers saw at the site of the massacre. I was only one of hundreds of thousands of Yazidi victims. My community was scattered, living as refugees inside and outside of Iraq, and Kocho was still occupied by ISIS. There was so much the world needed to hear about what was happening to Yazidis. I wanted to tell them that so much more needed to be done. We needed to establish a safe zone for religious minorities in Iraq; to prosecute ISIS – from the leaders down to the citizens who had supported their atrocities – for genocide and crimes against humanity; and to liberate all of Sinjar. I would have to tell the audience about Salman and the times he raped me and all the abuse I witnessed. Deciding to be honest was one of the hardest decisions I have ever made, and also the most important.

I shook as I read my speech. As calmly as I could, I talked about how Kocho had been taken over and girls like me had been taken as sabaya. I told them about how I had been raped and beaten repeatedly and how I eventually escaped. I told them about my brothers who had been killed. It never gets easier to tell your story. Each time you speak it, you relive it. When I tell someone about the checkpoint where the men raped me, or the feeling of Hajji Salman’s whip across the blanket as I lay under it, or the darkening Mosul sky while I searched the neighborhood for some sign of help, I am transported back to those moments and all their terror. Other Yazidis are pulled back into these memories, too.

My story, told honestly and matter-of-factly, is the best weapon I have against terrorism, and I plan on using it until those terrorists are put on trial. There is still so much that needs to be done. World leaders and particularly Muslim religious leaders need to stand up and protect the oppressed.



Nadia Murad: ‘Deciding to be honest was one of the hardest decisions I have ever made, and also the most important.’

I gave my brief address. When I finished telling my story, I continued to talk. I told them I wasn’t raised to give speeches. I told them that every Yazidi wants ISIS prosecuted for genocide, and that it was in their power to help protect vulnerable people all over the world. I told them that I wanted to look the men who raped me in the eye and see them brought to justice. More than anything else, I said, I want to be the last girl in the world with a story like mine.

Nadia Murad was abducted with other Yazidi women in August 2014 when their home village of Kocho in Sinjar, northern Iraq, was attacked by ISIS. Captured alongside her sisters, she lost six brothers and her mother. She was awarded the 2018 Nobel peace prize jointly with Congolese gynaecologist Denis Mukwege. This is an extract from her autobiography, The Last Girl: My Story of Captivity and My Fight against the Islamic State terrorist group, published by Virago.

(Source: The Guardian)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - Fourth Time Islamic Republic Of Iran

Gharesoo – Zaringol Irrigation and Drainage Network Project

Project Management Unite (PMU)

Mode of Financing: Istisna’a

Financing No. IRN 00108

The Islamic Republic of Iran has received financing in the amount of Euro 92.2 million from Islamic Development Bank towards the cost of the Gharesoo – Zaringol Irrigation and Drainage Network Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing for payment to the Project Management Unite (PMU) staffs.

Golestan Regional Water Company (GRWC) as an executing agency for constitution of PMU invites the following individuals for co-operation:

- (1) PMU Manager- The PMU Manager shall have at least a B.Sc. degree in engineering, in Civil or similar fields, with at least 20 years of experience in the field of similar project execution i.e, Dams, Irrigation and Drainage schemes, contract negotiation, (one person)
- (2) Contract Expert/ Procurement Specialist- A bachelor degree in Engineering/ economics/ business administration, accounting degree in public procurement/ or equivalent. At least 10 years of relevant experience in procurement matters, contract management, and project/construction management Experienced in international procurement procedures and principles .(one person)
- (3) Civil Engineer/ or Irrigation and Drainage Engineer/ Geotechnical - A bachelor degree in civil engineering or irrigation-network, Geotechnical. A minimum of 8 years of experience both in design and construction site with extensive experience in irrigation and building .(one person)
- (4) Secretary – A bachelor degree with a 5 years of experience is required. (one person)
- The minimum required qualification
- Having at least the required number of years of experience (as mentioned above for each respective position of similar experience in IDB or WB Projects.
- Fully familiar with IDB or WB Guidelines for items 1,2 &3
- Fluent in verbal and written English and Persian language.

The envelops should be clearly marked “Request for co-operation for the Gharesoo – Zaringol Irrigation and Drainage Network project PMU”.

Thereafter, Iranian interested individual consultant having the following minimum qualification are invited to submit their documents latest by 01 November 2018 (14:00 PM) to the sectorial of GRWC. These documents include: Academic back ground, experience and any other information indicating they are qualified to perform the services.

The applications shall be submitted the pdf format in Farsi and English to the email address given below indicating the title of position to be applied for.

The selection will of the competent individual will be carried out in accordance with the producer set out in the guidelines for the use of consultant under Islamic Development Bank financing May 2012

- Golestan Regional Water Company (GRWC)
- Address: Golestan regional water co, first Aghghalla road, Gorgan, Iran, postal code: 4913933165
- Phone & Fax: (+98)1732627885
- Website: gsrw.ir
- Email: grwc.idb@gmail.com

The documents for application and further information on TOR can be obtained from, please contact Pars Peyab Consulting Engineers(Ms. Hassanzadeh) at No. 14, 6th west Andisheh (Shahid Goodarzi) Street, Shahid Beheshti Street, Tehran, Iran. From 8:00 am to 14:00 pm. Tel: +98-88451067(131).

درخواست ابراز علاقمندی – نوبت چهارم

جمهوری اسلامی ایران

پروژه شبکه آبیاری و زهکشی قره‌سو- زرین‌گل

واحد مدیریت پروژه (PMU)

روش تأمین اعتبار: استصناع

شماره تأمین مالی: IRN00108

جمهوری اسلامی ایران اعتباری به میزان ۹۲/۲ میلیون یورو جهت اجرای پروژه شبکه آبیاری و زهکشی قره‌سو- زرین‌گل از بانک توسعه

اسلامی دریافت نموده و در نظر دارد بخشی از مبلغ وام، برای پرداخت به کارکنان واحد مدیریت پروژه (PMU) هزینه شود:

شرکت آب منطقه‌ای گلستان به عنوان مجری پروژه برای تشکیل واحد مدیریت پروژه (PMU) از افراد ذیل دعوت به همکاری می‌نماید:

- (۱) مدیر واحد مدیریت پروژه: داشتن حداقل مدرک لیسانس مهندسی در رشته عمران یا مشابه با حداقل ۲۰ سال سابقه کار در اجرای پروژه‌های مشابه مثل سدسازی، شبکه آبیاری و زهکشی، مذاکرات قراردادی یا نظایر آن (یک نفر).
- (۲) کارشناس قرارداد/ متخصص تدارکات: داشتن حداقل مدرک لیسانس در مهندسی/ اقتصاد/ مدیریت کسب و کار/ حسابداری با حداقل ۱۰ سال تجربه مشابه در تدارکات، مدیریت قرارداد، مدیریت ساخت و داشتن تجربه در روش و اصول تدارکات بین‌المللی (یک نفر).
- (۳) مهندس عمران/ مهندس آبیاری و زهکشی/ ژئوتکنیک: داشتن حداقل مدرک لیسانس در مهندسی عمران یا آبیاری و یا ژئوتکنیک با حداقل ۸ سال تجربه در طراحی و ساخت یا تجربه گسترده در آبیاری و ساختمان (یک نفر).
- (۴) منشی: داشتن حداقل مدرک لیسانس با ۵ سال تجربه مورد نیاز (یک نفر).

حداقل شرایط مورد نیاز:

- داشتن حداقل تجربه مورد نیاز (همان‌طور که برای هر سمت مربوطه در بالا ذکر شد) در پروژه‌های بانک توسعه اسلامی یا بانک جهانی.
- آشنایی کامل به دستورالعمل‌های بانک توسعه اسلامی و یا بانک جهانی در مورد آیت‌های ۱ و ۲ و ۳.
- تسلط به زبان انگلیسی و فارسی.
- درج عبارت "درخواست همکاری برای واحد مدیریت پروژه شبکه آبیاری و زهکشی قره‌سو- زرین‌گل" با ذکر عنوان سمت درخواستی روی پاکت ضروری می‌باشد.

لذا از مشاورین حقیقی ایرانی علاقمند که دارای حداقل شرایط فوق باشند دعوت می‌شود تا مدارک خود شامل سوابق تحصیلی، تجارب کاری و اطلاعات مرتبط دیگری که نشان‌دهنده توانایی فرد در انجام خدمات محوله باشد را حداکثر تا ساعت ۱۴:۰۰ مورخ ۱۰ آبان ۱۳۹۷ تحویل دبیرخانه شرکت آب منطقه‌ای گلستان نمایند.

انتخاب افراد ذیصلاح مطابق دستورالعمل بانک توسعه اسلامی برای انتخاب مشاوران (نسخه می ۲۰۱۲) انجام خواهد شد.

ارسال مدارک در فرمت pdf به فارسی و انگلیسی به آدرس پست الکترونیکی ذیل نیز الزامی می‌باشد.

- شرکت آب منطقه‌ای گلستان
- نشانی: گلستان، گرگان، ابتدای جاده آق‌قلا، شرکت آب منطقه‌ای گلستان، کد پستی: ۴۹۱۳۹۳۳۱۶۵
- تلفن و نمابر: ۰۱۷۳۲۶۲۷۸۸۵
- سایت الکترونیکی: gsrw.ir
- پست الکترونیکی: grwc.idb@gmail.com

همچنین جهت دریافت اسناد و مدارک و اطلاعات بیشتر در باره شرح خدمات جهت شرکت در EOI به شرکت مهندسین مشاور پارس‌پیاب به نشانی تهران، خیابان شهید بهشتی، خیابان اندیشه ششم غربی (شهید گودرزی)، ش‌ماره ۱۴ بین ساعات ۸:۰۰ الی ۱۴:۰۰ مراجعه فرمایید و یا با شماره تلفن ۸۸۴۵۱۰۶۸ داخلی ۱۳۱ خانم مهندس حسن‌زاده تماس حاصل نمایند.



# Syrian president: Idlib province will finally return to government control

By staff & agencies

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad says the northwestern province of Idlib will finally return to government control along with other territories, which are still in the hands of foreign-backed militants.

"The position of the Syrian state is clear. This province and other Syrian territories remaining under the control of terrorists will return to the Syrian state [control]," Assad said, adding that the deal over Idlib was concluded as a temporary measure to prevent bloodshed there.

The Syrian leader made the remarks in a meeting of the central committee of the ruling al-Baath Arab Socialist Party in the capital Damascus on Sunday, saying that all the fuss about Idlib "stems from the fact that it is a fateful thing for them, because the Syrians' victory in it will lead to the failure of their plans."

The deal, agreed last month between Turkey and Syria's close ally, Russia, provides for the establishment of a u-shaped buffer zone around Idlib that would be free of both terrorists and heavy weapons.

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. All militants in the demilitarized zone, which surrounds Idlib and also parts of the adjacent provinces of Aleppo and Hama, must pull out heavy arms by Wednesday, and Takfiri groups must withdraw by October 15.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Assad stressed that Syria's enemies would ramp up their attempts to drain the country militarily, politically, economically and socially as Damascus progresses towards victory, predicting that this would pose internal challenges, which are no less serious than war.

Syria is heading towards the rehabilitation of "some segments, which incubated chaos and terrorism, so that these segments will not be a loophole through which Syria will be targeted in the future," the Syrian president added.

It is estimated that between 10,000 and 15,000 members of different factions of armed groups, which Syria, Russia and Turkey consider terrorists, are active in the volatile province, which is home to around three million inhabitants.



Some 60 percent of the Idlib province is said to be controlled by members of the so-called Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (Organization for the Liberation of the Levant/Levant Liberation Committee/Tahrir al-Sham/HTS/al-Qaeda in Syria), Takfiri terrorist group, which is a coalition of different factions of terrorist outfits, largely composed of Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, formerly known as al-Nusra Front (Jabhat al-Nusra).

Russia believes that a buffer zone would help stop attacks from Idlib-based militants on Syrian army positions and Russia's military bases in the flashpoint region.

## ■ Militants complete withdrawal of heavy weapons from Idlib buffer zone

Foreign-sponsored militants have completed the withdrawal of heavy weapons from a planned buffer zone in Syria's northwestern province of Idlib, conforming to a deal brokered by Russia and Turkey that has so far held off a government offensive on the last major terrorist stronghold in Syria.

Turkey's official Anadolu news agency reported that Turkish-backed gunmen affiliated with the so-called Free Syrian Army (FSA) and members of other militant outfits pulled all their heavy military hardware, including rocket launchers, mortars and medium-range missiles, from the frontline in Idlib on Monday.

The report came only hours after Russia's

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Vershinin told Sputnik news agency in an interview that Moscow and Ankara had determined the borders of the demilitarized zone in Idlib.

"Very good contacts, cooperation, ties have been established between the military of Turkey and Russia. They have already met more than once after signing the document," Vershinin said.

## ■ Militants have not withdrawn weapons from north Syria: observatory

However, a pro-opposition monitoring group says Turkey-backed militants have not withdrawn their heavy weapons from the buffer zone in northern Syria as they claim and are instead hiding their arms in the north of Latakia.

The so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) said it has not detected any signs of militant groups moving out from the demilitarized region according to a deal brokered by Russia and Turkey. It said that 70% of the area is still under the control of the militants.

Britain-based group said the militants were digging tunnels to hide their heavy weapons inside the zone in the northern countryside of Latakia.

According to the report, Ahrar al-Sham (Harakat Ahrar al-Sham al-Islamiyya/Islamic Movement of the Free Men of the Levant), Faylaq al-Sham and the Coastal Regiments 1 and 2, formed with Turkish backing in

May, have not retreated from the Latakia countryside and have only hid their arms in tunnels.

The observatory said the militants had not withdrawn from the buffer zone and were even reinforcing their positions in the region, especially in northern Latakia.

## ■ Turkish-backed militants to withdraw heavy weapons from Idlib buffer zone

Meantime, Turkish-backed militants say they expect to finish withdrawing heavy weapons from a planned buffer zone in Syria's northwestern province of Idlib within days, conforming to a deal brokered by Russia and Turkey that has so far held off a government offensive on the last major terrorist stronghold in Syria.

Naci Mustafa, a spokesman for the National Front for the Liberation of Syria affiliated with the so-called Free Syria Army, said the militant groups had begun removing heavy weapons from the frontlines in a bid for a 15 to 20-kilometer (9-12 mile) demilitarized zone to be set up.

Mustafa said the light weapons would remain and that his comrades would continue digging ditches as a measure against Syrian army advances.

"The removal of heavy weapons is being carried out with the coordination of Turkish authorities," he said.

"According to the set deadline, the withdrawal of heavy weapons will end on October 10. The operation is ongoing," an unnamed NLF commander said.

"We are reinforcing our positions and are ready to face any confrontation," he added.

The NLF is the main Turkish-backed militant alliance in the Idlib region, but the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham terrorist group holds a large part of the province and the zone.

HTS is a coalition of different factions of terror outfits, largely composed of the Jabhat Fateh al-Sham Takfiri terrorist group.

The group, which is said to be in control of some 60 percent of Idlib province, has yet to announce its stance on the buffer zone deal.

Syria has been gripped by foreign-backed militancy since March 2011. The Syrian government says the Israeli regime and its Western and regional allies are aiding Takfiri terrorist groups wreaking havoc in the country.

## Foreign powers obstructing Lebanon government formation: Legislator

The head of the parliamentary bloc of the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement has leveled strident criticism at foreign countries, primarily Saudi Arabia, over hindering the formation of a new government in the Arab country.



"Those who hinder the formation of our government are the same who previously held our prime minister captive," Mohammad Raad said during a ceremony in Lebanon's southern city of Nabatieh on Monday.

Saad Hariri stunned Lebanon and the world on November 4, 2017 by announcing his resignation in a live television broadcast from Saudi Arabia. He accused Iran and Hezbollah of sowing strife in the Arab world, an allegation rejected by both sides.

Senior sources close to Hariri and top Lebanese officials said Riyadh had coerced the Lebanese premier into stepping down and put him under house arrest.

Lebanese President Michel Aoun stressed back then that the prime minister was being detained in Saudi Arabia against his will.

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, Hezbollah's Secretary General, also noted that Saudi authorities had clearly and openly declared a war on Lebanon by holding Prime Minister Hariri hostage and forcing him to quit.

Raad added, "The time has come to shout and say that a government must be formed ... by the will of the nation's people and the will of political forces."

"How can we secure our sovereignty if we can't form our own government unless we can lift the veto of those disrupting the formation a new government from abroad?"

"Lebanese people are involved in the formation of government. They must block all obstacles ... [including] those obstructing the formation from abroad," he noted.

Lebanon's first parliamentary vote in nine years was held on May 6, with over 500 candidates vying for seats. Turnout was 49.2 percent, according to officials.

According to official results, Hezbollah and its political allies secured over half the seats.

Hezbollah as well as groups and individuals affiliated to it won at least 67 seats in Lebanon's parliament, according to the results cited by politicians and campaigns and reported in Lebanese media.

Hezbollah's allies include the Amal Movement led by Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri and the Christian Free Patriotic Movement founded by President Michel Aoun.

(Source: Daily Star)

## Iran's saffron requires a new target market: CORC head

The Head of Central Organization for Rural Cooperatives of Iran (CORC) has called for a new international market for Iran's saffron.

Saffron is a "healthy" and "profitable" spice dated back to 210 years ago in Iran; Hossein Shirzad has said, according to a report published on corc.ir on Saturday.



Iran is recognized as the biggest producer of saffron with 85% of the global share, Shirzad, who is also a deputy minister, noted calling for enhancement of the spice export.

The head of CORC named "integrated planning" and "infrastructure development", as the most important factors in the spice export.

One of the important tasks of the CORC is to strengthen and utilize the capacity of agricultural sector in the country, Shirzad stated.

Last year, the Central Rural Cooperative Organization of Iran, on behalf of the Ministry of Agricultural Jihad, put forward a policy to support farmers in the provinces of Razavi Khorasan and South Khorasan and purchased 67 tons of various types of saffron from them.

According to Shirzad, over 65 tons of saffron was sold in the stock market and a significant amount was exported, as the government has stepped in to modify the target market last year.

Shirzad covered the joint and long-term plan of the CORC and Ministry of Agriculture Jihad in the support of saffron farmers and spice export.

He then stated that development of saffron market in the stock exchange market is the prerequisite to the launch of an international stock exchange market for saffron, appreciated mostly by saffron traders.

Iran's stock exchange can act as a unique resource of saffron pricing as it will clarify the price and quality for saffron in Iran, and reward the country with investors, the biggest investment ever, Shirzad concluded.

## Jair Bolsonaro: Far-right candidate wins first round of Brazil election

A far-right candidate, Jair Bolsonaro, has won the first round of Brazil's presidential election.

He will face the left-wing Workers' Party candidate, Fernando Haddad, in the second round on 28 October after he failed to win the 50% of valid votes needed to win outright.

With almost all the votes counted, Mr Bolsonaro had 46% and Mr Haddad 29%.

Opinion polls conducted before the election predicted that in a second round the two candidates would be tied.

Bolsonaro's once insignificant Social Liberal Party (PSL) is poised to become the largest force in Congress following legislative elections held alongside the presidential vote, in what analysts have described as a seismic shift in Brazilian politics.

The politician and the PSL have ridden a wave of rising anger at the Workers' Party, which their supporters blame for a prolonged recession, rising violent crime and widespread corruption in South America's largest economy.

In his victory speech, broadcast live on Facebook and uploaded on to Twitter, he said Brazilians could take the path of "prosperity, liberty, family, on God's side" or the path of Venezuela.

Brazil's socialist-led neighbour is mired in a deep economic and political crisis which has driven more than two million people to leave. Across Latin America this has become a popular campaign strategy: don't vote for the left or you will end up like Venezuela.

(Source: BBC)



## Britain is practicing cyber-attacks that could black out Moscow

The British government has been practicing large-scale cyber-attacks that could cause black outs across Russia, British officials say, amid an ongoing war of words between the two sides over a range of foreign policy issues.

London has taken an aggressive line with Moscow over the past months, accusing it of increased submarine activity near British waters, poisoning a former Russian double-agent and more importantly, carrying out regular hacking attacks against British infrastructure.

The Sunday Times first broke the news of the secret drills, citing unnamed officials familiar with the matter.

"If they sank our aircraft carrier with a nuclear-tipped torpedo, what is our response? There's nothing between sinking their submarine and dropping a nuclear weapon on northern Kamchatka," one official said.

"This is why cyber is so important; you can go on the offensive and turn off the lights in Moscow to tell them that they are not doing the right things," the official added.

Last week, British officials accused Moscow of carrying out on the international chemical weapons watchdog, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

London alleged that the attempts to hack the organization showed that Russia was behind the March attack in Salisbury, during which ex-spy Sergey Skripal and his daughter were targeted by Russian nerve agent Novichok.

British officials also charged that the hacking attack was aimed at derailing a pending analysis of chemical weapons attacks in Syria.

The United States and more recently the Netherlands have also accused the Kremlin of orchestrating similar cyber-attacks.

According to the report, British military planners were also drawing up plans to use "irregular forces" in order to counter possible Russian moves against the NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) military alliance in the Baltic Region as well as other parts of the world.

Russia has time and again denied the Western accusations, dismissing them as "Russophobic hysteria."

## ■ Russia to summon Dutch envoy over cyber-attack claims

Elsewhere, Russia's Foreign Ministry is reportedly set to summon the Dutch ambassador to Moscow in connection with the Netherlands' accusations of an attempted cyber-attack by Russian nationals.

"Due to the campaign of disinformation carried out in The Hague the Dutch ambassador will be summoned to the Foreign Ministry on Monday," Russian media cited a source as saying.

The Netherlands announced on Thursday it had expelled four "agents" with the Russian military intelligence agency (GRU/Main Directorate of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation/GU/Main Intelligence Directorate/Glavnoye razvedyvatel'noye upravleniye) back in April for an attempt to hack into the headquarters of the Hague-based Organization for the

Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

The suspected GRU agents were traveling in the Netherlands on Russian diplomatic passports.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov also commented on the issue on Monday, saying documents presented by the Netherlands on the matter were not proof of Moscow's involvement.

Russia has denounced the Netherlands for accusing Moscow of attempting a cyber-attack on OPCW.

At the time of the alleged cyber-attack attempt, the OPCW had been investigating an incident related to a former Russian spy -- Sergei Skripal, and his daughter -- who were poisoned in the English town of Salisbury.

Moscow last summoned the Dutch ambassador Renee Jones-Bos along with the Swiss ambassador in September over what Moscow said were "unsubstantiated accusations" that Russian spies had attempted to hack Swiss targets.

(Source: agencies)

## Quebecers protest against racist measures proposed by new provincial government

Thousands of people have staged an anti-racism rally in the Canadian city of Montreal to denounce the policies proposed by the newly-elected provincial government, which the protesters say would target immigrants and religious minorities in Quebec Province.

Some 50 community groups, including members of the First Nations Indigenous community and anti-capitalist activists, marched through the city's downtown on Sunday.

Local media put the number of protesters at around 3,000.

The protesters voiced opposition to the proposal of right-wing Premier-designate Francois Legault, who seeks a law banning public servants in positions of authority from wearing religious symbols such as hijab, Jewish kippahs and Sikh turbans.

Legault's Coalition Avenir Quebec (CAQ) won 74 of Quebec's 125 seats in last week's election.

Shortly after the election win, the premier-elect vowed to press ahead with his plans, which would also see the CAQ government cut immigration by 20 percent and expose the immigrants to mandatory "Quebec values" and French language tests.

Failing the tests could leave the immigrants open to deportation.

A large number of Muslim families were among the demonstrators protesting to the anti-diversity measures set forth by Legault.

"Stop telling us to take off our clothes," read a sign that was accompanied by a hand-drawn picture of a woman with her head covered.

Jewish activists present at the event also said the new government's proposed plans would create division in Quebec's society.

"We are concerned about the CAQ election because they have been trying to divide Quebecers into real Quebecers and immigrants," said Scott Weinstein of the Independent Jewish Voices during the demonstration.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has cautioned the new Quebec premier against the policies he plans to pursue.

Trudeau has advised Legault to pay "careful attention" to anything that could remove or fail to defend "the fundamental rights of Canadians."

(Source: Press TV)



## Eriksen stomach injury may be ‘chronic’

Tottenham midfielder Christian Eriksen may have a “chronic” stomach injury, according to Denmark coach Age Hareide.

The 26-year-old featured in Spurs’ first six league matches, but has not played since 22 September.

Eriksen, given a chance to prove his fitness for Denmark’s forthcoming matches, is unlikely to feature against the Republic of Ireland on 13 October.

“Such an injury can be chronic, and it is true that Tottenham also fears that,” Hareide told Denmark’s Canal 9.

“It is doubtful whether we will lure him to Dublin and make him play. I do not think that Tottenham is particularly interested in that.”

Asked whether Eriksen would be missing for weeks or months, he added: “I do not really know. You should ask our doctor.”

Following the Uefa Nations League match against the Republic of Ireland, the Danes host Austria on 16 October.

(Source: BBC)

## Gabriel Jesus ‘not happy’ at Pep Guardiola penalty decision

Manchester City’s Gabriel Jesus says he was disappointed not to take his side’s late penalty in the goalless Premier League draw at Liverpool on Sunday.

The visitors were awarded a spot-kick in the 85th minute but Riyad Mahrez’s effort sailed high over the bar.

City forward Jesus had wanted to take responsibility but manager Pep Guardiola instructed Mahrez to step up.

“I would like to have taken it, I was confident, so I was not happy that they did not allow me,” Jesus said.

Mahrez has now failed to score five of his last eight Premier League penalties, while Jesus has missed two of his last three for City. Regular penalty taker Sergio Aguero was off the pitch at the time.

Jesus, who has scored two goals this season, revealed that Guardiola apologised to him after the game.

“Pep spoke with me. This is part of football, sometimes these things happen. I will support Riyad if the manager chooses him again,” he said.

Mahrez, who has three goals since joining from Leicester City in the summer, put a brave face on his miss.

“It is part of football, you have to go forward and stay strong. Sometimes you score, sometimes you miss,” the Algerian said.

“We are not just a team that wants to play and leaves big spaces, but we are a team who want to be strong defensively. It’s a good draw and we deserved to win.”

The draw leaves City top of the Premier League on 20 points, level with Liverpool and Chelsea.

(Source: Goal)

## Arsenal sign new kit deal with Adidas

Arsenal have signed a new kit deal with German sportswear firm Adidas starting in July, 2019, the Premier League club said on Monday.

Adidas will take over from Puma, whose five-year contract with the north London club expires at the end of the season.

British media reported the new deal is worth 300 million pounds over five years until 2024.

A 60 million-pound per season deal would put Arsenal third in the most lucrative kit deals in football, behind Barcelona’s contract with American company Nike and Manchester United’s with Adidas which are worth 140 million and 75 million pounds-a-year respectively.

It signals the end of Arsenal’s five-year association with Puma which came after two decades with Nike.

Arsenal last wore Adidas’s three stripes between 1986 and 1994 during which they lifted two top-flight league titles.

British media reported that Puma is set to become the kit supplier for Premier League champions Manchester City in a deal worth 50 million pounds a year from the 2019-20 season.

(Source: Reuters)

## Thai tennis umpires banned for life

Three Thai chair umpires have received life bans after being found guilty of match-fixing and betting offences.

Anucha Tongplew, Apisit Promchai and Chitchai Srililai admitted to betting on tennis matches at ITF Futures tournaments held in 2017, at which they were chair umpires.

The trio also manipulated scores inputted into the official scoring system, for betting purposes.

All three have also been banned from attending professional tennis events.

The investigation was carried out by the Tennis Integrity Unit which, tasked by the major governing bodies, looks into corruption in tennis.

(Source: BBC)

## De Rossi suffers foot fracture

Roma midfielder Daniele De Rossi suffered a foot fracture during his side’s 2-0 win at Empoli on Saturday.

De Rossi played the entirety of Roma’s trip to Empoli but showed signs of discomfort early in the second half.

ANSA reports the midfielder underwent tests on Monday, which showed ‘a fracture to the fifth proximal phalanx in his left foot’.

Aleksandar Kolarov picked up a similar problem before the Derby della Capitale against Lazio on September 29, although he faced the Aquile and Viktoria Plzen, before sitting out at the weekend.

(Source: Football Italia)

# Three more claims against Cristiano Ronaldo are probed

Lawyers are probing three more claims against Cristiano Ronaldo after a model accused the star of raping her in a hotel room in 2009, it has emerged.

One woman claims she was raped after a party, one says she was ‘hurt by Ronaldo’ and another says she signed a non-disclosure agreement with the footballer in 2009, according to a lawyer.

Other than the woman who claims she was raped, it is not clear if the allegations relate to sexual misconduct.

The attorney representing former model Kathryn Mayorga, whose rape allegations were published last week, said he heard of claims from the three other women after one of them phoned him.

Talking about the woman who claims she was raped, the lawyer, Leslie Stovall, said: ‘I have had a call from a woman who claims to have had a similar experience [to Mayorga].’

He said he is probing the three other claims and told The Sun: ‘I am following up to verify this information.’

Mr Stovall declined to name the American woman, but said he would hand her details to Las Vegas police who have reopened the 2009 case of alleged rape brought by Ms Mayorga. It comes as more details of Ms Mayorga’s £287,000 non-disclosure agreement are revealed by German magazine Der Spiegel. The document was signed in 2010 and stated that she would receive the money in seven days. It also said that if she contracted an STD, Ronaldo would take a test to rule him out or confirm him as the source.

The agreement also quoted what it claimed was the victim’s police report, saying that she, crying, only named Ronaldo as a ‘public figure’ and an ‘athlete’ because she was scared.

Juventus star Ronaldo, 33, who previously played for Manchester United and Real Madrid, has strenuously denied all allegations of rape and sexual assault.

He last week described Ms Mayorga’s accusation as ‘fake news’, adding in a tweet: ‘Rape is an abominable crime that goes against everything that I am and believe in.’

The allegations threaten a string of lucrative sponsorship and marketing deals – and Ronaldo’s freedom.

Nike, with whom he has a reported \$1 billion lifetime deal, last week said it was ‘deeply concerned’. The sportswear giant’s shares fell when the rape allegation became public.

Ms Mayorga, 34, met the footballer in a nightclub in



June 2009. She claims he invited her to his penthouse suite at the Palms Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas and raped her.

She reported the attack to police, but the investigation was abandoned and Ms Mayorga claims she reached a £287,000 settlement with Ronaldo in 2010 in exchange for her silence.

Court papers obtained by The Mail on Sunday detail how lawyers for Ms Mayorga are seeking to overturn the settlement because they claim she was ‘bullied’ into signing it.

The documents alleged that in a leaked questionnaire completed by Ronaldo and sent to his lawyers, he admits to the assault, saying: ‘She said ‘no’ and ‘stop’ several times.’

Police in Las Vegas have admitted that some evidence,

including the dress and underwear worn by Ms Mayorga on the night of the alleged rape, have gone missing. Mr Stovall also revealed that he is sending material and documents allegedly incriminating Ronaldo to Robert Buckland, the Solicitor General, and to the Metropolitan Police.

Two women claimed they were raped by Ronaldo and a friend in the penthouse of London’s Sanderson hotel in 2005, but police abandoned the investigation when one of the women recanted her story.

Ronaldo also denies those claims, but a number of MPs and women’s rights activists want police to reopen that inquiry.

(Source: Daily Mail)

## Ex-Chelsea and England captain Terry hangs up his boots



Former Chelsea and England captain John Terry has decided to call time on his playing career after 23 years in the game.

The central defender has been without a club since leaving Championship (second-tier) side Aston Villa following their playoff defeat by Fulham at Wembley Stadium last season.

“After 23 incredible years as a footballer, I have decided now is the right time for me to retire from playing,” Terry, 37, wrote on his Instagram account on Sunday.

He has been linked by British media with a managerial role at Villa Park as the number two to former Arsenal and France forward Thierry Henry following the sacking of Steve Bruce on Wednesday, with Villa now struggling in 15th place.

Terry, a no-nonsense defender who won 78 England caps, left Chelsea in 2017 after 19 seasons at the west London club where he won 17 trophies, including five Premier League titles, five FA Cup triumphs and three League Cup trophies.

Terry also won both a Champions League and Europa League winners’ medal although he did not appear in either final, having been suspended for the 2012 European Cup triumph and injured for the Europa League success the following year.

After he announced his retirement, Chelsea wrote on Twitter: “Twenty-two

years as a Blue. Fifteen major trophies. One of the finest careers of any Englishman in the history of the game. Enjoy your retirement, JT.”

■ **Captain Terry**

Terry joined Chelsea in 1995 and made his England debut in June 2003, with Jose Mourinho making him captain at Stamford Bridge when he took over as manager in 2004. Terry captained his country 34 times after first taking the armband in 2005.

“As a 14-year-old, I made my best and biggest decision: to sign for Chelsea Football Club,” he added in his Instagram post.

“Words will never be enough to show how much everyone at the club means to me, in particular the fans.”

Terry was reluctant to leave Chelsea but took up the challenge of trying to lead former European champions Villa back to the top flight, just missing out in the Wembley playoff.

“I also want to say a huge thank you to Aston Villa for giving me the opportunity to play at such a big club and captain it throughout the 2017/18 season,” he added on Sunday.

“It was a privilege to represent such a renowned football club with great fans.

“I look forward to the next chapter in my life and the challenges ahead.”

(Source: Reuters)

## Hamilton wishes ‘psychological war’ with Ferrari had gone down to the wire



Lewis Hamilton hoped this year’s title fight would go down to the final race of the season after relishing his head-to-head battle with Sebastian Vettel in 2018.

Hamilton took a fourth consecutive victory at last weekend’s Japanese Grand Prix and has all but put the championship beyond Vettel’s reach, with the British driver able to claim the title if he leads a Mercedes one-two at the U.S. Grand Prix later this month.

Hamilton’s championship lead has been significantly bolstered at the last three races after Mercedes started to outperform Ferrari from the Singapore Grand Prix onward.

Asked if he felt he could claim credit for “breaking” Ferrari, Hamilton said it has been a team effort: “I think together we can claim credit for applying the pressure, and ultimately maybe that’s what happens in head-to-head battles with top competitors -- eventually someone has to, even though they’re still performing great, one of them can’t always be performing the same.

“It’s the psychological battle, war, that we’re in. I think it’s collectively done from everyone. Everyone’s putting in 100 per cent, and everyone’s delivered time and time again. I’ve been grateful to have also delivered when the team have delivered.”

Although Hamilton has held a champi-

onship lead of more than 25 points since the German Grand Prix in July, Ferrari’s performances around the summer break suggested the title fight was far from over.

Up until the Singapore Grand Prix in September, Ferrari appeared to have the quicker car, and Hamilton took victories against the odds at Hockenheim, the Hungaroring and Monza.

He said those victories had been particularly satisfying and that he is disappointed that the title battle will not go down to the final race in Abu Dhabi next month.

“When we were having the race like Monza -- for me, I loved that race. I would’ve been happy to have had that every race following that. I honestly thought that we were going to have that. I thought that was how it was going to be, being that they were so strong at the previous two races. But they just lost a lot of performance, and then it’s been obviously a little bit difficult for them. Of course, I would love to have the race right to the end.

“Every single race, I want battles like Monza and like the other ones that have been like that. Those are the races that I love, and I would welcome them more and more, but unfortunately it just isn’t the case.”

(Source: ESPN)

## Boys rescued from Thai cave play friendly at World Cup stadium



The 12 Thai boys from the “Wild Boars” soccer team who were rescued after being trapped in a flooded cave network in northern Thailand played a friendly match on Sunday at Argentina’s Monumental Stadium, which hosted the 1978 World Cup final.

The boys, aged between 11 and 16, arrived at Buenos Aires on Friday after being invited by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to attend the 2018 Youth Olympic Games, which are taking place from October 6 to 18.

The team was accompanied by the coach who also became trapped in the Tham Luang caves for more than two weeks in June this year. Wearing an all purple kit, the “Wild Boars” played leading Argentine club River Plate’s Argentina’s Under-13 team in a game that finished 3-3.

As the team entered the pitch, they were applauded and given a guard of honor. “The boys are very pleased to be here and very excited,” head of the Thai Olympic Delegation, Wera-chon Sukondhapatipak said in a statement. “During the rescue operation so many people from around the world came to Thailand and collaborated to rescue them. They feel that they owe a debt to everyone.”

The boys were given a VIP tour of the stadium’s museum and changing rooms before the match. The Monumental Stadium

staged the 1978 World Cup final where Argentina became champions for the first time after defeating the Netherlands 3-1.

“The best players in the world have played here, the best pop singers have sung here,” Buenos Aires’ mayor, Horacio Rodriguez Larreta said. Larreta said the match shows how sports can promote peace and friendship “all over the world.”

“It is very powerful and a good example of what sports can do. You can feel the Olympic spirit across this city and this kind

of thing helps so much.”

River Plate’s chairman, Rodolfo D’Onofrio said it was “wonderful” to see the two teams play against each other.

“It’s emotional because the whole world was feeling with them at the time,” International Olympic Committee president, Thomas Bach said. “I was almost in daily contact with our IOC members in Thailand (during the rescue).”

The boys and their coach were successfully rescued between July 8 and 10 after international cave diving experts evacuated them one-by-one. They hadn’t eaten any food during the nine-day ordeal and drank murky water from inside the cave.

“To see them now enjoying life and enjoying sport, it is a great experience,” Bach said.

“It is what sport is about. This determination to never give up, to have faith that you can make it. So this was the main reason why we invited them here, because this was Olympic spirit at its best.”

Football’s world governing body FIFA had invited the boys and their coach to attend the World Cup final in Moscow between France and Croatia on July 15, but due to medical reasons they were unable to go.

(Source: CNN)



# Iranian athletes win seven more gold at Asian Para Games



By Masoud Hossein

**TEHRAN** — After swimmer Shahin Izadyar's gold medal on Sunday, the Iranian athletes claimed seven more gold medals on Monday at the 2018 Asian Para Games.

Iran sit fifth with six gold, two silvers and eight bronze medals.

China are top winning 28 gold, 10 silver and 15 bronze medals.

Uzbekistan sit third with eight gold, three silver and one bronze medal.

Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games hosts Japan are fourth with six gold, 13 silver and 14 bronze medals.

● Sareh Javanmardi won a gold medal in the P4 - Mixed 50M Free Pistol - SH1 with 155.4 points.

Indian Manish Narwal took silver with 154.0 and his compatriot Singhraj S won the bronze with 153.4.

Another Iranian para shooter Roghayeh Shojaei snatched a gold medal at the R2 - Women's 10M Air Rifle Standing - SH1 with 247 points. Shooters from claimed silver and bronze medals with 246.1 and 224.9 respectively.

● Younes Seifipour went on the podium at the Men's Club Throw F32 with a throw of 30.16m. Oman's Jamil Taaeb Al Mashayekhi Mohammed came second, throwing 29.11 and Mohammad Nasser from Kuwait claimed the bronze medal with 24.76.

● Para athlete Alireza Ghaleh Nasseri won the gold medal at the Men's Discus Throw F54/55/56 with 44.75. His countrymen Ali Mohammadyari (41.83m) and Jalil Bagheri Jeddi (37.14) came second and third respectively in the event.

● Ozra Mahdavia won the gold at the Women's 1500M T12/13 with a time of 00:05:16.65. Indian Venkatesh Radha claimed silver with 00:05:17.65 and Japanese Mitsuyo Matsumoto won the bronze with 00:05:17.98.

● Zahra Bornaki won a bronze medal at the Women's Long Jump T45/46/47 with 4.51. Gold medal went to Uzbekistan's Kamolakhon Abdullaeva with 4.71 and Sri Lankan Karunathi Amara Indumathi Lallwala claimed silver with 4.62.

● Behzad Azizi and Erfan Hosseini won the silver and bronze at the Men's Javelin Throw F12/13 with 65.62 and 58.17 respectively. Gold medal was won by Uzbekistan's Aleksandr Svechnikov with a throw of 67.92.

● Ali Omidi came third at the Men's Javelin Throw F42-44/61-64 with a throw of 58.97. Indian Sandeep Sandeep and Hetti Sampath Chaminda from Sri Lanka claimed gold and silver with 60.01 and 59.32 respectively.

● Aliasghar Javanmardi snatched a silver medal at the Men's Shot Put F35 with a throw of 15.45. NORBE-KOV KHUSNIDDIN Khushniddin Norbekov from Uzbekistan (16.35) and Chinese Xinhan Fu (15.21) won the gold and bronze respectively.

● At the Men's 100M Freestyle S10, Shahin Izadyar won

his second gold medal in the Asian Para Games. The swimmer finished in first place, clocking 00:57.15. Uzbekistan's Li Dmitriy won the silver with 00:57.97 and bronze medal went to Indian Sanjay Patil Swapnil with 00:59.77.

Izadyar had won Iran's first gold medal at the Men's 100M Butterfly S10 on Sunday.

● Amir Jafari Arangeh snatched a gold medal at the Men's Up to 59 kg. Jafari lifted 184kg on his way to gold and his countryman Yousef Yousefi Pashaki won a silver after lifting 175kg. Vietnamese Phuc Nguyen Van claimed the bronze with 161kg.

● Iranian judoka athletes also won two bronze medals in the Games. Meysam Banitaba at the Men's Up to 60.00 kg - Men and Reza Gholami at the Men's Up to 66.00 kg - Men finished in third place.

At the Men's Singles- TT 2 Hassan Janfeshan won a bronze medal.

Iranian sportspersons participate at the Games under the motto of "We Can Do It with Trust and Effort".

Iran are represented by 209 athletes in the Asian Para Games, with 136 men and 73 women competing in 13 disciplines.

Team Iran finished in fourth place in the past two editions in Guangzhou (2010) and Incheon (2014).

The 2018 Asian Para Games are being held from October 6th to 13th at the Bung Karno Sports Complex in the capital city of Jakarta.

## Iran's Gelareh Nazemi officiates futsal match at Summer Youth Olympics

**S P O R T S TEHRAN** — Iranian woman referee Gelareh Nazemi officiated a futsal match between Dominican Republic and Cameroon at the 2018 Summer Youth Olympics.

Cameroon's girls' U-18 futsal team defeated Dominican Republic 9-1 on Sunday in the Games' opening match.

Nazemi was assisted by referees from France and Italy. She is one of the three Asian referees in the competition.

Nazemi will be second official in the match between Spain and Thailand on Tuesday.

Furthermore, Iran boy's U-18 futsal team also started the competition on a high note. The Persians beat Solomon Islands 9-2

and will face Brazil on Wednesday.

The futsal competition at the 2018 Summer Youth Olympics is being held at Tecnópolis and the CeNARD, the first one located in Villa Martelli, and the second one in Buenos Aires.

There are two tournaments, one for boys and one for girls.



## Review: Stars of tomorrow shine

Kuala Lumpur: With Japan lifting the AFC U-16 Championship for the third time after defeating Tajikistan on Sunday, the-AFC.com takes a look at the teams who were dominant, impressed and showed promise.

Japan powered their way to the 2018 title, making them the most successful team in the continental competition with three championships to their name.

The young Samurai Blue also have the most top four finishes - nine in total, previously having won the title in 1994 and 2006. Japan started their campaign as one of the favourites, and advanced from the group stage easily, with their only blemish being the goalless draw with Tajikistan.

Part of Japan's success must be attributed to head coach Yoshiro Moriama's ability to read his opponents well and by replacing players for quick impact.

This was apparent in their three wins in the knockout round. Against Oman, Shoji Tayoma came on to score a late winner. Jun Nishikawa changed the tempo and contributed to Japan's 3-1 win over Australia and against Tajikistan, Nakano Ryuma provided the assist for Nishikawa's goal.

Alongside Tayoma, who netted five goals in the tournament, Nishikawa was equally impressive as Japan's playmaker, scooping the Most Valuable Player Award.

Indonesia had a dream start to their campaign when they shocked IR Iran 2-0 on the opening day with twins Amiruddin Bagus Alfriki and Amiruddin Bagus Arriziqi finding the net. Fachry Husaini's side then picked up draws against



Vietnam (1-1) and India (0-0) to finish top of their group.

Although they stumbled 3-1 against Australia in the quarter-finals, the young Garuda have a crop of talented players in the likes of Sutan Diego Zico, Mochammad Supriadi, David Maulana, Andre Oktaviansyah and Brylian Negiehta Aldama.

India got off on a winning note after Vikram Partap's late penalty sealed a 1-0 victory over Vietnam. India, like Indonesia went on to draw their next matches against IR Iran (0-0) and Indonesia (0-0) to finish second in their group.

The young Blue Tigers held their own against Korea Republic, but finally conceded their first goal in the tournament after Jeong Sang-bin's 68th minute effort saw them

missing out on a spot in the 2019 FIFA U-17 World Cup Peru.

Australia and Tajikistan bounced back in style following their opening day defeats to march into the semi-finals to earn their spot in the 2019 FIFA U-17 World Cup Peru.

Both teams showed fighting spirit and tremendous tenacity to win matches - with Tajikistan beating DPR Korea in the quarter-finals and Korea Republic in the semi-finals, both on penalties. Australia showed their grit, overcoming Indonesia 3-2 in the quarter-finals but fell against Japan in the semi-finals. Despite their 1-0 defeat to Japan in the final, Tajikistan players did their country proud by qualifying for the 2019 FIFA U-17 World Cup - capping a historic moment with players like Mukhridin Khasanov, Islom Zairov and Rustam Soirov to watch out for.

Korea Republic breezed through the group stage, defeating Australia (3-0), Afghanistan (7-0) and 2016 champions Iraq (2-0). The young Taeguk Warriors faced a resilient India in the quarter-finals but carved out a 1-0 win.

Their run, however, came to an end when they were defeated 7-6 on penalties following a 1-1 score at fulltime against Tajikistan in the semi-finals. Islamic Republic of Iran came into the tournament with high expectations, but the 2008 champions only found the back of the net in their final group game against Vietnam, winning 5-0 - after losing their opener against Indonesia (2-0) and settling for a 0-0 draw against India.

(Source: the-afc)

## Iranian referee to officiate FIVB Volleyball Club World Championship

**IRNA** — The International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) invited Iran's international referee Farhad Shahmiri to officiate in 2018 FIVB Volleyball Club World Championship.

Shahmiri has previously refereed in Olympic games, FIVB World Championship and FIVB World League.

He is currently present in Japan to officiate in 2018 FIVB Women's World Championship.

The tournament will run from November, 25 to December, 2.

## Iran, Brazil friendly futsal match not canceled

**IRNA** — Chairman of the technical and development committee of Iran's futsal said on Monday despite some press releases, Iran Vs Brazil friendly match has not been cancelled and it is highly likely to be held.

In an interview with the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), Abbas Torabian referred to the recent rumors about the possible cancellation of Iran-Brazil futsal match, and said that the game has not been canceled and the futsal federation is in favor of holding the match.

He went on to say, in a letter to the Brazilian Futsal Confederation, that Iran Football Federation announced the match is unlikely to be cancelled.

The Brazilians have also been planning to hold the match which is of high importance to them, Torabian further added.

## CAS lifts provisional suspension of Russian bobsledder Sergeeva

**BERLIN (Reuters)** - The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) said on Monday it had lifted the provisional suspension imposed on bobsledder Nadezhda Sergeeva, one of two Russian athletes to fail doping tests at the Pyeongchang Olympics.



Sergeeva tested positive for the banned heart condition produce trimetazidine two days before her race in Pyeongchang but CAS said in a statement on Monday that the anti-doping violation "likely resulted from a contaminated product."

Sergeeva finished 12th with Anastasia Kocherzhova in the women's bobsleigh but her team were disqualified as a result of the positive doping test.

CAS said Sergeeva accepted the result of the doping test at the time, however she had since sought to have the suspension lifted. A final decision in the case would be issued "as soon as possible", it added.

Russians competed as neutrals at the Games after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) suspended the country's Olympic committee in December, saying it had found evidence of an "unprecedented systematic manipulation" of the anti-doping system.

The two positive tests in Pyeongchang ended Russia's hopes of being allowed to fly its flag at the Games' closing ceremony.

Russia, which has repeatedly denied state involvement in doping, was subsequently readmitted by the IOC after all other doping tests on its athletes were negative.

## Ballon d'Or award nominees revealed

France Football is revealing the 30-man shortlist of Ballon d'Or nominees throughout Monday, with the winner set to be announced in Paris on December 3.

The last ten awards have been split evenly between Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, but with Luka Modric recently honoured at the FIFA Best Awards, this could be the year that sees a changing of the guard.

The Ballon d'Or has a complicated heritage. Between 2010 and 2015, it was unified with FIFA's World Player of the Year award to form one award, the FIFA Ballon d'Or. FIFA ended that association in 2016 to form the Best Awards.

However, the history of the Ballon d'Or means that it is still regarded as the most prestigious individual award a footballer can receive.

Cristiano Ronaldo is in contention to win a third consecutive Ballon d'Or as he was among the early nominees (revealed via France Football's Twitter).

Also included were Real Madrid pair Gareth Bale and Karim Benzema, who both scored in the Champions League final victory over Liverpool in May.

English champions Manchester City are represented by Sergio Aguero, who became the first player ever to reach 200 goals for the club earlier this year, and Kevin De Bruyne, who won the Playmaker Award for the most assists in the Premier League last season.

Liverpool also have two players on the shortlist so far, with Alisson Becker and Roberto Firmino both making the cut, and the Chelsea pair of Eden Hazard and N'Golo Kante have been named among the 30 as well.

Kante's fellow World Cup winner Antoine Griezmann is one of two Atletico Madrid players shortlisted so far, while Harry Kane gets nominated after becoming the first Englishman to win the World Cup golden boot since 1986.

Paris Saint-Germain forward Edinson Cavani and Real Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois are among the other nominees.

(Source: 90min.com)



INTERNATIONAL DAILY  
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» Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603  
» www.eshterak.ir Distributor: Padideh Novin Co.  
Tel: 88911433  
» Webmaster: webmaster@tehrantimes.com  
» Printed at: Rooztab - ISSN: 1017-94

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran  
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“Release from Heaven”  
named as best animation  
at Universal Film Festival

**A R T** **TEHRAN** – Acclaimed Iranian animated movie  
**d e s k** “Release from Heaven” directed by Ali Nuri Oskui has been selected as best animation at the Universal Film Festival in Kansas City.

The film is about a female writer and teacher who accom- panies two of her students on an inner spiritual journey in a war- torn country.



“Release from Heaven” by director Ali Nuri Oskui.

“Yochi” by Ilana Lapid from the United States was crowned best film while William Gonzalez from Columbia was named best director for his “She, the Sergeant Matacho”.

Romantic drama “The Death of Cupid” by Aza Declercq from Belgium won the best foreign film award and “Poor Greg Drown- ing” by Jeffrey Scott Collins from the U.S. received the award for best comedy.

The award for best documentary went to Magdalena and Joseph Reilly’s “Low White Sky”, which is about an exploration of alternatives to current U.S. agricultural systems, focusing on permaculture, vertical farming and urban gardening.

The Universal Film Festival was held from September 28 to 30.

Iranian cultural delegation  
visiting Oman

**C U L T U R E** **TEHRAN** – An Iranian cultural delegation is  
**d e s k** visiting Oman, the Embassy of Iran in Muscat announced on Monday.

The group headed by Majlis Library Museum and Documen- tation Center director Hojjatoleslam Ali Emad is in Muscat to attend the Seventh International Conference of Omani-British Relations, which opened on Monday.



The director of Iran’s Majlis Library Museum and Documentation Center, Hojjatoleslam Ali Emad (R), and the chairman of Oman’s National Records and Archives Authority, Mohammed Al Dhawyani (2nd R), meet in Muscat on October 8, 2018.

The delegation also held a meeting with the chairman of Oman’s National Records and Archives Authority (NRAA), Hamad bin Mohammed Al Dhawyani, during which the expansion of cultural relations was discussed.

The conference will come to an end on Wednesday.

“Venom” launches to \$80  
million, “A Star Is Born”  
draws \$42.6 million

**LOS ANGELES, (Variety.com)** — The unlikely dynamic duo of “Venom” and “A Star Is Born” have lived up the fall moviegoing season with the best October weekend of all time in North America.

Tom Hardy’s superhero tale “Venom” grabbed \$80 million at 4,250 sites for Sony and Marvel while the Lady Gaga-starring re- make of “A Star Is Born” earned an estimated \$42.6 million at 3,686 locations for Warner Bros. — well above pre-weekend forecasts. “Venom” smashed the record for an October opening, topping the \$55.8 million launch of “Gravity” by 43%.

“Venom” also dominated at the international box office with \$125.2 million, setting an international record for an October open- ing. South Korea led the way with \$16.3 million.

“Venom” and the critically acclaimed “A Star Is Born” were both able to draw effectively from beyond their core audiences. The strong domestic openings pushed the weekend’s total business to about \$174 million, or 15% above the prior mark of \$151.5 million set in 2015 when Matt Damon’s “The Martian” opened, according to comScore.

Adrian Smith, Sony’s domestic distribution chief, told Variety that the studio was able to overcome downbeat reviews by putting emphasis on “Venom’s” fun factor. “The idea was always to make a film that all audiences could enjoy,” he added.

Iranian cities to host  
festival of European films

**A R T** **TEHRAN** – Several  
**d e s k** Iranian cities will be hosting a festival of European films opening at the Iranian Artists Forum in Tehran on Friday, the organizers announced on Monday.

A lineup of 15 films from 15 European countries, including Austria, Germany, Greece, Italy, Switzerland, Greece, Hungary and Sweden, will be screened during the 8-day event.

Iran’s Art and Experience Cinema will organize the festival in collaboration with the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC).

An EUNIC representative, foreign diplomats, and groups of cultural figures and artists are scheduled to attend the opening ceremony of the festival.

Austrian director Miriam Unge’s 2016 drama “Fly Away Home” and German filmmaker Raoul Peck’s 2017 historical drama “The Young Karl Marx” are among the movies selected to be screened at the festival.

“Journey’s End”, a 2017 British film by Saul Dibb, and “People of Rome”, a 2003 Italian mockumentary by Ettore Scola are among the highlights.

Also included are “Afterimage” by the celebrated Polish director Andrzej Wajda, “Son of Sofia” by Greek director Elina Psykou and “The Miner” by



A poster for the festival of European films in Iran.

Slovenian filmmaker Hanna Slak.

The festival will also be held in the

cities of Tabriz, Shiraz, Isfahan, Kerman

and Babol. Tehran, Shiraz and Isfahan

will also be hosting several workshops on cinema during the festival.

Ali Qavitan says his new film traces Sohrab Sepehri’s mysticism

**A R T** **TEHRAN** – Ali Qavitan,  
**d e s k** director of the acclaimed movies “White Bridge” and “My Mother’s Blue Sky”, has said that his new film “Sohrab’s Dream” traces the mysticism and philosophy of Sohrab Sepehri’s poetry.

Speaking to the Persian service of IRNA on Sunday, he noted that “Sohrab’s Dream” is not a biopic and added, “The film is in some way a revelation of Sohrab and also brings up the mysticism and philosophy of his poems.”

“Sohrab was an avant-garde poet whose works will come under the spotlight in the future,” he added.

He compared himself to a writer who has authored a book on Sepehri and said that he cannot claim that his film entirely covers everything about Sepehri.

He said that cinema is no longer able to cover somebody’s entire life story in a biopic but must make use of a series.

Due to his striking resemblance to Sepehri, Qavitan himself plays the role of the poet and



Bahareh Kianafshar (L) and Ali Qavitan act in a scene from “Sohrab’s Dream”.

Cartoonist Derambakhsh’s “Owl Land”  
coming in sight at Tehran exhibit

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Celebrated Iranian  
**d e s k** cartoonist Kambiz Derambakhsh will showcase his latest collection “Owl Land” in an exhibition, which will open at Tehran’s A Gallery on Friday.

The artist who is famous for his quick and simple works features owls in different positions in the collection that is composed of 40 cartoons.

“The owl is a topic reviewed in Persian literature for years. Many private collectors collect owl sculptures and many sculptors work on owl sculptures. Of course, it has been for years that I have been working on these topics with the central theme of the owl,” Derambakhsh told the

Persian service of MNA on Sunday.

Despite his previous works, the cartoons created for the collection do not seek to convey a specific message.

“They are mostly decorative ones and depict beauty, color and technique,” he noted.

“People in our country believe that the owl is ominous, if it cries, one will die and if it laughs, it will bring happiness, but in Europe, this bird is the symbol of happiness,” he said.

The gallery also plans to screen a documentary about Derambakhsh by Javad Atashkari during the exhibit.

The exhibit will run until October 23 at the gallery located at 7 Ardeshir Arshad Alley, Azodi St., Karim Khan Ave.



Posters for cartoonist Kambiz Derambakhsh’s exhibition at Tehran’s A Gallery.

Busan: Ryuichi Sakamoto on tackling  
animation for the first time

**BUSAN (Hollywood Reporter)** — The Oscar-winning Japanese composer said he was immediately drawn to the fact that feature “My Tyrano: Together, Forever” was “a meaningful co-production between South Korea, Japan and China.”

The animated feature “My Tyrano: Together, Forever” late last week had its world premiere during the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF), drawing much attention among local industry people.

After all, the ambitious South Korea-Japan-China co-production marks Oscar-winning Japanese composer Ryuichi Sakamoto’s debut in the world of animation.

Sakamoto, who also traveled to Busan to receive the South Korean festival’s annual Asian Filmmaker of the Year Award, said he was immediately drawn to the project “because it was first and foremost a co-production by South Korea, Japan and China.” “The fact that the three countries were collaborating together greatly appealed to me and I found it very meaningful,” he told reporters during a press conference on Saturday.

South Korean producer Kang Sang-wook, who executive produced the film, said he had Sakamoto in mind from the very beginning. “Simply put, I wanted to create a fun animated film. But I wanted something that was not only fun but also sophisticated and high-quality.”

Though not particularly a die-hard fan



“My Tyrano: Together, Forever”

of animated features, Sakamoto said he was a big fan of movies in general and tends to watch “anything that is interesting, without discriminating whether it’s animated or live-action.”

However, he did say he had avoided animated film projects for a long time because he was more used to composing for serious live-action dramas (his last film project was “The Revenant”, which earned him a Golden Globe and a Grammy nomination). He found it “challenging to create music that could be resonate with and be understood by a more diverse range of people.” “But with My Tyrano, I finally faced the inevitable and took on the challenge of overcoming this hurdle.”

Another difficult aspect of the project was that he had to compose with an incomplete film. “When I was making the music, the film featured only [black and white] animated silhouettes and there was no dialogue. I had to resort to my own imagination to compose.”

‘Festival of Stanley’: touring Kubrick  
exhibition heads to UK

**LONDON (The Guardian)** — A Stanley Kubrick exhibition that has toured the world from Germany to Mexico to South Korea but never been to the country he called home is finally arriving in the UK.

The Design Museum in London has an- nounced details of an exhibition next year that will be devoted to the filmmaker.

Alan Yentob, a friend of Kubrick who played a key role in getting the show to Lon- don, said next spring would be a “festival of Stanley”.

The show will mirror one which began at the Deutsches Filmmuseum in Frankfurt in 2004 and travelled to 16 cities across the world. It has never been to the UK. Kubrick’s adopted home and the place he made most of his films. The Vietnamese countryside around the Mekong Delta in Full Metal Jacket, for example, is the Norfolk Broads; the bombed out city of Hue was created at Beckton.

The exhibition will borrow heavily from the Kubrick archive at the University of the Arts London and is coming together with the support of Kubrick’s brother-in-law and executive producer on many of his films, Jan Harlan.

Harlan said what was special about Kubrick was that the work did not disappear. “His 13 films are all there. Paths of Glory is unrivalled, Dr Strangelove, unfortunately, is as current as it can be; 2001 [A Space Od- ysey] ... we are as ignorant as ever about what is there.”



The director and screenwriter Stanley Kubrick on the set of his film Barry Lyn- don. (Sunset Boulevard/Corbis/Getty)

He began working with Kubrick in 1969 on his unrealized film “Napoleon”. It has become known as the greatest movie never made, but Harlan said an HBO TV series based on Kubrick’s research for the film, masterminded by Steven Spielberg, directed by the recently appointed Bond 25 director Cary Fukunaga, and written by playwright David Auburn, was close.

“What fascinated Kubrick about Napole- on is that he is a modern character. Hugely charismatic, colossally successful, utterly vain and foolish. He ruined himself and there was nobody to blame but himself. Intelligence, talent, charisma is no guarantee of success. For Kubrick, it was a current affairs program, not a history lesson.”

The new Napoleon may be different to Kubrick’s but that’s fine, said Harlan. “Of course it will be different. Cary Fukunaga is a different director but a very good one, he is a brilliant man.”