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Larijani urges global unity against U.S. unilateralism

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Iranian Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani said on Tuesday that the U.S. unilateralism is the reason behind problems in the world and called for global unity against Washington's unilateral and illegal actions.

"The U.S. and regime of Israel are

the causes behind undermining the international security. Unilateral actions by the powers such as the U.S. have caused problems for the international community," Larijani said in a speech at the third annual meeting of parliament speakers of the Eurasian countries in Antalya, Turkey. **→2**

Flood haunting northern Iran brings \$166m loss

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — Flash floods hitting Mazandaran province, northern Iran, have caused an estimated 7 trillion rials (about \$166 million) worth of damages, destroying infrastructures, residential units, roads and huge tracts of farmlands, the province's governor has said.

Heavy rain has led to severe flood in Mazandaran province since last week,

which have claimed 5 lives.

The largest damage caused by flooding has been inflicted to infrastructure facilities amounting to 5 trillion rials (nearly \$120 million), IRNA quoted Mohammad Eslami as saying on Tuesday.

Due to the incident, some 2,650 houses have been devastated partially, of which some 82 houses have been totally destroyed, he regretted. **→12**

Syrian President grants amnesty to army deserters, draft dodgers

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has granted a general amnesty for men who deserted the army or have avoided military service. A decree published by state media on Tuesday said the amnesty applies to men "inside and outside the country" and covers all punishments for desertion.

Men inside Syria will have four months to take advantage of the amnesty while

those outside will have six months.

The move could help boost the return of refugees, some of whom have not been able to go back home because they were blacklisted.

Under Syrian military law, deserters can face years of prison if they leave their posts and do not report for service within a set amount of time. **→13**

Successful reformation in Saudi Arabia far from a sure thing

By Seyedeh Mahdiah Qoraishi

TEHRAN — As Aramco's public offering has been halted, so has the hope in Saudi Arabia's economic reforms, which according to the young Crown Prince of the country, were intended to fulfill the Arab dream. Saudi Aramco, officially the Saudi Arabian Oil Company, is one of the largest companies in the world by revenue and the most profitable worldwide.

While Saudi Arabia has been trying to provide domestic opportunities for its citizens, policies have proven ineffective. In addition, the country has also failed to achieve positive results with its military adventures in other countries. The Saudis' war on Yemen and the blockade of Qatar have been examples of failed regional policies over the last few years. The interventions have been costly to the House of Saud and have reduced the country's

financial and military capabilities while Crown Prince Bin Salman is not even halfway through with his economic reforms, the so called 'Vision 2030' plans. The slow implementation of social reform, which is more like a mere "showcase policy", is a proof of the unrealistic nature of the reforms as they lack conformity with Saudi Arabia's traditional social structures.

It is clear that the creation and pursuit of economic development requires some preconditions, such as political development and the approval of religious institutions which Saudi Arabia has yet to gain. Lack of human capital in the country, which is considered the engine of economic development, along with other factors, has delayed the implementation of economic change and dynamism. The use of a foreign labor force (immigrants) can also be a security

challenge for Saudi Arabia.

The fast-paced implementation of economic reforms in Riyadh without proper infrastructure and consideration to social, political and religious structures confirms a lack sufficient management expertise.

Some experts even believe that the growing domestic oil consumption in Saudi Arabia will take its toll on the country, and by 2030 the country may have to import oil. And apart from the future of reforms, Saudi policies towards its regional neighbors can blur the vision of the country and make real change unattainable.

Although Saudi Arabia has tried to implement a moderate foreign policy, its presence in proxy wars, such as in Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Yemen and Syria, and rivalry with Iran, have not helped Saudis' strategic role in West Asia. **→7**

Fear of globalization

countries have dominance in the modern world. Globalization accompanied and facilitated by information technology has led into development of under developed countries.

Cultural transcendence has removed many of the subjective obstacles of development in the developing countries. Acquisition of engineering knowledge in many of developing countries made enormous industrial growth possible while increased awareness and mastery over international law and regulations, has led into ending of dominance of the developed countries. The achievements of modern human in philosophy, mathematical and natural sciences, sociology, psychiatry, and politics are no longer the heritage of the developed world and they belong to the whole humanity.

By Hamed Z. Qadim

TEHRAN — Fear of transformation of identity is the common feeling in most of Western countries as it once was the common feeling of the under developed nations. Trump's speech to the UN General Assembly, was a vivid announcement of this fear in at least part of the Western world, when he stated that United States is no longer looking for Globalization and suggested the world to turn into Nationalism as an alternative for all the states all around the world.

During the World Cup 2018 in Russia, looking at astonishing results of countries not famous for their football and losses of national teams that used to be traditionally the winners of football matches, suddenly I came to a vision that no longer the so-called first-world developed



ARTICLE

Hanif Ghaffari
Political analyst

Trump's Strategic weakness in west Asia

In his recent remarks, Donald Trump said that if he wasn't at top of the U.S. political and executive equations, Iran would capture the Middle East (West Asia)! This is while Islamic Republic of Iran created stability in the West Asian region, and besides, has stood against the long-term, medium-term, and short-term and destructive goals of the United States and its allies in the region.

Trump's strategic weakness in the West Asia is an important issue which can't be easily overlooked. In this regard, there are some points that should be taken into consideration:

Firstly, in spite of his campaign slogans for stopping the military intervention in the region, the current president of the United States has intensified conflicts and created constant security crises in West Asia. The direct, perfect, and comprehensive support of Donald Trump from takfiri terrorists reflects this fact.

Trump started his support for ISIL since the beginning of his presence at the White House in early 2017, and he stood for the terrorists until the fall of ISIL in Syria. Right now, Trump is attempting to revive terrorist and takfiri groups in Iraq and Syria through Riyadh and Abu Dhabi.

This is in spite of the fact that his attempts is in contrast with his doctrine which emphasizes on the U.S. military spending being cut off in other parts of the world. This contrast reveals the real map of the White House officials in West Asia, and uncovers their real plans for the region.

Despite passing half of his presidency, Trump has claimed that the defeat in Yemen, Syria and Iraq was Obama's legacy. There is no doubt that Obama and his two secretaries of state, Hillary Clinton and John Kerry, played a major role in creating terrorist and takfiri groups (especially ISIL), and committed bloodshed in Syria and Iraq.

There is also little ambiguity in the strategic, operational and even tactical defeat of the Obama administration in the battlefields of Syria, Iraq, and Yemen. However, Trump can't deny his share in this defeat, and pretend as if he's the messenger of the victory of the United States in these scenes! **→7**



ARTICLE

Ramin Hossein Abadian
Mehr News Agency
Journalist

Saudi media tries to cover up circumstances of Khashoggi's death

A week has passed since Jamal Khashoggi, the high-profile critic of the Saudi leadership, was last seen entering the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul. The Saudis continue to deny any knowledge of his whereabouts.

The speculation over the House of Saud's role in the murder of Khashoggi runs high with numerous speculations and reports. Since the Saudi authorities are not capable of addressing the ambiguities surrounding the death of Jamal Khashoggi, the Saudis' state-owned media have worked round the clock to distract the public's attention.

Al Arabiya News Channel in an exclusive interview with Salah Khashoggi, Jamal Khashoggi's eldest son, made attempts to show Khashoggi's disappearance differently to the public.

Khashoggi's son claimed: "There are attempts by foreign parties to politicize the disappearance of my father. This is totally unacceptable. The issue at hand is that there is a Saudi citizen who has gone missing. We are cooperating with the Saudi authorities to uncover the circumstances. The issue is a personal matter and is far from a political matter. My last contact with my father was during his stay in Washington. I had no idea about his recent trip to Turkey and his presence there."

The interview questions were posed in a way to fulfill the House of Saud's objective. Al Arabiya tried to impose its position on Khashoggi's son's words in order to make the allegations more credible. While the direct role of Saudi Arabia in the killing of Khashoggi is quite evident, childish remarks blaming Khashoggi's personality issues cannot go anywhere.

Meanwhile, other Saudi media, including the Al-Hadith network, have made efforts to cover Riyadh's crackdown on Khashoggi.

The Saudi network, without referring to Mohammed bin Salman, the Saudi prince, and his desire to hold the throne and to take out opponents, tries to cover up any link between bin Salman and Khashoggi's murder. But media has failed to cover up the murder of Khashoggi in the embassy. **→7**



© Tehran Times / Marvayam Kamyab

Mobile medical clinics set up in deprived areas

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — Ehsan-Barekat Foundation has dispatched mobile medical groups to and set up clinics in some 1,000 underprivileged regions throughout the country, Fars reported on Tuesday.

The mobile health care clinics are wheel-based health care system offering care and treatment, clinical laboratory, hospitalization and medical services to isolated and vulnerable groups not having access to health services.

These clinics having 140 beds and 132 health practitioners, can treat some 7500 patients per day, which are first deployed to the northern flood-stricken areas of the country, then to Karbala, Iraq to serve the Arba'een pilgrims, and eventually to thousands of deprived areas throughout the country. **→12**

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Interior minister hosts meeting on social issues

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli on Tuesday hosted a session with university professors and researchers of social sciences.

The meeting, held at the Interior Ministry, was attended by 12 professors and researchers who expressed their views about issues concerning the Iranian society and social harms, Mehr reported.

Rahmani Fazli, for his part, voiced his take, and stressed that such meetings should be held regularly.



IRGC lauds police forces' efforts

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) has said Iran's power originates from the efforts made by the police and other armed forces.

In a statement marking the occasion of Law Enforcement Week, the IRGC said the forty-year experience of the Islamic Republic has led to the consolidation of the rule of law and cooperation between defense and security forces, Mehr reported on Tuesday.

It further hailed police forces for boosting national security and countering threats posed by the terrorists who are backed by the enemies' spy agencies.



Police to use new UAVs for Arbreen security

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Iranian police chief said on Tuesday that his forces would utilize a series of new UAVs to patrol the borders and ensure the security of pilgrims visiting neighboring Iraq for Arbreen, when a large number of Iranian pilgrims travel to Iraq to participate in rituals commemorating the third Shiite Imam, Imam Hussein (AS).

Speaking to reporters, Brigadier General Hossein Ash-tari said the 12 UAVs that the police have received from the Defense Ministry could be employed for border control, detecting illegal entries, combatting outlaws and smugglers at the border, and traffic control, Tasnim reported.

On Monday, the police took delivery of new drones, helicopters, and other military equipment from the Defense Ministry.



Official condemns PKK terror attack in Turkey

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Deputy Interior Minister Hossein Zolfaghari has condemned the recent PKK terrorist attack in Turkey, which killed and wounded several military forces, IRNA reported.

In a telephone conversation with Turkish Interior Ministry Undersecretary Muhterem Ince, Zolfaghari offered condolences to the Turkish government and nation over the death of the Turkish soldiers in the attack.

The Turkish official, for his part, hailed Iran's practical measures in confronting those disrupting order and security in the region.

The two sides also expressed their readiness to hold the third joint security task force in coming months.



Analyst calls for opening EU office in Tehran

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Political analyst Fereydoun Majlisi has said opening a European Union office in Tehran can help boost economic relations between Iran and the EU member states.

"In the current situation and with regard to Iran's need to expand its international ties, the opening of a European Union office can be a positive step to expand interactions between Iran and the EU member states," ISNA on Tuesday quoted Majlisi as saying.

He further emphasized the need to boost Iran-EU relations, saying the EU is one of the most important international blocs in terms of politics and economy.

"Instead of empty rhetoric, those who oppose this issue should express their arguments if they have any," he added.



Qatar Airways commits to Iran flights despite U.S. Sanctions

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — U.S. sanctions on Iran will not impact Qatar Airways' flights to the Islamic Republic, the airline's boss Akbar al-Baker said on Monday, AFP reported.

Speaking at a high-profile business conference in the Qatari capital Doha, Baker said services to Iran would continue despite a tightening economic and political squeeze on Iran by Washington.

"Aviation is not a sanctioned industry, Qatar Airways will continue to operate into the cities we are currently operating in Iran," he said. "Our flights to Iran will not be affected."

Qatar Airways' Iran destinations include Mashhad and Shiraz, while the airline operates daily flights to Tehran, according to its website.

Larijani urges global unity against U.S. unilateralism



1 → He cited the U.S. withdrawal from the 2015 multilateral nuclear deal in May as an example of unilateral action.

Such unilateral policies have affected the development of the countries and caused challenges to the international sovereignty and multilateralism, he added.

Larijani said that participants in the Eurasian summit should adopt "wise policies" to boost unilateralism and expand cooperation in the areas of politics, economy and security.

He added that the summit is an opportunity to exchange views on close cooperation and taking serious actions to resolve problems facing the world.

■ Collective efforts needed to counter environmental crises

Elsewhere, the senior Iranian parliamentarian said that collective efforts are required to resolve environmental crises.

Commenting on the Syrian and Yemeni crises, the philosopher-turned politician reiterated Tehran's long-held policy to resolve conflicts in the two countries through dialogue.

He said Iran fully supports inter-Yemeni dialogue.

■ Larijani urges Europe to meet obligations under nuclear deal

In a meeting with Russian State Duma speaker Vyacheslav Volodin on Monday, Larijani said the European signatories to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) should meet their obligations immediately.

The JCPOA is the official name for the nuclear deal that Iran signed with the five permanent members of the UN Security Council (France, Britain, the U.S., China, and Russia) Germany and the European Union in July 2015.

General urges U.S. to release info on burial site of Iranian soldiers in Iraq

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — A military commander has urged Washington to provide Iran with documents related to the burial locations of Iranian soldiers confiscated after the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003.

"In order to find remains of the bodies of 4,000 Iranian soldiers still unaccounted for and finding their exact burial location in the Iraqi soil, we want access to the related documents seized by American forces after entering Iraq," General Mohammad Baqerzadeh, commander of the Committee to Find Missing Soldiers of the Iran-Iraq War, told the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) on Tuesday.

Lack of information and the logistical problems have created obstacles on the way to find the bodies of the Iranian soldiers who were martyred during the war, General Baqerzadeh said.

After entering Iraq, U.S. forces seized the war documents and transferred them to their country, said the



commander, adding Iran needs those documents to discover the exact location of the bodies.

Iraq, under Saddam Hussein, launched war against Iran on September 22, 1980 with the aim of capturing Iran's oil rich Khuzestan. The war lasted until the summer of

1988. It claimed the lives of 230,000 Iranian soldiers and left 600,000 disabled for life. 43,000 Iranians were also captured by Iraqi forces and many others went missing.

As General Baqerzadeh said, the search committee has found all bodies of the war-time martyrs in the Iranian soil, and now the country is searching for the remains of the bodies in the operation regions of Iraq.

Through search operations, so far the search committee has found the bodies of 45,000 soldiers, the general explained.

He said that the passage of time has caused changes in bodies of the martyrs and the physical conditions of the earth has also made it difficult to conduct search operations.

Sometimes the search teams dig for a depth of about five meters, and sometimes the search operation is conducted covering an area of 40 to 100 square km, the commander added.

Iran appoints new ambassadors to China, India



POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Without giving their names, Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi has said that Iran's new ambassadors to China and New Delhi have been appointed.

In an interview with Fars news agency published on Tuesday, he also said that three ambassadors are scheduled to return to the country as their stay in the job runs counter to a parliamentary ratification banning employment of retirees.

Gholamali Khoshroo, ambassador to the UN; Ali Majedi, ambassador to Germany; and Ebrahim Taherian Fard, ambassador to Ankara, will return to the country.

It was announced in September that the plan to ban employment of the retirees will be implemented in two months.

The plan approved by parliament and endorsed by the Guardian Council.

Abbasali Kadkhodaei, spokesman of the Guardian Council, said in September the ban includes governors, ambassadors and deputy ministers but not Guardian Council members, vice presidents, heads of the three branches of government (president, judiciary chief, and parliament speaker), parliamentarians, and presidential aides.

Exceptions are war veterans who suffer from over 50 percent disabilities, those who were held captive for more than three years in the Iraqi prisons following Iraq's war against Iran in the 1980s, and also children of the martyrs, the spokesman explained.

Kadkhodaei also said that the armed forces follow different rules.

Security is Iran's redline: military chief



POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Mohammad Baqeri said on Tuesday that security is Iran's redline and the country will not sit silent in case of aggression.

Addressing a conference, he said that missile attack on Daesh positions in Syria shows that Iran does not sit silent against aggression.

Noting that Iran is among seven countries which have mastered the technology to build drones, he said the path to upgrade defense capabilities will continue unabated.

On October 1, the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps fired surface-

to surface ballistic missiles on the positions of Daesh in eastern Syria which along with the al-Ahwazia terror group took responsibility for the September 22 terrorist attack in Ahvaz.

The missiles targeted the masterminds of Daesh on the eastern banks of the Euphrates north of Albu Kamal in eastern Syria. The district is one of last remaining positions of Daesh.

On September 22, four gunmen attacked a military parade in the southwestern city of Ahvaz, capital of Khuzestan province, killing 24 people and wounding 69 others. A four-year-old child was among the killed.

Europe steps up drive to exempt Swift from Iran sanctions

European finance ministers will try to persuade the Trump administration not to cut off Iran's access to Swift, the global financial messaging service, in meetings with Steven Mnuchin, the U.S. Treasury secretary, at the IMF gathering in Bali this week.

The Trump administration is due to reimpose hefty sanctions against Iran on November 5, including secondary sanctions on financial messaging services to the Central Bank of Iran and some Iranian financial institutions.

France, Germany and the UK — which signed on to the seven-party 2015 Iran nuclear deal from which Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew in May — are frustrated that they have not been able to convince the Trump administration to take a softer line on Belgium-based Swift.

"Our ask is: why bother ripping out all of the electrical cables from a building if you can switch off a light," said a European diplomat who confirmed the planned meetings. "If you can designate a bank [for sanctions] then there's no need to force Swift to disconnect from Iran."

The disagreement over Swift was heading for "a diplomatic train wreck", according to another person familiar with the matter. European officials who met U.S. officials last month to ask for leniency have so far drawn a blank.

"We did a démarche to the administration, but it was a complete blockage; they didn't listen to our argument," said a second European official.

The Trump administration has yet to reach a final conclusion on how to treat Iranian commercial banks,

although many believe it is likely to reimpose sanctions on the central bank and cut it off from Swift.

Supporters of Swift worry that the international co-operative, whose 25 board directors include two U.S. bankers from Citi and JPMorgan, would find it impossible to comply with U.S., European and Belgian law at the same time if their instructions diverge.

"As there has been no related change to EU legislation we are naturally consulting with and seeking clarification from both EU and U.S. authorities," said a senior Swift official. Swift officials met U.S. administration representatives in Washington last week.

Some officials and people briefed on the matter believe that Mnuchin will want to act in support of Swift to safeguard America's role in the secure global messaging system, which connects more than 11,000 banks in more than 200 territories, and avoid sending Iranian transactions underground.

But hardliners within the administration and on Capitol Hill who are close to Trump plan to renew their campaign to isolate Iran entirely from Swift in the final run-up to November 5.

They argue the U.S. could issue visa bans and asset freezes of Swift's board members and pursue charges and fines against its member banks if Swift refused to comply with sanctions. They believe that its shareholders would not take such risks.

Richard Goldberg, who wrote the original 2012 sanctions laws that excluded Iran from Swift before they were

ended by the 2015 Iran deal, said the decision would fall to Trump: "The big wild card is if there is a fight in the Oval Office between Secretary Mnuchin and Ambassador Bolton, where does the president come down?" he said.

German foreign minister Heiko Maas has argued that Europeans could create their own rival to Swift based on the euro rather than the dollar. Russia and China are both pursuing their own systems.

"Hope remains that there might be a complete carve-out for Swift," said a person following the matter, adding Mnuchin could in theory advocate for a delay or waiver in implementing any sanctions directed specifically against Swift.

UK and French finance ministers are due to meet Mnuchin at the IMF meetings, as is Valdis Dombrovskis, the EU commission vice-president responsible for financial services policy. Germany's finance minister may also meet with him.

European diplomats are also pressing the U.S. to exempt Swift from transactions penalties on humanitarian grounds, to ensure the provision of food and other non-sanctionable consumer goods to the Iranian people.

"The U.S. has some discretion in this area," said Elizabeth Rosenberg, a former senior Treasury adviser who previously worked on tightening Iran sanctions. "There's probably an elegant solution here for Swift and the U.S. Treasury, which surely doesn't want to be in a position of taking an enforcement action with Swift."

(Source: Financial Times)

Turkey vows to put on trial all, including Saudi regime officials, tied to Khashoggi case

An advisor to Turkey's president has vowed that the country will prosecute all those involved in the suspected kidnapping or murder of a dissident Saudi journalist in Riyadh's consulate in Istanbul, even if it involves the Saudi consul himself.

Yasin Aktay made the comments to the Palestinian Shehab news agency on Tuesday, adding, "Turkey is a state of law and prosecutes anyone who commits crimes in its territory."

"This will be a file between Saudi Arabia and us," the Turkish official warned.

On Friday, the House of Saud regime Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) said Turkey could search the consulate for the missing dissident. He claimed that Khashoggi had left the building not long after he entered earlier this week. "If he's in Saudi Arabia, I would know that."

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said that Saudi regime officials must prove that Khashoggi had indeed left the mission.

Aktay said bin Salman's decision to allow the inspection of the building several days after Khashoggi's disappearance showed "contempt for Turkey."

He also complained that the Saudi regime consulate and authorities had ignored Turkish contacts following the disappearance of Khashoggi.

"As if the Saudi authorities were asleep and there was a strange silence at a time when the news of Khashoggi's disappearance was spread in the world," he noted.

Meanwhile, the head of the Turkish-Arab Media Association in Turkey, Turan Kislakci has told Shehab that Turkish officials had assured him of Khashoggi having been brutally murdered inside the consulate.

Aktay further said, "To insult the man who comes to the consulate and kill him at your home is one of the worst acts and gravest sins."

A Turkish forensics team is, meanwhile, poised to enter the premises in Istanbul, the Middle East Eye (MEE) news portal reported.

■ Mysterious boxes taken out of consulate

On Monday, London-based Al-Quds Al-Arabi paper said Turkish investigators looking at footage from security cameras at the consulate saw men taking some boxes from the building to a black car following the disappearance.

It said Turkish officials had accused Saudi regime authorities of killing the 59-year-old inside the facility using a special force sent from Riyadh.

The House of Saud regime Consul General, Mohammed al-Otaibi, however, invited journalists into the building on Saturday to try to prove that Khashoggi was not there, saying reports of his detention were false.

Separately, reports surfaced online, saying that Riyadh had expelled the Turkish ambassador over Khashoggi's case.

In a statement, the Saudi regime Foreign Ministry reacted to one such report "published in one of the websites" as "totally baseless and false."

■ UN urges probe

Also on Tuesday, the United Nations voiced deep concern over the reports about Khashoggi, urging Turkey and the House of Saud regime to investigate the matter.

"Yes, this is of serious concern, the apparent



enforced disappearance of Mr. Khashoggi from the Saudi consulate in Istanbul," UN human rights spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani told a Geneva news briefing.

"If reports of his death and the extraordinary circumstances leading up to it are true, this is truly shocking," she added. "We call for cooperation between Turkey and Saudi Arabia to conduct a prompt and impartial investigation into the circumstances of Mr. Khashoggi's disappearance and to make the findings public."

The countries are mandated to do so under both criminal law and international human rights law, Shamdasani noted.

■ Turkey: Consulate to be searched Shortly afterwards, Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Hami Aksoy said in a written statement that although the Vienna convention says consulate buildings enjoy immunity, they can be searched by host country authorities with the consent of the mission chief.

"The consulate building will be searched in the framework of the investigation," the statement said, noting that an investigation focusing on Khashoggi was "continuing intensively."

■ Trump 'concerned' about disappearance of Saudi journalist

Elsewhere, the United States President Donald Trump has expressed concern over the disappearance of Khashoggi in the Saudi regime's consulate in Istanbul, refraining from any strong comments against its allies in Riyadh.

"I am concerned about it. I don't like hearing about it," Trump told reporters on Monday at the White House.

"Hopefully that will sort itself out. Right now nobody knows anything about it," he added.

The U.S. Vice-President Mike Pence had earlier noted that he was "deeply troubled to hear reports about Saudi Arabian journalist Jamal Khashoggi."

"If true, this is a tragic day. Violence against

journalists across the globe is a threat to freedom of the press and human rights. The free world deserves answers," he said in a tweet on Monday.

■ Pompeo calls on Saudi Arabia to back 'thorough investigation' into missing journalist

Separately, the U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has called on Saudi Arabia to back a "thorough investigation" into the disappearance of Khashoggi.

"We call on the government of Saudi Arabia to support a thorough investigation of Mr. Khashoggi's disappearance and to be transparent about the results of that investigation," Pompeo said in a statement on Monday.

This comes after the Washington Post urged the U.S. government to "demand answers" from the House of Saud regime about Khashoggi – an opinion writer for the newspaper.

"The United States must now make a concerted effort to determine all the facts about Mr. Khashoggi's disappearance," the newspaper said in an editorial late on Sunday.

The New Yorker said in a recent article that the journalist had told it in August that he was worried about his life. Khashoggi also opposed Riyadh's aggression on Yemen.

Khashoggi was known for his critical views on Riyadh. He lived in self-imposed exile in the U.S. since September 2017, when he left Saudi Arabia amid a crackdown on dissident voices.

The 59-year-old was reported missing last week after entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, where he intended to obtain a document necessary to finalize his divorce from his wife. He reportedly never came out of the consulate. Turkish sources later told the Reuters news agency that the journalist had been killed inside the building.

An advisor to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Sunday that he believed Khashoggi was killed at the Saudi regime consulate.

The reports of his unconfirmed death have sparked worldwide outrage.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Saudi Arabia's consulate must "prove" that Khashoggi made exit from the mission.

Yemeni activist and 2011 winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, Tawakkol Karman said she believed Khashoggi "was kidnapped in this gangster's den that is supposed to be a consulate."

■ British media curiously silent on Saudi journo fate: WikiLeaks

Whistleblower organization WikiLeaks has raised suspicions about the way the British media have been covering the disappearance and alleged death of a Saudi journalist in Turkey, saying there could be Saudi money at work.

A tweet from WikiLeaks said that despite massive media coverage by mainstream media about the alleged murder of Jamal Khashoggi inside the Saudi regime consulate in Istanbul, there was almost no mention of the story in the media in Britain since they went on print this week.

"No UK paper today led with the diplomatic crisis over the alleged murder and dismemberment of Washington Post columnist & journalist #JamalKhashoggi inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul despite AP and Reuters newswires on the subject. All take Saudi money," read the post on Twitter on Monday.

The WikiLeaks criticism of the British media comes amid widespread concerns that Saudi Arabia has been allowed to freely influence certain outlets in Britain. Reports over the past weeks even suggested that the Saudis had spent around \$250 million to launch a Farsi television station to spread their propaganda against Iran, a regional rival.

Some accuse the British media of hypocrisy in dealing with the case of Khashoggi, saying major British newspapers have previously given full coverage to similar stories that involved journalists opposed to Russia.

(Source: agencies)

Trump says UN ambassador Haley to leave at end of year



Nikki Haley resigned Tuesday as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, in the latest departure from President Donald Trump's national security team. Meeting Haley in the Oval Office, Trump said that Haley had done a "fantastic job" and would leave at the end of the year. "She told me probably six months ago," Trump told reporters, "I want to take a little time off."

Haley stayed coy on her reasons for quitting, saying only that it was "important to understand when it's time to stand aside."

But she insisted that she was not planning to run for president herself against Trump in 2020, when she would likely be seen as a moderate Republican alternative.

The former governor of South Carolina, Haley took the job with little experience in foreign policy but quickly became the full-throated voice at the United Nations for the often unpopular agenda of Trump. Haley has pressed for a hawkish line on Iran, justified U.S. cuts to foreign assistance and earlier this year led the United States in bolting from the UN Human Rights Council, accusing it of bias against Washington and Israel.

At the recent UN General Assembly session, Haley took the highly unusual step for a senior diplomat of joining street protesters against Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, shouting from a megaphone that the leftist leader should leave office.

The daughter of Indian immigrants, Haley has long been seen as a rising star in the Republican Party which has eagerly sought female and ethnic minorities to broaden the appeal beyond its traditional white demographic.

Haley, whose given name was Nimrata Randhawa, was elected governor in 2010 of deeply Republican South Carolina and, during the 2016 campaign, had criticized Trump over his remarks on immigrants before their political reconciliation.

Haley's is the latest resignation in a turbulent White House, where Trump is already on his third national security adviser and second secretary of state before even the midterm elections.

(Source: AP)

Suspect arrested in Bulgarian journalist's murder: report



Authorities in Bulgaria have arrested a suspect in connection with the murder of Viktoria Marinova, a journalist who was raped and killed earlier this week.

"We can say there is a suspect detained," a government source told Reuters news agency on Tuesday.

The body of 30-year-old Viktoria Marinova was found on Saturday in a park, Ruse regional prosecutor Georgy Georgiev said on Sunday.

Marinova was killed by blows on the head and suffocation, the authorities said, adding that prosecutors were probing all leads – both personal and linked to Marinova's job.

Interior Minister Mladen Marinov later confirmed to journalists that the victim had also been raped.

According to police sources, the crime did not immediately appear linked to her work, AFP news agency said on Monday.

Following the murder, Prime Minister Boyko Borisov expressed hope the perpetrator would be found.

International organizations called for thorough investigations following the news of her death.

United Nations spokesman Stephane Dujarric said that United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was "very concerned" about Marinova's murder, adding that he awaited the conclusions of the investigation into her killing.

European Commission spokesperson Margaritis Schinas said the commission expected "a swift and thorough investigation that will bring those responsible to justice and clarify whether this attack was linked to her work".

"We must make sure that journalists everywhere are safe and make their invaluable contributions to our democratic societies," Schinas added.

Her calls were echoed by Reporters Without Borders (RWB/Reporters Sans Frontières/RSF) and the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ).

"RSF urges the authorities to carry out a serious and thorough investigation to find the perpetrators of this heinous murder," RSF Secretary-General Christophe Deloire said.

The CPJ said it was "shocked by the barbaric murder". "Bulgarian authorities must employ all efforts and resources to carry out an exhaustive inquiry and bring to justice those responsible," the media watchdog said in a statement.

Marinova was an administrative director of Ruse's small private TVN television and had recently launched a new current events talk show called Detector.

The last episode of the show on September 30 broadcast interviews with investigative journalists Dimitar Stoyanov from the Bivol.bg website and Attila Biro from the Romanian Rise Project, about an investigation of alleged fraud with regards to EU funds linked to big businessmen and politicians.

The pair was briefly detained by police, drawing condemnation from the RSF.

In a statement on their Facebook page, Bivol.bg also called for police protection of Marinova's colleagues.

(Source: agencies)

Kim Jong Un wants Pope Francis to visit North Korea: Seoul

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has invited Pope Francis to visit Pyongyang in a gesture designed to highlight peace efforts on the Korean Peninsula, South Korea's presidential office has said.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in will deliver Kim's invitation when he meets Francis next week during a trip to Europe, Blue House spokesperson Kim Eui-kyeom said on Tuesday.

Kim has been intensely engaged in diplomacy in recent months in what is being seen as an effort to leverage his nuclear weapons program for an easing of economic sanctions and military pressure.

North Korea and the Vatican have no formal diplomatic relations. The invitation to the pope is the first by a North Korean leader since 2000.

"President Moon will visit the Vatican on October 17 and 18 to reaffirm its blessing and support for peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula," the spokesperson told a news briefing.

Kim told Moon of his wish to meet the pope during last month's summit of the two leaders, the spokesperson added.

"When he meets Pope Francis, he will convey Chairman Kim's message that he will ardently welcome him if he visits Pyongyang," he said.

North Korea's constitution guarantees freedom of reli-



gion as long as it does not undermine the state, but beyond a handful of state-controlled places of worship, no open religious activity is allowed.

Francis visited South Korea in August 2014. On the plane ride back to Rome, he had expressed hope that the divisions would be overcome, saying "the two Koreas are brothers, they speak the same language."

In 2014, a Roman Catholic cardinal had travelled to North Korea at a time of rekindled animosity between the neighboring countries.

India on alert as zika virus hits tourism hot spot of Jaipur

India has sent experts to try to contain an outbreak of the zika virus in the popular tourist destination of Jaipur, the capital of the northern state of Rajasthan, with a close watch on pregnant women.

Twenty-two people in the city have tested positive, the Health Ministry said. There is no vaccine to the virus, which can cause severe birth defects in unborn children.

Pregnant women in the area are being monitored by the National Health Mission, a body set up by the government to improve

health care across the country.

"The situation continues to be monitored regularly," the ministry said in a statement late Monday.

The Toronto-based International Association for Medical Assistance to Travelers said it was advising pregnant travelers to postpone trips to the area, part of India's tourist "golden triangle" of Delhi, Jaipur and Agra, home to the Taj Mahal.

First discovered in 1947, the zika virus reached epidemic proportions in Brazil in

2015, when thousands of babies were born with microcephaly, a brain defect affecting speech and motor function.

It is the third such outbreak in India, with the first in the western city of Ahmedabad in January 2017 and the second in the southern state of Tamil Nadu in July 2017. Both outbreaks were "successfully contained," the government said.

The latest cases – in the middle of the country's festival season, when many Indians travel, increasing the risk of transmission –

come amid a spike in other mosquito-borne diseases, which kill thousands across India each year, according to the World Health Organization.

The capital, Delhi, has reported a rise in cases of dengue fever, with 169 reported in the first week of October and taking the total for the year to 650, according to NDTV, citing figures from the South Delhi Municipal Corporation, which tracks mosquito-borne diseases.

(Source: Reuters)

STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	180847.6
IFX	2030.96

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	48,300 rials
GBP	55,020 rials
AED	11,430 rials

Source: isna.ir

COMMODITIES

WTI	\$73.61/b
Brent	\$84.52/b
OPEC Basket	\$83.24/b
Gold	\$1,187.45/oz
Silver	\$14.37/oz
Platinum	\$824.95/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

NEWS IN BRIEF



Development of airports costs \$476m since March

ECONOMY **TEHRAN**— Some 20 trillion rials (about \$476 million) has been expended for developing and equipping the country's airports since the beginning of current Iranian calendar year (March 21), Hossein Esfandiari, the deputy managing director of Iran Airports Company (IAC), announced on Tuesday.

He said of the mentioned amount, some 10 trillion rials (about \$238 million) has been expended for the purchase of modern navigating equipment and also updating the airport facilities, IRNA reported.

He put the number of Iran's airports at 54.



MINEX 2018 hosting 200 Iranian, foreign companies

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The 7th International Investment Opportunities in Iran's Mines and Mining Industries Exhibition and Conference kicked off on Tuesday in Tehran, hosting 200 Iranian and foreign participants showcasing their latest equipment and services in this field.

The three-day event covers three areas of discovery, mining and processing and some 50 scientific and specialized task forces are being held on its sidelines, IRIB reported on Tuesday.

Presenting the achievements of producers and introducing investment opportunities as well as discovery of new export markets are some of the objectives of the conference and exhibition.



Customs income at \$3.8b in H1

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iran's customs income stood at 163 trillion rials (about \$3.88 billion) during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), according to the deputy head of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

Ali Rahimian put the figure at 158.835 trillion rials (about \$3.78 billion) during the same period of time in the past year, IRNA reported.

The official further noted that Iran's customs income during the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20, 2018) was 30 percent more than the figure envisaged in the national budget law.

Iran's non-oil exports hit \$23.123 billion in the first half of the present Iranian calendar year, growing 13 percent in comparison with the same period in the preceding year.

As reported, 56.644 million tons of goods were exported in the said six months.

Some 16.22 million tons of goods, at the value of \$22.182 billion were imported in the first half of the current year, registering 9.30 percent fall in terms of weight and 11.93 percent decrease in terms of value.

British banks could benefit from US-China trade war: Barclays chairman

British lenders may stand to gain as Washington and Beijing go head to head over trade tariffs, according to one of the world's largest banks.

When asked if American banks would face reduced market access to China in light of escalating trade tensions, Gerry Grimstone, chairman of Barclays Bank PLC, said: "I hate to say so but I think it's right." If Beijing targets U.S. banks in that manner, British institutions may get ahead of their American rivals in the world's second-largest economy, Grimstone told CNBC's Nancy Hungerford at the annual Barclays Asia Forum in Singapore.

"I was speaking at a forum earlier this year and they [the Chinese] put the Goldman Sachs chairman in a hotel as far as possible away from the conference location... So in little ways like that, China makes their displeasure known."

Goldman Sachs did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Grimstone's statement.

(Source: CNBC)

Iran REC 2018 running in Tehran

ENERGY **TEHRAN**— Iran's 3rd International Renewable Energy Conference and Exhibition (Iran REC 2018) kicked off on Tuesday in IRIB Conference Center in Tehran, IRIB reported.

Energy Ministry's macro policies for renewable energy, the latest status of renewable energy in Iran, the country's energy outlook, and strategy of variety in the energy basket of country are some of the main pivots of the two-day conference which gathers a number of Iranian and foreign companies' representatives as well as university professors

together to discuss resolutions for a better use of renewable resources.

Addressing the conference, Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian said that renewable energy capacity in the country is planned to rise 500 megawatts (MW) to reach 1100 MW by the next summer.

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

Euro 4 gasoil production, distribution to jump 100%



ENERGY **TEHRAN** — Production and distribution of Euro 4 gasoil across Iran is set to increase by 100 percent by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2019), Shana reported citing the managing director of National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC).

"Currently, an average of 29 million liters (ml) of Euro 4 gasoil is being produced across the country and with Bandar Abbas refinery's Naphtha unit going operational another 16 ml is going to be added to this figure", Alireza Sadeqabadi told Shana.

The deputy oil minister further noted

that considering the production of 12 million liters of Euro 4 gasoil at the Persian Gulf Star Refinery until by the end of this year; by March 2019, a 100 percent increase in production and distribution of Euro 4 gasoil will be realized.

Iran possesses a huge capacity for production and supply of gasoil in the Middle East.

Along with the domestic supply, NIORDC has been planning on exporting this strategic oil product to neighboring countries and the Middle East region.

Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Iraqi Kurdistan, and some countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus are among the buyers of Iran's gasoil.

Over \$123m worth of state-run shares to be divested in a month

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iranian Privatization Organization (IPO) will offer 5.2 trillion rials (over \$123.8 million) of state-run shares to the private sector in the next Iranian calendar month of Aban (October 23-November 21), Seyed Jafar Sobhani, the advisor to the head of IPO, told IRNA on Tuesday.

The official had previously said that the value of state-run shares transferred to the private sector during the first half of the current year (March 21-September 22) was more than that of the whole previous year.

Also as announced by IPO Head Mir Ali Ashraf Abdollah Pouri-Hosseini, privatization in Iran witnessed 100 percent growth during the first five months of this year (March 21-August 22) compared to the same period of time in the previous year.

In late May, IPO published the list of the enterprises that their shares are planned to be transferred to the private sector by the end of current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2019).

As previously reported, in its planned budget for 1397,

ECB could hike rates earlier than expected, El-Erian warns

The European Central Bank (ECB) could be prompted to raise interest rates sooner than planned against a backdrop of inflation and divergent monetary policy, according to Allianz's Chief Economic Advisor, Mohamed El-Erian.

"It wouldn't surprise me if they (the ECB) start hiking in the middle of summer (2019), as opposed to the end of the summer, or even the beginning of the summer. But they're going to retain optionality 'til the very last moment," El-Erian told CNBC's Nancy Hungerford Tuesday.

El-Erian, a prominent economist and one-time CEO and co-CIO of bond giant PIMCO, said the interest rate policies of central banks were diverging quickly. The

Federal Reserve has already embarked on rate hikes amid robust U.S. economic growth while the euro zone's central bank, the ECB, is approaching rate hikes with caution. It has yet to increase rates with the 19-country euro zone still showing signs of regional weakness, and vulnerable to mounting global trade tensions.

"The interest rate dynamics are completely consistent with divergence in economic policy and divergence in performance," El-Erian said, adding, "The question is, does it (raising rates in one country) break something somewhere else?"

"The ECB, in particular, is going to be put in a tough position because they're

dealing with high inflation. And they're going to have to think very seriously as to whether to accelerate their rate hikes."

The ECB has signaled that it will not raise record low interest rates before September 2019, a month before current President Mario Draghi is due to leave his post. In the meantime, headline inflation in the euro zone is expected to be 2.1 percent in September, up from 2 percent in the previous month, and above the bank's target of below (but close to) 2 percent.

Although rising oil prices have been largely seen as the culprit for inflationary pressures (and energy costs can quickly change) if the inflation rate rises further it could put pressure on the ECB to act

sooner rather than later. Inflation can be counteracted with higher interest rates. But the ECB itself signaled in September that it would not be looking to increase interest rates quickly — a policy it put in place after the sovereign debt crisis of 2011 that looked to stimulate lending and growth.

Asked about what approach the ECB might take to normalize its policy and raise interest rates, El-Erian said the central bank would have to be very cautious and might not fully signal its next move.

"I think they'll want to have as much optionality and we're not going to hear anything for a while," he said.

(Source: CNBC)

IMF cuts forecast for global growth as trade war takes toll



Reserve and other major central banks tightening monetary conditions after a decade of easy money.

If the trade war continues, it could take a significant bite out of global growth, according to the fund. It estimates global output could fall by more than 0.8 percent in 2020 and remain 0.4 percent below its trend line over the long term, in a scenario where Trump follows through on all his threats, including global duties on cars. Output could fall by more than 1.6 percent in China and over 0.9 percent in the U.S. next year, according to the IMF's models.

The IMF's cut to its outlook was broad-based. The fund downgraded its forecast for U.S. growth next year to 2.5 percent, down 0.2 percentage point from July, after factoring in the impact of tariffs imposed by the Trump administration and retaliatory duties by other nations. It left its U.S. growth projection for this year at 2.9 percent.

President Donald Trump has slapped tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese goods this year, and Beijing has retaliated with levies \$110 billion of American products. The IMF projections don't take into account Trump's threat to expand the tariffs to effectively all of the more than \$500 billion in goods the U.S. bought from China last year.

China downgrade

The IMF also cut its outlook for China as a result of the tariffs, shaving its projection for growth next year to 6.2 percent, down 0.2 point from three months ago.

The euro area will expand 2 percent this year, down 0.2 point from July, as a result of weaker than expected growth in the first half of the year.

The fund upgraded its forecast for Japan slightly to 1.1 percent growth this year, up 0.1 point from July.

Several emerging markets had their forecasts cut, including Argentina, Brazil, Iran and Turkey, reflecting factors including tighter credit.

The IMF said it expects inflation to accelerate around the world this year, due largely to increasing commodity prices. Core inflation, which excludes volatile items such as energy, will vary from country to country, it said.

In the U.S., the core personal consumption expenditure index, the Fed's preferred measure for inflation, will rise to 2.1 percent in 2018 and 2.3 percent next year, as the government's fiscal stimulus pushes growth above potential, the IMF said.

Productivity challenge

Over the longer term, the IMF sees aging populations and sluggish productivity growth as a major challenge to advanced economies. Global growth will slow to 3.6 percent by 2022-2023, as growth in rich nations falls back to potential, it said.

Most of the "meager gains" from growth have gone to the well off, fueling support for protectionism and anti-establishment leaders, said Obstfeld. "Policymakers must take a long-term perspective to address this malaise. Inclusive fiscal policies, educational investments, and ensuring access to adequate health care can reduce inequality and are key priorities," he said.

(Source: Bloomberg)



Oil prices rise on concerns over Iranian crude exports

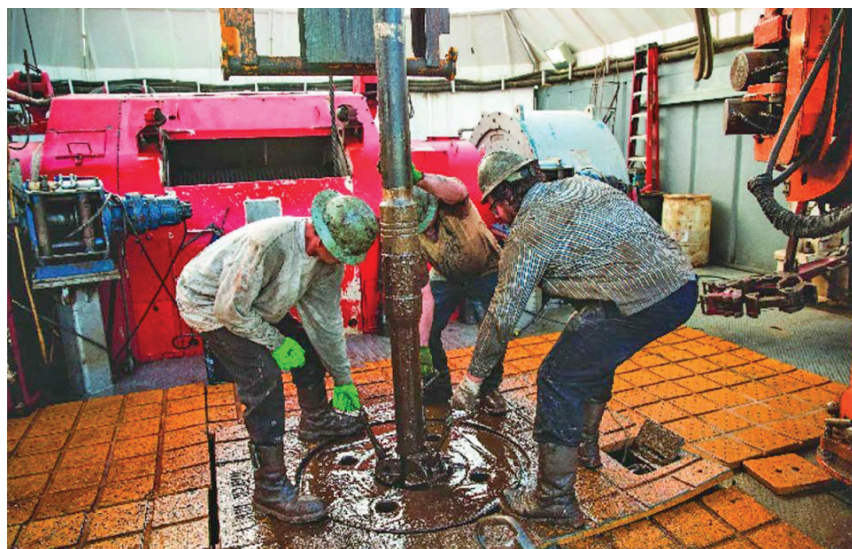
Oil prices rose on Tuesday on growing evidence of falling crude exports from Iran, OPEC's third-largest producer, before the imposition of new U.S. sanctions and a partial shutdown in the Gulf of Mexico due to Hurricane Michael.

Benchmark Brent crude jumped \$1.13 a barrel to a high of \$85.04 before easing back to trade at \$84.71, up 80 cents, by 1030 GMT. Brent hit a four-year high of \$86.74 last week but slipped as low as \$82.66 on Monday.

U.S. light crude was up 50 cents at \$74.79. "The oil market mood is exceptionally bullish, with fears growing that the U.S. demands for an Iran oil embargo could cause a significant supply shortfall," said Julius Baer commodities research analyst Carsten Menke.

Iran's crude exports fell further in the first week of October, according to tanker data and an industry source, as buyers sought alternatives ahead of U.S. sanctions that take effect on Nov. 4.

Iran exported 1.1 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude in that seven-day period, Refinitiv Eikon data showed. An industry source who also tracks exports said October



shipments were so far below 1 million bpd. That is down from at least 2.5 million bpd in April, before President Donald Trump in May withdrew the United States from a

2015 nuclear deal with Iran and reimposed sanctions. The figure also marks a further fall from 1.6 million bpd in September. Saudi Arabia, the biggest producer in the

Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, said last week it would increase crude output next month to 10.7 million bpd, a record.

"Iranian barrels are declining fast, and Saudi Arabia's promise to balance will face a reality check in a month's time," JP Morgan analysts said in a note.

Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh on Monday called a Saudi claim that the kingdom could replace Iran's crude exports "nonsense".

Meanwhile, oil companies operating in the Gulf of Mexico shut down nearly 20 percent of oil production as Hurricane Michael moved towards eastern Gulf states including Florida.

If forecasts prove accurate, the hurricane would largely miss major oil-producing assets in the Gulf, analysts said, but a change of track could widen the impact.

The International Monetary Fund on Tuesday cut its global economic growth forecasts for 2018 and 2019, saying trade tensions and rising import tariffs were taking a toll on commerce while emerging markets struggle with tighter financial conditions and capital outflows. (Source: Reuters)

IEA urges OPEC to open the taps as oil market enters 'red zone'

The International Energy Agency made a direct appeal to OPEC and other major oil producers to boost output, warning that prices are inflicting damage on the global economy.

"We should all see the risky situation, the oil markets are entering the red zone," IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol said Tuesday. "We should try to comfort the markets all together because it may be bad news for the consumers, importers today, but I believe it may well be bad news for the producers tomorrow."

The IEA, which advises most major economies on energy policy, said last week that rising crude prices may dent demand in some of the world's fastest-growing nations unless producers take steps to boost supplies. Birol has welcomed efforts by top OPEC producer Saudi Arabia to increase output, but believes market tightness is likely

to persist.

"If there are no major moves from the key producers, the fourth quarter of this year is very, very challenging," he said in a Bloomberg television interview. Much of the onus lies with Saudi Arabia, as most other members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries are producing at, or close to, full capacity.

Birol's warning follows a 20 percent surge in crude prices since August as OPEC struggles to fill the gap left by tumbling shipments from several members. Prices were boosted further on Tuesday by storm Michael, which shut some oil fields in the Gulf of Mexico and threatened to hit the Florida panhandle as a major hurricane.

West Texas Intermediate futures advanced 0.8 percent to \$74.88 a barrel on the New York Mercantile exchange

as 6:41 a.m. local time.

"Demand is still very strong and we've been losing oil from Venezuela in big amounts, and also Iran is going down," Birol said. Venezuela's "free-fall" could drag production below 1 million barrels a day "very soon," he said. By contrast, Saudi Arabia, currently pumping about 10.7 million barrels a day, could go to 11 million a day, according to the IEA.

Iran's exports have dropped faster than most in the industry expected, with many major buyers halting purchases even before U.S. sanctions are enforced in November. In Venezuela, output has slumped amid economic collapse.

"Expensive energy is back at a bad time, when the global economy is losing momentum," Birol said. "We really need more oil."

(Source: Bloomberg)

The winners and losers of \$100 oil

Since the 1990s, oil prices have spiked above \$100 per barrel only a handful of times. Once in the beginning of 2008, and for a longer stretch between 2011 and 2014, with a short reversal in 2012. In the past seven weeks, the price of Brent crude has risen 18 percent on supply concerns triggered by looming U.S. sanctions on Iran, the collapse of Venezuela's economy and bottlenecks building in the U.S. shale industry. It now sits near a four-year high of \$85 a barrel, prompting bets that triple-digit prices could soon be around the corner.

Emerging markets across Asia tend to suffer the most when oil prices rise. Advanced economies are not immune, and for the largest oil importers, consumption tends to fall. Unsurprisingly, higher prices are good for producing countries like Norway, Canada and Brazil. What is surprising, however, is that in the last year or so, despite the rally, these countries have eked out lower gains than in the past.

Emerging markets

According to Citi's Johanna Chua, Asian countries suffer the most when oil prices rise because, aside from Malaysia, most are net oil importers. Singapore runs a sizable 6.5 percent oil and gas deficit, followed closely by Pakistan, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Taiwan. Indonesia and Vietnam manage slightly smaller deficits of roughly 1 percent.

Given this exposure, many of these economies see the largest inflation swings when oil prices rise. Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Vietnam lead the pack, with Thailand, India and Taiwan rounding out the top six.

On the export front, Taiwan, Korea and Thailand are forecast to weather the biggest declines should oil prices rise \$10 a barrel.



Krystal Tan at Capital Economics calculates that Hong Kong, Sri Lanka and India may see sizable declines as well, while Malaysia and Indonesia's net exports are set to rise as a percentage of GDP.

Take this all together and the broader outlook for emerging markets does not look too bright.

EM Asian markets are in a difficult spot owing to the coincidence of the oil supply shock with a strengthening dollar, rising U.S. yields, and amid a deteriorating EM growth differential with the U.S. Unsurprisingly, this results in weaker Asian currencies and higher yields, and continuing risk aversion for EM investors. Despite EM valuations having already cheapened this year, in some instances quite substantially, these persistent headwinds suggest that further cheapening should remain the base case view.

Developed importers

Some advanced economies face many of

the same pressures. For Bank of America Merrill Lynch's Ethan Harris, Japan, Europe and the UK are "clear losers," with growth there coming under pressure by 0.2 to 0.5 percentage points next year. Not only do all three import their oil, but also, households in Europe and the UK save little, leaving them with smaller nest eggs to buffer price increases.

In terms of what those price increases could amount to, Simon MacAdam at Capital Economics calculates that, should Brent crude prices remain at \$100 per barrel through 2019, consumers in major advanced economies would see fuel consumption costs eat up an additional 0.3 percent of their annual household spending. Headline inflation, he finds, would rise a percentage point or more as well, though that increase may be offset slightly by the somewhat-higher wage growth reported in most of these economies.

Oil producers

These countries obviously benefit the

most when prices cross that triple-digit threshold, but since late last year, their gains have been more muted than past price run-ups. Daniel Hui and a team of strategists at J.P. Morgan Securities find that petro currencies like the Norwegian Krone, Canadian dollar and Mexican peso are underperforming oil prices by an increasingly wide margin. The gap now sits at 17 percent.

And here's another from Hui highlighting the degree to which specific oil-producing countries have undershot crude prices. The Russian ruble and Brazilian real have fared the worst at 26 percent and 24 percent, respectively, followed by the Mexican peso at roughly 15 percent.

The slowdown in global growth shouders much of the blame. Today's oil surge is driven not by excess demand, but too little supply. And in recent months, global PMIs have fallen to their lowest levels in two years as exports worldwide have contracted. In fact, the gap between global growth and Brent crude mirrors the underperformance seen above between oil prices and petro currencies, per Hui.

Some of these supply concerns may be easing, however. Just yesterday, Brent crude slipped to \$83 a barrel on news that the White House may waive sanctions on some countries importing Iranian oil. That's a sharp reversal from the Trump administration's previous stance that "Individuals and entities that fail to wind down activities with Iran risk severe consequences."

\$100 oil hinges on whichever policy wins out.

(Source: Financial Times)

IEA: renewables set for explosive growth

Renewable energy is growing at a blistering rate, but clean energy is also nowhere near what is needed to avoid some of the worst effects of climate change, according to a series of new monumental reports on the global energy system.

Renewable energy accounted for half of the increase in new electricity generation in 2017, a remarkable feat, according to a new report from the International Energy Agency (IEA). By 2023, renewables will account for 12.4 percent of total global energy demand (not just for electricity), a sign that the adoption of wind and solar around the world is gaining steam. In the transport sector, electric vehicles and electric buses triple over the next few years.

Solar and wind are the cheapest option in a growing number of places around the world and EV sales are skyrocketing.

Here are a few more staggering statistics. Between 2017 and 2023, renewables will cover a full 40 percent of the additional growth in energy consumption. And by 2023, renewables will account for nearly a third of total electricity generation worldwide.

Solar PV will move front and center over the next few years, the IEA argues. Solar PV is expected to grow by 600 gigawatts through 2023, having already jumped by 97 GW last year. That 600 GW is equivalent to twice the size of Japan's entire capacity.

Within the solar sector, distributed solar "makes the difference," the IEA says. Without the distributed solar projects, solar's expansion would be equal that of wind. But a growing number of commercial, industrial and residential applications are putting more solar panels at the local level.

Behind this explosive growth for renewables is the dramatic cost declines that make renewables increasingly the cheapest option. "For the first time, more than half of renewable electricity capacity is expected to be commissioned through competitive auctions, which continue to slash wind and solar PV bid prices to between USD 20 per megawatt hour (MWh) and USD 50/MWh," the IEA wrote.

Geographically speaking, China accounts for the lion's share of growth, and will be home to 40 percent of the world's solar PV. Meanwhile, Brazil is expected to still have the greenest energy mix in terms of percentage, with 45 percent of its final energy consumption coming from renewables by 2023.

These are impressive numbers by any measure. But they are also wholly inadequate to meet global sustainability goals. Even though there is significant progress, renewables are expected to continue to lag in transport and heating, two sectors that are stubbornly dominated by fossil fuels. The bottom line is that on the current trajectory, the IEA says that renewables will only account for 18 percent of overall energy consumption in 2040.

That's a grim number, especially in the context of a separate report from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which finds that limiting global temperature rise to just 1.5 degrees Celsius "would require rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society." It's a scenario that looks increasingly out of reach.

One of the key takeaways from both of these reports is that while there is stunning progress in the electricity sector – and indeed, it looks increasingly likely that solar and wind combined with energy storage will take over large shares of global electricity in the years ahead – fossil fuels remain deeply entrenched in many other sectors.

The IEA has repeatedly raised the prospect of strong oil demand growth in the petrochemical sector. The proliferation of plastics means that petrochemical production will take over from transportation as the source of the most oil demand growth going forward, offsetting the gains made in passenger vehicles. In addition, the use of oil in marine, air and freight transit will remain stubbornly high and very hard to dislodge.

Moreover, heating is another area where renewables remain far behind. The IEA said this is a major "blind spot" that receives very little attention. But the good news is that bioenergy, which includes plant-based fuels, gas from anaerobic digestion and wood pellets, is on track to grow significantly. "Modern bioenergy is the overlooked giant of the renewable energy field," said Fatih Birol, the IEA's executive director. "We expect modern bioenergy will continue to lead the field, and has huge prospects for further growth." The IEA cautioned that these forms of energy should only come from feedstocks that don't carry their on environmental and social pitfalls.

Overall, in business terms, renewable energy is set for massive growth and will only improve the competitive edge over fossil fuels with time. But the pace of energy transition is still worryingly slow, which has dire implications for the planet.

(Source: oilprice.com)

NYMEX November gas jumps as Hurricane Michael approaches U.S. Gulf Coast

The NYMEX November natural gas futures contract jumped 12.4 cents and settled at \$3.267/MMBtu Monday as Hurricane Michael is forecast to make landfall on the northeastern US Gulf Coast midweek.

The front-month contract traded between \$3.174/MMBtu and \$3.294/MMBtu in the session.

"These prices indicate that any kind of news can be deemed bullish and when it is about a storm, it is really bullish," said John Woods, president of JJ Woods Associates. "The developing storm in the Gulf Coast has spooked out market participants."

The National Hurricane Center said that Michael is expected to be near or at hurricane strength when hits the northeastern U.S. Gulf Coast on Tuesday night or Wednesday.

Forecast projections put the Florida Panhandle, parts of Alabama, Georgia, the Carolinas and Virginia in the storm's path. Heavy rains from Michael could produce life-threatening flash floods from the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend region into portions of Carolinas through Thursday.

Production lags in recent days and historically low national gas stocks also are likely driving up prices.

U.S. dry gas production is set to decline by 300 MMcf to 82.9 Bcf Monday, according to S&P Global Platts Analytics data. Output is likely to stay relatively flat over the next seven days.

Demand could decline over the next seven days, likely from storm-driven temperature dips and declines in utility gas burns. Total US demand dropped since the start of the weekend because of heating demand in the Northeast and Upper Midwest falling 3.3 Bcf since Friday to 75.9 Bcf Monday, data showed.

But heating demand may rise, with the National Weather Service calling for a likelihood of below-average temperatures across much of the U.S. over the next six to 10 days.

Platts Analytics estimates showed that over the next seven days, demand is likely to climb to average 77.5 Bcf/d.

The NYMEX settlement price is considered preliminary and subject to change until a final settlement price is posted at 7 pm EDT (2300 GMT).

(Source: Platts)

Big Oil is about to bury skeptical investors in piles of cash

Investors still haven't forgiven oil companies for being ill-prepared for a crude-price collapse four years ago. Perhaps more than half a trillion dollars will change their minds.

With oil above \$80 a barrel as costs languish at an eight-year low, the industry is seeing green. In 2018 alone, it will rake in as much extra money as it did in the previous five years combined, according to consultant Rystad Energy AS. You could liquidate Facebook Inc. and it wouldn't touch what oil companies will generate in free-flowing cash over the next three years.

They may need every dollar. So far nothing oil companies have done -- from \$25 billion buyback programs to better earnings than in the days of \$115 oil -- has gotten them out of the doghouse with investors. Share-prices increases have fallen well behind the surge in crude. while in the U.S., oil companies haven't kept up with broader index gains at all.

"The comeback in free cash flows has only gradually started to be visible," said Espen Erlingsen, a partner at Rystad, by email. Investors are probably "waiting to see how these oil companies will spend the extra money."

Free cash flow at international oil companies is expected to more than double this year, to a record \$175 billion. Then it will rise again in 2019, to close to \$200 billion, and stay around that level for at least two years after that, according to Rystad Energy.

The estimate comes with a big caveat. Oil prices can't



fall from today's level of more than \$80 a barrel, and companies can't return to pre-crash spending heights.

There are reasons to doubt the sustainability of crude's rally. Oil prices have surged in the past year, in part because a snap-back of U.S. sanctions on Iranian fuel exports is driving fears of supply shortages. BP Plc Chief Executive Bob Dudley said those concerns could subside by the end of the year and that prices "feel high."

Investors are also uncertain whether they can trust oil company executives to exercise restraint as crude keeps soaring. Firms committed to increasingly large projects from 2008, buoyed by a bullish crude market. By 2014, when prices collapsed, costs and investments for international oil companies rose to \$560 billion, while free cash flow fell to less than \$50 billion, not enough to cover dividend payments, Rystad data show.

While the same companies cleaned up their balance sheets and are now more profitable than before the crash, investor confidence in the sector hasn't been fully restored. The S&P 500 Energy Index has gained about 7 percent so far this year, lagging the S&P 500's 8 percent rise. Crude oil traded in the U.S. has jumped 22 percent over the same time period.

"The concern of some investors is that capital discipline isn't really here to stay," said Jason Gammel, an analyst at Jefferies LLC. "We're not that far into the recovery yet."

Executives will have the chance to make their case this week at the Oil & Money conference in London, which kicks off Tuesday.

Investors have heard austerity pledges after previous down cycles in the oil price, only to abandon the idea when crude shot back up, said Gammel. The big cash flow figures would have to actually materialize, accompanied by sustained efforts to return extra money to shareholders, to win back trust.

(Source: oilprice.com)

Can Iraq's new prime minister solve its old problems?



By Ibrahim Al-Marashi

Adel Abdul Mahdi, Iraq's new prime minister, has embarked on the difficult task of negotiating a new government. After months of post-election deliberations and delays due to intra-Kurdish tensions, he was named premier by the newly elected Iraqi president Barham Salih. Abdul Mahdi is largely seen as Iraq's "compromise candidate", approved by the two rival Shia blocs in parliament. His main challenge ahead would be to manage the competing interests of these camps, while also addressing the demands of the Kurdish parties and Arab Sunni forces.

Most importantly, he will have to face a disgruntled Iraqi public which is increasingly demonstrating its rejection of establishment politics.

Who is Adel Abdul Mahdi?

Abdul Mahdi's family hails from the Shia landed and clerical elites. In his youth, he was a fervent supporter of the Baathist Party before rejecting its ideology and leaving for France on a self-imposed exile. He settled in Paris where he studied economics and adopted communist views, eventually joining the Iraqi Communist Party (ICP).

Then in the 1980s, Abdul Mahdi went through another political transformation, influenced by the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979. He joined the ranks of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), which Ayatollah Khomeini had founded as an opposition group aimed at undermining Saddam Hussein's rule. In the 1990s, Abdul Mahdi was SCIRI's representative in Iraqi Kurdistan. As tensions between Washington and Baghdad escalated, SCIRI also started working with the U.S. against the Baathist regime. After the U.S. invasion of Iraq, the organization renamed itself to the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq (ISCI) and ran in subsequent elections in various coalitions.

In the first elected cabinet, it took the interior ministry, incorporating many of the members of its military wing, the Badr Brigades, into the army and security forces (Badr eventually broke off and formed its own political coalition, headed by Hadi al-Amiri ahead of the 2018 elections).

Abdul Mahdi became the finance minister in Iyad Allawi's transitional government, installed by the Americans in 2004. In 2010 he was one of the candidates for the premiership, but Nouri al-Maliki was picked over him, and in 2014 he was selected as oil minister in Haider al-Abadi's cabinet.

In the 2018 elections, Abdul Mahdi ran as independent, as ISCI had disintegrated by then due to internal rivalries.

Given his motley political background, he managed to easily position himself as a neutral figure after election results were announced and it became clear that a compromise would have to be made between the two major Shia blocs over the premiership.

Abdul Mahdi is close to both the Americans and the Iranians. He's Shia but has also maintained close contacts with prominent Sunni politicians. He is also not antagonistic to the Kurdish region and has in fact supported in the past Erbil's demand for a referendum on the oil-rich city of Kirkuk going under its jurisdiction.

He also seems to be on good terms with the two major Shia blocs in Iraqi politics - one led by Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and Haider al-Abadi and the other dominated by members of Shia militias and headed by al-Amiri.

The Sadrists ran on a platform of embracing the 2015 street protests and calling for reform, having lobbied al-Abadi in 2016 to forge a technocratic cabinet to curb corruption. Al-Abadi failed in this regard, unable to overcome entrenched political interests.

Given his previous work and ministerial experience and having run as an independent, Abdul Mahdi is able to present himself as a quasi-technocrat. His political background is also appealing to the other side. While the al-Amiri bloc would have preferred one of their own candidates to become premier, the fact that Abdul Mahdi is neither a Sadrist nor from al-Abadi's Da'wa party made him an acceptable candidate.

Iraq's looming crises

Over the next one month, Abdul Mahdi will be negotiating the formation of his government, trying to balance all competing interests in Iraqi politics.

Given that he's not a member of the two major Shia blocs in parliament, he cannot be accused of favoring fellow party members in the allocation of posts. Ideally, this will make him more open to Sadrist pressure to allocate more ministerial positions to technocrats with practical expertise, who should be ideally more qualified to deal with Iraq's numerous social and economic problems. But beyond the herculean task of forming a government that all political forces approve of, he will also face a number of major challenges, including reconciliation and reconstruction in Sunni-majority regions in the northwest and winning the trust of Iraq's general public, which has become disillusioned with its political elite, recently expressed in violent protests in the country's south. Abdul Mahdi has demonstrated sympathy for Iraq's Arab Sunnis in the past, recognizing the reasons for their discontent. Perhaps he is better fitted to bridging sectarian divides in the country and bringing about reconciliation than his predecessors. If he's able to allocate more posts to technocrats and empower them to press forward with reforms, Abdul Mahdi might also be able to resolve some of Iraq's most pressing socioeconomic problems that are currently inciting the population in Basra.

However, it is important to note that a technocratic cabinet is not a panacea for Iraq's problems. It will take more than one government to dismantle the country's entrenched patronage networks embedded in all echelons of the state.

What Abdul Mahdi manages to achieve over the next 30 or more days would define Iraq's near future and its ability to emerge from its ongoing political and socioeconomic crises. The composition of the cabinet will indicate whether the new premier has been successful in negotiating his way out of conflicting interests and ethno-sectarian politics.

Regardless, the selection of Abdul Mahdi as Iraq's new prime minister offers some glimmer of hope in addressing these challenges.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

Trump offended Bin Salman so he retaliated against Khashoggi

By Amira Abo el-Fetouh

Frankly, this was not the first, and it will not be the last time that the American President Donald Trump insults the Saudi King, but we are a nation who is afflicted with forgetfulness. While the Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman visited the U.S., the American President said, in a phone call to the Saudi King, "King, we're protecting you. You might not be there for two weeks without us. You have to pay for your military; you have to pay."

Trump has made such remarks before, but this is the first time he has repeated such comments at a political rally, before the eyes and ears of the world. He is humiliating Saudi Arabia and offending its King publicly, not behind closed doors, where we are certain that worse and uglier is said.

In my opinion, Trump is a man who is honest with himself and operates based on the logic of business and the language of numbers and calculations, not the language of politics and diplomacy, which he never learned or doesn't understand. He is a businessman and has not let go of that part of himself, remaining loyal to it, and it has become the central part of what makes up his character. We watched him during his presidential campaign promise the American people the money of the Persian Gulf and threatened the Persian Gulf leaders, who he likened to cows, with milking them and then slaughtering them.

He is now keeping his promise and doing good on his threats. It is ironic that even though the Persian Gulf leaders heard Trump's warning, they were the keenest on and supportive of him. Countries such as the UAE spend tens of billions of dollars to ensure his victory over Hilary Clinton.

Trump was not satisfied with the half a trillion dollars he took from Saudi Arabia during his promising visit last year. He wanted more milk this year, as the annual payment for protecting them, as he has reiterated in three consecutive speeches made in less than a week. In Mississippi, he said, "We protect Saudi Arabia — would you say they're rich?" "And I love the king, King Salman, but I said, 'King we're protecting you. You might not be there for two weeks without us. You have to pay for your military; you have to pay.'"

Two days before that, at a rally in West Virginia, he said, "King, you have got trillions of dollars. Without us, who knows what's going to happen. With us, they are safe. But we don't get what we should be getting." In his last speech in Minnesota, he said, "Excuse me, King Salman", he is my friend, 'do you mind paying for the military? Do you mind? Pay!' ... I said, 'do you mind paying?' 'But nobody has asked me', I said 'but I'm asking you, King."

The truth is that despite the brazen language, far from the diplomacy followed by the world leaders, that carry explicit threats, Trump was also correct in what he said. Yes, the U.S. is protecting the Al-Saud throne. This is an old agreement that was made during the secret meeting between President Franklin Roosevelt and King Abdul-Aziz Al-Saud, the founder of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, aboard the USS Quincy.

The truth is that although the language of sophistication is far removed from the diplomacy of heads of state, and the style of humiliation carries a clear threat, but Trump was also correct in what he said! This is an old agreement between U.S. President Franklin



It is interesting that Saudi Arabia did not respond to Trump's humiliation as an independent sovereign state nor the insult of its king with any official statement issued by the Royal Court followed by a firm political stance or stern diplomatic action against the United States.

Roosevelt and King Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, the founder of Saudi Arabia, aboard the USS Quincy cruiser on February 14, 1945, known as the Quincy Agreement. The most important clause in the agreement stipulates that the U.S. will provide unconditional protection to the ruling Al-Saud family in exchange for Saudi Arabia guaranteeing the oil supply the U.S. deserved.

The deal was supposed to last 60 years, and then President George W Bush renewed the agreement for another 60 in 2005. Trump was also truthful regarding the protection the U.S. pledged, but he wasn't accurate regarding the stipulation Saudi Arabia adhered to for decades. Saudi Arabia was generous, and not like he said, not at the desired level. Saudi Arabia also controlled the world oil prices through OPEC, keeping it at a price that pleases the U.S. and obeyed the order of the American master.

Now Trump is attacking OPEC and said in his speech before the UN General Assembly, "OPEC nations are as usual ripping off the rest of the world, and I don't like it. Nobody should like it. We defend many of these nations for nothing, and then they take advantage of us by giving us high oil prices. Not good."

It seems that President Trump wants to amend the Quincy Agreement in a manner that grants the U.S. all of the revenues from the Saudi oil wealth in return for protecting Saudi Arabia.

It is interesting that Saudi Arabia did not respond to Trump's humiliation as an independent sovereign state nor the insult of its king with any official statement issued by the Royal Court followed by a firm political stance or stern diplomatic action against the United States. However, a week later, the Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman, told Bloomberg, "I love working with him. You know, you have to accept that any friend will say good things and bad things," about Trump. This is a shameful response, no less shameful and humiliating than Trump's remarks about them, as Bin Salman's response

confirms Trump's remarks and indicates the fragility of the Saudi state and supports dependence on the U.S.

However, it seems that the arrogant youth, Bin Salman, who rules the Kingdom, has racked his brains for a new way to respond to Trump in a manner that allows him to seek revenge and regain his dignity. He abducted the Saudi journalist who writes for American's The Washington Post, Jamal Khashoggi, in Turkey, after ambushing him at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. Jamal Khashoggi entered the embassy and had not emerged, and four days after he was abducted, the Turkish and Saudi sides exchanged narratives and claims about whether or not Khashoggi was in the consulate.

The Saudis have confirmed that he left the consulate, while the Turks claim he did not and that he is still in the embassy. Claims were made back and forth until Reuters announced his death on Saturday in the embassy, and unofficial news stories were reported. The Turkish authorities have not issued any official statements regarding his death so far, while the security sources leaked statements of him being killed inside the Saudi embassy to the news agencies. Several news sources had added that he was tortured before he was murdered and that his body was cut into several pieces.

This is the action of criminal gangs and thugs, not countries governed by a constitution and treat their citizens based on the rule of law. Such actions are not new or strange to the Al-Saud family, as their forefathers established their kingdom over the remains and bodies of the tribes they unjustly and aggressively invaded.

This is neither the first nor the last time that Saudi opposition figures were abducted from exile and deported to Saudi Arabia. The country has a shameful and long history in this regard, as it seized the dissident, Nasser Al-Saeed from Beirut in 1979, with the help of one of his Palestinian friends from the PLO, and his fate remains unknown until today. Kidnapping dissidents are not lim-

ited to members of the public but have also included members of the royal family, the fate of many remain unknown. There are thousands of male and female scholars, clerics, intellectuals, economists, university professors, and activists behind bars.

The announcement of Khashoggi's assassination was a shock that shook the world humanitarian conscience. How could this happen to a peaceful man and a journalist who has nothing other than his thoughts and pen to serve the humanitarian issues, freedom, justice, and dignity. He was a staunch supporter of the Arab Spring revolutions, believing they would rise again and that a revolutionary wave was on the horizon. He thought that democracy was the solution in the Arab countries, especially those witnessing civil wars such as Yemen, Libya, and Syria.

Khashoggi carried the concerns and issues of his nation, and the Palestinian cause was his main focus and believed that the return of the nation's fighting spirit. Among his last tweets posted after attending a conference on Palestine post-Oslo, organized by Middle East Monitor in London, a day before traveling to Turkey on that fateful day, "I leave London with Palestine on my mind. I attended a conference and discovered researchers and activists who believe in the fairness of the cause from all over the world. Despite the strength of the Israeli lobby, which has besieged any sympathy with the Palestinian cause, but our voices are still high. In our world, they are trying to disregard Palestine to break our anger, but it is present in our conscience in the conscience of every citizen, even if they are silent."

He did not know he would depart from the world a day later. He said what he thought and withdrew, and his Twitter account's slogan was, "Say your word, and walk away." He paid his life as the price of his words, for the sake of revolution, humanity, justice, freedom, and truth. Peace be with you in life and death, our martyr.

(Source: Middle East Monitor)

Mending Europe's patchwork migration policy

The current approach is a failure. It doesn't have to stay that way.

Immigration is Europe's most divisive issue. From Sweden to Italy, voters accuse mainstream political parties of failing to control the recent influx of refugees and other migrants. Their anger threatens the European Union's commitment to the free movement of EU citizens, which stands alongside the free movement of capital, goods and services as a defining feature of the union. The Schengen agreement, which abolished passport and other controls at most internal borders, is also at risk.

The current patchwork of proposals won't work. Europe needs a comprehensive plan, drawing on the effort and resources of all its members, concentrating on four areas: more effective controls at the EU's external borders; new rules on asylum; new channels for legal immigration from outside the EU; and new measures to integrate migrants.

Between January 2014 and March 2018, nearly 1.8 million people crossed the Mediterranean Sea to enter the EU, according to data from the United Nations. Set against an EU population of more than 500 million, an inflow of that size, even though high by historical standards, should have been manageable. But governments failed to manage it. Europe's member states were divided about what to do, and their collective response was feeble. Border countries, including Italy and Greece, asked for help in handling the inflow but were at least initially rebuffed. The most recent meeting of European Council, the EU's top policy-making body, focused on the issue but got nowhere.

The first clear need is for coordinated control of the EU external border. Frontex, the EU border-control agency, should be put in charge of all search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean. To do its job well, it will need more generous funding. Frontex's budget stood at 320 million euros this year, up from 233 million euros in 2016. The European Commission now wants to give the agency 11.3



Europe needs a comprehensive plan, drawing on the effort and resources of all its members

billion euros for the seven-year period starting in 2021 — a welcome step in the right direction.

A danger to be avoided is relying too much on third countries, including Turkey and Libya, to block illegal departures in return for financial and logistical support. These agreements are often unreliable and are difficult to police — and, when things go wrong, the human cost can be terrible. (Migrants forcibly returned to Libya have faced appalling abuse.)

Instead, the EU should change its rules on asylum. Its so-called Dublin regulation says applications must be dealt with by the country of first entry. This places great pressure on southern member states, particularly Italy and Greece. What's needed is a fully centralized system, with applicants distributed across the union as a whole. This would relieve

border countries from the pressure of processing too many applications, and lead to a fairer distribution of refugees.


But the problem is by no means confined to asylum. Africa's population is on course to rise substantially over the coming decade. The disparity between incomes there and in Europe will push millions to cross the Mediterranean Sea. Carefully managed, this flow of economic migrants can work to Europe's advantage, mitigating the effects of an aging population and relieving pressure on its pension and health-care systems. Lack of legal, well-regulated channels for immigration will increase the risk of crime and abuse, and turn this European opportunity into an ongoing nightmare.

At the moment, the EU offers only limited legal access to third-country nationals. It should establish a quota system allowing more legal immigration, and come to agreements with the countries of departure to repatriate those entering illegally.

Finally, and most important, Europe should invest far more in training and education, to give migrants the best possible chance of worthwhile employment and successful integration. Again, this should be a joint effort. The EU shouldn't let the costs fall disproportionately on its border states. Europe's budget should be expanded so that the union as a whole can pay for what's required, regardless of where the immigrants are or how the money is actually spent.

Nobody should doubt how hard it will be to establish a new European compact on migration. The remedies of closer coordination and the pooling of funds are unlikely to appeal to voters disenchanted with the EU. But the case has to be made, because there's no other choice. The alternative of failing to devise an effective policy on migration has been tried, and the results are in — chaos, great and avoidable suffering, and a still-mounting backlash against mainstream politics. There'll be more of the same unless Europe's leaders rise to this challenge.

(Source: Bloomberg)




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Rabies incurs \$42m on Iran each year

HEALTH **TEHRAN** — Rabies, an infectious viral disease spread to people through animal bites, impose health economic burden amounting to 1.8 trillion rials (about \$42 million) on the country annually, head of zoonotic diseases department at the Ministry of Health has said.

Zoonotic means infectious diseases that are spread between animals and people.

“Over the past year, more than 180,000 individuals have suffered a significant animal bite throughout the country,” ISNA quoted Behzad Amiri as saying.

Bites by the stray dogs, accounted for 90 percent of the cases reported last year, and 40 percent of individuals bitten were children under 15 years, Amiri lamented.

He went on to say that “Despite the high number of animal bites, the number of people infected by rabies or deaths related to the disease in the country is less than 10 person per year.”

“Of course, even less than 10 cases are unacceptable, and we will work along with the World Health Organization to zero the human rabies caused by dog biting by the end of the 2030,” he highlighted.

WHO, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) have established a global “United Against Rabies” collaboration to provide a common strategy to achieve «Zero human rabies deaths by 2030».

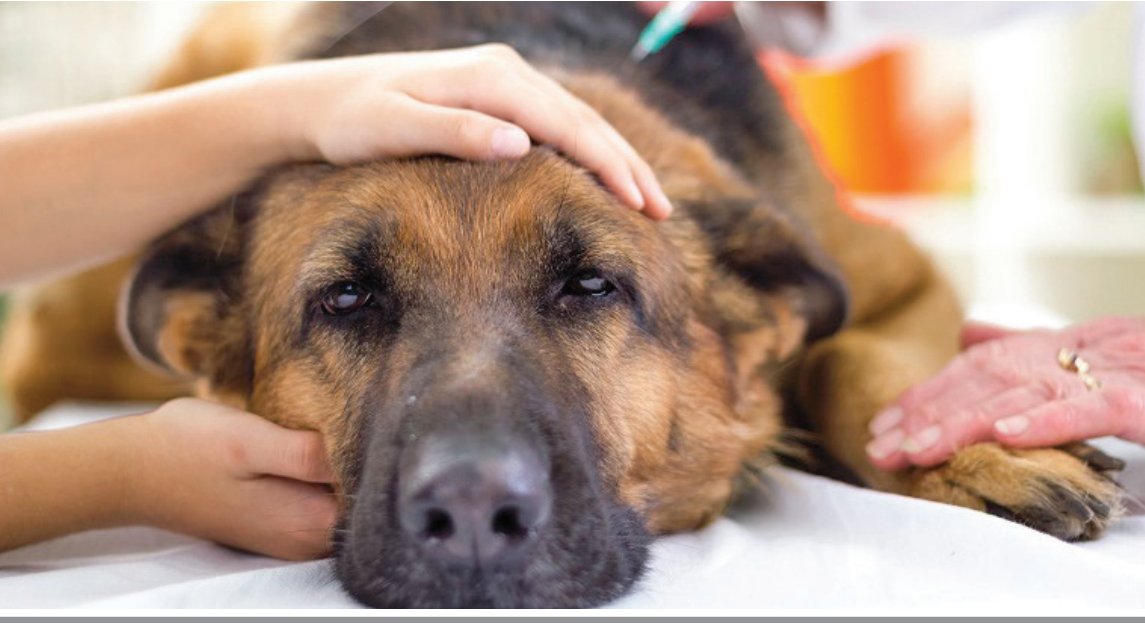
There are more than 700 rabies treatment and prevention centers in the country, Amiri said, adding, if a person has been bitten by an animal, they will refer to these centers and undergo preventive measures, which is why the rate of rabies in the country is very low.

He further explained that plans are being implemented in the country to prevent the disease, when a person refers to a treatment center due to an animal’s bite, the person will receive an anti-rabies vaccine, while in case of the animal not being available, we are obliged to complete the vaccination cycle (four doses of vaccine and anti-rabies serum) for the individual.

“The total cost incurred for both anti-rabies vaccine and anti-rabies serum is reported about 10 million rials (nearly \$240) per patient and with 180,000 people bitten by infected animals last year it cost us some 18 trillion rials (about \$42 million) for treatment of the patients,” he also highlighted, adding that vaccination and equine rabies immunoglobulin are free of cost in Iran.

Amiri went on to note that to eradicate rabies in the country, stray dog’s bites must be avoided, adding, in this regard, a legislation or act to control stray dog’s population is required.

In the past, wild or domestic animal bites were more



Despite the high number of animal bites, the number of people infected by rabies or deaths related to the disease in the country is less than 10 person per year.

likely to occur in rural areas, but this is already happening in the cities due to the growing population of stray dogs in urban areas, he concluded.

■ Rabies, causes, symptoms

According to WHO, rabies is an infectious viral disease that is almost always fatal following the onset of clinical symptoms. In up to 99% of cases, domestic dogs are responsible for rabies virus transmission to humans.

Globally, rabies deaths are rarely reported and children between the ages of 5–14 years are frequent victims. .

As the virus spreads to the central nervous system, progressive and fatal inflammation of the brain and spinal cord develops.

People with furious rabies exhibit signs of hyperactivity, excitable behaviour, hydrophobia (fear of water) and sometimes aerophobia (fear of drafts or of fresh air). Death occurs after a few days due to cardio-respiratory arrest.

Paralytic rabies accounts for about 20% of the total number of human cases. This form of rabies runs a less dramatic and usually longer course than the furious form. Muscles gradually become paralyzed, starting at the site of the bite or

scratch. A coma slowly develops, and eventually death occurs.

■ Preventive measures

Rabies is a vaccine-preventable disease. Vaccinating dogs is the most cost-effective strategy for preventing rabies in people.

Human rabies vaccines exist for pre-exposure immunization. These are recommended for people in certain high-risk occupations such as laboratory workers handling live rabies and rabies-related (lyssavirus) viruses; and people (such as animal disease control staff and wildlife rangers) whose professional or personal activities might bring them into direct contact with bats, carnivores, or other mammals that may be infected.

Pre-exposure immunization is also recommended for travelers to rabies-affected, remote areas who plan to spend a lot of time outdoors involved in activities such as caving or mountain-climbing.

Moreover, killing the rabies virus involves first-aid of the wound that includes immediate and thorough flushing and washing of the wound for a minimum of 15 minutes with soap and water, detergent, povidone iodine or other substances.

FDA bans seven artificial food flavorings

The FDA has banned the use of seven synthetic substances used to flavor or enhance flavor in baked goods, ice cream, candy, beverages, and chewing gum.

Environmental and health advocacy groups sent data to the agency that showed that 6 of the substances cause cancer in lab animals, the FDA says, and the seventh flavor is being removed from approved additives as it is no longer used by industry.

On a label, the substances are listed as “artificial flavors,” rather than their specific names, according to the Environmental Defense Fund, one of the organizations that petitioned to get the flavors outlawed. The substances are typically added to simulate mint, cinnamon, and citrus.

The 6 are benzophenone, ethyl acrylate, eugenyl methyl ether, myrcene, pulegone, and pyridine.

The FDA also removed its approval for styrene, which has been abandoned by industry, the agency says.

■ The petitioning

In 2015, several organizations petitioned the FDA to ban the substances, pointing to data showing they cause cancer in lab animals. Under the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act’s Delaney Clause, enacted in 1958, the FDA cannot allow the legal use of any food additive found to induce cancer in humans or animals at any dose.

In its statement announcing the decision on Oct. 5, the FDA notes that its “rigorous scientific analysis has determined that they do not pose a risk to public health under the conditions of their intended use. The synthetic flavoring substances that are the subject of this petition are typically used in foods available in the U.S. marketplace in very small amounts and their use results in very low levels of exposure and low risk.”

But, the agency says, the groups calling for the ban proved the “substances caused cancer in animals who were exposed to much higher doses. As such, the FDA is only revoking the listing of these six synthetic flavorings as a matter of law.”

The decision, the FDA says, does not affect the legal status of foods that contain the natural counterparts of the substances used to flavor foods and drink.

The FDA will give companies 24 months to identify suitable replacement ingredients and change the formula for their products.

■ Petitioners applaud decision

“The evidence is really clear that these are carcinogens,” says Tom Neltner, a chemical engineer and attorney who is the chemicals policy director of the Environmental Defense Fund.

The data they submitted, he says, links the flavorings to a variety of cancers, including urinary cancer and those of the kidney, blood, and liver.

Jaydee Hanson, senior policy analyst at the Center for Food Safety, another of the petitioners, said in this case, the system worked.

“This is the kind of thing that is supposed to happen,” he says “You’re supposed to petition the government, they’re supposed to pay attention and do something about it, and they did.”

(Source: WebMD)

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

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

Product development is Post Company's main strategy: ICT minister

TECHNOLOGY d e s k TEHRAN — Product development is the main strategy of the Iran Post Company this year, the minister of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi announced during a ceremony on Monday.



Minister of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi

Azari Jahromi attended a ceremony to celebrate World Post Day, which is annually held on October 9.

Post always conveys message of peace, kindness and science and the postman is the symbol of kindness, he said. "We should plan to double post market in Iran in order to develop the Iran Post Company," he said.

He pointed to product development of the company via distribution of magazines, handicraft and souvenirs of different regions of Iran.

The minister highlighted the important role of private sector to boost the market of post in Iran.

The Iran Post Company should welcome new ideas and innovation in order to boost the market, he said.

World Post Day

World Post Day is celebrated each year on October 9, the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern. It was declared World Post Day by the UPU Congress held in Tokyo, Japan in 1969. Since then, countries across the world participate annually in the celebrations. The Posts in many countries use the event to introduce or promote new postal products and services.

The day is celebrated around the world and by various international organizations. Some high ranking officials making speeches or discussing the various achievements of a country's postal system.

Some countries issue special postage stamps to commemorate the day. In schools there could be special lessons for children. While postal workers could get extra training or receive rewards of recognition.

SOCIALLY SAFE

Donating to charity online

The work carried out by charities and voluntary organizations is invaluable to society, helping people in the greatest need both in the United Kingdom and abroad. Charities rely on donations from the general public and businesses to carry out their work, especially in tough economic times. Most collections and appeals are authentic and legitimate, but unfortunately fraudsters can exploit people's charitable nature and steal money which the donor thinks is going the help the charity.

One of the most common ways of doing this is online. Do not stop donating money to the good cause of your choice. Instead, take a few simple precautions to protect yourself – and your chosen charity – against online fraud.

The Risks

- Bogus charity sites – fake websites for charities that do not exist, such as temporary fraudulent websites set up during well publicised disasters (for example famines and earthquakes).
- Phishing emails – emails sent to you attempting to trick you into disclosing your bank details and passwords.
- Fraud resulting from making payments over unsecured web pages.
- Identity theft caused by viruses or spyware, giving criminals access to your bank account and other personal information stored on your computer.

Donating Safely

To ensure you are donating safely:

- Visit the charity's own website by typing the website address into the browser yourself, rather than clicking on a hyperlink embedded in an email. Check the web address online with the relevant charity regulator or by calling the charity itself.
- Before you donate any money, check that the website you are on is secure. There should be a padlock symbol in the browser window frame, which appears when you attempt to log in or register. Be sure that the padlock is not on the page itself – this is a sign that the site could be fraudulent. The web address should begin with 'https://'. The 's' stands for 'secure'.
- If you receive unsolicited emails from charities you have never heard of or have no association with, do not respond and do not click on links contained in them. Report them to Action Fraud and then delete them.
- Do not respond to requests to donate through a money transfer company such as Western Union or MoneyGram, as this is a tactic commonly used in scams.
- Ensure that the charity is genuine before divulging personal details, or debit/credit card or online banking information. The Verified by Visa, MasterCard SecureCode and American Express SafeKey schemes all offer additional safeguards for debit/credit card payments.
- You could consider supporting individual fundraisers by donating through websites such as JustGiving, Virgin Money Giving and MyDonate.
- When supporting disaster relief abroad, you could consider donating via the Disasters Emergency Committee website.
- If you are still in any doubt, a legitimate charity will happily advise you on other ways to give on their website or via a phone call.
- If you think you may have given your account details to an impostor or bogus charity, contact your bank immediately.

(Source: getsafeonline.org)

Iran nanotechnology festival plans to boost exports

TECHNOLOGY d e s k TEHRAN — The 11th Nanotechnology Festival and Exhibition of Iran aims to expand exports of nano products, the secretary of the event Saeid Sarkar announced on Monday, IRNA reported.

The event will be held from October 13 to 16 at the Tehran Permanent International Fairground.

Representatives from 40 countries including South Korea, Russia, Armenia, Oman, Malaysia and Indonesia will attend the expo, he explained.

Iran is now exporting nanotechnology products to 40 countries, Sarkar announced.

He named populous countries like Indonesia, India, Mexico and Brazil as some of the targets for Iranian nanotechnology products.

Iran has established offices to expand exports in Turkey and Indonesia and will launch an office in Iraq in the near future, he said.

Sarkar also pointed to establishment of the second Iran Nanotech China Centers (INCC) in in Guangzhou, China in July 2018.

The first branch of the INCC was set up by INIC and Nanopolis Suzhou company in Suzhou in May 2015.

The centers aim to facilitate cooperation between Iran and China in the field of nanotechnology and to boost cooperation between Iranian and Chinese nano companies.

The festival hosts 107 participants active in the field of nanotechnology, he said.

Iran has already boasts of 460 nanotechnology products and over 180 knowledge-based companies nationwide, he said.

The university student, organizations and private sector will attend the event, Sarkar added.

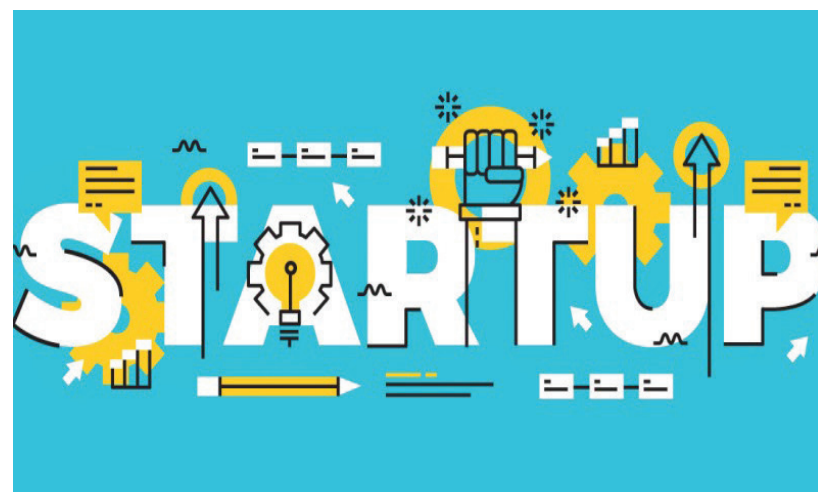
Iran wants to launch joint academic courses in the field of nanotechnology with other countries, he added.

Organized annually by the Iran Nanotechnology Initiative Council, it is the largest and most credible domestic exhibition in the field of nanotechnology.



A series of nanotechnology products are on display during the 10th Nanotechnology Festival and Exhibition of Iran in October 2017, Tehran

Tehran Municipality, vice presidency for science and technology sign MOU



TECHNOLOGY d e s k TEHRAN — Iran's vice presidency for science and technology and Tehran Municipality signed an agreement to develop innovative ideas in the capital city of Tehran.

"Tehran has the potentiality to turn into a smart city and the municipal services can be afforded by the knowledge-based companies and startups," vice president for science and technology Sourena Sattari said during the event on Tuesday, ISNA reported.

The method of education will be transformed in near future since citizens should learn about new software and hardware

in different stage of life, he said.

According to the agreement, several innovation factories will be launched until the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2019) in the city of Tehran.

The two sides also agreed on establishment of a center for startups active in Tehran.

"We plan to transform the abandoned factories and unused urban spaces in Tehran into centers for innovation and startups in near future," he said.

Tehran municipality supports the renovation and housing of startups and innovative centers in that places, he said.

A beginner's guide to blockchain-part seven



The blockchain gives internet users the ability to create value and authenticates digital information. What will new business applications result?

Smart contracts

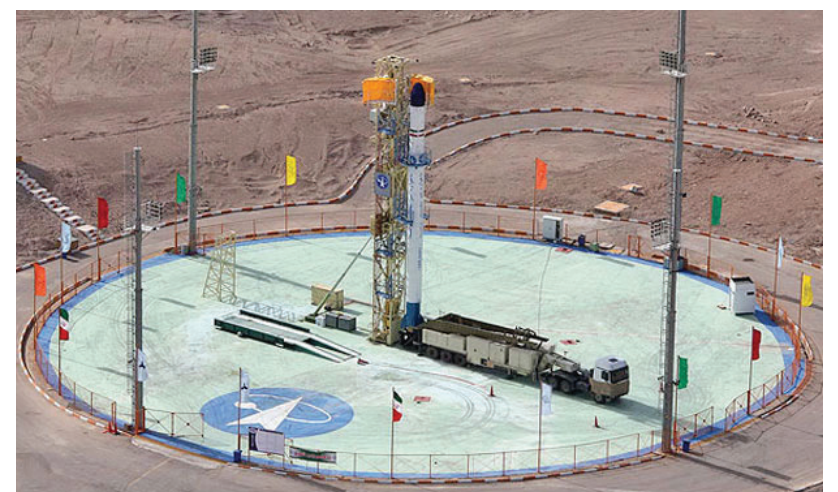
Distributed ledgers enable the coding of simple contracts that will execute when specified conditions are met. Ethereum is an open source blockchain project that was built specifically to realize this possibility. Still, in its early stages, Ethereum has

the potential to leverage the usefulness of blockchains on a truly world-changing scale.

At the technology's current level of development, smart contracts can be programmed to perform simple functions. For instance, a derivative could be paid out when a financial instrument meets certain benchmark, with the use of blockchain technology and Bitcoin enabling the payout to be automated.

(Source: blockgeeks.com)

Iranian homegrown satellites to be launched by yearend



TECHNOLOGY d e s k TEHRAN — Three Iranian domestic-made satellites will be launched into space during the current Iranian calendar year (to be ended on March 20, 2019), the Iranian Space Agency (ISA) Director Morteza Barari said on Monday.

The Dousti satellite of the Sharif University of Technology, Payam of the Amirkabir University and the Nahid-1 are completed and the three satellites are ready to be launched into space.

The development of space infra-

structure in the field of telecommunication and remote sensing is our first priority, he said.

The ISA is following licenses for launching the satellites in coming three months, he explained.

There is no limitation for satellite launch in Iran, he said.

Dousti and Nahid-1 will be placed into the orbit at 500 kilometers above the earth's surface while Payam will be placed into the orbit at 500 kilometers above the earth's surface, he announced in early October.

What does freemium business model mean?



Freemium is a portmanteau, or blend, of the words 'free' and 'premium'. A company operating under a freemium business model will have two kinds of users:

■ Those that use the service for free

■ Those that pay a subscription fee for premium features of the service

The profit a company will get from

its premium users will pay the bills for those that use it for free. It's important to note, however, that only a small proportion of users will pay for the service.

Therefore, in order for this model to be profitable, there must be a very large user base, so that even a small percentage of paying users will equate to a large revenue.

(Source: startupinstitute.com)

Rapid response urgently needed to limit global warming, experts suggest

Limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society, the IPCC said in a new assessment. With clear benefits to people and natural ecosystems, limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C could go hand in hand with ensuring a more sustainable and equitable society, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said on Monday.

The Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C was approved by the IPCC on Saturday in Incheon, Republic of Korea. It will be a key scientific input into the Katowice Climate Change Conference in Poland in December, when governments review the Paris Agreement to tackle climate change.

"With more than 6,000 scientific references cited and the dedicated contribution of thousands of expert and government reviewers worldwide, this important report testifies to the breadth and policy relevance of the IPCC," said Hoesung Lee, Chair of the IPCC.

Convention on climate change

Ninety-one authors and review editors from 40 countries prepared the IPCC report in response to an invitation from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) when it adopted the Paris Agreement in 2015.

The report's full name is Global Warming of 1.5°C, an IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the



context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty. "One of the key messages that comes out

very strongly from this report is that we are already seeing the consequences of 1°C of global warming through more extreme weather, rising sea levels and diminishing Arctic

Limiting global warming would also give people and ecosystems more room to adapt and remain below relevant risk thresholds, adds Pörtner, Co-Chair of IPCC.

When yesterday's agriculture feeds today's water pollution

A study led by researchers at Université de Montréal quantifies for the first time the maximum amount of nutrients — specifically, phosphorus — that can accumulate in a watershed before additional pollution is discharged into downriver ecosystems.

That average threshold amount is 2.1 tons per square kilometer of land, the researchers estimate in their study published in *Nature Geoscience*. "Beyond this, further phosphorus inputs to watersheds cause a significant acceleration of (phosphorus) loss in runoff."

This amount is shockingly low, the researchers say; given current nutrient application rates in most agricultural watersheds around the world, tipping points in some cases could be reached in less than a decade.

Aquatic ecosystem

The study was led by Jean-Olivier Goyette, a doctoral student in biology at UdeM, and supervised by UdeM aquatic ecosystem ecologist Roxane Maranger in collaboration with sustainability scientist Elena Bennett at McGill University.

Phosphorus, an element in fertilizer, is essential to the growth of plant food. But the mineral is also harmful when overused. When it gets into surface water, it can lead to excessive plant growth in lakes and rivers and proliferation of toxic algae, harmful to human and animal health.

Focusing on 23 watersheds feeding the St. Lawrence River in Quebec, the researchers reconstructed historic land-use practices in order to calculate how much phosphorus has accumulated on the land over the past century.

The two main sources of phosphorus to watersheds, the land adjacent to tributaries, come from agriculture (fertilizers and animal manure) and from the human population (through food needs and sewage).

Using Quebec government data, the researchers matched the estimated accumulation with phosphorus concentrations measured in the water for the last 26 years.



Since the watersheds they studied had different histories—some had been used intensively for agriculture for decades whereas others were forested and pristine—this method allowed the researchers to establish a gradient of different phosphorus accumulations among sites. In so doing, they were able to see at what point the watershed "tipped" or reached a threshold and began to leak considerably more phosphorus into the water.

Phosphorous inputs

"Think of the land as a sponge," Maranger said. "After a while, sponges that absorb too much water will leak. In the case of phosphorus, the landscape absorbs it year after year after year, and after a while, its retention capacity is reduced. At that point historical phosphorus inputs contribute more to what reaches our water." Until now, no-one had been able to put a number to the amount of accumulated phosphorus at the watershed scale that's needed to reach a tipping point in terms of accelerating the amount of the mineral flowing into the aquatic ecosystem. "This is a very important finding," Bennett said. "It takes our farm-scale knowledge of fertilizers and pollution and scales it up to understand how whole watersheds respond within a historical context."

Agriculture on a mass scale began in Quebec only in the 1950s, but some of the province's more historical agricultural watersheds had already passed the tipping point by the 1920s, the study found.

(Source: phys.org)

Big discoveries about tiny particles, new research claims

From photonics to pharmaceuticals, materials made with polymer nanoparticles hold promise for products of the future. However, there are still gaps in understanding the properties of these tiny plastic-like particles.

Now, Hojin Kim, a graduate student in chemical and biomolecular engineering at the University of Delaware, together with a team of collaborating scientists at the Max Planck Institute for Polymer Research in Germany, Princeton University and the University of Trento, has uncovered new insights about polymer nanoparticles. The team's findings, including properties such as surface mobility, glass transition temperature and elastic modulus, were published in *Nature Communications*.

Under the direction of MPI Prof. George Fytas, the team used Brillouin light spectroscopy, a technique that spelunks the molecular properties of microscopic nanoparticles by examining how they vibrate.

"We analyzed the vibration between each nanoparticle to understand how their mechanical properties change at different temperatures," Kim said.

Mechanical properties

The characteristics of polymer nanoparticles differ from those of larger particles of the same material. "Their nanostructure and small size provide different mechanical properties," Kim said. "It's really important to understand the thermal behavior of nanoparticles in order to improve the performance of a material."

Take polystyrene, a material commonly used in nanotechnology. Larger particles of this material are used in plastic bottles, cups and packaging materials.

"Polymer nanoparticles can be more flexible or weaker at the glass transition temperature at which they soften from a stiff texture to a soft one, and it

sea ice, among other changes," said Panmao Zhai, Co-Chair of IPCC Working Group I.

The report highlights a number of climate change impacts that could be avoided by limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C, or more. For instance, by 2100, global sea level rise would be 10 cm lower with global warming of 1.5°C compared with 2°C.

Global warming

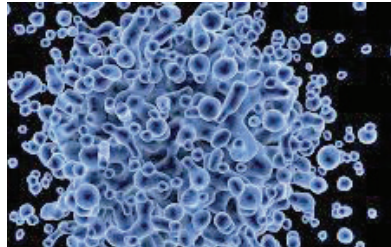
The likelihood of an Arctic Ocean free of sea ice in summer would be once per century with global warming of 1.5°C, compared with at least once per decade with 2°C. Coral reefs would decline by 70-90 percent with global warming of 1.5°C, whereas virtually all (> 99 percent) would be lost with 2°C.

"Every extra bit of warming matters, especially since warming of 1.5°C or higher increases the risk associated with long-lasting or irreversible changes, such as the loss of some ecosystems," said Hans-Otto Pörtner, Co-Chair of IPCC Working Group II.

Limiting global warming would also give people and ecosystems more room to adapt and remain below relevant risk thresholds, added Pörtner. The report also examines pathways available to limit warming to 1.5°C, what it would take to achieve them and what the consequences could be.

The "good news is that some of the kinds of actions that would be needed to limit global warming to 1.5°C are already underway around the world, but they would need to accelerate," said Valerie Masson-Delmotte.

(Source: Science Daily)



decreases as particle size decreases," Kim said. That's partly because polymer mobility at small particle surface can be activated easily. It's important to know when and why this transition occurs, since some products, such as filter membranes, need to stay strong when exposed to a variety of conditions.

For example, a disposable plastic cup made with the polymer polystyrene might hold up in boiling water—but that cup doesn't have nanoparticles. The research team found that polystyrene nanoparticles start to experience the thermal transition at 343 Kelvin (158 degrees F), known as the softening temperature, below a glass transition temperature of 372 K (210 F) of the nanoparticles, just short of the temperature of boiling water. When heated to this point, the nanoparticles don't vibrate—they stand completely still.

This hadn't been seen before, and the team found evidence to suggest that this temperature may activate a highly mobile surface layer in the nanoparticle, Kim said. As particles heated up between their softening temperature and glass transition temperature, the particles interacted with each other more and more. Other research groups have previously suspected that glass transition temperature drops with decreases in particle size decreases because of differences in particle mobility, but they could not observe it directly.

(Source: erekalert.org)

Mount Vesuvius may have killed people by vaporizing their blood, research finds

In August of the year 79 CE, the surrounds of volcano Mount Vesuvius were definitely not the place to be. Over the two days of a catastrophic eruption, if pyroclastic surges didn't roast you alive, any number of other things could have made for a horrific death.

Including, according to new research, this exciting death: the heat vaporizing all your bodily fluids, which then causes steam pressure to explode your skull from the inside.

Archaeologists at the Federico II University Hospital in Italy have conducted a study of bones recovered from 12 ash-filled waterfront chambers in Herculaneum - one of the cities closest to the volcano - and discovered a strange, red and black mineral residue on the bones, including inside skulls, and permeating the ash around and inside the skeletons.

According to inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry and Raman microspectroscopy analyses, that residue contains iron and iron oxides. Which is what would happen when blood boils and turns into steam.

"Here we show for the first time convincing experimental evidence suggesting the rapid vaporization of body fluids and soft tissues of the 79 AD Herculaneum victims at death by exposure to extreme heat," the researchers wrote in their paper.

Now, it's not actually entirely clear how those iron residues could have gotten there. It's also important to note that some of them appear near metal artefacts, such as coins, rings and other personal items found near the remains.

At Herculaneum, those 12 waterfront chambers along the beach were the refuge of around 300 people. It was to become their tomb, when they were "suddenly engulfed by the abrupt collapse of the rapidly advancing first pyroclastic surge," the researchers wrote.

(Source: sciencealert.com)

Team says Hubble is in safe mode after another gyroscope failure

The Hubble Space Telescope is creeping ever closer to 30 years old, and nothing lasts forever. Scientists are acutely aware of that today after placing the orbiting observatory into safe mode following the failure of another gyroscope. The team is currently working to bring another gyro online, but Hubble may be limited in what it can do going forward.

NASA originally designed Hubble with six internal gyroscopes, but these components have a limited lifespan. Each one spins at 19,200 rpm inside a sealed chamber of high viscosity fluid. Gyroscopes use the principle of angular momentum to track movements, which allows the satellite to ensure it's pointed in the right direction.



To operate optimally, Hubble needs three operational gyroscopes. The failure over the weekend took the telescope down to just two. Scientists are working to bring another sleeping gyro online to restore full functionality, but it's not working. With two gyroscopes, Hubble would be limited in the objects it could observe. NASA replaced all six of Hubble's gyroscopes in the final 2009 servicing mission. Three of the gyroscopes were the same type already installed at the time, and three of them were a new design intended to last longer. The newly failed gyro is the last of that old design, and it lasted about six months longer than expected.

With only two working gyroscopes, Hubble will go down to single-gyro mode. According to Deputy Hubble Mission Head Rachel Osten, the single-gyro mode is not much worse than two gyros. That way, Hubble has a longer total lifespan.

Extending Hubble's life is key right now. NASA's next-generation James Webb Space Telescope has suffered from repeated delays. Primary construction has finished, but engineers are going over the design in order to address some anomalies that popped up during vibration testing.

(Source: extremetech.com)

Megalodon extinction mystery set to be unraveled

Megalodon was the biggest shark ever to live. It could grow up to 60 feet in length and had 276 teeth, some of which were seven inches long. Its jaw was 11 feet wide — big enough to swallow two humans in one go.

It dominated as an apex predator of the oceans for about 20 million years. But 2.5 million years ago it went extinct — and scientists don't fully understand why. Sora Kim, from the University of California Merced, and colleagues have now been awarded over \$200,000 to find out.

"There are many ideas about why the megalodon went extinct," Kim said in a statement. "Scientists have argued that changes in the megalodon's available prey base combined with climate change led to their demise. But these are just hypotheses. There have been no rigorous studies that demonstrate this conclusively."

The grant, from the National Science Foundation, will be used to solve the longstanding mystery. Studying the megalodon's disappearance is difficult as, like all sharks, their skeleton is made of cartilage and not bone. Cartilage does not fossilize, so unlike other ancient long lost creatures, there is little evidence for scientists to work with. Instead, they must use the megalodon's teeth.

Over a shark's lifetime, it sheds thousands of teeth—and these teeth are extremely resilient to alteration. As a result, scientists can use them to track changes that take place over millions of years.

"Sharks are made of cartilage which does not preserve as well as bone," Kim told Newsweek. "On the other hand, shark teeth are abundant and have excellent preservation but are often not articulated, lost constantly (they do not necessarily represent where the animal died), and teeth can be resuspended and moved after deposition."

(Source: Newsweek)

New range of SHATEL Mobile SIM Cards Hit Market

SHATEL Mobile revealed the presentation of new range of SIM cards of this new generation operator of mobile phone, the Public Relations Dept. of the company reported.

Given the above issue, new range of mobile phone's SIM cards with pre-number at (009811) was added to the credit-based numbers of this mobile operator.

The aforementioned SIM cards of SHATEL Mobile can be provided through referring to the representative offices of SHATEL Company in the nationwide or getting in touch with the following phone number: 00981000000.

The previous range of this new generation operator was: 009810. With the increase in the number of subscribers, the license

of the new range of mobile SIM card was obtained from Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA).

Presently, SHATEL Mobile is currently considered as the only real operator of Full MVNO type in the country which offers its SIM cards to the consumer market with nationwide telecommunications coverage in G2, 3G, 3.75G, 4G and G4.5.

Presenting unique services including 'transfer of the remaining traffic of the internet packages to the next period, special tariff for free internet use, supply of internet packages along with minutes of conversation and conceptual services are of the other salient advantages of this new generation operator, the Public Relations Dept. of the company concluded.

ITA Intl. Award 2018 Granted to BSI

International ITA Award 2018 was granted to Bank Saderat Iran (BSI), the Public Relations Dept. reported.

International Training and Assistance (ITA) was awarded by British ICMF Group due to the transparency of banking services operations.

The award-granting ceremony was held in IRIB Conferences Center in the presence of senior executive officials of the country, Parliament representatives, managers of top economic enterprises, as well as senior director of Bank Saderat Iran (BSI).

The golden trophy of the most profitable bank in the current year (started March 21, 2018) belonged to Bank Saderat Iran.

2018 ITA Award was granted to Hojjatollah Seydi CEO of Bank Saderat Iran (BSI).

The manager of BSI branches in Tehran and Alborz



provinces Seyed Kazem Mortazavi Oskouei was the first speaker who pointed to the outstanding and brilliant history of economic enterprises in the country and said, "Bank Saderat Iran has paid 620,000 billion rials in the past year (ended March 20, 2018) to spur production and production activities."

In addition, the bank paid 363,000 billion rials in the first half of the current year (Sept. 21) in various economic sectors of the country, he said, adding, "94,000 billion rials worth of fund has been paid by the bank to private sector of the country, based on which, suitable ways have been provided for generating 94,000 jobs."

In the same direction, the bank cooperated with Imam Khomeini Relief Committee (IKRC) in offering facilities for creating 12,000 employments, he maintained.

Drug abuse detection kits for on-site screening unveiled

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — Homegrown rapid detection kits used for screening drug abuse among the drivers on the site were unveiled on Tuesday, ISNA reported.

Breath alcohol test are being used to determine the level of alcohol in one’s blood, but it is not easy to decide if a driver is driving under the effects of a drug, so that the kits can help the traffic police chief to easily recognize drivers who have used drugs, Ja’far Mohaqeq, an official with traffic police explained.

The kits are designed in a way that can indicate whether the driver has done drugs or not within three minutes and can even tell the kind of drug the driver is on, Mohaqeq added.

According to the U.S. National Institute on Drug Abuse effects of specific drugs differ depending on how they act in the brain. For example, marijuana can slow reaction time, impair judgment of time and distance, and decrease coordination. Drivers who have used cocaine or methamphetamine can be aggressive and reckless when driving. Certain kinds of sedatives, called benzodiazepines, can cause dizziness and drowsiness. All of these impairments can lead to vehicle crashes.

Research studies have shown negative effects of marijuana on drivers, including an increase in lane weaving, poor reaction time, and altered attention to the road. Use of alcohol with marijuana made drivers more impaired, causing even more lane weaving.

According to the World Health Organization in 2013, illicit drug use was estimated to be responsible for just over 39 600 road traffic deaths worldwide. Amphetamine use was estimated to cause around half of these deaths while cannabis was estimated to cause one fifth of them. Although there were more deaths due to drink-driving worldwide in the same year (just over 188,000), the risk of death from drug-driving remains high.

Motorcycle riders constitute 25% of traffic related deaths

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — Approximately one-fourth of the traffic-related deaths happened among motorcycle riders so far this [Iranian calendar] year (starting on March 21), traffic police chief Taqi Mehri said on Monday.

There are 11.7 million motorcycle riders in the country and they caused 30 percent of the road accidents over the current [Iranian calendar] year (March 2018- March 2019), YJC quoted Mehri as saying.

“Over the past few years the number of motorcycle riders have increased which has led to more deaths result from crashes and that’s why we are planning to teach them road skills to avoid accidents,” he added.

According to the statistics published by Iran’s forensics organization some 16,201 individuals lost their lives in road accidents in the past calendar year (March 2016- March 2017) which shows a 1.7 percent increase compared to a year earlier.

Moreover the figures reveal that some 7,062 individuals were killed in accidents over the first 5 months of the current year (March 21- August 22) which again indicates a 1.7 percent surge compared to the same period a year before.

According to the World Health Organization almost half of all deaths on the world’s roads are among those with the least protection – motorcyclists, cyclists and pedestrians.

However, the likelihood of dying on the road as a motorcyclist, cyclist or pedestrian varies by region: the African Region has the highest proportion of pedestrian and cyclist deaths at 43% of all road traffic deaths, while these rates are relatively low in the South-East Asia Region.

LEARN ENGLISH

Discussing the Competition

Mr. Ford: Now, of course, with all this **cutting-edge** technology there must be a **catch**, you might ask yourself. I bet the retail price will be too much for most consumers, you might say. Well, you’d be wrong!

Mr. Ford: Yes, of course the x420 is **aimed** at the luxury market, but if you compare the price of our leading competitors, the x420 represents incredible value for money. At only15,000RMB it is far more affordable and far more attractive than almost every leading brand and model.

Mr. Ford: So, what **differentiates** us from our competitors? Well, if we compare Orange’s luxury MP40 range then we can really **highlight** some of the differences.

Mr. Ford: Now, of course Orange has an **enviable** record for producing revolutionary and top class products, and I must admit the MP40 is a breathtaking machine. However, for most consumers the MP40 is simply far too expensive to consider.

Mr. Ford: The questions we must ask ourselves are” What does the Alpha brand stand for?” and also” How can we set ourselves apart from our competitors?” The answer to both of these questions is the same my friends.

Mr. Ford: Alpha stands first and **foremost** for quality, for excellence and for service. If we always stick to this philosophy, then I’m confident that we will really be able to expand our market share significantly. Okay, let me move on now to give you an idea of our marketing campaign for the x420.

■ Key vocabulary

cutting edge: the newest and most advanced

catch: hidden problem that makes something complicated

aim: to direct (something) at a particular goal

differentiate: to make different in some way

highlight: to make or try to make people notice

enviable: causing envy; very desirable

foremost: most important

■ Supplementary vocabulary

high-end: at the top level of consumer purchases, aimed at luxury and high quality markets

outsource: to send a job somewhere else, often overseas

hotline: a phone number people can call to get help any time of day

motto: an expression that is the guiding principle of a person or organization

trademark: something (symbol, logo, phrase, etc.) that distinguishes one company’s product from its competitors

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

Diesel particulate filter mandatory for private sector buses

ENVIRONMENT **TEHRAN** — Tehran Municipality has obliged the private sector to equip 10 percent of their buses with diesel particulate filters each year, Mohsen Pourseyyed Aqaei, deputy mayor of Tehran for traffic and transport affairs, has said.

A diesel particulate filter is a device designed to remove diesel particulate matter or soot from the exhaust gas of a diesel engine by 85 percent, and under certain conditions can attain soot removal efficiencies approaching 100 percent.

“Each filter costs nearly 1 billion rials (about \$23,000),” ISNA quoted Pourseyyed Aqaei as saying on Tuesday.

Public transport fleet, operating within Tehran municipality, also has been supposed to buy diesel particulate filters for 700 buses running in the capital, he said, adding that so far, some 100 filters have been purchased and debates are underway to buy 100 more.

He went on to say that “we have been waiting for the filter purchase process for Tehran’s bus transport fleet to be completed, then to oblige the private sector to equip their buses with the filters, as well.”

“It is scheduled that all private bus companies must install diesel particulate filters on 10 percent of the buses per year,” he stated, adding as the largest private bus company has 300 buses, 10 percent of which accounts for only 30 buses, no heavy financial burden are imposed on them.

The Municipality’s transportation and traffic department is also supposed to increase the subsidies granted to the buses equipped with filters to compensate for part of the costs, he concluded.

According to health or environmental officials over 70 percent of pollutants in Iran’s capital, Tehran, is produced by clunker buses. In a press conference held on January 13



in Tehran, deputy environment chief Masoud Tajrishi said that some 97 percent of buses in Tehran are old.

Moreover, on February 7, Mohammad Javad Heshmati, deputy prosecutor general, said that more than 80 percent of

the air pollution in metropolises is caused by low quality fuel.

So it is not so farfetched to conclude that air pollution in Tehran and other metropolises of Iran are derived from low quality fuel and the old transportation system.

Mobile medical clinics set up in deprived areas



1 → Ehsan-Barekat Foundation offers social services to the underprivileged to eradicate social harms, and is affiliated to the Execution of Imam Khomeini’s Order and Barekat Foundation which

has been established on December 11, 2007, in order to act as an organization to uproot deprivation, to realize economic and social empowerment and to carry out public affairs.

Flood haunting northern Iran brings \$166m loss



1 → He also expressed hope that with the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers, budgets will be provided within next week to compensate for the damages, especially repairing infrastructure and public utilities.

As per the reports by Iran’s meteorological organization the precipitation sin the province have been unprecedented for the past 17 years as it rained 280 millimeters in Ramsar in less than 24 hours.

Scary question: What will happen if natural resources run out?

By Anna Kucirkova

On our wonderful planet, there are multiple natural resources that help make life easier. We use trees for making paper products and they provide us with oxygen. We use natural gas to heat our homes and coal to help us produce electricity. Freshwater fish are a staple in the American diet and we pump billions of barrels of oil out of the ground to fuel our automobiles.

But what happens when natural resources become scarce, or worse, when they run out?

What are the implications of such a thing? And how can we create environmental sustainability? Here’s what you need to know.

■ The natural resources at our disposal

Natural resources occur within nature in their original form, undisturbed by people. They are formed over many years without the help of humans.

Earth is plentiful with natural resources that develop and re-grow using the surrounding environment. Some, like water and air, are used for our daily survival. Others like coal, gas, and oil are used for other needs.

Following are the top 10 natural resources available: water, air, coal, oil, natural gas, phosphorus, other minerals, iron, soil, forests and timber.

Apart from the resources listed above, rocks and sediments, lakes and rivers, mountains, wetlands, coastal shores, farmlands, sand, copper, clay, manganese and

stone are some of the other natural resources that continue to be depleted with human use.

■ The ongoing depletion of natural resources

At the current global population of 7 billion people, there will be an inevitable increase in the demand of natural resources. As more countries aid in the development of vulnerable populations, the needs for these resources will grow.

Here are six natural resources already under severe pressure from current rates of consumption:

■ 1 – Water

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is predicting that by 2025, 1.8 billion people will be living in countries or regions with water scarcity.

■ 2 – Oil

The BP Statistical Review of World Energy in June measured total global oil at 188.8 million tons, from proven oil resources at the end of 2010. This will last 46.2 years, under current global production rates.

■ 3 – Natural Gas

Similarly to oil, we only have enough gas in proven reserves to meet 58.6 years of global production.

■ 4 – Phosphorus

Without this element, plants cannot grow. With the need to feed 7 billion people, and scientists from the Global Phosphorus Research Initiative predict we could run out of phosphorus in 50 to 100 years.

■ 5 – Coal

Coal has the largest reserves, but as industrialization continues, demand may outstrip supply. At current rates, we can meet 188 years of global production.

■ 6 – Rare Earth Elements

Scandium and terbium are two of 17 rare earth minerals used in wind turbines and smartphones. Exact reserves are not known. Things are not getting better.

Humans are using up their allowance for water, soil, clean air and other resources on Earth each year. By August 2, 2017, humans used more from Nature than the planet could renew within a year. This is known as the Overshoot Day.

In 1980, overshoot day was in November; it was in October by 1993, and September in 2000. By 2016, it had reached August. And though it appears to be moving steadily in the wrong direction, scientists agree it has slowed down. In 2018, overshoot day was still in August. However, it is still necessary for humans to be good stewards of the land and improve the planet’s health.

■ The current state of planet health

According to a report in The Guardian ten years ago, “The Living Planet report calculates that humans are using 30% more resources than the Earth can replenish each year, which is leading to deforestation, degraded soils, polluted air and water, and dramatic declines in numbers of fish and other species. As a result, we are running up an ecological debt of \$4tr to \$4.5tr every year.” **→13**

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ج

‘O negative club’ launched in Iran

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

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

PREFIX/SUFFIX

“-plegia, -plegic”

■ **Meaning:** inability to move

■ **For example:** Diagnoses were associated with motor **monoplegia** secondary to stroke.

PHRASAL VERB

Latch on

■ **Meaning:** to understand

■ **For example:** He’s so thick it took him ages to latch on.

IDIOM

Chicken feed

■ **Explanation:** an amount of money considered small or unimportant

■ **For example:** I got a job during the holidays but the pay was chicken feed.

راهاندازی باشگاه گروه خونی «O منفی»

مدیرکل دفتر برنامه‌ریزی جذب و نگهداری اهداکنندگان سازمان انتقال خون ایران، اظهار داشت: با همکاری اورژانس کشور، باشگاه گروه خونی O منفی را نیز در سازمان انتقال خون ایران راه‌اندازی کردیم.

دکتر عباس صداقت در گفت‌وگو با ایسنا، گفت: در محل حوادث و سوانح، معمولاً زمان زیادی برای تشخیص گروه خونی فرد حادثه دیده نداریم تا نسبت به تامین خون و جایگزینی خون اقدام کنیم، بنابراین گروه خونی O منفی تنها راه نجات افراد آسیب دیده در سوانح است.

Syrian President grants amnesty to army deserters, draft dodgers

1→ While Tuesday's amnesty covers desertion, it does not cover fighting against the government or joining the rebels.

Since the foreign instigated Syrian militancy began in 2011 many soldiers deserted, some to join the rebels and others to escape the fighting.

The decree comes at a time when government forces have managed to capture wide areas once held by rebel fighters, including in southern Syria and the eastern suburbs of the capital, Damascus.

The flashpoint in Syria is now the country's northwestern province of Idlib, the last remaining stronghold of rebels.

■ Russia delivers 3 battalion sets of S-300 systems to Syria for free

Meantime, Moscow has reportedly supplied Syria with three battalion sets of S-300 missile defense systems of eight launchers each for free amid its widening row with Israel, whose air force recently helped the downing of a Russian aircraft in the country.

"On October 1, three battalion sets of S-300PM systems of eight launchers each were delivered to Syria," the TASS news agency quoted a Russian military source as saying on Monday.

"These systems were previously deployed at one of the Russian aerospace forces' regiments which now uses the S-400



Triumph systems. The S-300 systems underwent capital repairs at Russian defense enterprises, are in good condition and are capable of performing combat tasks," it added.

In addition to the launchers, Russia had also provided Syria with more than 100 surface-to-air guided missiles for each S-300 battalion, the source noted.

The S-300 missile defense system – known

as one of the most advanced in the world -- is capable of striking short- and medium-range ballistic missiles, cruise missiles as well as tactical and strategic aircraft.

Russia signed an agreement to sell the system to Syria back in 2010, but later scrapped the plan.

Last month, however, Moscow vowed to bolster Syria's air defense capabilities by deploying the modern S-300 systems

to the country.

The announcement came in the wake of the accidental downing of an Il-20 reconnaissance aircraft with 15 servicemen on board by Syria's S-200 air defense systems, which were at the time responding to a wave of Israeli strikes on state institutions in Latakia Province.

Moscow held Israel responsible for the September 17 incident, saying the regime's pilots had intentionally used the Russian plane as cover to conduct air raids, effectively putting it in the crosshairs of the Syrian air defenses.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu criticized Russia's decision to supply the air defense system to Syria as "irresponsible," saying Tel Aviv "will continue to do what it has to do to defend itself."

Russian jets have been targeting positions held by terror outfits inside Syria at the Damascus government's request since September 2015. The airstrikes have helped Syrian forces advance against the militants, who have been wreaking havoc in the country since 2011.

On the contrary, Israel frequently attacks military targets in Syria in what is considered as an attempt to prop up militant groups that have been suffering heavy defeats against Syrian government forces.

(Source: agencies)

Most Britons want Britian to remain in EU: study

The majority of British voters want to stay in the European Union (EU), an analysis of recent polls shows, more than two years after a controversial referendum that triggered the country's divorce from the bloc.

The YouGov study of four common questions regularly included in nearly 150 Brexit surveys showed a steady shift towards the Remain camp.

According to the survey, which was commissioned by the Evening Standard, Leave campaigners stayed ahead by a margin of two percentage points following the June 2016 referendum. The pro-Brexit campaign saw its lead cut in half during the first six months of the 2017.

But the gap was turned into a disadvantage for Brexiters around the middle of last year, when the pro-EU camp opened a two-point lead.

In 2018, the Remainers have stayed ahead with an average lead of around four points, roughly the opposite of the 2016 referendum's result (52 percent to 48 percent).

"The weight of evidence means that we can be as good as certain that, at least as far as the polls are concerned, Remain is

now ahead of Leave," said Anthony Wells, director of political research at YouGov.

The study found that the turnaround in support for Brexit is driven by people who did not vote first time and now said they supported staying in the EU.

The other reason, the study suggested, was the number of Labour Party supporters who voted for Brexit but later on changed their mind because of party leader Jeremy Corbyn's pro-EU views.

According to the study, the deaths of older people who voted to leave and an increase among more pro-Remain teenagers who are now eligible to vote could be another contributing factor.

The survey comes as Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit policies are in tatters following an embarrassing rejection of her so-called Chequers plans by EU leaders and an approaching deadline of March 2019 to finalize the divorce.

The PM also faces strong opposition from Labour and other parties in Parliament, who want the lawmakers to have a say on the outcome of the EU negotiations. (Source: Press TV)

Myanmar 'unwilling' to probe Rohingya genocide: UN

The United Nations (UN)'s special envoy to Myanmar says the Myanmar's government is "unwilling" to investigate state-sponsored violence against the Rohingya Muslim community in the country, calling on the international community to take action before it is too late.

UN Special Rapporteur Yanghee Lee said in a report published on her Twitter account on Monday that the Myanmar's government had taken "limited and insufficient steps" to investigate the atrocities against Rohingya Muslims.

Last year, Myanmar's armed forces, backed by Buddhist extremist mobs, launched a state-sponsored crackdown against the Muslim community in Rakhine State. Thousands have been killed and over 700,000 Rohingya have only survived by fleeing to neighboring Bangladesh, where they are camped in overcrowded refugee centers in dire living conditions.

"[Myanmar] is unable and unwilling to discharge its obligation to conduct credible, prompt, thorough, independent and impartial investigations and prosecutions," Lee said. The UN has already concluded that the atrocities constitute genocide.

Myanmar, however, has blatantly denied the violence. However, massive evidence has been collected by international observers, medics, and journalists, even though the government has blocked access to the ground zero of the violence, namely Rakhine. Given the government's refusal to hold itself accountable for the atrocities, Lee urged "the international community to take action."

"Any delay in instituting justice will only result in more violations," she warned, saying that the UN had to "refer the situation in Myanmar to the International Criminal Court (ICC) immediately."

The Hague-based court had already said last month that it had opened a preliminary investigation into the military's crimes. Myanmar is not a member of the court, but the membership of Bangladesh, which is home to tens of thousands of Rohingya refugees, is enough basis for its jurisdiction over the case.

Lee herself has been barred from entering Myanmar since December last year, after her sharp criticisms of the government's treatment of the Rohingya. (Source: Press TV)

Suicide bomber kills candidate in upcoming polls

A suicide bomber Tuesday struck the home of a candidate in Afghanistan's parliamentary elections later this month, killing the candidate and seven other people, a provincial official said.

The candidate, Saleh Mohammad Achekzai, was holding a meeting at the time of the attack, which also killed several of his bodyguards, Attahullah Afghan, head of the southern Helmand provincial council told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

Achekzai's home was in Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand province, where the Taliban are said to control nearly 80 percent of the area. In recent months the insurgents have on occasion laid siege to the city.

The attack on Achekzai comes a day after the Taliban issued a statement condemning the polls and warning candidates and Afghan Security Forces that they would be targets if they participate in the elections. The Taliban called the polls a U.S.-manipulated event to further their hold on the country.

No one immediately took responsibility for the attack, which is not the first since campaigning began Sept. 28. A suicide bomber struck an election rally in Afghanistan's

eastern Nangarhar province last week, killing at least 14 people and wounding around 40, according to government officials.

There are 2,565 candidates vying for seats in the 249-member chamber, including 417 women candidates.

In the run-up to campaigning, five candidates have been killed in separate attacks. Officials from the country's Independent Election Commission said another two candidates have been abducted, with their fates unknown, and three others have been wounded in attacks. Afghan security forces accidentally killed three bodyguards of an independent candidate during a raid on a house near his residence in the eastern Kunar province Sunday.

In other violence in Afghanistan, 15 Afghan Security Force personnel were killed in separate attacks Monday.

Gen. Faqir Mohammad Jawzjani, provincial police chief in Jawzjan, told The Associated Press Tuesday that an attack that took place in Qush Typa district late Monday killed 12 security personnel and wounded another 10.

Jawzjani says the assault was a failed attempt to capture the district. He said 30 Taliban were killed and 19 wounded.



Spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack. He, however, claimed a higher number of casualties among Afghan police. The Taliban often exaggerate their claims.

Also Monday, the Taliban attacked a district in southern Ghazni province, killing three members of the security forces. Police Chief Farid Mashal said five were wounded. (Source: Daily Star)

Indonesia quake and tsunami: Death toll rises past 2,000

The death toll from Indonesia's earthquake and tsunami has climbed past 2,000, as authorities prepare to end the search for thousands of victims feared buried in mud and rubble in the hardest-hit neighborhoods of Sulawesi island.

Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesperson for the country's disaster agency, told reporters on Tuesday that the toll from the September 28 twin disasters had climbed to 2,010.

He said authorities will hold prayers on Thursday to mark the end of the search in the Petobo, Balaroa and Jono Oge areas of Palu city, where the quake caused loose soil to liquefy, swallowing houses and burying the occupants with them.

Efforts to retrieve bodies, many entombed under mud and rubble as deep as 3 meters, will not continue because of the difficult terrain and advanced state of decomposition that made the bodies unrecognizable and could cause contamination, Nugroho said.

"On October 11, we will hold joint prayers in Balaroa, Petobo and Jono Oge to end the evacuation of bodies," he told a daily news



briefing on the relief efforts.

Most of the bodies have been found in Palu, where more than 10,000 rescue workers continued to scour expanses of debris.

At least nine excavators were working through the rubble of Balaroa, picking their way through smashed buildings and pum-

meled vehicles.

At least a dozen bodies were recovered, according to a Reuters news agency photographer.

The decision to end the search on Thursday has angered some relatives of the missing. While the official search will end, Nugroho,

the disaster agency spokesman, said authorities will not stop villagers from continuing to dig through the ruins for their loved ones.

The stricken areas, which now look like vast wastelands, will be turned into memorial parks to remember the victims and survivors will be relocated to safer locations, he said.

Nugroho said the disaster agency has not yet been able to verify unofficial estimates from village chiefs in Balaroa and Petobo that 5,000 people are missing in the two areas.

He said the region had recorded 508 aftershocks since the magnitude 7.5 earthquake, which caused a giant wall of water that destroyed large swaths of land in Palu and surrounding areas.

The disaster destroyed more than 65,000 homes and buildings and displaced more than 70,000 people.

Thousands are still living in temporary shelters and tents across Palu, but life is beginning to return to normal in some areas, with plans for redevelopment underway, officials said.

(Source: agencies)

Scary question: What will happen if natural resources run out?

12→ The figure was based on a UN report that calculated the economic value of ecosystems destroyed annually, such as diminished rainfall for crops or polluted air for wildlife ecosystems.

The problem has gotten worse as populations and consumption grow faster than the natural world can replace. This had led researchers to predict that by 2030, if nothing changed, mankind would need two planets to sustain its lifestyle. As we come close to that dire prediction, the environmental community must increase its efforts to educate the population on preserving natural resources.

The report continues:

"We have only one planet. Its capacity to support a thriving diversity of species, humans included, is large but fundamentally limited. When human demand on this capacity exceeds what is available – when we surpass ecological limits – we erode the health of the Earth's living systems. Ultimately this loss threatens human well-being."

The Living Planet report bases its predictions on an index of the "health of the world's natural systems", produced by the Zoological Society of London. They studied 5,000 populations of more than 1,600 species to determine the "ecological footprint" of human demands on the environment.

This report also contained information about the "water footprint" of every country and claims that 50 countries already experience "moderate to severe water stress on a year-round basis". And, it surprisingly shows that 27 countries are importing more than half the water they consume, including the UK, Switzerland, Austria, Norway and the Netherlands.

Since the 1970s, indices for terrestrial, freshwater species, marine species, tropical forests, drylands, and grasslands all showed significant declines. During the same time span, the ecological footprint of humans has nearly doubled.

Scientists believe that at that rate, humans would need two planets to provide for their wants in the 2030s. In the 1960s, most countries lived within their ecological resources. But today, 75% of the world's population live in countries that use more than they restore. It is far past time for humans to begin learning about, innovating, and executing sustainable environmental practices.

■ Creating environmental sustainability

It's crucial that everyone take the depletion of natural resources seriously and do everything we can to sustain our environment. We can all do our part to protect the environment through recycling, reducing power consumption, by walking instead of driving, and carpooling with co-workers, just to name a few.

Businesses are regulated to keep carbon emissions low, and governments are now attempting to create incentives for people to install renewable power sources in and around our homes.

Environmental protection is the primary concern of the future of humanity. It concerns how technology will provide a greener future. In fact, the EPA recognized that developing technology and biotechnology is vital to sustainability.

The primary goals of sustainability must be taken on a global scale. In 2012, the United Nations created the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) aimed at reducing global poverty, ending hunger and other goals including better standards of education and healthcare – particularly as it pertains to water quality and better sanitation, achieving gender equality, sustainable economic growth while promoting jobs and stronger economies, tackling the effects of climate change, pollution and other environmental factors, sustainability of the land, air and sea, and acknowledging the concept of nature having certain rights – that people have stewardship of the world through management of the environment and of consumption.

The sustainable future is a far-off vision, but with new technologies and improvements in the use of older and cleaner fuel sources, many governments and businesses now look forward to a post fossil fuel world.

Since the 1950s, technological revolution has resulted in unprecedented growth of new methods for using natural resources, including intensive farming and an enormous increase in daily power needs. These changes have put even greater strain on the planet's natural resources.

As travel has become more sophisticated, we are also far more aware of the plight of the developing world. The needs of the poor and most vulnerable have come more into the societal consciousness.

Scientists and researchers are able to observe and quantify both natural and human-caused disasters facing the planet. The effects these will have on ecosystems and the human population are cause for concern.

The range of resources we use every day requires raw materials to produce. Plant life, aquatic life, water, minerals, and so many other natural resources are in serious danger of depletion. We must be more sustainable in our use of these resources by limiting and preventing waste, being more efficient and adopting the use of renewable resources, such as wind and solar power.

Government entities began the careful monitoring of our natural resources years ago. This year's reports from Ireland, for example, indicate that their Environmental Protection Agency monitors rivers and streams, lakes, water quality, marine life, aquatic plant life, and waste management.

The time is now to develop and create new, cleaner technologies to help with our resource demands.

■ Conclusion

The resources provided by the Earth have allowed humans to evolve and progress in industry, agriculture, and technology. However, if we continue to use these resources as if they will always be available, human life will be in danger around the globe.

It is our responsibility to make strides in environmental innovation and use more alternative resources to meet our needs. Harnessing alternative energies and resources will extend our ability to continue functioning at current levels.

(Source: iqsdirectory.com)

Russia internationals investigated over attack

Two Russia internationals are under investigation over an attack on a civil servant in a cafe in Moscow.

Zenit St Petersburg's Aleksandr Kokorin and Krasnodar's Pavel Mamaev are said to have attacked trade ministry official Denis Pak, leaving him needing medical treatment.

Russia's interior ministry has opened an investigation into the incident. Zenit said Kokorin had behaved "disgustingly" and Krasnodar said they were looking to end Mamaev's contract.

"The investigation is currently establishing all the circumstances of and participants in the incident," the interior ministry said in a statement. Kokorin, 27, has 48 caps for the national team, but missed this year's home World Cup through injury. He has played for Zenit since 2016. "What happened yesterday in Moscow involving Aleksandr Kokorin has caused great disgust and indignation at the club," five-times Russian champions Zenit said in a statement. "We don't think it's necessary to speak of a club punishment for the player. It will come,

"But right now the management of Zenit and the fans feel nothing but dismay, that one of the country's most talented footballers has behaved disgustingly. We await the legal assessment by the relevant bodies, but from the human and emotional viewpoint such an incident only arouses shame."

Mamaev, 30, has 15 Russia caps and played for CSKA Moscow 128 times before moving to Krasnodar in 2013.

"We are currently looking into how to terminate a contract with the player," FC Krasnodar said. "Unfortunately, contracts are drawn up in such a way that they protect professional athletes to the greatest possible extent. But we will do everything to get it done."

(Source: BBC)

Real striker Benzema suffers hamstring injury

Real Madrid forward Karim Benzema has suffered a hamstring injury which Spanish media have reported could keep the Frenchman out of action for two weeks.

"Following tests carried out today on our player Karim Benzema by the Real Madrid medical team, he has been diagnosed with an injury to his right hamstring," the European champions said in a statement without giving a timeframe for his return.

He was injured early in the second half of Saturday's 1-0 Liga loss at Alaves in which Real conceded a late goal.

Benzema joins Marcelo, Isco and Dani Carvajal on the sidelines at the Santiago Bernabeu, with Real having gone four games without scoring in all competitions, but he should return before the Clasico against Barcelona on Oct. 28.

The 30-year-old has netted five goals this season but has failed to score in his last seven appearances.

(Source: Reuters)

Open La Liga good for the game, says Pires

The current La Liga season has been the most open in years and teams challenging the hegemony of Spanish giants Barcelona and Real Madrid will benefit soccer in the country, former France midfielder and World Cup winner Robert Pires has said.

While Spanish clubs have many of the world's leading players, including Argentina's Lionel Messi, La Liga has often been criticised for a lack of competition. Barcelona and Real Madrid have won all but one league title between them in the last 14 seasons, with Atletico Madrid winning in the 2013-14 season. But after eight games in the 2018-19 season, Pablo Machin's Sevilla lead Barcelona by one point at the top of the table with Real at fourth place, a further point adrift.

"I don't know why but this season is more competitive," Pires told Reuters in an interview. "When people talk about La Liga it's always Barcelona or Madrid but not for this season.

"It's little bit different. Teams Like Atletico Madrid, Sevilla and maybe Valencia, because they spent a lot of money and built a good team, they can beat or fight with Barcelona and Madrid.

"It's very good for football, it's more open."

La Liga lost a marquee player in Cristiano Ronaldo when Portugal's top scorer left Real to join Serie A club Juventus but former Arsenal player Pires, who also had a spell at Villarreal, said it was imperative for Spain to keep attracting top players to its league.

(Source: Reuters)

Hamilton: 'Media need to show Sebastian Vettel more respect'

Lewis Hamilton says Formula 1 title rival Sebastian Vettel has received too much criticism this year.

Hamilton can win a fifth championship at the next race in Austin, Texas, partly because of a series of errors by the German and his Ferrari team. The British Mercedes driver said: "I feel the media need to show a little more respect for Sebastian.

"You simply can't imagine how hard it is to do what we do at our level, for any athlete at the top of his game."

Hamilton added: "It is to be expected that being humans we will make mistakes but it is how we get through them that counts."

Vettel and Ferrari were fighting a close battle with Mercedes for much of the championship but their season has unravelled partly because of a series of errors, even before Mercedes found an extra gear at the Singapore Grand Prix in mid-September.

Four-time world champion Vettel has made small but costly errors at races in Azerbaijan, France, Austria, Germany, Italy and Japan, and Ferrari have made a series of operational errors that have also hit the team's hopes. Vettel also attracted criticism for his collision with Max Verstappen at Sunday's Japanese Grand Prix.

Hamilton, who in Japan on Sunday took his ninth win this year and his sixth in seven races, will clinch the title at the US Grand Prix if he wins on 21 October and Vettel is lower than second.

Vettel said after the Japanese Grand Prix: "There is still a chance. We made it a bit too easy for them in the last couple of races. Credit to them they executed well, but we need to look after ourselves and do our bit and then we see.

"The last weeks have been tough for us but overall we could be in a better place. We are not.

(Source: BBC)

Conor McGregor, Khabib Nurmagomedov to face NSAC complaints after brawl

The Nevada State Athletic Commission will file formal complaints against Khabib Nurmagomedov and Conor McGregor for their postfight actions at UFC 229 on Saturday at T-Mobile Arena.

NSAC chairman Anthony Marnell told ESPN on Monday the commission is conducting a full investigation into the melee that took place after Nurmagomedov's championship victory against McGregor. The investigation includes lengthy film review and interviews with people involved.

The commission elected to hold Nurmagomedov's \$2 million paycheck in expectation of filing a complaint. It released McGregor's \$3 million payday but now intends to file a complaint against the Irishman as well, after reviewing tape that was not immediately available on fight night.

"We will be filing against Conor McGregor and Khabib Nurmagomedov," Marnell said. "Because we withheld one purse, we will have to move expeditiously to a complaint and hearing. "We have held 100 percent of one of the fighter's money. Temporary suspensions will be out shortly, and we're shooting for a final hearing date in November."

After submitting McGregor (21-4) in the fourth round Saturday, Nurmagomedov (27-0) leapt over the cage and got into a physical altercation with members of McGregor's corner. At the same time, video captured McGregor throwing a punch at one of Nurmagomedov's teammates, who had entered the Octagon.

A third individual in a red sweatshirt was filmed jumping into the Octagon and punching McGregor as his back was turned. Three individuals were arrested, according to UFC president Dana White, but were released when McGregor declined to press charges.

Marnell said the commission is looking into measures to punish those individuals, despite McGregor's decision not to pursue charges.

"There are a lot of things here," Marnell said. "There are a lot of charges that can be brought against a spectator who came over the barricade, through the commission section and into the Octagon to strike a fighter three times. For the record, I have a massive problem with that. That cannot happen.

"We're taking a really hard look at that gentleman. We know exactly who he is and where he is. I have to let the



attorney general determine -- is that trespassing, disturbing the peace? That was a serious action and it deserves a serious consequence."

Nurmagomedov publicly apologized to the commission Saturday. He is facing a possible fine and suspension. White said Saturday if Nurmagomedov is out for an extended amount of time, the UFC would consider stripping him of his title.

"Both," Marnell said when asked whether Nurmagomedov is facing a fine or suspension. "It's always both. We could do one or the other, but at least in the chair's mind, I think the commission will be entertaining a recommendation from

the attorney general that will include both."

The NSAC's next commission hearing is scheduled for Oct. 24, but Marnell said there is "zero chance" complaints against McGregor and Nurmagomedov would be heard then. Marnell said the goal is to hold disciplinary hearings no later than the end of the November.

"This is a serious issue, this is not a light issue," Marnell said. "This isn't, 'We smacked each other in the face in a hotel lobby the week of a fight.' This is the night of the event, and it needs to stay inside that field of combat."

(Source: ESPN)

Rooney backs Mourinho and demands more from Man United players



Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho has become an easy target for criticism after his club's slow start to the season, but the players themselves must take more responsibility, according to former Reds striker Wayne Rooney.

United moved up to eighth in the Premier League standings with a 3-2 comeback win over Newcastle United on Saturday night, but they remain seven points behind leaders Manchester City.

The victory at Old Trafford follows widespread media speculation over Mourinho's future at the club, and Rooney threw his support behind his former manager.

"It's tough (at United), it has been a tough situation," Rooney, United's all-time record goalscorer, told the Telegraph.

"The players, the manager, it has been a tough start to the season. I know Jose is getting a load of stick, but I said a few weeks ago, the players have to stand up. They have to be counted and they have to be better.

"The manager can do so much, but then

it is down to the players on the pitch to produce and probably collectively. It (the poor run of form) is a bit of everything coming together but Jose is an easy target."

Rooney left United last year to join Everton before signing for Major League Soccer side DC United in June.

The 32-year-old believes the current situation at United is similar to Louis van Gaal's two-year reign at the club. The Dutch manager was sacked after winning the FA Cup in 2016.

"I said the same thing when Louis van Gaal was there. He took a lot of stick, but behind closed doors I said to the players, 'We have to be doing better,'" Rooney added.

"Personally I think he set us up brilliantly ... but we didn't produce on the pitch, so I am sure that is getting said behind the scenes."

United next visit Chelsea in the league on Oct. 20 and host Italian champions Juventus in the Champions League group stage three days later.

(Source: Mirror)

Usain Bolt may start for Central Coast Mariners in upcoming trial match



Central Coast coach Mike Mulvey said he's considering starting Usain Bolt in a trial against a Macarthur South West United team on Friday.

Mulvey said on Tuesday that Bolt was rested from training duties last week as he recovered from a minor knee injury.

However, the eight-time Olympic gold medalist is back at peak fitness and is set to be given more than the 20 minutes in his first public appearance in late August.

"From a fitness perspective, you could probably start him. Whether we do or not, [there's] probably a good chance," Mulvey told reporters on Tuesday. "But we'll weigh it up as the week goes.

"Last week, we rested him a little bit because he had a bit of a knee injury, but that's all gone. The rest helped him with that."

After allowing Bolt to take a week off last month, the club upped his program to include one-on-one sessions with former Mariners captain Nick Montgomery.

But while pleased with Bolt's improve-

ment in his physical condition, Mulvey conceded Bolt lacked match fitness.

He compared his progress to that of defender Jonathan Aspropotamitis, who is on the comeback from a knee reconstruction.

Aspropotamitis only began non-contact training with the main group this week and has struggled to keep pace with his teammates.

"Nothing [Jonathan] did before really readied for him for when there's pressure on and people running past him," Mulvey said. "Usain's in the same situation because he needs to learn all that and be able to do repeat efforts, because in football nowadays, you've got to be able to do something which is OK good, but then you need to repeat.

"Particularly to play in wide areas, we're looking at our players overlapping or wingers coming inside. He needs to be able to repeat. That's where we're at with the journey as far as he's concerned. He'll play on Friday night and I think we'll see how long he lasts and go from there."

(Source: ESPN)

Federer issues warning to Kyrgios after new meltdown

After Nick Kyrgios was involved in yet another clash with an umpire during his surprise first-round defeat at the Shanghai Masters, Roger Federer warned that the Australian may never reach his full potential.

The fiery 23-year-old Aussie was upset with umpire Damien Dumosois, who deemed his effort "borderline" after it appeared Kyrgios tanked on a return of serve in the second set. From then on, Kyrgios, who recently lost his place as Australian No. 1 to 19-year-old Alex de Minaur, made a point of turning to Dumosois and saying "borderline" every time he hit an unreturnable serve past opponent Bradley Klahn.

"I think it's really up to him where he wants to go and what his potential really holds," said Federer, who is the defending champion in Shanghai.

"We don't really know and I don't think he really knows exactly what his potential is.

"And only through understanding work ethic and scheduling and whatever it might be, creating the right team around himself, only then can you unlock the potential really."

It's the third time in as many years that Kyrgios' elimination from the Shanghai Masters has been mired in controversy.

Last year the 23-year-old was fined \$10,000 for unsportsmanlike conduct after he walked off midway through his first-round match against Steve Johnson, while in 2016 he received another fine and was suspended for eight weeks from the ATP Tour for tanking.



Despite his latest outburst, Kyrgios still received the backing of 20-time major winner Federer to "win bigger tournaments."

"But there is still a process in place that he needs to do like any other player needs to go through in order to be successful," he said.

■ Umpire scrutiny

Following recent incidents at the US Open, one of them involving Kyrgios, umpires now find themselves under an increased level of scrutiny.

Mohamed Lahyani, a vastly experienced chair umpire, was banned from two tournaments after it was deemed he

went "beyond protocol" for encouraging Kyrgios during his victory over Pierre-Hugues Herbert.

The China Open, which finished Sunday, and the ongoing Shanghai Masters were the two tournaments the Swede was suspended for.

At the US Open, Lahyani was heard telling Kyrgios "I want to help you" during a changeover as he trailed his French opponent, before the Australian rallied to win in four sets.

That came before the now-infamous exchange between Serena Williams and Carlos Ramos in the women's final, which saw the American docked a game in her defeat to Naomi Osaka.

During Monday's defeat, Kyrgios threatened to go to the ATP offices after the match and report Dumosois, saying he felt "put down" by his comment.

"You'd be in trouble, right?" he said. "I'll literally just say I couldn't play after that because I felt put down. You realize that, right? I'm not going to do it, but I'm just saying."

Dumosois replied: "You can do it if you want, if you feel like doing it. If you say so and you believe it's the case, you should do it. I'm honest in saying that."

Following the fallout from the US Open, top umpires were reportedly considering forming a union as they believed Ramos was not offered enough support and was "hung out to dry."

(Source: CNN)

Asian Para Games: Iranian athletes add eight gold to medal tally



S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iranian athletes claimed eight more gold medals at the 2018 Asian Para Games on Tuesday.

In para athletic the Iranian sportspersons claimed five gold medals.

Mahdi Olad won a gold medal at the men's shot put F11 with a throw of 14.00m.

His compatriot Nourmohammad Arekhi claimed a silver medal with 12.64 and the bronze medal went to Monu Ghangas from India with a throw of 11.38.

Mohammadreza Ahmadi took a gold medal at the men's shot put F33, throwing 9.92m.

Hani Alnakhli from Saudi Arabia claimed the silver with 9.37 and Iran's Mehdi Alizadeh won the bronze medal with 9.34.

Farzad Sepahvand seized a gold at the men's discus throw F43/44, F62/64 with a throw of 54.61m.

Indian Kumar Surendran Pillai Aneesh claimed



the silver with 45.41 and his compatriot Pradeep won the bronze with 46.64.

Hossein Khorsand Amiri seized a gold medal at the men's discus throw. He threw 19.69m and came first in the event.

Iranian throwers Asadollah Azimi and Alireza Mokhtari Hemami won silver and bronze with 23.74 and 23.42 respectively.

Batoul Jahangiri took a gold at the women's shot put F33 after throwing 5.61m. She also set an Asian record. Sara Masoud from Qatar snatched the silver with 5.45 and bronze medal went to Emirati Sara Al Senaani, throwing 5.28.

In para swimming, Shahin Izadyar completed a hat trick of gold medal.

Izadyar, who had won two gold medals at the men's 100M butterfly S10 and men's 100M freestyle S10, won his competition's third gold medal at the men's 200M individual medley SM10 with 02:27.07.



Dmityriy Li from Kazakhstan seized the silver with 02:27.99 and bronze medal went to Dawan Fraiddon from Malaysia who clocked 02:30.66.

In shooting para sport, Sareh Javanmardi won a gold at the P2 - women's 10M air pistol - SH1 with 237.6 points. Iran's Samira Eram and Iraq's Sarah Al-Shabani won silver and bronze medal respectively. Javanmardi had won a gold at the mixed 50M free pistol - SH1 on Monday.

And powerlifter Rouhollah Rostami snatched a gold medal at the men's up to 72.00kg. Rostami came first with 225.00.

Rasool Mohsin from Iraq claimed the silver with 220kg and the bronze medal went to Sergey Meladze from Turkmenistan with 185kg.

Iran are placed fifth in the overall medals' tally with 17 gold, 14 silver and 18 bronze medals.

China lead the table with 78 gold, 36 silver and 29 bronze medals.

Persepolis move 22 spots up at Club World Ranking



S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iranian football giants Persepolis have moved up 22 places to 169 at the Club World Ranking.

The Reds sit 169th with 3559 points.

Esteghlal, another Iranian popular football team, have jumped four places in the ranking, sitting 193 with 3101 points.

Zob Ahan have moved eight places down to 294 with 2196 points.

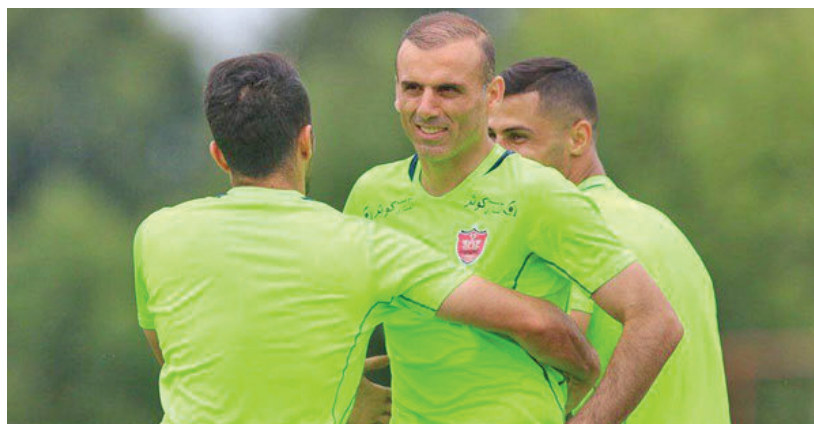
Persepolis coach Branko Ivankovic has

also moved up 46 places to 182 with 2751 points in coach ranking.

Ivankovic has led Persepolis to the 2018 AFC Champions League semifinals for the second year in a row. The Reds are also favorites to win Iran Professional League for the third successive time.

Sepahan coach Amir Ghalenoei has moved down 12 places to 318 with 1677 points and Saipa coach Ali Daei sits in 652nd place with 575 points.

Jalal Hosseini: Al Sadd will come to Tehran to beat Persepolis



S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Persepolis captain Jalal Hosseini believes that they will have a difficult task to book a place in the final match of the AFC Champions League since Al Sadd will travel to Tehran to beat them.

Persepolis edged past the Qatari giants 1-0 in the first leg of the ACL semi-finals last week in Doha's Jassim bin Hamad Stadium, thanks to Ali Alipour's goal in the 86th minute from the penalty spot.

The Iranian team will host Al Sadd on October 23 at the Azadi Stadium in Tehran for the second leg.

"We defeated Al Sadd in the first match with a remarkable performance but they have professional players and will travel to Tehran to beat us," Hosseini said. "Persepolis are facing shortage of players because we have been banned in last two transfer windows. We will not have our experienced defender Hossein Mahini and it's a major blow for our team," he added.

Iran striker Azmoun comes out of retirement

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iran international striker Sardar Azmoun came out of retirement after he participated in Team Melli training camp in Tehran.

The 23-year-old forward had announced his retirement from international football shortly after the 2018 World Cup.

Azmoun had decided to quit the national team because insults aimed at him during the competition.

Iran were knocked out of the World Cup with a win over Morocco, a defeat against Spain and a draw with Portugal in their three Group B matches, and Azmoun, Iran's top scorer in qualifying, did not replicate his best form in Russia, where he failed to score a single goal.



The most promising young talent in Iran's national setup, Azmoun represented the country at youth level before moving to Russian Premier League side Rubin Kazan at 18.

Strong in the air and with the ball at his feet, he moved to Rostov for two seasons and attracted the attention of clubs from some of Europe's biggest leagues, before opting to return to Kazan to continue his development.

Azmoun was invited to Team Melli for the friendly match against Uzbekistan in September but had not accepted to represent Iran.

Carlos Queiroz is going to end Iran's 43-year wait to become champions of Asia.

IPC President becomes IOC member

International Paralympic Committee (IPC) President Andrew Parsons on Tuesday (9 October) was elected as an International Olympic Committee (IOC) member at the 133rd IOC Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Parsons, 41, was one of nine officials to be elected at the session alongside the likes of Morinari Watanabe, President of the International Gymnastic Federation; Giovanni Malagò, President of the Italian Olympic Committee; and William Blick, President of the Uganda National Olympic Committee.

When Parsons was elected as IPC President in September 2017 he made strengthening the relationship with the IOC and securing the

future of the IPC and Paralympic Movement his number one priority. In March 2018, he signed a historic long-term agreement with IOC President Thomas Bach through to 2032 which deepens existing co-operation between the two organisations and provides the Paralympic Movement with even greater stability.

Andrew Parsons said: "I would like to thank the IOC membership for my election as a member which I believe underlines the strength of the relationship that now exists between the IPC and IOC, as well as the Paralympic and Olympic Movements.

"Since we signed the latest agreement in

March there has been tremendous progress and co-operation at all levels between our two organisations and the future looks extremely exciting. By working closer together, we really can do so much more to use sport as a tool to changing society for the better."

On Monday, Parsons, together with IPC Chief Executive Officer Xavier Gonzalez, met with Gabriela Michetti, the Vice President of Argentina, at Casa Rosada, the seat of the Argentine national government. Joining the meeting were Carlos Alberto Rodriguez, President of the National Paralympic Committee (NPC) of Argentina and Carolos Mac Allister, National Secretary of Sports.

"We enjoyed an extremely productive meeting with Vice President Michetti covering several topics" said Parsons. "We talked about how we could strengthen the Paralympic Movement in Argentina, through the NPC, and the country's National Disability Plan. We also spoke about how Para sport can help push the wider disability human rights agenda in the country."

On Wednesday Parsons will head to Jakarta, Indonesia, to attend the 2018 Asian Para Games which are currently underway involving nearly 3,000 athletes from 43 countries.

(Source: Paralympic.org)

Iran's sports reporter Bahram Shafi' passes away

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iranian long-serving media executive, television producer and sports reporter Bahram Shafi' died at the age of 62 on Tuesday.

Shafi' was the best known for Varzesho Mardom program (Sports & People), which was the highest-rated television program of its kind in history and was nationally broadcasted from 1985 up to now.

He died in Tehran's Bahman Hospital after years battle with disease.

Shafi' was also head of Iran's Hockey Federation from 2005.

The Tehran Times staff offer heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family.



Iran, Japan underline boosting sport cooperation

IRNA — Heads of Iran and Japan Olympic Committees called for continuation and boosting sport cooperation between Tehran and Tokyo.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) is slated to be signed next month between the two sport bodies.

On the sidelines of the 2018 Summer Youth Olympics in Argentina, Iran's President of Olympic Committee Reza Salehi Amiri met with his Japanese counterpart Tsunekazu Takeda on Tuesday and said that hosting Olympics game in Tokyo in 2020 is a big event.

He pointed to held joint camps between the two countries and added that Iran Olympic committee wants to continue the camps as well as exchanging coaches and holding training courses.

Salehi Amiri also invited his Japanese counterpart to pay a visit to Iran. Takeda presented a report on preparation operations for areas needed for Olympic Games of 2020 and invited Salehi Amiri to visit the installations.

Salehi Amiri has also met with President of International Olympics Committee Thomas Bach as well as President of Asia Olympics Council Sheikh Ahmed al-Fahad al-Ahmed al-Sabah during his visit to Buenos Aires.

The third Youth Olympics Games-2018 Argentina kicked off on October 6 to 18 in Buenos Aires. 49 Iranian athletes are participating in the event.

Iran, Indonesia increasing sports ties

IRNA — Iranian and Indonesian sports and youth ministers emphasized the increase in sport relations between the two countries.

Iranian Minister of Sports and Youth Masoud Soltanifar, who traveled to Indonesia in the third Para-Asian Games in 2018 to support Iran's convoy, met Monday with his Indonesian counterpart Imam Nahravani.

At a meeting held at the Indonesian Ministry of Sports in Jakarta, ministers from two countries discussed the way of joint cooperation between Tehran and Jakarta.

Soltanifar said at the meeting, congratulating the government and the people of Indonesia for hosting Asian and Para-Asian matches, said, 'It's not an easy task to hospitalize more than 11,000 athletes.'

He referred to the close relationship between Iran and Indonesia in the commercial, political, cultural, economic and sports sectors and added, 'Given the cultural proximities of the two countries, the ground for communication can be paved.

Iranian Minister of Sports and Youth, in another part of his speech, pointed out the results of the Iranian athletes in the 2018 Asian Games, saying, 'Our athletes are working hard to get better results at Tokyo 2020 Olympics.'

He also pointed to Iran's sports potential in various sports fields and stated, 'Iran in fields such as taekwondo, wushu, volleyball, wrestling and weightlifting are among the world powers and we are ready to exchange experience in these fields.'

Cannavaro says CSL title race 'will go to last game'

Fabio Cannavaro expects the Chinese Super League (CSL) title race between his side Guangzhou Evergrande and leaders Shanghai SIPG to go to "the last minute of the last game".

A four-horse race a couple of months ago has been reduced to a straight fight between the two sides after Shandong Luneng and Beijing Guoan fell away.

Heading into the international break and with five games left, Shanghai are top, four points clear of Cannavaro's reigning champions.

Shandong Luneng and Beijing Guoan are six points further back, a gap that they are unlikely to bridge as Guangzhou and Shanghai both eye qualification to the 2019 AFC Champions League.

Adding spice to what is being touted by some as the most exciting title race since the CSL was formed in 2004, Shanghai SIPG will travel to Guangzhou on November 3.

Each side will have just two matches left after that. After seeing his team - who have lifted seven consecutive CSL crowns - win 3-0 at Hebei China Fortune on Saturday, Cannavaro said: "I've been in the football world for so many years now.

"I know that too many things can happen in five matches," the Italian World Cup winner was quoted by Soccer News as saying.

"I've always believed that we will not know the league champion until the last minute of the last game."

Guangzhou's victory at Chris Coleman's Hebei temporarily cut Shanghai's lead to one point.

But if Vitor Pereira's side were feeling the heat, they did not show it, restoring their four-point advantage with a 5-0 home defeat of bottom side Guizhou Zhicheng on Sunday.

Hulk scored once and Chinese international forward Wu Lei grabbed his CSL-leading 22nd and 23rd goals of the season.

Cannavaro, who took over this season from Luiz Felipe Scolari, compared the duel with Shanghai to a Formula One race.

"We are a Ferrari and Schumacher is driving in it," the 45-year-old told his side. "We must follow our own line on the track and not make mistakes, and at the same time, see if other drivers have the ability to withstand the pressure of the race."

(Source: the-afc)

INTERNATIONAL DAILY
www.tehrantimes.com

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» www.eshterak.ir Distributor: Padideh Novin Co.
Tel: 88911433
» Webmaster: webmaster@tehrantimes.com
» Printed at: Rooztab - ISSN: 1017-94

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'Rial's depreciation major challenge for children's theater festival'

A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** — The director of the 25th edition of the International Theater Festival for Children and Young Adults, Maryam Kazemi, has said that the depreciation of the rial is the main challenge for the event, which will be held in Hamedan during December.

"This issue has caused us a lot of problems to reach an agreement with foreign troupes seeking to participate in this event," she told the Persian service of MNA on Monday.



The director of the 25th edition of the International Theater Festival for Children and Young Adults, Maryam Kazemi, attends a press conference in Tehran on November 25, 2017 to brief the media about the 24th edition of the festival. (Mehr/Iman Hamikhhah)

Due to the current adverse economic conditions facing the country, many cultural events have been downsized or cancelled by their organizers.

Kazemi said that they are preparing the ground for troupes from other countries to take part in the festival in order to maintain the quality of the event.

Sixteen groups from Italy, Spain, Greece, Norway, Germany, Belgium, China, Kenya, Argentina and several other countries have applied to participate in the festival.

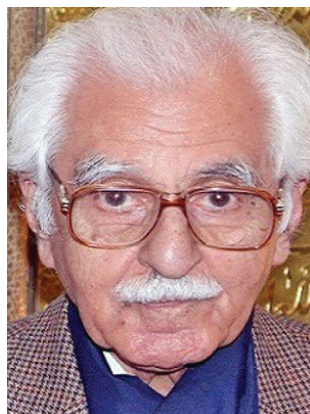
Kazemi said that the festival has not yet reached an agreement with any troupes from these countries.

She asked the foreign applicants to defer to the financial problems facing the organizers.

Eight troupes from Italy, Denmark, French, Germany, France and several other countries gave performances during the previous edition of the festival.

Persian scholar Mohammad Dabir-Siaqi dead at 99

A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** — Persian language scholar Seyyed Mohammad Dabir-Siaqi, a colleague of lexicographer Ali-Akbar Dehkhoda who wrote the most comprehensive unabridged Persian dictionary, died at his home in Qazvin on Monday. He was 99.



Persian language scholar Seyyed Mohammad Dabir-Siaqi in an undated photo.

Hamdollah Mostowfi, and the Divan of Manuchehri by Ahmad Manuchehri Damghani.

Bill Cosby seeks new assault trial, reduced prison sentence

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Citing new evidence, Bill Cosby has asked the Pennsylvania judge who sent him to prison for up to 10 years for sexual assault to grant him a new trial, or to reduce his sentence because of alleged procedural errors.

In court papers filed late on Friday, Cosby's lawyers said the judge abused his discretion by failing to adequately consider the 81-year-old entertainer's age and failing eyesight, and should have recused himself from sentencing. Cosby's attorneys have previously taken issue with the judge's wife being a psychiatrist who works with sexual assault victims.

"By undervaluing the mitigating impact of age and disability and overestimating any present danger to the community," Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas Judge Steven O'Neill imposed a term whose harshness violated statutes and sentencing rules, they said in an 11-page motion.

Tara Behbahani says her new paintings dig up moments of happiness from heart of history

A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** — Tara Behbahani has said that the paintings in her new collection "Passing through Imagination" dig up depictions of moments of happiness from the heart of history.

The collection, which depicts women on images of beautiful Persian tiles, is on display in an exhibition at Tehran's Golestan Gallery.

"It was in 2003 when I began working on the topic of Persian tiles, which led to a selection of abstract works, and few years later, images of women were added," Tara, the daughter of prominent sculptor and painter Taha Behbahani, told the Persian service of Honaronline.

The collection has been inspired by motifs depicted on original tiles dating back to the Seljuk, Ilkhanid, and Timurid periods from the 11th to the early 16th centuries.

"The motifs and designs used on the Persian tile works convey different messages, and I chose those by which I was impressed the most. They have different meanings but have been correlated with pleasant moments."

"The other point is that women have been oppressed throughout history and have always experienced a secondary status. Although this has been lessened over the years, women still cannot attain their rightful position," she explained.

"I created this collection about three years ago when I was going through hard days following the birth of my two children, but the warm welcome of the visitors



Left to right, Golestan Gallery director Lili Golestan, veteran painter Iran Darrudi, Taha and Tara Behbahani pose after the opening of Tara's exhibition at the Tehran gallery on October 5, 2018. (Honaronline/Ramona Mirian)

assured me I am on the right path and pushed me take my steps more seriously,"

she concluded.
The exhibit will come to end today at

the gallery located at 34 Kamasai St. in the Darus neighborhood.

Film Museum of Iran to review 40 years of Iranian cinema

A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** — The Film Museum of Iran plans to review 40 years of Iranian cinema by screening a selection of movies produced over the past 40 years.

The screening program has been organized in collaboration with the National Film Archive of Iran and the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults to mark the 40th anniversary of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the museum has announced.

Forty movies by filmmakers such as Abbas Kiarostami, Shapur Qarib, Dariush Mehrjui, Naser Taqvai, Rasul Sadr-Ameli, Asghar Farhadi, Fereidun Jeirani and Mani Haqiqi will be reviewed.

The program will begin on October 18 and interested filmgoers can watch a selection of their films every Thursday during autumn and winter.



A poster for the 40 Years of Iranian Cinema program.

Abu Dhabi Art Fair to display works by Iranian artists

A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran's Institute for Promotion of Contemporary Visual Art will be displaying works by four Iranian artists at the Abu Dhabi Art Fair running from November 14 to 17.

Parvaneh Razzaqi, Amir-Hossein Kulivand, Hossein Akrami and Alireza Bandgolestani are the artists whose works will go on view at the Salwa Zeidan, a gallery that cooperates with the fair this year.

Works by the four artists were previously displayed at the 9th Fajr International Festival of Visual Arts last year, and the organizers selected the works out of the Fajr festival catalogue.

The Abu Dhabi Art Fair features innovative and established galleries from around the world.



An untitled painting by Parvaneh Razzaqi.

Mourners bid farewell to legendary Spanish soprano Montserrat Caballe

BARCELONA (Reuters) — Spanish royalty, politicians and Catalan tenor Jose Carreras joined family and friends of legendary soprano singer Montserrat Caballe for her funeral on Monday, two days after her death at the age of 85.

Caballe, famed for her powerful, soaring voice, enjoyed an international career spanning nearly six decades and was known not only for her great operatic performances. In 1987 she released the song "Barcelona", an anthem to her native city, with Freddie Mercury, lead singer of British

rock group Queen.

Those attending her funeral at Les Corts funeral parlor in Barcelona included Spain's former queen Sofia, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez and Catalan regional leader Quim Torra.

"She was an irreplaceable artist, the soprano of the 20th century along with Maria Callas," Jose Carreras told reporters outside the funeral parlor.

"(Caballe) was a simple woman on a day-to-day basis, but

when she dressed like a queen... she was really majestic. She was a unique singer, there will never be anyone else like her."

Renowned for her performances of Italian opera, Caballe also worked with the late tenor Luciano Pavarotti. Her last performance took place in the Catalan town of Cambrills in 2014.

She died in Sant Pau hospital in Barcelona on Saturday. She had been in ill health for a number of years and was admitted to hospital in mid-September.

Trump likes Taylor Swift 'about 25 percent less' as singer gets political

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — Taylor Swift's decision to break her silence on politics triggered a storm on Monday, with even U.S. President Donald Trump weighing in on the pop music star's remarks in support of Democrats.

Swift, 28, has notably stayed out of the U.S. political fray in contrast to her more vocal peers, like Democratic supporters Katy Perry and Beyonce and Republican backer Kid Rock.

But Swift on Sunday told her 112 million Instagram followers that she would vote for two Democrats running in Tennessee in the U.S. congressional midterm elections on Nov. 6.

"In the past I've been reluctant to publicly voice my political opinions, but due to several events in my life and in the world in the past two years, I feel very differently about that now," Swift wrote.

Asked about Swift's comments, Trump on Monday told reporters: "Let's say that I like Taylor's music about 25 percent less now, OK?"

Before he was elected in 2016, Trump had spoken warmly of Swift. On separate occasions on Twitter in 2012 he called her "fantastic" and "terrific."

The "Speak Now" singer said in her Instagram post she was a supporter of women's rights, and against racism.

"I cannot vote for someone who will not be willing to fight for dignity for ALL Americans, no matter their skin color, gender or who they love," Swift wrote, saying she would vote for Democrats Phil Bredesen for the U.S. Senate and Jim Cooper for the House of Representatives.

Bredesen, a former Tennessee governor, is facing Republican Representative Marsha Blackburn in what has become an extremely



Singer Taylor Swift arrives at the 2018 Billboard Music Awards in Las Vegas, Nevada, U.S., May 20, 2018. (Reuters/Steve Marcus)

close race for the Senate seat being vacated by Republican Bob Corker.

Swift said that while she typically tries to support women running for office, Blackburn's voting record "appalls and terrifies me."

Swift's comments got 1.5 million likes on her Instagram page. But they enraged many conservatives, especially those in the country music community where Swift got her start as a teenager and went on to win 10 Grammys.

"What I used to love about Taylor Swift is she stayed away from politics," Charlie Kirk, founder of the conservative non-profit student organization Turning Point, said on Fox News television on Monday.

Some sought to play down Swift's influence outside her predominantly young girl fan base.

"So @taylorswift13 has every right to be political but it won't impact election unless we allow 13 yr old girls to vote," tweeted former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, who twice sought the Republican presidential nomination.

Former "Star Trek" actor George Takei was among those welcoming Swift's declaration ahead of what are expected to be polarizing elections in November.

Zurich opera show goes on despite director's Moscow house arrest

London (The Guardian) — It has been a productive year so far for the Russian director Kirill Serebrennikov. His Gogol Centre continues to be one of Moscow's best theatres, his cinematic homage to the 1980s Leningrad rock music scene impressed audiences at Cannes and he is preparing a new production of Cosi fan tutte to premiere at the Zurich Opera House next month.

It's all the more impressive because Serebrennikov has spent the entire year under house arrest. As rehearsals for Cosi fan tutte got under way in Zurich in recent weeks, the production's director was sitting more than 1,000 miles away, confined to his Moscow apartment.

Serebrennikov is awaiting trial on embezzlement charges that many in the Moscow arts world have decried as politically motivated, and he has been under house arrest since he was charged in August last year. He is accused of helping to embezzle state funds between 2011 and 2014, and has said the charges are nonsense and that the money was spent on production costs.

Serebrennikov is banned from using a telephone or the internet and can only converse with his lawyer, but he is allowed to use a computer. So at the end of each rehearsal a video is sent to his lawyer, who puts it on a USB stick and delivers it to the director at his Moscow apartment.

"All communication has to go through the lawyers, so we send video recordings and then he sends back his written or video comments, again via the lawyer," said his assistant, Evgeny Kulagin, who is working on the production in Zurich.

Andreas Homoki, the director of the opera house, said he commissioned Serebrennikov two years ago after seeing his work on stage



Zurich Opera House. (Alamy Stock Photo)

in Germany. When the arrest took place, he assumed the detention would be temporary and decided to proceed with the production. As Serebrennikov's house arrest dragged on, the theatre became increasingly worried. "The director is obviously someone who has to sit there and give personal input and feedback," Homoki said. He contacted another director who was ready to step in if Serebrennikov was not released by February this year.

"My deadline was the end of February but I was talking to different people, including my family, and my son told me you can't do that and I realized he was right."

Ruzan Mantashyan, an Armenian soprano who sings Fiordiligi, one of the two lead female roles, said: "It's a different atmosphere to anything else I've worked on but we really know what Kirill wanted and Evgeny has done a great job. I don't feel disconnected."

Serebrennikov is known for edgy, contemporary stagings, most notably at the Gogol Centre. He has put on a number of opera productions, including a version of Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's The Golden Cockerel that was a vicious satire about the current Russian elite, at the Bolshoi theatre in 2011.