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## 15 Yemenis killed as Saudi warplanes target buses in Hudaydah

At least 15 Yemenis have died in an air attack by the House of Saud regime warplanes in the country's western port city of al-Hudaydah that has already become a flashpoint of a multiple-year war that Riyadh and its allies are pushing against the poorest nation among Arab states in the world.

The fatalities occurred when the Saudi

regime planes targeted two buses that were carrying civilians who were fleeing al-Hudaydah, according to a report by Yemen's al-Masirah television network.

The attack, which also injured an unspecified number of others, was of such intensity that the number of fatalities could rise even higher, al-Masirah reported. **➔13**

## CBI authorized to reform banking system

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — The Supreme Economic Coordination Council, led by President Hassan Rouhani, approved on Saturday the Central Bank of Iran's (CBI) program aimed to reform the national banking system, IRNA reported.

"The Central Bank of Iran has a definite plan for organizing foreign exchange market and curbing the rates, which is going to be implemented with the help of

experts and economists," CBI Governor Abdolnaser Hemmati said, according to Tasnim news agency.

In a bid to transform the banking system into an engine for creating jobs and protecting domestic production and on the way to reorganize the forex market, the CBI has drawn up plans to control liquidity volume, restrain inflation rate, and remove banking barriers via taking special measures, Hemmati explained.

## India engages with allies over U.S. threats on Iranian oil imports

**INTERNATIONAL** **TEHRAN** — While the suspense continues over whether India will import oil from Iran after November, according to reports India has been engaging with allies in European Union (EU) over the issue.

A report in India Today magazine said India is engaging its allies and partners across the globe to seek a

solution to the impending crisis.

It stated that India's Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale had met representatives of many countries including the EU representative in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in September. "The conversations revolved around alternate payment options for continuance of oil imports from Iran," it said. **➔6**



### EDITORIAL

**Mohammad Ghaderi**  
Tehran Times editor-in-chief  
@ghaderi62

## Trump, the Symbol of America's Isolation in the World

The president of the United States, who came to power in 2016 with the slogan of "Reviving Washington's Power", has become the messenger of failure and defeat of his country in the West Asian region and in the international system. The U.S. numerous military and political defeats in countries such as Syria, Yemen, Iraq and Lebanon were so outstanding that there's no way Trump can brag about his achievements in the region.

On the other hand, many Democrats in the United States, and even the traditional Republicans, have been criticizing the President's costly and barren foreign policy in West Asia. In such a situation, Trump attempts to attribute this failure to the country's previous administrations and condemn them over what is happening in today's world, especially in the West Asian region, and he blames Obama for Washington's constant and extensive failures in this area.

Besides, Trump's other projections about the hard conditions of the US in West Asia are noteworthy. 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. Of course this strategic weakness did exist during Obama's presidency, but the truth is that it reached its peak during Trump's presidency. And in the future, this weakness will bring severe blows to the United States.

The fact is that the strategic calculations of the United States in the West Asia region have all failed. And many of the pre-assumptions that Washington called them "strategic propositions", have never turned into reality for some reasons, including the vigilance of the Resistance movement in the region. This is the reason why America is so confused in confronting the equations of West Asia. **➔7**

## 'Arbitration clause in foreign contracts makes compensation of losses easier'

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Oveis Rezvanian, director of the Tehran Regional Arbitration Centre (TRAC), says in all international contracts the parties shall agree that their dispute be settled by arbitration.

Unfortunately, Rezvanian says, in some contracts parties fail to put arbitration clause in their contracts or this clause has not been drafted in an effective way.

Rezvanian tells the Tehran Times that reliable arbitration institutions can help the Iranian parties for indemnification of the damages after unilateral termination of the contracts by foreign countries after the U.S. withdrew from the JCPOA, the official name for the 2015 nuclear agreement.

Rezvanian says after the re-imposition of U.S. sanctions against Iran, some companies unilaterally terminated their commercial relationship with private sector in Iran and consequently the private sector suffered losses.



He suggests that inclusion of a proper arbitration clause simplifies the process for Iranians to obtain their rights.

The TRAC director says despite of the nature of the right to be compensated and the right of termination, one should note that the dispute resolution method in the contract shall be scrutinized.

In the contracts concluded between Iranian

parties and foreign companies, inserting a proper arbitration clause is very essential because it simplifies and accelerates the compensation, he insists.

In the absence of arbitration clause, parties shall refer their dispute to the foreign courts, he suggested, adding by inserting an arbitration clause in the agreements, it will be more convenient for the parties to compensate the damages.

### Local arbitration institutions clause

Rezvanian, also a member of the arbitration board of ACIC (the Arbitration Center of Iran Chamber of Commerce), says in recent years some foreign arbitration centers caused some difficulties for Iranian companies, lawyers and business users. "For example there were some difficulties in payment receipt of arbitration costs and the prolongation of the arbitration proceedings. Therefore, I strongly suggest to the business users to insert the local arbitration institutions clause such as TRAC model clause." **➔2**

## Khashoggi was murdered, dismembered and taken out of Turkey: Askari

**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW**  
By Javad Heirannia

**TEHRAN** — Professor Hossein Askari, an expert on Saudi Arabia who also teaches international business at the George Washington University, believes that Jamal Khashoggi was murdered, dismembered and taken out of Turkey.

"Mohammad bin Salman has promised Kushner his financial support for the Trump-Kushner business empire now and especially in the future. In return MBS wants U.S. support for his domestic policies and for all his foreign adventures and conflicts—Yemen War, operations in Syria, preoccupation and hatred for Iran, blockade of

Qatar, hatred for the Muslim Brotherhood and now assassination in a foreign country," Hossein Askari, who served as special advisor to Saudi finance minister, tells the Tehran Times

Following is the text of the interview:

■ Do you now believe that Jamal Khashoggi was murdered, dismembered and taken out of Turkey?

A: Yes, absolutely.

■ Why do you think Mohammad bin Salman took such an outrageous approach to counter a critique?

A: MBS is a young man with little experience. He is on a high. He thinks he can do anything he wants. Sky is the limit. Overnight, he has

risen from nowhere to rule Saudi Arabia. And he appears to have the unquestioned backing of the United States. The Trump administration, with Jared Kushner as the point man, has embraced MBS. As I have said for over a year, I believe that MBS has promised Kushner his financial support for the Trump-Kushner business empire now and especially in the future. In return MBS wants U.S. support for his domestic policies and for all his foreign adventures and conflicts—Yemen War, operations in Syria, preoccupation and hatred for Iran, blockade of Qatar, hatred for the Muslim Brotherhood and now assassination in a foreign country. **➔7**



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## Iran Nano 2018 kicks off

The 11th International Nanotechnology Festival and Exhibition (Iran Nano 2018) opened at Tehran Permanent International Fairground on Saturday, October 13, and will run through October 16.

Some 160 executive and promotional entities along with 74 companies introduce their latest products and achievements in the exhibition.



### ARTICLE

**Syed Zafar Mehdi**  
Journalist  
from New Delhi

## Muslim women reclaiming their narrative

What is the status of women in Islam? Does Islam give equal rights to women? Are women in the Islamic republics subjugated and oppressed? What actually does Holy Quran say about women's rights and women's empowerment?

Before we begin to answer these questions, let us hit the rewind button and see how women fared in the pre-Islamic Arabia and what happened after the advent of Islam.

Even the hawks in West agree that the women in 7th century Arabia had rights not extended to most women in Europe and America until the 18th century. Islam made education mandatory for both men and women, gave women right to own and inherit property and made her consent a pre-condition for the legitimate marriage contract. Then, you would obviously wonder, why women's rights in Islam has become a subject of vociferous debate in the mainstream discourse?

It's partly due to the monstrous menace of radicalism and the flawed interpretation of Islamic laws by some 'Muslims' and partly due to the Islamophobic bigotry in the West. It is said to see the religion of great women like Khadijah (SA), Fatimah (SA), and Zainab (SA) hijacked by a fringe group, giving ammunition to the Islam-bashing 'experts' in the West to fire salvos at Islam and Muslim women.

The western discourse has consistently argued that the women in Islam are oppressed, subjugated and degraded. Muslim women, the vociferous feminists in the West contend, have no 'voice' and need to be 'liberated'.

Hijab has drawn tremendous amount of attention and backlash, often seen as a 'symbol of oppression' and perceived as a threat in countries like France where the government has banned it in public spaces. Western mainstream media has played a key role in perpetuating these fallacies. On the contrary, what the veiled women have to say about hijab is totally different from the critique of feminists in the West.

The concept of women's rights and women's emancipation in Islam has a fairly long history. Prophet Mohammad's (PBUH) first wife Hazrat Khadija (SA) was not only the first one to accept Islam but she was also a successful and independent businesswoman. **➔6**



MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



‘Countering economic problems is the only way to defeat enemy’

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — A member of the Assembly of Experts has said the only way to land a blow on the “enemy’s mouth” is to resolve the economic problems that have emerged with the reintroduction of sanctions.

“When the enemies fail to cripple our country in one way, they use another way to pursue their goal,” Ayatollah Hassan Mamdouhi said, Fars reported on Saturday.

However, Mamdouhi criticized the government for failing to resolve the economic issues, saying arrogant countries are the architect of such a situation and they are happy of this.



Two corruption-related cases handed to Supreme Court

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Tehran Province’s chief justice says the cases of two individuals, who were sentenced to death for financial corruption, have been handed to the Supreme Court.

“Appeals have been filed with regard to the cases of Hamid Baqeri-Darmani and Vahid Mazloumin, and the cases have been referred to the Supreme Court,” Qolamhossein Esmaili said, ISNA reported on Saturday.

Earlier this month, the Judiciary announced that Baqeri-Darmani, who was involved in a major corruption case, and Mazloumin, a mogul known as the lord of gold coins in Iran, had been sentenced to death.



Parliamentary women’s faction calls for female cabinet picks

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Women’s faction in the Iranian parliament has called on President Hassan Rouhani to follow through with an unfulfilled campaign promise and choose at least a woman to fill his administration’s ministerial vacancies, Fars reported.

In a statement signed by 16 female lawmakers, the faction referred to Article 101 of the Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan which emphasizes gender equality in planning, policy-making and policy implementation, and stressed the growing need to use competent women as cabinet ministers.

The lawmakers further said such move could satisfy the demands of women, who constitute half of the population.



MP names two possible candidates to replace Akhoundi

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Head of the Majlis Construction Committee has named Mashhad mayor and Tehran deputy mayor as two possible candidates to replace Transport and Urban Development Minister Abbas Akhoundi.

“Mashhad Mayor Qassemi Taqizadeh-Khamesi and Tehran Deputy Mayor Pirouz Hanachi are the possible candidates to be introduced to the parliament for Transport and Urban Development Ministry,” Mehr on Saturday quoted Mohammad-Reza Rezaei-Kouchi as saying.

He also said one of Akhoundi’s deputies might be named as acting transport and urban development minister until the president names the new minister.



‘Documents seized show certain Arab states back separatist terror group’

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Members of a separatist terrorist group have been killed in Kermanshah by Iran’s security forces, Intelligence Ministry said in a statement on Saturday, ISNA reported.

By the grace of God and efforts of armed forces in Kermanshah, a separatist terrorist group which had entered Iran through western borders was identified and two of its members were killed during an operation, the statement read.

It said weapons, grenades, military equipment and documents about the organization were confiscated during the operation.

The documents show that some reactionary Arab countries have been supporting the group’s terrorist activities in Iran, the statement added.



‘Iraqi rulers should recognize importance of Iran-Iraq ties’

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Halmat Ghareeb, an assistant lecturer at Salahaddin University-Erbil, has stressed the importance of Iran-Iraq ties, saying any Iraqi president or prime minister should be fully aware of the significance of such relations.

“Iraqi rulers should pay attention to the importance of the factors shaping Baghdad-Tehran relations,” Ghareeb said, Tasnim said on Saturday.

He said Iran, as a major power, plays a decisive role in regional developments, emphasizing that the long borders between Iraq and Iran necessitate strong bilateral relations.

# Iranian, Chinese diplomats hold talks

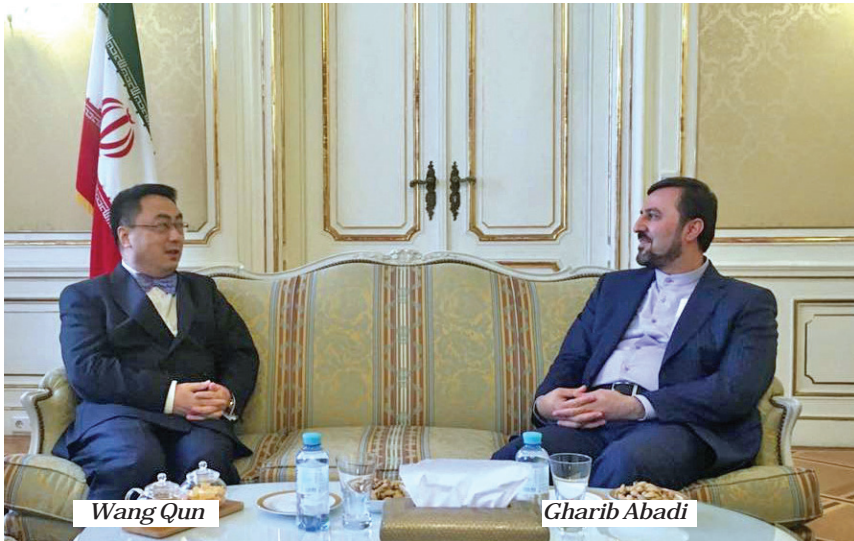
**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Kazem Gharib Abadi, Iran’s representative to the Vienna-based international organizations, and Ambassador Wang Qun, China’s permanent representative to the UN (Vienna), held a meeting on Friday discussing expansion of relations.

Gharib Abadi praised Iran-China ties as “progressive” and “constructive” and called for expanding cooperation in various areas.

Ambassador Gharib Abadi said Tehran attaches great importance to China’s role in countering U.S. “illegal” and “unilateral” sanctions against Iran.

Elsewhere, he said now that the United States has withdrawn from the 2015 multilateral nuclear deal it is necessary to find mechanisms that Iran enjoy the benefits of the agreement and the remaining parties abide by their obligations.

For his part, Wang said that Beijing is determined to preserve the nuclear deal.



U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew Washington from the nuclear deal in

May and reintroduced sanctions on Iran in August. The second wave of sanctions,

which targets Iran’s oil exports and central bank, is due to start in early November.

On September 25, European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini announced that the bloc was creating a new payment mechanism to allow countries to transact with Iran while avoiding U.S. sanctions.

Called the “special purpose vehicle” (SPV), this mechanism would aim to “assist and reassure economic operators pursuing legitimate business with Iran,” according to a joint statement released by the remaining members of the nuclear deal — France, Britain, Germany, Russia and China.

“This will mean that EU member states will set up a legal entity to facilitate legitimate financial transactions with Iran and this will allow European companies to continue to trade with Iran in accordance with European Union law and could be open to other partners in the world,” Mogherini told the UN General Assembly.

## Iran’s situation will improve after Nov. 4 sanctions: Zibakalam

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — A renowned political science professor at the University of Tehran thinks Iran’s situation will improve after November 4, when the new U.S. sanctions against Iran are scheduled to come into force.

In an interview with IRNA published on Saturday, Sadeq Zibakalam said the “psychological impact” of the upcoming sanctions on the Iranian society plays a more important role than the sanctions.

Back in May, U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew Washington from the historic nuclear agreement and ordered re-imposition of sanctions against Iran. The first batch of sanctions was snapped back on August 6 and the second batch will be restored on November 4.

In recent months, the value of Iran’s currency has fallen sharply in anticipation of the renewed U.S. sanctions, driven partly by heavy demand for dollars among ordinary Iranians trying to protect their savings.

“Everyone is waiting to see what happens after Aban 13th (November 4). But when that day comes and nothing



happens, as I predict, this psychological effect on the society will be removed,” he remarked.

After November 4, there won’t be a catastrophe, and as a result a state of peace will prevail which will in turn lead to the resolution of a lot of issues, Zibakalam said.

He further underlined that that many of Trump’s anti-Iran measures have already been implemented, including a reduction in other countries’ purchases of Iranian oil.

## ‘CFT approval will boost Iran’s economic interaction’

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — The Iranian parliament on October 7 ratified a global convention to cut off terror financing, a move that Reza Kami, chairman of the Iran-Turkey Joint Chamber of Commerce, says will improve Iran’s international image and facilitate Iran’s economic interaction with

the outside world.

A total of 143 lawmakers, out of 268 ones present in the 290-seat parliament voted to join “Combating the Financing of Terrorism,” or CFT. To become a law, however, the oversight Guardian Council should vet the bill for compliance with the Constitution.

## ‘Military men are people’s sanctuary in difficult times’

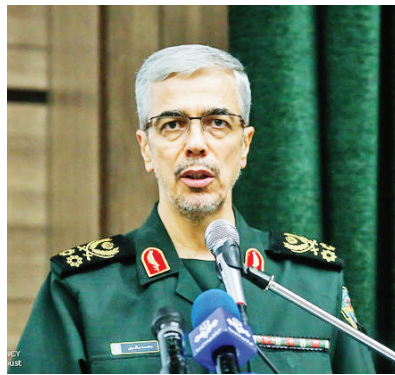
**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Armed Forces Chief of Staff Mohammad Hossein Baqeri said on Saturday that military men can be the “people’s sanctuary” in difficult time.

During a speech at the 4th International Asia-Pacific Forum on Military Medicine in Tehran, he said, “The military medicine and military men are the people’s sanctuary in difficult situation and natural disasters.”

According to the Fars news agency, he said that Iran is prepared to increase cooperation and share its experience with the International Committee of Military Medicine (ICMM).

“The Islamic Republic of Iran’s Armed Forces do not spare any efforts to materialize the humanitarian goals of the International Committee of Military Medicine and present its experiences in this field,” Baqeri stated.

He added, “Exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of military medicine can be one of the important issues and capacities in area of diplo-



macy and development of international cooperation in the defense sector.”

The ICMM is an international and inter-governmental organization consisting of more than one hundred states. The ICMM was established in 1921, after World War I had revealed the lack of care provided to victims and the need to strengthen cooperation between the health services of the armed forces worldwide.

## Arbitration clause in foreign contracts makes compensation of losses for Iranians easier: TRAC director

**1 →** Rezvanian says, “By the local arbitration institutions, I mean the arbitration institutions located in Iran. TRAC and ACIC are Iran’s two arbitration institutions which were established by the code passed by the legislative body and are active in the arbitrations, whether in private sector or the public sector.”

Pointing to some other arbitration institutions in Africa and Asia, he emphasized that these two arbitration centers (TRAC and ACIC) have some advantages including the convenient method of payment of the arbitration costs and without the problems for following the proceeding.

“Moreover, referring to these local institutions are considered as supporting the local services.”

Rezvanian suggested that parties in their contracts agree on these two local institutions which are specialized in arbitration and are independent. “These two institutions have

no affiliations with the government.”

The award rendered in local and foreign institutions are enforceable, he stated.

He went on to say that the awards rendered in local or foreign institutions can be enforced in more than 150 countries.

“According to the New York Convention on Recognition and enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Award (which Iran is a member), an arbitral award rendered in any member state shall be enforced in other member states. Court judgments, on the other hand, are not enforceable easily in other states.”

The legal expert insists that the only way for the Iranian companies to obtain their right and oblige the other party to compensate damages is proceeding with the arbitration clause stipulated in the parties’ agreement.

“When parties insert an arbitration clause, no one can

derogate from such clause.”

Rezvanian says he believes that even when the foreign party does not agree on a local institution, putting a reliable institution for arbitration is still necessary.

“Parties should not omit the arbitration clause at all.”

Rezvanian says in some agreements parties agreed on unilateral right for termination of the contract and on a broad force majeure clause. “In each cases, it should be examined that whether the termination was lawful or not.”

Lots of business users did not conduct a comprehensive legal analysis for such situations, he pointed out. “On the other hand, in some cases there are some possibilities to request for the compensation of the damages.”

Rezvanian insists that it is very essential to get legal consultation regarding the leaving of these companies from Iran, before the conclusion of the contract.

## Senior Iranian diplomat meets Abdullah in Tajikistan

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Iran’s deputy foreign minister on Saturday met with Afghanistan’s Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah on the sidelines of a Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

During the meeting, Alireza Sarmadi expressed hope for success of the upcoming Afghan parliamentary election.

He also expressed satisfaction that cooperation between Iran and Afghanistan in the framework of five specialized committees is progressing well.

Pointing to regional security affairs and the defeat of Daesh terrorists in Iraq and Syria and the movement of their survivals to Afghanistan, Sarmadi said, “We consider the security of Afghanistan as our own security and will not spare any help to fight them.”

He also pointed out that Iran’s government is standing strong against threats posed by the current U.S. administration, underlining that President Donald Trump’s unilateralism on the global stage has created an international common understanding that could nullify U.S. sanctions on Iran.

Abdollah, for his part, pointed to his



recent meeting with President Hassan Rouhani on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York, stressing commitment to the conclusion of a comprehensive cooperation document between the two neighboring nations.

“The basic issues of security, water sharing, and economic cooperation which are mentioned in the comprehensive document, are of priority to the Afghan government and we will do what’s in our power to finalize these agreements and boost relations.”



facilities to Pakistani pilgrims.

Abbas Jafari further suggested that airlines of Iran and Pakistan to launch direct flights between Pakistan and holy places for transfer of pilgrims.

He reiterated that since the Arbæen march is a symbol of unity in the Islamic world, Muslims can undermine all conspiracies through such a huge march.



# Berri calls for Arab, Islamic unity against U.S. Palestinian deal

Speaker Nabih Berri called Saturday for parliamentary representatives of Islamic and Arab countries to unite against the "slap of the era" – aimed by U.S. President Donald Trump at the Palestinian cause – according to a statement from his office. Previously, Berri refused to meet with the United Nations special coordinator for Lebanon, and the commander of the world body's peacekeepers, decrying their pro-Israeli bias.

Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri said the UN representative Pernille Dahler Kardel "had crossed the line in her conduct" and was leaning more toward Israeli politics, speaking to local daily al-Joumhouria.

"When I met her a while back, I felt that she is more [in favor of] Israeli policy at the expense of our rights and borders. I brought it to her attention that she had committed to continue the policy of Sigrid Kaag, who held the position before her," Berri said in the interview published on Friday.

"But she denied it, saying there was no audio recording to prove what I said," said the head of the parliament and noted that he would likely not meet her ever again.

Berri said he had considered calling on the UN to remove the official from her post, but decided against the move in order not to pit Beirut against the international community. The official, however, has once been summoned over the country's complaints about her conduct.

Separately, he declined to receive the outgoing UNIFIL commander Maj. Gen. Michael Beary, saying the latter had partaken in Israel's "National Day" celebrations, and even congratulated Tel Aviv on the occasion.

Berri said the participation alone "did not suffice for Beary; he [also] tweeted, congratulating Israel on this occasion and



disregarding that he is the head of UNIFIL in Lebanon," the paper wrote.

Israel launched full-scale wars against Lebanon in 2000 and 2006. In both, the regime was forced to withdraw amid steadfast defense put up by the country's Hezbollah resistance

movement. The countries are technically at war as Israel has kept Lebanon's Shebaa Farms occupied since 1967.

Earlier in the year, Lebanon's Prime Minister Sa'ad Hariri said the regime "remains the primary threat to Lebanon."

(Source: agencies)

## Trump sees 'good, even great' ties with Turkey after Brunson release

U.S. President Donald Trump said Saturday he hoped the release of American pastor Andrew Brunson in Turkey would lead to improved ties with Ankara, after months of diplomatic rancor that eventually triggered a crash in the lira.

He also denied an NBC report that the two countries had reached a secret deal for Brunson to be released in exchange for the U.S. easing "economic pressure" on Ankara.

"I don't make deals for hostages," Trump said on Twitter.

"There was, however, great appreciation on behalf of the United States, which will lead to good, perhaps great, relations between the United States & Turkey!"

Trump has welcomed the release of U.S. pastor Andrew Brunson, who is on his way back home from Turkey following two years in detention.

The evangelical pastor was convicted of terror-related charges and sentenced to three years, one month and 15 days in jail on Friday.

But he was immediately freed, taking into account the time already served and good conduct during the trial.

Brunson, 50, whose detention caused a diplomatic fight between Washington and Ankara, left on a U.S. military flight bound for Germany on Friday.

The U.S. preacher was greeted at the base by U.S. Ambassador to Germany Richard Grenell, who gave Brunson a U.S. flag during a refuelling stop at an airbase.

"When I presented him with the U.S. flag,



he immediately kissed it", Grenell said in a tweet. After the court decision, Brunson travelled to his home and then left for the airport in Izmir province with his wife Norrine.

"This is the day our family has been praying for - I am delighted to be on my way home to the United States," Brunson said in a statement after his release.

■ **'The independence of the judiciary'**

Brunson was arrested in 2016 as part of the government crackdown in the wake of a failed 2016 coup attempt. He had been under house arrest since July.

Brunson was accused of links with Kurdish rebels and supporters of Fethullah Gulen,

whom Turkey blamed for a failed 2016 coup attempt.

Gulen has denied any involvement. Brunson, who lived in Turkey for more than 20 years, denied the charges and maintained his innocence.

Friday's court decision ends the friction over his case that caused a crisis in relations between the two NATO allies.

"The United States and Turkey have a number of mutual concerns regarding regional security and stability, and we look forward to working together on these issues," the White House said after the pastor's release.

The US claimed was held unjustly and repeatedly called for his release.

With Washington slapping sanctions on Ankara, the crisis also put pressure on the already-falling Turkish lira in August, sparking an economic crisis.

Following the court ruling, an official for the Turkish presidency said the verdict showed the independence of the judiciary in the country.

"Like the Turkish courts, the Republic of Turkey does not receive instructions from any body, authority, office or person. We make our own rules and make our own decisions that reflect our will," Fahrettin Altun, the presidency's communications director, said in a statement.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had insisted that he had no sway over the judiciary and that the courts would decide on Brunson's fate.

While Brunson's release is expected to ease tensions between the U.S. and Turkey, further strains remain.

NASA scientist Serkan Golge, a dual U.S.-Turkish national, was jailed for seven and a half years in February on terror charges, a term reduced to five years last month.

Two Turkish employees of U.S. diplomatic missions remain in jail. One of them, former Adana consulate staffer Hamza Ulucay, was on Friday denied release in a separate court hearing.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo urged Turkey to free "quickly" other Americans in detention after Brunson was released.

(Source: agencies)

## Afghan Taliban says will continue talks with U.S. peace envoy

Taliban leaders will continue to meet for discussions with the newly appointed U.S. special envoy for peace efforts in Afghanistan, the Taliban said on Saturday, a move that could accelerate diplomatic engagement between the warring sides.

Zalmay Khalilzad, an Afghan-born U.S. diplomat, met with Taliban leaders in Qatar on Friday in an effort to find a way to end the 17-year-old war in Afghanistan.

"Both sides spoke (about) an end to the occupation and a peaceful solution to the Afghan issue ... Both sides agreed to continue meeting in the future," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a statement.

Khalilzad arrived in Kabul on Saturday and briefed Afghan President Ashraf Ghani about his 10-day tour of four countries, which ended with the meeting with leaders of the hardline Islamist militant group.

A senior member of the Taliban said Khalilzad had asked the Taliban leadership, based in the Qatari capital Doha, to declare a ceasefire in Afghanistan during upcoming parliamentary polls. "Both sides discuss prospects of peace and the U.S. presence in Afghanistan," said another Taliban official, requesting anonymity.

In exchange, the Taliban wants the Afghan government to release its fighters from jails across the country and the swift removal of foreign forces fighting alongside Afghan soldiers.

U.S. officials in Kabul were not immediately available to comment on Khalilzad's visit.



Khalilzad was appointed as U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation last month, as President Donald Trump's administration launched fresh efforts to hold peace talks with the Taliban. A senior official working with the Afghan president said Khalilzad had briefed Ghani about his meetings with senior ministers and top diplomats in four countries who could play a key role in peace talks with the Taliban.

Khalilzad's trip started in Afghanistan and he traveled to Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Qatar before returning to Kabul.

Western and Asian diplomats in Kabul said Khalilzad, 67, has knowledge of the country's main languages, culture and politics that could help him engage with all stakeholders in the peace process.

"The Trump administration and Ghani's government are now banking on Khalilzad to find a diplomatic way to end the war with the Taliban," said a top Western diplomat in Kabul. Political analysts in Kabul said both sides will have to make concessions for the talks to succeed.

But continued fighting has raised questions about the viability of the U.S. strategy to end the war, which for the past year has focused on forcing the militants to the negotiating table, largely via more air strikes.

Last week the Taliban demanded a complete withdrawal of foreign forces as the only solution to end the war that began with the 2001 ouster of the Taliban former government by U.S.-led forces after it refused to hand over Osama bin Laden following the 9/11 attacks on the United States.

They have ramped up attacks in strategic provinces and have also directed Afghans to boycott parliamentary elections scheduled for Oct. 20.

At least 8,050 Afghan civilians were killed or wounded in the first nine months of 2018, almost half of them targeted by suicide bomb attacks and other improvised devices that may amount to war crimes, the United Nations said last week.

(Source: reuters)

## UN accused of letting 'abusers' into human rights council

Bahrain, Cameroon and the Philippines were among a number of countries controversially elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council on Friday, sparking sharp criticism from rights groups and the United States.

Around a third of seats on the 47-member council, based in Geneva, were open for slots lasting from 2019-2022. A 97-vote majority from the 193 nations that make up the UN's General Assembly is needed for approval.

For the first time since the council was created in 2006, each voting region agreed in advance on 18 candidates to be in the running for 18 seats - removing any competition.

New members Bahrain, Cameroon, the Philippines, Somalia, Bangladesh and Eritrea were elected with between 160 and 178 votes - and immediately drew criticism from activists in Europe and North America dismissing them as "unqualified" due to their human rights records.

"By putting forward serious rights violators and presenting only as many candidates as seats available, the regional groups risk undermining the council's credibility and effectiveness," New York-based Human Rights Watch, said.

Louis Charbonneau, the group's UN director, called the vote "ridiculous" and said on Twitter it "makes mockery of (the) word 'election'."

At the start of the voting session, the General Assembly's president, Maria Fernanda Espinosa, noted that every member state is allowed to apply for a seat. Her spokesman later declined to directly address the criticism, but instead noted: "It's clear that the world expects that members of international bodies will abide to a certain set of standards of behavior consistent with the bodies they have been elected to."

Five of the new members were from Africa, five from Asia, two from eastern Europe, three from Latin America and the Caribbean, and three from western Europe.

The United States pulled out of the council

in June, calling the organization a "hypocritical" body that "makes a mockery of human rights," in particular in regard to its stance on Israel.

Nikki Haley, who this week announced her resignation as the U.S. ambassador to the UN, said Friday's vote demonstrates why the U.S. was right to withdraw. "Yet again, countries with poor human rights records ran uncontested. This lack of standards continues to undermine the organization," she said.

"The United States will continue to support reforms that would make the Human Rights Council credible."

(Source: agencies)

## Malaysia's Anwar Ibrahim wins parliamentary by-election



Malaysian politician Anwar Ibrahim has won a parliamentary seat in a by-election that sets the stage for his eventual takeover from Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.

The Election Commission said on Saturday that Anwar received 71 percent of the total votes cast, defeating six other candidates.

He got 31,016 votes, while his closest rival secured only 7,456.

"I am happy with the results. Allah bless us all," Anwar said after the victory, which marks the charismatic politician's political comeback from prison to parliament.

He is expected to be sworn in as a legislator on Monday.

The 71-year-old is the designated successor to former foe-turned ally Mahathir, after they set aside a bitter political feud and joined hands to win a stunning victory in May's general elections.

Mahathir, the world's oldest leader at 93, returned to the prime minister post after the shock win, unseating Najib Razak, who was accused of massive corruption.

Anwar could not participate in the polls due to a 2015 conviction for sodomy - a charge he alleged was politically motivated - but he was freed after receiving a royal pardon days after the polls.

He campaigned hard over the past two weeks to secure a mandate in the multi-racial constituency of Port Dickson, promising voters development, clean government and a boost to local tourism.

The multi-billion-dollar graft scandal at state fund 1MDB, over which Najib and his wife Rosmah Mansor face dozens of corruption charges, was also at the centre of Anwar's campaign.

"We are voting for the next premier. We need an influential leader to bring long-overdue progress to Port Dickson," said 60-year-old voter Lee Tian Hock.

"This morning, I prayed to Allah for a big win for Anwar," retired truck driver Mat Taib, a member of the country's ethnic Malay majority, told AFP.

"I want him to be our eighth prime minister."

Political heavyweights including Mahathir have campaigned for Anwar in a road back to office that was unthinkable even six months ago.

The duo went onstage together at one campaign event, prompting wild cheers from supporters.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

## Death toll from Michael seen rising as Florida towns remain cut off

The death toll was expected to rise this weekend in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael as hundreds remained unaccounted for along the Florida Panhandle where decimated communities remained cutoff and in the dark.

As of early on Saturday, state officials were reporting that at least 18 have been killed in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia.

Rescue teams, hampered by power and telephone outages, were going door-to-door and using cadaver dogs, drones and heavy equipment to hunt for people in the rubble in Mexico Beach and other Florida coastal communities, such as Port St. Joe and Panama City.

"We still haven't gotten into some of the hardest-hit areas," said Brock Long, administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on Friday, noting that he expects to see the number of people killed climb.

The Houston-based volunteer search-and-rescue network CrowdSource Rescue said its teams were trying to find about 2,100 people either reported missing or stranded and in need of help in Florida, co-founder Matthew Marchetti said.

Social media websites were crowded with messages from those trying to reach missing families in Florida's Bay and Gulf Counties. Marchetti said his volunteer search teams, consisting mostly of off-duty police officers and firefighters, had rescued or accounted for 345 others previously reported to CrowdSource Rescue.

Michael crashed ashore near Mexico Beach on Wednesday afternoon as one of the most powerful storms in U.S. history, with winds of up to 155 mph (250 kph). It pushed a wall of seawater inland, causing widespread flooding.

The tropical storm, which grew in less than two days into a Category 4 hurricane on the five-step Saffir-Simpson scale, tore apart entire neighborhoods in the Panhandle, reducing homes to naked concrete foundations or piles of wood and siding.

■ **Dogs and bulldozers**

FEMA crews have been using bulldozers and other heavy equipment to push a path through debris so rescuers can sift the rubble using specially trained search dogs.

More than 1,700 search and rescue workers have been deployed, Governor Rick Scott's office said in a statement, including seven swift-water rescue teams and nearly 300 ambulances.

Except for the emergency 911 system, authorities in Bay County, the epicenter of the disaster, were virtually without telephone or internet service until late on Friday, making communications internally and with the public difficult.

Ruth Corley, a spokeswoman for the Bay County Sheriff's Department, said local television stations were knocked off the air for two days, and authorities were relying on the Gulf State College radio station to transmit public service bulletins.

By Friday morning the storm remnants were about 275 miles (445 km) southwest of Nantucket, Massachusetts, packing maximum sustained winds of 65 mph (100 kph).

More than 940,000 homes and businesses on the U.S. East Coast were without power and it could be weeks before power is restored to the most damaged parts of Florida.


(Source: Reuters)



STOCK MARKET	
TEDPIX	175033.0
IFX	1940.13
Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir	
CURRENCIES	
USD	42,000 rials
EUR	48,600 rials
GBP	55,250 rials
AED	11,430 rials
Source: isna.ir	

COMMODITIES	
WTI	\$71.34/b
Brent	\$80.43/b
OPEC Basket	\$80.14/b
Gold	\$1,218.50/oz
Silver	\$14.65/oz
Platinum	\$844.00/oz
Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com	

## NEWS IN BRIEF



### Iran's heavy crude oil price tops \$80 in a week

**E N E R G Y** **TEHRAN** — Iran's heavy crude oil price jumped \$2.09 in the week ended on October 5 to cross \$80 per barrel.

Iranian heavy oil prices surged to \$80.86 in the mentioned week, Shana reported on Saturday.

The prices experienced a \$27.59 increase in comparison to the figures for last year's same period of time.

The rise in oil prices has led to an increase in Iranian oil revenues. According to the head of Budget and Planning Organization, Iran's oil incomes for the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22) exceeded the estimations in the country's budget plan by 16 percent.

The country's H1 oil revenues increased 61 percent compared to the figure for the last year's same period.



### IINEX 2018 hosting 560 companies in Tehran

**E C O N O M Y** **TEHRAN** — Iran's 18th International Industry Exhibition (IINEX 2018) kicked off at the Tehran Permanent International Fairground on Saturday with participation of 560 Iranian and foreign exhibitors, IRIB reported.

Some 380 Iranian companies and 180 foreign ones from 12 countries including Germany, India, China, Taiwan, Russia, Japan, Algeria, Switzerland, Italy, Czech Republic and France are showcasing their latest products and achievements in the four-day event.

The exhibition covers various industrial sectors including car making, construction, railway, foodstuff, water and electricity.

Getting to know about new advancements and achievements in various fields of industry, exchanging knowledge, technical know-how and up-to-date technology among the participants, acquaintance of exhibitors and visitors with the latest achievements and finally establishing direct communication between producers and consumers, creating investment opportunities, job opportunities, marketing and expanding exports have been mentioned as some of the main goals of this exhibition.



### Iran's exports to U.S. doubles in August yr/yr

**E C O N O M Y** **TEHRAN**- Iran's exports to the U.S. in August hit \$7.1 million doubled from \$3.6 million in August 2017, according to the latest data released by the United States Census Bureau.

The data also show that the exports from U.S. to Iran in August of this year, when the U.S. imposed new round of sanctions against Iran, has also risen four folds from August of last year, Tasnim news agency reported on Saturday.

Exports from the U.S. to Iran in August 2018 stood at \$149.8 million rising from \$34.7 million in August 2017.

Trade between Iran and U.S. during the first eight months of current year has grown 150 percent to \$312.4 million.

Iran's exports to the U.S. stood at \$67.3 million with 57 percent growth and its imports from the U.S. stood at \$245.1 million with 198 percent rise during the first eight months of 2018 from that of 2017.

## Yellen says Fed is being ‘thoroughly sensible’ and not crazy, as Trump says

Former Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen balked at President Donald Trump's growing attacks on the Fed and expressed confidence in her successor, Jerome Powell, according to The Wall Street Journal.

"The Fed is certainly not crazy in terms of what it's doing," Yellen said at the World Knowledge Forum in Seoul, South Korea, the Journal reported Friday.

"Removing monetary policy accommodation is a thoroughly sensible strategy. It's been well communicated," Yellen added. Yellen led the Fed for four years.

(Source: CNBC)

# Non-oil exports to Europe grows above 26% in 6 months

**E C O N O M Y** **TEHRAN** — Iran's non-oil exports to Europe during the first half of the present Iranian calendar year 1397 (March 21- September 22) increased by 112.9 percent in terms of weight and 26.33 percent in terms of value, IRNA reported according to the latest data released by Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

## ‘Economic ties between Iran, China still growing despite U.S. threats’

**E C O N O M Y** **TEHRAN** — Economic relations between Iran and China are still growing despite the pressures and threats from the U.S., Chinese Customs spokesman Li Kuiwen told IRNA on Saturday.

The Chinese official said that the growth of trade between the two countries is a sign of bilateral cooperation, adding that China is the main customer of Iran's non-oil products and this status has been preserved in 2018.

Putting the value of Iran-China trade at \$29.101 billion in the first nine months of 2018, the spokesman said the figure shows 1.8 percent growth compared to the figure of the same time span in 2017.

China's exports to Iran during the mentioned nine-month fell 16.3 percent to \$11.72 billion, while the country's imports from Iran rose 19.1 percent to \$17.381 billion in the said time, the official added.

Mentioning the U.S. re-imposition of sanctions against Iran, Li Kuiwen said relations between China and Iran is being developed disregarding the internal laws of any third country; China will continue economic and trade cooperation with Iran as before and the U.S. withdrawal from the nuclear deal has no effect on the ties between China and Iran.

## Italy must “calm down” and stop questioning the euro: Draghi

Italian officials must stop questioning the euro and need to “calm down” in their budget debate as they have already caused damage to firms and households, European Central Bank ECB President Mario Draghi said on Saturday.

Italy's government has been locked in a war of words with European officials over Rome's plans to triple the deficit next year, backtracking on a previous pledge to narrow the budget gap in one of the bloc's most indebted countries.

“A budgetary expansion in a high debt country becomes much more complicated... if people start to put in question the euro,” Draghi told a news conference in Indonesia at the International Monetary Fund's annual meeting.

“These statements... have created real damage and there's plenty of evidence that spreads have increased in connection with these statements,” Draghi said. “The results of which is that household and firms pay higher interest rates on loans.”

Italian bond yields rose sharply earlier this autumn after a senior official from one of the ruling parties argued that Italy would benefit from leaving the euro, comments he backtracked on after the market backlash.

“The very first thing (to do) is to calm down with the tone. And then the second thing is we have to wait for the facts,” Draghi said, stressing the need to examine the actual spending plans, which may differ from the government's communication.

But Draghi also batted back accusations from some corners in the Italian government that the ECB's own plan to phase out asset purchases by the end of the year had caused the increase in spreads.

(Source: Reuters)

## China echoes IMF pledges to avoid trade war tool

China's top central banker on Saturday pledged to keep the yuan currency's value “broadly stable,” a sign that Beijing may be trying to prevent a bruising trade dispute with the United States from spilling over into a currency war.

People's Bank of China Governor Yi Gang's statement at the International Monetary Fund and World Bank annual meetings in Bali came as U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Chinese officials had told him that further yuan depreciation was not in China's interest.

Mnuchin has reiterated his concerns that a major drop in the yuan's value this year against the dollar could be part of an effort to gain a trade advantage for Chinese exports or to offset the impact of U.S. tariffs.

The yuan [CNY=CFXS] has fallen more than 8 percent against the dollar since the end of April to about 6.91 on Friday, close to the psychologically important 7.0 level not seen in a decade.

“China will continue to let the market play a decisive role in the formation of the RMB exchange rate,” Yi said in an International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) statement posted on Saturday. “We will not engage in competitive devaluation, and will not use the exchange rate as a tool to deal with trade frictions.”

His statement echoes currency pledges made in a communique issued by the IMF's member countries on Saturday to step up their trade dialogue as rising tariff frictions, and higher borrowing costs threaten to knock global growth. In the statement from the IMF's steering committee, the member countries also agreed to debate ways to improve the World Trade Organization so it can better address trade disputes.

“We acknowledge that free, fair, and mutually beneficial goods and services trade and investment are key engines for growth and job creation,” the IMFC said in the statement.

“We will refrain from competitive devaluations and will not target our exchange rates for competitive purposes,” it added.

■ **Rate hikes worries**

On Thursday, IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde warned countries against engaging in currency and trade wars, which would hurt global growth as well as “innocent bystander” nations, including emerging markets that supply commodities.

Some of these countries, including Indonesia, the host of the IMF and World Bank meetings, are already struggling to contain capital outflows prompted by higher U.S. interests rates.

Fears that rates could spike sharply higher - and the international trade tensions - touched off a searing sell-off in global stock markets over the past week.

(Source: Reuters)



top 16 European destinations, among 100 across the world, for Iranian non-oil exports.

According to the data, Iran's non-oil exports to Croatia witnessed the biggest rise among other European countries in the said time. i.e., exporting 6,942 tons of goods at the value of \$3.23 million, the same report confirmed.

As European Union's statistics agency Eurostat reported earlier in June, the trade between Iran and European Union countries during the first three months of 2018 stood at €5.3 billion, the same as the figure of the first quarter of 2017. EU members imported €2.912 billion of Iranian goods from January to March of 2018, showing five percent increase from €2.777 billion in first quarter of 2017.

## Britain committed to economic ties with Iran under JCPOA framework: ambassador

**E C O N O M Y** **TEHRAN** — Britain is fully committed to its economic ties with Iran under the framework of the Joint Comprehension Plan of Action (JCPOA), the portal of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) reported on Saturday quoting the British Ambassador to Iran Rob Macaire.

Speaking in a meeting with Iranian officials and businessmen from Yazd Province's Chamber of Commerce, Macaire noted that since Europe is establishing a banking system to overcome problems regarding banking relations with Tehran, the path will be soon even clearer for Tehran-London economic ties.

“Despite the political shadows over the relations between the two countries, we would like to develop trade relations between Iran and Britain and there is now a great incentive from the British side to do so”, the official added.

Further in the meeting the two sides made some suggestions for facilitating the trade between the two countries among which using currencies other than U.S. dollar and conducting transactions through small financial institutes were the agreed solutions.

Second Announcement



IN THE NAME OF GOD

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING

EXTENSION OF INTERNATIONAL TENDER NO. 97-05/162

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

**Subject of Two-Stage Tender:**  
Feeding of the System Supplying Refrigeration of the Chillers according to the tender documents

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

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

**Type and Amount of Guarantee for Participating in Tender:**  
The amount of **USD 17, 857** which should be in the form of extendable bank guarantee

**Time and Place of Delivering Priced Bid:**  
The sealed A, B & C packages/envelopes should be submitted within one main envelope marked with tender number no later than **15 p.m. on Saturday November 17, 2018** and submitted to the Secretariat of Commission of Tenders.

**Time and Place of Opening Envelopes**  
The date of opening envelopes A&B is at **8:30 a.m. on Monday November 19, 2018** in the office of Vice President of IRIB Planning and Financial Resources and opening of envelope C will be after technical evaluation.  
It should be noted that bidders should hold license from the authorized bodies.

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

Public Relations Dept. of IRIB



# \$100 a barrel? Will Iran sanctions and Venezuela crisis bring oil price spike?

Unthinkable just a few years ago, oil could soon hit \$100 a barrel.

The reasons are manifold. Looming Iranian sanctions in November, supply problems in the U.S. and less spare capacity from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) all have some crude-oil market participants betting that black gold prices may head to \$100 – a price unseen since 2014.

“There’s really no margin for error in the global markets right now; markets appear to be undersupplied ... We don’t have a big glut of oil anymore,” said Rob Thummel, managing director and portfolio manager at energy-investment firm Tortoise.

As recently as 2016, OPEC overproduction and rising U.S. shale output created an oil glut, pushing the global benchmark Brent and U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude-oil prices to under \$30. Increased global demand and normalized production levels have caused prices to rise to their current levels of about \$84 for Brent and \$74 for WTI, the highest in nearly four years.

Oil prices slipped hard this week as stock markets fell and figures showed larger stock piles of oil in the U.S. than expected but traders are increasingly betting that the only way is up for oil prices. According to data from the CME Group, in the last week the number of traders speculating on \$100 a barrel rose to a record 31,000. As of Wednesday, the current number of open positions is slightly under that record level. An option is a right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell a commodity at a certain price.

Much of the pressure on oil prices comes from Washington. In May, Donald Trump withdrew from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal and reimposed sanctions, prohibiting OPEC’s third-largest member from selling crude oil.



Those sanctions go into effect on 4 November. Thummel says up to 2m barrels a day of Iranian crude oil may be off the market, which comes at a time when other OPEC members like Venezuela are producing a fraction of what they can pump. Saudi Arabia is also limited with how much extra it can supply, as it is probably near the top of its capacity.

Energy fund manager Emil van Essen, chief executive officer and chief investment officer of Emil van Essen, said no one thought the U.S. would put as much pressure on Iran as it has. “It is removing a ton of barrels and there really is not enough to make up for it,” he said.

A potential row with Saudi Arabia over the disappearance of journalist Jamal Khashoggi could also spill over into oil, although analysts say there are no signs of that yet.

The U.S. is also having its own logistical and economic problems, Daniel Ghali, commodity analyst at TD Securities, and Thummel said. Pipeline constraints in the U.S.’s top shale-oil field, Texas’s Permian basin, limit how much oil can leave the region. Because of the bottleneck, companies drilling there get about \$15 a barrel less for their Permian oil versus the WTI benchmark, which means they are not benefitting from the price run-up, Thummel said.

If there is another global supply disruption, “\$100 a barrel is not out of the question”, Ghali said.

Jason Bloom, global macro exchange-traded fund strategist for Invesco, and a 15-year oil market veteran, agreed a spike to \$100 is possible, but a move higher would only be temporary, saying that the current supply

and demand situation doesn’t merit \$100.

Van Essen said he doesn’t see \$100 oil happening this year, but said supply shortages next year will be critical because of IMO 2020, new global shipping rules that go into effect on 1 January 2020, forcing ships to reduce fuel emissions by using low-sulfur fuel or installing scrubbers to remove the sulfur. “It requires the oil refiners to use lower-sulfur light sweet crude [to make the fuel] and there’s just not enough to go around,” he said.

With oil prices at four-year highs, some global leaders have asked producers to kick in more oil. On Wednesday, the head of the International Energy Agency urged OPEC and other major oil producers to open the spigots to prevent high prices from damaging the global economy.

The OPEC Monopoly must remember that gas prices are up & they are doing little to help. If anything, they are driving prices higher as the United States defends many of their members for very little \$’s. This must be a two way street. REDUCE PRICING NOW!

And of course Trump’s Twitter trigger fingers are notorious for blaming OPEC for high oil prices, despite forcing Iranian oil off the market because of U.S. sanctions. As recently as September, Trump tweeted for OPEC to lower prices.

Bloom said whenever there is active trading in options prices that are far away from current values, it can signal that traders have a feeling the price swings may become more prevalent, and they hope to capture some of that volatile movement.

“Geopolitics are certainly building in that direction. When you see major governmental institutions pleading for more crude oil on the market, it’s not a great sign,” Bloom said. (Source: The Guardian)

## Gas deliveries resuming as cold descends on British Columbia

High-rise apartment buildings, factories and other industrial customers in western Canada are receiving natural gas again, three days after an Enbridge Inc. pipeline explosion disrupted deliveries.

Fortis Inc. is bringing industrial customers in British Columbia back onto the fuel distribution system at reduced rates, the utility said in an emailed statement late Thursday. The restoration process will continue through the weekend. The resumption comes as overnight temperatures are set to drop below freezing in Kamloops and other cities in Fortis’ territory in Canada’s westernmost province.

An explosion Tuesday on an Enbridge pipeline outside the remote town of Prince George cut gas supplies to homes, factories and oil refineries as far away as Oregon. While investigations continue into what caused the 36-inch (91-centimeter) conduit to rupture, Enbridge is shipping gas through a smaller, adjacent pipe that was temporarily shut after the blast. Fortis’s regional utility said it was receiving about 40 percent of its normal gas volumes.

Wholesale gasoline in Portland, Oregon, fell 7.5 cents to 47.5 cents a gallon over New York-traded futures contracts on Friday,



a day after touching a 5-year high.

San Francisco prices dropped half of a cent after climbing to the highest premium in more than a year on Thursday.

Heavy Canadian crude traded at a \$48.50 discount to the U.S. benchmark, after hitting a record a day earlier.

Natural gas at Alberta’s pricing hub climbed 11 percent on Thursday, after plummeting 22 percent the day before.

At least four oil refineries were impacted by disrupted gas deliveries. Those units rely on the fuel to generate power and heat needed to process fuel.

Marathon Petroleum Corp.’s and Royal Dutch Shell Plc’s Washington complexes were operating at scaled-back rates as of Friday afternoon.

(Source: Bloomberg)

## China’s September crude imports mark highest in four months

China’s daily crude oil imports in September hit their highest level since May, customs data showed on Friday, as independent refiners looked to shore up their inventory ahead of winter.

Shipments into the country last month stood at 37.12 million tons, or 9.05 million barrels per day (bpd), up from 9.04 million bpd in August and marking their third straight monthly rise, according to numbers from the General Administration of Customs.

Total crude imports over the first nine months of the year climbed 6 percent from the same period in 2017 to 336 million tons, or 8.98 million bpd, the customs data showed.

“Crude run rates have been rising since September. With stable fuel demand, we have been scooping up crude oil, pushing up premiums of some crude grades,” a crude trader with an independent refinery said before the data was released. He declined to be identified as he was not authorized to speak with media.

However, some Chinese refiners said they were concerned that a rally in global oil prices would erode their profit margins.

“Crude import growth slowed in Sep-



tember (partly) due to what was probably positive growth in domestic crude production,” said Sengyick Tee, a Beijing-based consultant at SIA Energy.

International benchmark Brent crude oil futures LCOc1 stood around \$80.60 per barrel on Friday, up more than 20 percent from the beginning of the year.

Looking ahead, China has hiked non-state oil import quotas for 2019, potentially supporting imports of the commodity.

Total natural gas imports in September came in at 7.62 million tons, the customs data showed, dropping from 7.76 million tons in August. Imports over the first 9 months of 2018 stood at 64.78 million tons, a year-on-year increase of 34 percent.

(Source: Reuters)

## Oil bulls and perpetual surpluses don’t mix

Crude oil prices, both Brent and West Texas Intermediate, are at four-year highs. Traders are talking about a return to \$100 per barrel, and even higher. But if you’re a long-term investor, look for oil demand to peak and more subdued prices in the years ahead -- not the supply shortages and soaring petroleum costs as some observers fear. Royal Dutch Shell Plc and Norway’s Statoil ASA expect the peak in demand as soon as the mid-2020s, while BP Plc sees it happening between 2035 and 2040 and the International Energy Agency is forecasting 2040.

What a switch from the days of M. King Hubbert, the geophysicist at Shell Oil in the late 1940s who believed that oil field production followed the classical bell curve or normal distribution. He predicted that production in the lower 48 U.S. states would top out in the early 1970s with dire economic consequences. Few agreed at the time, but Hubbert proved largely correct, and his adherents subsequently extended his concepts globally and believed that worldwide production would top out in 2010 or 2012 at the latest.

Nevertheless, oil supplies have proved plentiful in recent years as output surged from Russia, Canadian oil sands and, especially, U.S. frackers. This troubles OPEC, which, like any cartel, exists only to keep prices above equilibrium. That encourages producers in and outside the cartel to strive for more market share. So OPEC, led by Saudi Arabia, has tended to curb its own production to accommodate these “cheaters.”

In 2014, OPEC was frustrated that all the growth in global output in the previous decade was going to non-OPEC producers. To teach the “cheaters” a lesson, it hyped its output from 30 million barrels per day to 33.8



million barrels daily. Prices fell to \$27 per barrel, but that didn’t chase out American’s increasingly efficient frackers that now dominate U.S. production. As of August, American shale output was 7.7 million barrels per day, versus 3.3 million barrels from conventional oil. America is now the largest producer of crude oil, topping Russia and Saudi Arabia, and production may only rise as temporary pipeline shortages are overcome, allowing U.S. exports to increase.

Elsewhere, Mexico privatized its deep-water oil reserves in 2015, and output should climb. Brazil has liberalized its oil market, opening its colossal deep-water potential to foreign oil companies. North Sea output is reviving. Fracking for oil is being developed in the Persian Gulf, Argentina, Canada, Russia and China.

Oil will be in surplus in future years not only due to increasing output potential, but

also because of rising supplies of natural gas, which has also been made abundant by fracking. American gas, after being cooled and converted to liquefied natural gas, has huge export potential along with LNG from Oman, Australia and elsewhere. Then there’s renewable sources such as wind, solar and biofuel to consider. These accounted for only 12 percent of electricity generation last year but the IEA believes they will make up 56 percent of net generating added capacity through 2025.

The cost of renewables is declining. A U.S. residential solar energy installation now costs \$2.93 per watt on average, down from \$6.61 in 2010. For a large utility-scale system, the cost has dropped from \$3.58 to \$1.11 -- a plunge of almost 70 percent. Costs are falling for batteries and other methods of storing solar energy at night and wind energy on calm days. Nevertheless, neces-

sary government subsidies for renewables are still substantial.

Continuing energy conservation will also reduce crude oil demand. Since 1970, energy consumption per U.S. dollar of economic activity has dropped 61 percent in the U.S., 48 percent in Japan, 70 percent in the UK and 43 percent in Canada. California just enacted a mandate for carbon-free -- fossil fuel-free -- electricity by 2045.

While the Trump administration is capping fuel-efficiency standards for autos at 37 miles per gallon, down from the Obama administration’s 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025, electric vehicle sales are surging and will further curb gasoline demand. Transportation fuel accounts for half of crude oil use and autos consume half of that, or 25 percent of total oil demand.

Then there are the millennials who eschew driver’s licenses in favor of bikes. And aging postwar babies are being forced to give up driving. In addition, emerging-market economies that binged on borrowing in dollars after the financial crisis to finance growth and oil demand now find themselves strained as the robust dollar makes it much more expensive to service those debts in local currency terms. Since most commodities trade in dollars, their local currency costs of commodity imports, especially oil, are rising as well, and curbing oil demand.

As economies grow, be they developed like the U.S. or developing such as China, services gain a bigger share of spending while spending on goods fall. That’s another long-term deterrent to oil demand and the energy needed to produce goods.

(Source: Bloomberg)

## 100 million barrels: the world hit a daily oil and liquids record

The world is pumping out more oil and other petroleum liquids than ever before.

Global supply rose to 100.3 million barrels a day in the third quarter, the International Energy Agency said Friday in its monthly oil market report. Output, which includes crude oil, natural gas liquids, biofuels and refinery processing gains, was 2.3 million barrels above the same period last year and 1.3 million barrels a day higher than the second quarter.

The new quarterly output record underscores how growing demand in the developing world requires new sources of supply in the short term, even as increasing sales of new energy vehicles and renewable power generation threaten the long-term growth of fossil fuels. The IEA sees production from outside the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries rising another 1.7 million barrels a day next year.

The output increase from the second quarter was led by OPEC, which boosted production by 500,000 barrels a day, and the Americas, which saw a rise of 400,000 barrels a day. Biofuel production also increased by 300,000 barrels a day from the previous quarter, according to the report.

(Source: Bloomberg)

## Weatherwatch: the UK’s climate is ideal for renewable energy

A maritime climate with wind, sun and waves and an island surrounded by shallow seas with a high tidal range makes the UK probably the best-placed country in the world to take advantage of renewable energy.

Britain is already a world leader in offshore wind but has been reluctant to invest in other promising technologies. Underwater sea turbines in particular, wave power and various forms of tidal barrage have failed to be given the political support needed to get them into the mainstream.

In some cases the government is actively discouraging renewables – the onshore wind industry and now solar power. Instead, taxpayer’s money and executive powers are being used to back nuclear power and fracking for gas. With scientists warning that we only have a 12-year window to save the planet from exceeding a dangerous 1.5C increase in temperature neither of these technologies is going to help avoid that threat.

There is still time to make a significant contribution to reducing carbon emissions because the renewables that most suit our climate have already been developed and can be installed rapidly. These, plus new battery technology and multiple novel ways of balancing supply and demand including biogas and hydrogen production, make this energy revolution possible. All that is needed is political will.

(Source: The Guardian)

## China LPG importers hit as U.S. and Iran supplies squeezed

Chinese importers of LPG have been hit with higher prices and narrower margins as the ongoing trade war and sanctions have forced them to axe supplies from two key LPG exporters -- the U.S. and Iran.

China’s Propane DeHydrogenation or PDH plants, the main LPG importers, have sought alternative supply as they resell contracted volumes from the U.S., pushing up procurement costs even though the overall LPG market remains well-supplied.

“We now can only look for non-U.S. origin LPG cargoes, including barrels from the Middle East, Africa and Australia,” an executive at a Chinese LPG import terminal in eastern China said.

In 2017, the U.S. was the second-largest LPG supplier to China with volumes totaling 3.5 million metric tons (mt) of propane and butane, accounting for 19 percent of the country’s total LPG imports, according to data from the General Administration of Customs.

The US was the world’s largest LPG exporter in 2017, accounting for 32 percent of global exports, followed by United Arab Emirates and Qatar at 11 percent each, Algeria at 9 percent and Saudi Arabia at 8 percent according to Italian shipping brokerage Banchero Costa.

UAE was China’s single largest supplier in 2017, accounting for 35 percent of total imports, customs data showed. China suspended publication of import and export data in April.

However, volumes from the UAE mask LPG cargoes from Iran, according to multiple industry sources, who said China has been the main buyer of LPG from Iran and term contracts with Iranian companies were not reflected in public data.

Between March and August, seven very large gas carriers or VLGCs shipped LPG from Iran to China, according to S&P Global Platts trade flow software cFlow. The three vessels tracked in August were LPG Scorpio, Gas Jasmine and Gas Jenny.

These volumes are likely to come under pressure as the November 5 deadline for U.S. sanctions on Iran’s petroleum sector nears.

### ■ Higher prices

Saudi Aramco set its September Contract Price for propane at \$600/mt on an FOB basis, up \$20/mt from the month before. The October propane CP was set at \$655/mt, the highest since 2014, data showed. Aramco’s monthly prices for loadings from Saudi ports also set prices for East of Suez LPG markets.

Refrigerated propane spot cargoes on a delivered basis to East China were estimated to average \$651/mt in September, up \$55/mt or 9.2 percent from August, Platts calculations showed. Higher import costs are mainly attributed to the escalation of the US-China trade war, market sources said.

Chinese PDH plants’ processing margins in September are estimated to have retreated around 5.6 percent from August due to the higher cost of imports, according to Platts calculations. These plants typically secure half of their propane requirements under term contracts and the rest in the physical spot market.

The import cost was estimated at around Yuan 4,985/mt after accounting for currency exchange, taxes, operating fees and premiums for term cargoes, up Yuan 283/mt or 6 percent month on month.

Due to the trade war, non-U.S. LPG cargoes carry a premium over U.S.-origin cargoes, and executives at Chinese firms said swapping the cargoes carried a premium of \$5-\$10/mt.

Moreover, China stopped importing U.S. LPG in late August, and the last shipment was the VLGC Ocean Orchid that arrived at Ningbo port on August 11, and departed China on August 24, cFlow data showed.

No U.S. LPG vessels arrived at Chinese terminals in September, from two vessels in August and four in July, cFlow data showed.

(Source: Platts)



## NEWS IN BRIEF



### India elected to UN Human Rights Council

**INTERNATIONAL DESK** **TEHRAN** — India was elected to the influential UN Human Rights Council with the highest number of votes by the UN General Assembly on Friday with a vow to combat intolerance.

India received 188 votes, the highest polled by any of the 18 countries elected in the voting. This is the fifth time India has been elected to the Geneva-based Council, the main body of the UN charged with promoting and monitoring human rights. His successor Michelle Bachelet and Secretary-General Antonio Guterres have backed Zeid's recommendation.

The regional group endorsed five countries, which matched the number of seats open for election this year, and they were the only countries on the ballot. The other regional candidates were Bahrain, Fiji and the Philippines.

In January India will join China and Nepal, besides Pakistan, which were elected to the 47-member Council in previous years to serve three-year terms.

After being elected, India pledged to continue supporting international efforts to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Pertinently, the U.S. withdrew from the Council earlier this year after its Permanent Representative Nikki Haley questioned its legitimacy. Haley has since announced her resignation from her role at UN.



### 'CPEC imposing no burden on Pakistan'

**INTERNATIONAL DESK** **TEHRAN** — Dismissing reports in Western media as "incorrect", based on "distorted facts and one-sided opinion", Pakistan has said that it opted for Chinese investment under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) due to the favorable financing arrangements.

The country's Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform rejected reports that CPEC was imposing any immediate burden on Pakistan with respect to loans repayment and energy sector outflows, Xinhua reported.

CPEC is an important and active project of the Belt and Road Initiative where 22 projects have been actualized over the past 4 years. The project could not be compared with Chinese overseas investment elsewhere as frameworks and financial modes of CPEC are altogether different in nature, the ministry said.

Clearing the air on Western media's "propaganda" on Gwadar Port, the ministry said that the port is grant-based investment, and the country does not have to pay back the invested amount for the development of the port.

The ministry said that energy projects are being executed under Independent Power Producers (IPPs) mode and finances are mainly taken by the private companies from China Development Bank and China Exim Bank against their own balance sheets, therefore, any debt would be borne by the Chinese investors instead of any obligation on part of the Pakistani government.



### Afghanistan, Turkmenistan sign energy pact

**INTERNATIONAL DESK** **TEHRAN** — The energy ministers of Turkmenistan and Afghanistan signed an agreement to strengthen energy cooperation through the ambitious Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan transmission line, according to reports.

A report in Turkmenistan Today said the two sides discussed issues related to the project like laying transmission lines on the territory of neighboring states.

The agreement defines the volume of electricity that will be supplied to Afghanistan through the new transmission line — 300 megawatts to Herat and Kandahar cities each. In the future, it is likely to be increased to 1,000 megawatts.

The foundation-laying ceremony of this energy bridge was held in February with the participation of the heads of state and government of the three countries.

According to the blueprint of socio-economic development of Turkmenistan, the plan is to increase the total volume of electricity to be produced in the country in the next seven years to 33 billion kilowatt-hours, the report added.



### Kashmir shuts down after militant's killing

**INTERNATIONAL DESK** **TEHRAN** — Indian-controlled-Kashmir observed a complete shutdown on Friday and Saturday, after PhD scholar-turned-militant Mannan Wani and his associate were killed in an encounter in north Kashmir's Handwara. The call for shutdown had been given by the separatist leadership.

Shops and commercial establishments remained closed in the valley, with traffic remaining off the roads. Educational institutions and colleges also remained shut in response to the call.

Meanwhile, according to latest reports, around 300 militants are presently active in the Kashmir valley and more than 250 militants are ready to infiltrate across the Line of Control at different launch pads in Pakistan.

Lt. Gen. AK Bhatt speaking during closing ceremony of 15 day-long Public Mela in north Kashmir's Kupwara district last week said there will be more infiltration attempts in the winter months, but Indian forces are "vigilant to foil their attempts".

In recent years, the militancy in the valley has been driven by local Kashmiri youth, which has made the task of security agencies difficult.

# MeToo movement grips India, minister among those in the line of fire

By Syed Zafar Mehdi

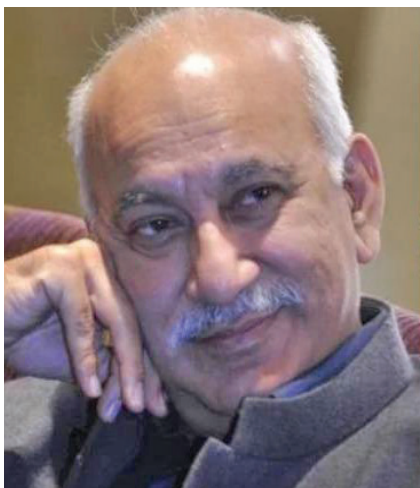
**TEHRAN** — India has got its own Harvey Weinstein moment with a number of female journalists breaking their silence and accusing a journalist-turned-politician of sexual harassment.

Many women have felt emboldened by India's MeToo movement, which has caught the imagination of the world's largest democracy, to speak about their personal experiences of sexual abuse or harassment.

M J Akbar, the deputy foreign minister of India, who was previously a senior journalist and editor associated with many leading news organizations, finds himself in the center of MeToo firestorm, with many female journalists accusing him of "predatory behavior", including inviting young women to hotel rooms for "meetings".

Many female journalists took to Twitter to narrate their harrowing experiences of sexual advances by Akbar, who is now part of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's core group, while conducting job interviews in fancy hotel rooms, taking undue advantage of his position of power and privilege.

Priya Ramani, who has worked under Akbar in the past, was the first journalist to go public with her allegations. She shared an article written last year, in which she identi-



fied Akbar as the main protagonist. Ramani said she was 23 when Akbar called her to a Mumbai hotel room for a job interview and made sexual advances.

Despite the growing clamor for his resignation, the BJP-led government has not blinked yet. There has been no statement either from Akbar himself or the foreign ministry in response to allegations against him.

Although some BJP leaders have spoken in personal capacity, Foreign Minister Sushma



Swaraj ignored reporters when she was asked whether her ministry would investigate the claims against her colleague.

Social media has been inundated with posts denouncing the silence of top government functionaries, including PM Modi and FM Swaraj, over the issue.

Akbar is the senior-most person to come under the #MeToo hammer in India, which has also caught in its grip many prominent film stars, comedians, authors, entrepreneurs

and journalists.

The MeeToo phrase was coined by Tarana Burke, an African-American civil rights activist and a sexual assault survivor, who started this movement in mid-2000s. According to Chicago Tribune, she "wanted to do something to help women and girls of color who had also survived sexual violence".

The movement got fresh impetus recently with the Harvey Weinstein episode. Weinstein, a Hollywood producer, was accused of sexual misconduct — including rape — by over 70 women, many of them high-profile film stars.

Since then, skeletons have tumbled out of the closet in many countries, mainly inspired by the Weinstein saga. #MeToo movement has been widely reported in the media.

Now, the movement has exploded in India, starting from film and entertainment industry and spreading to media industry and government. It has become the trending topic on social media with everyone giving their opinion on it.

"We always knew there were predators among us, who ironically appear in public as gentlemen," says Akansha Verma, a Delhi based women's rights activist. "Now they stand exposed, and credit goes to MeToo movement and those brave women who dared to speak out."

## India engages with allies over U.S. threats on Iranian oil imports

**1 →** The European Union is in discussion with all the stakeholders to find a legal instrument to allow transfer of payments. While they are still in the process of setting up that mechanism, it would be an option that their partners such as India could avail, the report added.

EU Ambassador to India Tomasz Kozlowski said at a conference recently that the EU was "very much in favor of full implementation of JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) for political and more for practical reasons". "We are working on the mechanism which will allow us to transfer payments to Iran and such mechanism will be open to all other partners," he said.

Meanwhile, U.S. officials are presently in India for hectic negotiations over Iranian oil imports as the November 4 deadline approaches, according to the report.

U.S. Special Representative for Iran Brian Hook and Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources Francis F Fannon reportedly held meetings with officials in India's Petroleum Ministry and Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Friday. A statement issued by U.S. Department of State said Hook will "engage our allies and partners on our shared need to counter the entirety of the Iranian regime's destructive behavior in the Middle East, and in their own neighbourhoods", in an attempt to persuade India to bring Iranian oil to zero, or brace up for sanctions.

On Thursday, in a veiled warning to India, U.S. President Donald Trump said U.S. will "take care" of countries which defy its directives to bring their oil imports from Iran to zero by November 4. However, India Today quoted sources saying that it would be "impossible" to meet the November 4 deadline of bringing down Iranian oil import to "zero".

Responding to questions on reports that India will continue to purchase oil from Iran after November 4, U.S. State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert said this was "not helpful".

India's Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Monday said two state refiners had placed orders for importing crude oil from Iran in November, in defiance of U.S. sanctions.



Speaking at an event titled 'The Energy Forum' in New Delhi, the minister reaffirmed India's commitment to bolster oil trade with Iran, saying New Delhi did not know whether it would receive a waiver from U.S. sanctions.

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

India's state-run news agency PTI quoted sources saying that the two companies were Indian Oil Corp (IOC) and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) which have contracted 1.25 million tonnes of Iranian oil for import in November. "Iran has been off-and-on taking rupee payments for oil it sells. This rupee it uses for paying for imports of medicines and other commodities. A similar arrangement is in works," a source told PTI, adding details of the payment mechanism would emerge in the next few weeks.

Nauert, in reaction to new developments, said Trump

administration had made its policies clear to all those countries, including India. "Overall with regard to those sanctions that will take effect on November 4 - and you're referring to oil sanctions for Iran and countries that choose to continue purchasing oil from Iran - we have had conversations with many partners and allies around the world about those sanctions," she said.

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

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

## Muslim women reclaiming their narrative

**1 →** As Annie Besant writes in 'The Life and Teachings of Mohammed' (1932), it is a slander to suggest that the women in Islam are subjugated and denied freedom. "It is only in the last twenty years that Christian England has recognized the right of woman to property, while Islam has allowed this right from all times."

Before the advent of Islam in Arabia, young girls were buried alive and women were objectified. Islam liberated them and empowered them. Contrary to the popular perception, Islam does not promote gender disparity. "And whoever does righteous deeds, whether male or female, while being a believer - those will enter Paradise and will not be wronged, [even as much as] the speck on a date seed." (Quran 4:124)

A man, in Islam, has the responsibility to safeguard and strengthen the family, provide food, shelter and other basic needs. In terms of rights, both women and men share the same pedestal which is illustrated by this verse:



"And for women are rights over men, similar to those of men over women." (Quran 2:228)

Things are changing for good. Muslim

women have begun to reclaim the narrative, demolish the stereotypes, and speak for themselves.

In modern times, we have seen Muslim women play an instrumental role in peace building processes in places like Sierra Leone, Philippines, Afghanistan, El Salvador, Nigeria, Lebanon etc.

From Iran's Olympic gold medalist Kimia Alizadeh, Pakistani teenage activist Malala Yousufzai, Muslim American fencer Ibtihaj Muhammad, Yemeni journalist and Noble Peace Prize winner Tawakkul Karman, Malaysian feminist Zainah Anwar, Afghanistan's first female prosecutor general Maria Bashir, to Kashmiri activist and APDP chairperson Parveena Ahangar, there are numerous stories of extraordinary courage, conviction and resilience.

Of course, not everything is hunky-dory. A lot more needs to be done to empower women and make them equal partners in everything. And it's important to remember what the great Khan Abdul Ghaffar said once: "If you wish to know how civilized a culture is, look at the way they treat their women."

## Gazans to keep up anti-occupation rallies until end of Israeli siege: Haniyeh

The leader of the Palestinian resistance movement of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, says the weekly anti-Israel rallies will continue as long as the Gaza Strip remains under siege.

Haniyeh said on Saturday that Palestinians will not stop the Great March of Return protests until a decade-long Israeli blockade on Gaza is lifted completely.

He was speaking at a funeral of Palestinians who were killed by Israeli forces along the border fence between the besieged Gaza Strip and the occupied territories a day earlier.

Palestinian mourners across the Gaza Strip held funerals for seven protesters killed by Israeli forces during the weekly rallies on Friday.

### Funeral processions

Elsewhere in Khan Younis and at Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza, hundreds of people held funeral ceremonies for Ahmad al-Tawil as well as 17-year-old Ahmed Abu Naim who lost their lives during anti-occupation rallies east of al-Bureij refugee camp on Friday.

Gaza health officials said seven Palestinians were killed and 140 people wounded by Israeli forces during weekly protests on Friday.

Tensions have been running high near the fence since March 30, which marked the start of a series of protests dubbed "The Great March of Return." Palestinian protest-

ers demand the right to return for those driven out of their homeland.

The clashes in Gaza reached their peak on May 14, the eve of the 70th anniversary of Nakba Day, or the Day of Catastrophe, which coincided this year with Washington's relocation of the US embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem al-Quds.

Israel has also launched several wars on the Palestinian sliver, the last of which began in early July 2014 and ended in late August the same year. The Israeli military aggression killed nearly 2,200 Palestinians and injured over 11,100 others. (Source: Press TV)



# Trump knows Saudi Arabia can't harm U.S.: Zaccara

## EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW By Payman Yazdani

**TEHRAN** — Research assistant professor in Qatar University say Trump bullies Saudi Arabia because he knows Riyadh cannot do anything to harm U.S.

The Saudi Arabian monarchy would fall “within two weeks” if it wasn’t for the military support that the U.S. has provided to the Gulf kingdom over the decades, U.S. President Donald Trump noted in graceless remarks to the King couple of days ago.

To discuss the issue we reached out to Dr. Luciano Zaccara, research assistant professor in Qatar University.

Here is the full text of his interview:

■ President Trump once again humiliated Saudi Arabia in his recent speech, and said: If America does not exist, Saudi Arabia will disappear within a few days, and Saudi Arabia owes its stability and security to the United States. Why did Trump repeat this statement?

A: Trump foreign policy towards Middle East in general, and Saudi in particular, ambiguous and confusing since the beginning of his term. Moreover, his diplomatic style has always been bully towards the rest of the world, even those which are actually partners and allies in diverse economic, military and strategic framework, such as European Union, Canada, Japan or Mexico. I am then not surprised by the fact that on one side the current U.S. administration is supporting Saudi Arabia, but on the other hand it is repeating the narrative that the U.S. is its main military supplier and that has a cost to be paid. On Trump’s vision, this



is not considered a humiliation per se, but recognizing how powerful is the U.S. that can even bully its own allies in the region, knowing they cannot do anything to harm them neither to retaliate nor cut ties with the U.S.

■ Mohammad bin Salman said in response: Working with Trump is enjoyable. Why did he take such a weak stance and did not even criticize Trump?

A: Mohamed Bin Salman is aware of Trump’s style of doing business and politics, and he would not fall in the trap of rising the tone of aggressive narrative against the U.S., moreover if the kind of criticism coming from Trump is not related to any aspect including internal politics or foreign policy, as it happened recently with Canada,

with which Saudi took a more pro-active reaction reducing the collaboration with the government and stop sending students to study in that country because Canadian criticism on the human rights records of the kingdom.

■ Saudi Arabia has been relying on the United States in terms of security for many years. And this is the reason why Saudi foreign policy is under American influence. In view of this security outsourcing by Saudis, what will be the harmful effects on their security in the long run?

A: I don’t see any possible harm in the long term as a result of this. Simply, business are business, Saudi Arabia needs to purchase the best technology for its army, and the best provider has been the U.S. Under Trump’s

administration the military industry is a priority, and selling equipment to Saudi Arabia is a must, and nothing will change this equation.

■ Former President Barack Obama addressed countries like Saudi Arabia that your security threat is inside your own countries and not foreign threats. In fact, Obama’s reference was to human security, which includes political development, individual liberties, and so on. However, for these countries, the security of the ruling political system (state security) is in the top priority. What kind of security in these countries is in the top priority for the United States?

A: It is true that both Obama and Trump had a very different approach towards Saudi Arabia in terms of which were the main threats for the stability of the ruling family, and at the end, the continuation of the current regime. While Obama focused on the internal threats, Trump is targeting the external ones, among them Iran, but at the end both were interested in maintaining the status quo in the Arabian Peninsula. It is also evident that this diverse approach abovementioned drove to a diverse foreign policy towards Saudi Arabia, and that was evident in the way that Saudis labeled Obama as a “traitor” who abandoned its allies in the region at their own fate when the JCPOA was signed. On the other hand, Trump was received as a “savior” who is focusing on the real problems that Saudi and the region is facing, according to them, which is the expansion of the Iranian influence in the region. The MESA initiative by the U.S. is a very clear example of what is considered by the U.S. the main threat to the stability of the kingdom.

## For U.S. money is more important than murder of Saudi journalist



**TEHRAN (FNA)** — A top priority for the U.S. administration, as with many recent administrations, is the selling of massive amounts of U.S. arms to Saudi Arabia. That says why President Donald Trump will never get to the bottom of the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul.

He first claimed he is determined to tackle this matter at the “highest levels.” Now Trump is walking back the issue, insisting that it isn’t worth it for the U.S. to imperil \$110 billion in arms sales to Saudi Arabia over a single journalist. Trump says it wouldn’t be acceptable to lose the \$110 billion deal, adding that the journalist’s disappearance took place in Turkey, and he’s not a United States citizen.

Trump, as with many recent presidents, has prioritized the relationship between Saudi Arabia and the United States over that of the journalist’s death. He has even specifically warned against upsetting Saudi leaders as it could hurt the U.S. monetarily. “I don’t like stopping massive amounts of money that’s being poured into our country,” Trump said, according to a tweet this week. He added, “they are spending \$110b on military equipment and on things that create jobs for this country.”

This is not something of a surprise:

- The arms deal is simply too important to U.S. arms companies, and any serious attempt to punish the Saudis for the killing of Khashoggi is going to boil down to a fight over the arms deal. After all, this is the same autocratic regime that has been murdering thousands of Yemeni people since 2015 and the U.S. government has done nothing to stop the conflict, much less stop its arms supply or refuelling Saudi aircraft mid-air.

- Saudi Arabia is no different than the other authoritarian, violent, and despotic regimes that have dominated the region since the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire. Saudi Arabia is a harsh place, where politically-motivated assassinations and unsavoury governing practices are as commonplace as the oil flowing underneath its sands. To view Saudi Arabia as above the region’s other Arab states is not matched by the facts.

- The relationship between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia is not rooted in common beliefs, shared values and ethics. It is rooted in identical foreign policy interests to dominate the region and

protect Israel. Such ties are the reason why Yemen and Syria are in turmoil. They are also the reason why ISIL and Al-Qaeda, the U.S.-Saudi foot soldiers, are still present throughout the region.

- Saudi Arabia is not the answer to the region’s many problems, as Trump would like to suggest. It is in fact the root cause of all regional problems. The despotic regime has taken maximum advantage of America’s appetite for controlling crude market and a desire for a long-term regional partner in

crime in order to press its own Takfiri-Wahhabi agenda in the region. This agenda is centred on the regime’s rivalry with Iran and its absolutist quest for hegemony. The United States, having interest in the sectarian fault-lines of the Middle East, has frequently chosen to wade into Arab conflicts on Saudi Arabia’s side.

- Saudi Arabia’s indiscriminate bombing campaign in Yemen, its embargo of Qatar and its export of Wahhabi ideology are not exactly helpful in assuring U.S. security. Many of those who carried out terror attacks in the U.S. were from Saudi Arabia. Riyadh’s war on Yemen, and Washington’s logistical assistance to the Saudi Air Force in particular, has been especially devastating to the people of that destitute country and America’s reputation among the Yemeni population — all the while providing more operating space for the very transnational terrorist groups the U.S. and Saudi Arabia claim to combat in the Peninsula.

- Khashoggi’s story now displays pretty well that the Saudi regime is not concerned about women’s rights, press freedom, due process, political pluralism, and individual freedom, but focused on perpetuating its control and subjugating its smaller Persian Gulf neighbours into vassal states. Saudi Arabia has never been a helpful partner in ensuring regional security and peace. Saudi and Persian Gulf Arab money have been absolutely essential in creating and arming ISIL and Al-Qaeda.

In the prevailing environment, it is silly to assume that Trump will ever upend the terms of the decades-long alliance between the United States and Saudi Arabia. U.S. politicians, media figures and foreign policy elites - even those who have fawned over the authoritarian Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman - will never criticize the continuation of U.S.-Saudi alliance. Quite the opposite, the U.S. will continue to give the Saudis a blank check, politically and militarily, for nearly as long as it can last.

In between, in Washington who cares if the Saudis kidnapped, tortured and assassinated Khashoggi inside their consulate in Istanbul? After all, Saudi Ambassador Khalid Bin Salman has told the U.S. that the consulate cannot provide video footage of the consulate because they only have livestreaming, not recorded video! Again, who cares if this is the only consulate in the world that doesn’t tape - and didn’t tape its own nefarious activity.

Therefore, don’t expect the White House to rush to judgment. Because all of this and more have already passed the smell test in Washington. This particular murder case will never call the relationship between Saudi Arabia and the United States into fundamental question because Trump says jobs would be at risk if arms sales to the country were halted.

# Sanctions imposed on Iran contrary to the UN charter: ex-UN official

## EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW By Javad Heirannia

**TEHRAN** — Richard Anderson Falk, professor emeritus of international law at Princeton University “The U.S. during the Trump presidency has insisted that there is no higher authority than the U.S. government.”

Former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights says “the sanctions being imposed on Iran to be contrary to the UN Charter and international law, and to involve an unlawful threat and use of force. Limiting Iran’s sovereign rights in these fundamental ways also has a detrimental effect on the human rights of the Iranian people.”

Following is the full text of the interview:

■ The International Court of Justice (ICJ) ordered the U.S. to lift a part of its restrictive measures against Iran. Do you think that Trump administration will commit to respecting the vote?

A: In my judgment, it is doubtful that the U.S. will comply with such restrictive measures as it seems to be adopting the position that its sovereign rights take precedence over any international obligations. It has denounced the International Criminal Court, but has not as yet responded formally to this decision by the ICJ. If it rejects the authority of the ICJ it will be an escalated repudiation of international law as unlike the ICC, the U.S. is a party to the Statute of the ICJ.



■ The ICJ suggested that the U.S. avoids the implementation of forthcoming sanctions against Iran. Shall we expect the U.S. to respect the vote?

A: As suggested, the U.S. during the Trump presidency has insisted that there is no higher authority than the U.S. government. It is possible that without acknowledging the authority of the ICJ the U.S. will quietly comply, and refrain from implementing the sanctions at this stage. I rather doubt it given the warmongering speech of Netanyahu and Trump at the UN earlier in the month. To accept the ICJ interim measures would probably be treated as a show of weakness that would contradict the way in which the U.S. is trying to

project its power internationally, and particularly toward Iran.

■ ICJ ordered the U.S. to allow the exports of “humanitarian” goods such as food, medicines, agricultural products and aviation safety equipment. Do you think that the U.S. will exclude these items from the sanctions?

A: Again I believe the most probable response is that the U.S. will repudiate the ICJ’s authority, and thus will not obey these exclusions. Possibly, if there is any sensitivity to international public opinion some humanitarian concessions will be made on an informal basis.

■ According to ICJ, the U.S. must lift the restrictions on “humanitarian” goods but as you know, on a general basis, the sanctions will place the strict limits on Iran financial transactions. What’s your opinion on this matter?

A: I consider the sanctions being imposed on Iran to be contrary to the UN Charter and international law, and to involve an unlawful threat and use of force.

Limiting Iran’s sovereign rights in these fundamental ways also has a detrimental effect on the human rights of the Iranian people. I would hope that in its final decision will agree with my legal analysis, but as of now, we must wait and see. As far as I know, the U.S. has not agreed to participate in the ICJ proceedings, which is a way of repudiating the decision, and even challenging the jurisdiction of this tribunal, which is the highest source of legal authority in the UN System.

# Trump; the Symbol of America’s Isolation in the World

1 → Under such circumstances, the only way before the President of the United States is to leave the region and confess to his defeat; an issue that many American analysts and strategists have noted. It shouldn’t be forgotten that 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 for 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. Even now, Trump is attempting to

revive terrorist and takfiri groups in Iraq and Syria.

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! The fact is that Trump completed the military and

political defeats of the United States in the West Asia region. Today, the United States is defeated in the battlefield, and can well see that its pieces had failed in these wars.

On the other hand, the White House has lost the political arena of the region. The failure of the United States in the Lebanese and Iraqi elections, on the one hand, and the popular support for the resistance groups in Yemen and Syria, has left Trump and his companions disappointed in the region. In such a situation, attributing the recent and ongoing defeats of the United States to the Obama administration is completely expectable, and at the same time, unacceptable!

Finally, we can see that just like Obama, George W Bush, Clinton, Bush, Reagan and Carter, Trump is stuck in this strategic miscal-

culation in the West Asian region. Undoubtedly, in his last days in power, Trump will also understand that there’s no way he can overcome this strategic weakness through Saudi and Emirati petrodollars.

However, it seems that the scope of Trump’s defeat in West Asia would be wider than the previous presidents of the United States. Undoubtedly, in the near future, Trump, John Bolton, Mike Pompeo and Nikki Haley will become the symbols of failure in the US foreign policy, especially in the West Asia. In other words, the president of the United States and his companions at the White House will have to admit to defeat in the West Asian region at a great expense, and this is exactly what frightens the American authorities.

# Khashoggi was murdered, dismembered and taken out of Turkey: Askari

1 → I think he ordered this assassination because he thought Trump would talk but do nothing. After all, Trump hates reporters! And Kushner is behind him. In the end, he did so because he could. I think all of this was cooking in his head.”

■ Why hasn’t the Trump Administration acknowledged this and taken some appropriate action?

A: Business interests. Trump and Kushner are first and foremost concerned about the health of their own business empires. Saudi Arabia could be their guardian angel. America’s standing in the world is their major concern.

■ What could Trump do?

A: I will give you a long list but let me say up front that I don’t think Trump will do much of anything. He could terminate U.S. support for his war in Yemen, Oppose the blockade on Qatar. Pull all U.S. military advisors out of Saudi Arabia and put sharing of military intelligence on hold. Freeze all

military sales to Saudi Arabia. Recall the U.S. ambassador from Saudi Arabia and expel a number of Saudi diplomats from the U.S. Impose economic sanctions. Make it clear to MBS that the U.S. will not support him if he starts a conflict with Iran. There is lots that he could do but he won’t unless MBS is overthrown internally. The overthrow of MBS is now much more likely. There was already resentment towards what he had done to senior members of the family, taking them hostage and demanding money but now there may be real danger for the survival of Saudi family rule. So things could turn from bad to worse for MBS.

■ What will this signal to the rest of the world? Can any country now send assassins around the world to kill?

A: Let me first say that if the U.S. knew about the planned murder of Khashoggi and as we have seen did nothing, then the U.S. is complicit to a murder. The whole affair is shocking. To think that Saudi Arabia or any government could do

this is absolutely unthinkable. You are judged by the friends you keep. If the U.S. is unwilling to take any meaningful action against MBS and Saudi Arabia, signaling that as a close friend and ally Saudi Arabia can do no wrong, then U.S. pretensions to democratic values and the rule of law will be damaged for years to come. The UK and Europe took swift action against Russia’s assassination attempts on their soil and they received belated support from the U.S. What will the U.S. say to the world if it does nothing? Our favorite dictators can do anything and we will look the other way. Just think the message that this sends to the rest of the world and what this will do for democratic values around the world? Moreover, any terrorist organization can now do the same with impunity. If America’s allies can send killers around the world to assassinate those that oppose them, why shouldn’t they? The U.S. will also become more vulnerable. We will open an arena of conflict that we will regret.



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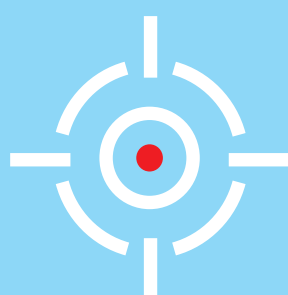
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# C-section deliveries nearly doubled worldwide since 2000, study finds

No matter where a family lives, welcoming a baby into the world can be a joyous occasion -- yet how a woman experiences birth varies drastically from country to country.

The number of births by cesarean section is on the rise, climbing from about 16 million (12.1% of all births) in 2000 to 29.7 million (21.1% of all births) in 2015, according to a study published Thursday in the journal *The Lancet*.

"We knew that globally, C-section rates were increasing for quite some time now, but that now more than one in five babies are delivered by C-section is striking," said the study's first author, Dr. Ties Boerma, a professor at the University of Manitoba and director of the multi-institutional research initiative Countdown to 2030 for Women's, Children's, and Adolescents' Health.

The research revealed that C-sections remain more common in certain parts of the world.

Parenting Without Borders considers how parenting trends and methods differ -- or don't -- around the world.

In 2015, its use was up to 10 times more frequent in Latin American and Caribbean regions, where it was used in 44.3% of births, than in West and Central African regions, where it was used in only 4.1% of births, according to the study.

In the United States, 32% of births were by C-section in 2015, an increase from 23% in 2000, the data showed, and in the United Kingdom, 26.2% of births were by C-section in 2015, up from 19.7% in 2000.

Cesarean section, or C-section, is a surgical procedure used to deliver a baby in which the child is removed through a surgical opening in the mother's lower abdomen area rather than birthed through the vaginal canal. Procedures can be planned, but many occur when unexpected childbirth problems arise, putting the mother's and/or the infant's life at risk.

## ■ 'Gentle' C-sections are growing in popularity

The new study noted that C-section should be universally accessible -- as it can be life-saving in some cases -- but a rise in C-section for non-medical emergencies has become of concern because the procedure can pose risks, such as risk of infection or postpartum heavy bleeding.

In a separate move on Thursday, World Health Organization published new guidance on non-clinical interventions specifically designed to reduce unnecessary C-sections. The key recommendations include educational interviews, use of clinical guidelines, requirement for second opinion for C-section, and interventions aimed at health organizations, such as collaborating with midwives.

"It is crucial that women who need caesarean sections are able to access this potentially life-saving procedure, but equally unnecessary procedures should be avoided, so that the lives and well-being of women and their babies are not put at risk," Dr. Ana Pilar Betran, medical officer at WHO Department of Reproductive Health and Research, said in the organization's announcement of the new guidelines.

## ■ Where C-section rates are highest and lowest

"C-section is not accessible in many developing countries, and especially not to poor women. Much more needs to be done

to ensure that all women have access to C-section," said Boerma, of Countdown to 2030.

On the other hand, "the large increases in C-section use to levels well over 30% in many countries, often for non-medical indications, is of concern given the risks for both women and children," he said. "It is important country ministries of health, the medical profession and civil society critically consider these statistics and ensure that overuse is minimized."

The optimal frequency of C-section use in a population remains difficult to determine, but in 1985, the WHO stated that there was "no justification for any region to have a caesarean section rate higher than 10-15%."

In 2015, WHO released a statement indicating that "at population level, caesarean section rates higher than 10% were not associated with reductions in maternal and newborn mortality rates" and that "every effort should be made to provide caesarean sections to women in need, rather than striving to achieve a specific rate."

The new study in *The Lancet* used data from WHO and the United Nations Children's Fund to describe trends in live births across 169 countries between 2000 and 2015. The researchers stopped at 2015 because only a few countries had data points beyond that year.

Based on the latest data, the researchers found that the country with the lowest C-section rate, at 0.6% in 2010, was South Sudan and the country with the highest, at 58.1% in 2014, was the Dominican Republic.

Other countries where more than half of births were by C-section were Brazil, at 55.5% in 2015; Egypt, at 55.5% in 2014; Turkey, at 53.1% in 2015; and Venezuela, at 52.4% in 2013.

When the data was examined by region, the researchers found that C-section birth rates in 2015 were:

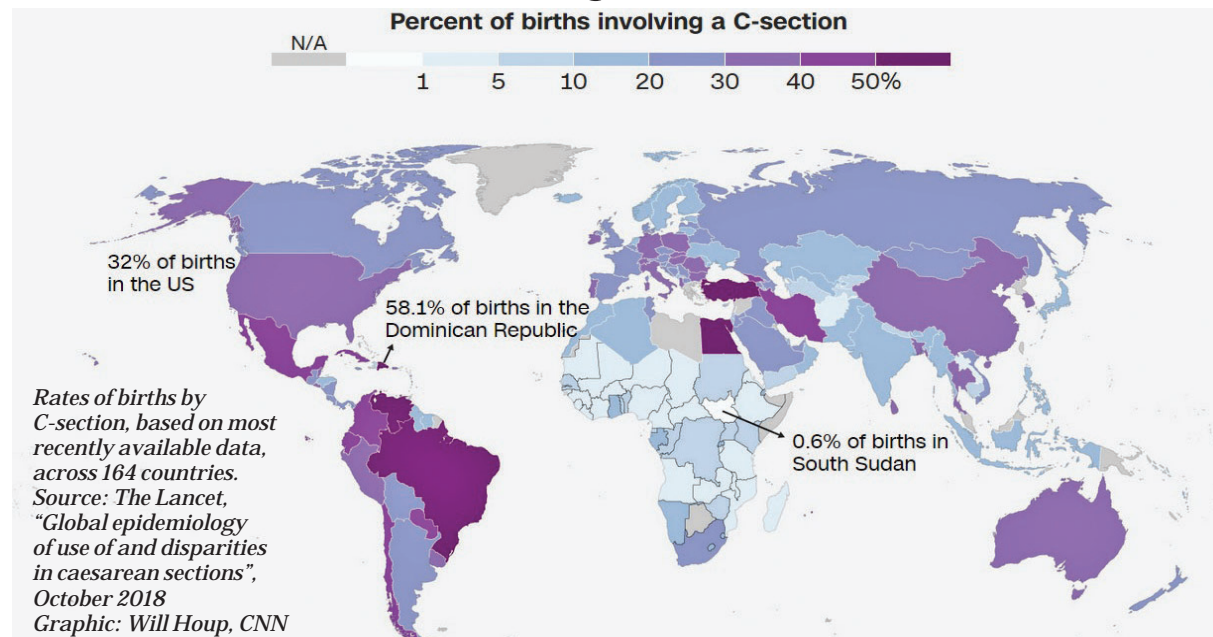
4.1% in West and Central Africa  
6.2% in Eastern and Southern Africa  
29.6% in the Middle East and North Africa  
18.1% in South Asia  
28.8% in East Asia and the Pacific  
44.3% in Latin America and Caribbean  
27.3% in Eastern Europe and Central Asia  
32% in North America  
26.9% in Western Europe

"The big differences in the use of C-section are a major finding," Boerma said.

In 2015, "15 countries including Brazil, Egypt, Turkey and Mexico have C-section use over 40%, while the average for west and central Africa is only 4%," he said.

"In developing countries, or low- and middle-income countries, wealthy women have more than five times higher C-section use than poor women. Part of this is because poor women more often deliver at home, but even if they reach a health facility, they are almost 2.5 times less likely to get C-section," he said.

Countries with C-section use of 15% or more were more likely to have higher levels of socioeconomic development, women's education, urbanization and density of physicians and lower



fertility rates than countries with C-section use in less than 10% of births, according to the study.

In the US, where 32% of births were by C-section, there were also state-by-state differences.

In 2016, Mississippi had the highest cesarean delivery rate in the US at 38.2%, followed by Louisiana at 37.5%, Florida at 37.4% and New Jersey at 36.2%, according to separate data from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Utah ranked lowest at 22.3%, followed by Alaska at 23%, Idaho at 23.9% and New Mexico at 24.8%, according to the CDC.

As for the new study, it had some limitations, including that the researchers were unable to obtain more recent data for all countries and that the data relied heavily on self-reported survey responses for births in low-income and middle-income countries. Self-reported data run the risk of bias.

Willibald Zeck, head of UNICEF's global maternal, newborn and adolescent health program, said it was "excellent" that the new study findings have been released.

"Cesarean section is correlated with reduced breastfeeding, but then of course the complication rates, the mobility, the mortality," said Zeck, who was not involved in the new study.

"So there are several downsides of cesarean section, but we also have to see it as a lifesaving intervention and as something that is necessary in many cases," he said.

"Certainly, the issue is that in some settings, we have too much, and in many settings -- in African countries, for instance -- we have

too low, and the too low is even worse because although we are saying we have too many cesarean section rates, we still have to make sure there's sufficient cesarean section rates in many of those African countries," he said. "I think there's danger in saying to 'decrease, decrease, decrease,' but we forget about those settings where we still don't have enough cesarean sections. Both are very important."

## ■ A call for help

A series of separate papers was published alongside the new study.

One examined the short-term and long-term health effects of C-section on a mom and baby, such as how the surgery is associated with a higher risk of complications in subsequent pregnancies for the mom and a higher risk of asthma for the child.

The other paper examined possible interventions to help reduce the use of unnecessary C-sections. The paper noted that various factors drive the rise in C-section use, including that some women may request C-section due to fears of labor or convenience and that some physicians may use C-section to avoid difficult deliveries or risk of litigation.

Some of the interventions described in the paper include having midwives working more closely with physicians, addressing women's fears of labor pain or concerns with vaginal deliveries, and promoting prenatal care. The International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics published a position paper alongside the new study calling for governments, UN partners, professional organizations, women's groups and other stakeholders to help reduce unnecessary C-sections. (Source: CNN)

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Serbia to reintroduce visas for Iranians, saying privilege abused



An exterior view of the Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Serbia is to scrap visa-free entry for Iranians out of concerns that some may “abuse the system” as an avenue to enter other European states.

Serbia’s Internal Affairs Minister, Nebojsa Stefanovic, told parliament on Wednesday that visas would be re-introduced because a number of Iranian nationals had abused the privilege, Balkan Insight reported. “The move is a response to the problem that many people [from Iran] enter Serbia and either attempt to travel to the West or to seek asylum,” said Djurovic Rados Djurovic, from the Belgrade-based Asylum Protection Centre.

The decision, according to Serbia’s Official Gazette, will take effect eight days after October 10.

However, Serbian authorities have noted that the number of Iranian travelers who have crossed Serbia to reach other European countries have been risen significantly.

Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina has reportedly warned that Iranians were using legal travel to Serbia to then enter neighboring country on their way to the EU.

In August 2017, Serbia abolished visas for Iranians in a move to boost tourism, improve growth and reach out to non-European markets. The Balkan country received over 15,000 Iranian nationals since the visa-waiver program came into effect.

After a gap of 27 years, direct flights between Iran and Serbia resumed on March 11, 2018 when an Iran Air jet touched down at Belgrade’s Nikola Tesla airport.

New CHHTO deputy director appointed



Vali Teymouri in an undated photo

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The director of the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization has installed Vali Teymouri as his deputy for tourism affairs, ISNA reported on Friday.

Teymouri replaced Mohammad Khayatian who assumed the position, as a caretaker manager, in September.

Earlier this month, CHHTO Director Ali Asghar Mounesan, who doubles as vice president, estimated that international arrivals in the country will be reaching seven million during the current Iranian calendar year (to be ended on March 20, 2019).

Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, Iran is expecting to increase its foreign arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million.

ROUND THE GLOBE

Classical Gardens of Suzhou

The classical gardens of Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, China date back to the 6th century BC when the city was founded as the capital of the Wu Kingdom.

Inspired by these royal hunting gardens built by the King of the State of Wu, private gardens began emerging around the 4th century and finally reached the climax in the 18th century.

Today, more than 50 of these gardens are still in existence, nine of which, namely the Humble Administrator’s Garden, Lingering Garden, Net Master’s Garden, the Mountain Villa with Embracing Beauty, the Canglang Pavilion, the Lion Grove Garden, the Garden of Cultivation, the Couple’s Garden Retreat, and the Retreat & Reflection Garden, are regarded as the finest embodiments of Chinese “Mountain and Water” gardens.

The earliest of these, the Canglang Pavilion was built in the early 11th century on the site of an earlier, destroyed garden. Conceived and built under the influence of the unconstrained poetic freehand style originally seen in traditional Chinese landscape paintings, they are noted for their profound merging of exquisite craftsmanship, artistic elegance and rich cultural implications.

These gardens lend insight into how ancient Chinese intellectuals harmonized conceptions of aestheticism in a culture of seclusion within an urban living environment.

(Source: UNESCO)

Hamedan to host travel, handicrafts startups

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Hamedan will play host to an expo of travel and handicrafts startups in November concurrent with the 40th World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Plenary Session of the Affiliate Members.

The expo is expected to open up an exceptional opportunity to Iranian entrepreneurs by demonstrating their services to the UNWTO members and international investors and experts in the field of tourism, CHTN reported.

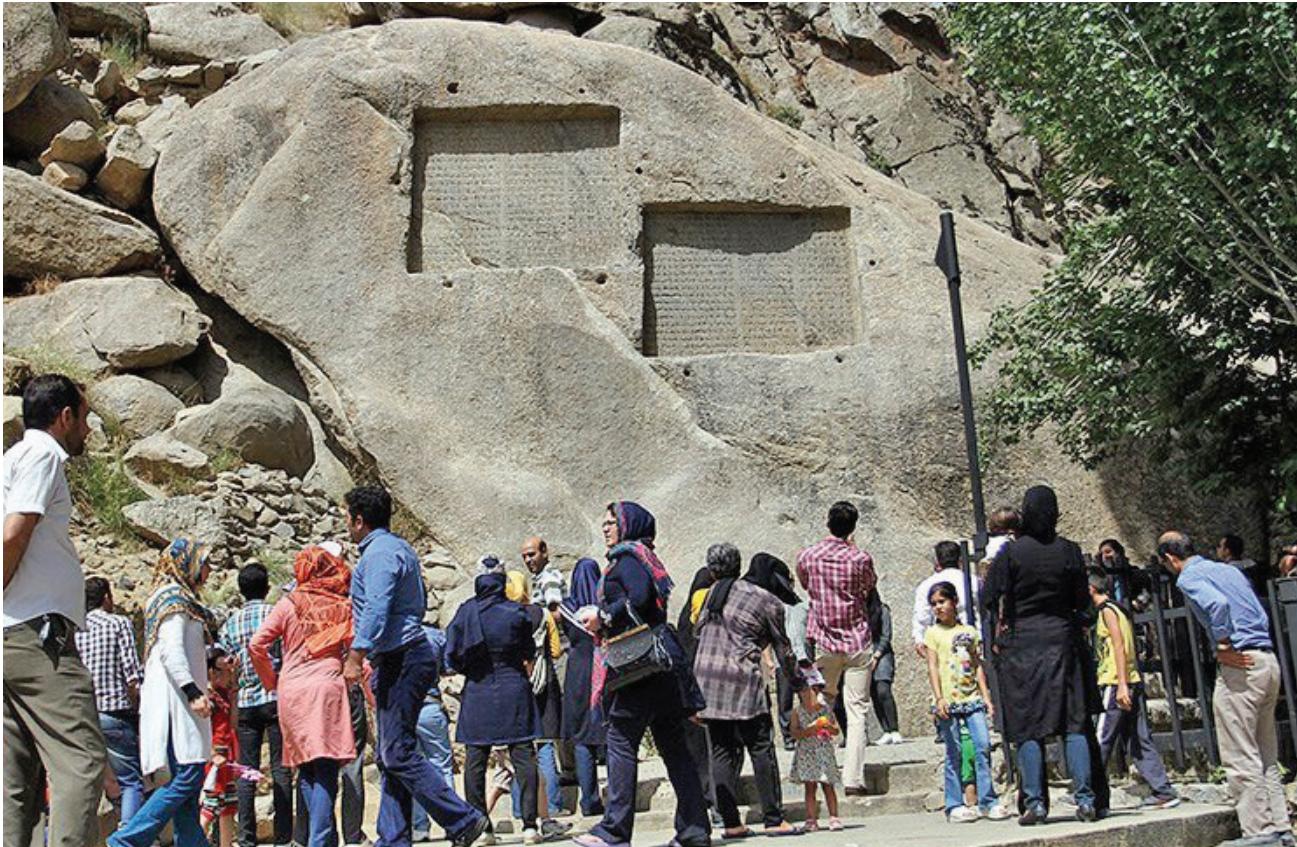
Iran’s Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization will organize the session running from November 12 to 14. It will bring together some 500 travel-associated companies, educational and research institutions and NGOs.

Innovative business models, digital services and marketing, long-term sustainability are amongst concepts the session will discuss.

Over two million travelers, including some 4,300 foreigners, visited Hamedan province during in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21).

Teemed with natural and historical sites, Hamedan has taken on appearance of the “capital of Asian tourism in 2018”, which was approved in the second ACD Tourism Ministers Meeting hosted by Cambodia in June 2017.

Ali Sadr cave, Ganjnameh inscriptions, Avicenna mausoleum, Hegmataneh hill, Alaviyan dome, Jameh mosque, and St. Stephanos Gregorian Church are amongst Hamedan’s attractions to name a few.



People visit Ganjnameh tourist resort complex in Hamedan province. The site is home to Achaemenid-era rock carvings and natural attractions.

“Mothers on wheels” rally traverses Iran on way to London



**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — “Mothers on Wheels”, a group of four Indian travelers, have traversed Iran on their journey towards London, CHTN reported.

The group, which has selected “Out to Heal the World” as its motto, is aimed at covering 22 countries and 20,000 km over 60 days.

The group entered Iran on October 7 from Bajgiran border in Khorasan Raza-vi province after passing through Nepal, China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

UNESCO-registered Golestan Palace, the National Museum of Iran, and Sadabad Cultural-Historical Complex were amongst destinations the group made upon their arrival in Tehran on October 9.

“Mother on Wheel” enjoyed support from the Touring & Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran (TACI) while in the country, the report said.

On September 10, Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj flagged off ‘Mother on Wheel’ with a message of highlighting mother’s role in imparting positive values to children.

Rare earthenware excavated in Alborz province



**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — A team of Iranian archaeologists has recently unearthed rare earthenware objects during a demarcation project, which was held at the Imamzadeh-Qasem hilltop in Alborz province.

The study has yielded unique potteries which bear various designs of staple, zigzag, ropes, and even birds and geometric patterns, CHTN reported on Saturday.

The objects include a number of unglazed potteries as well.

The discovery could drag history of the

region to the times of Sassanids (224 to 651 CE), the report said.

The team has also found a distinctive kiln with a ceramic chimney embedded on its body which reportedly has reinforced a speculation of mass pottery production in the area.

The Cultural Heritage and Tourism Research Center was responsible for overseeing the demarcation project.

The Sassanid era is of very high importance in the history of the nation, under which Persian art and architecture experienced a general renaissance.

Should you tip your Uber driver? if so, how much?

By Kristin Wong

Uber added tipping to its app just over a year ago, and other rideshare services have allowed riders to tip their drivers for longer than that. But do drivers expect you to tip? Do they rely on them?

When it launched in 2012, Uber’s original stance on tipping drivers was that it would make using the app more of a hassle for drivers and passengers. “In the end, we decided against including one because we felt it would be better for riders and drivers to know for sure what they would pay or earn on each trip — without the uncertainty of tipping,” the company wrote in a 2016 blog post in response to two class-action lawsuits.

After public pressure and complaints from drivers, Uber ultimately decided to change its policy in July 2017. Competing apps like Lyft had launched by that time with the option built in, and Via and Juno also allow riders to tip their drivers.

■ **How much should you leave?**

Brett Helling is a former Uber driver who now owns and runs Ridester.com, a resource for drivers. Mr. Helling said he tips drivers between 10 and 20 percent the cost of the trip, based on the level of service. Julia Boyd, an international etiquette consultant, agreed. For U.S. rides, she recommends tipping between 15 and 20 percent for exceptional service, 10 to 15 for good service, and 10 percent for average service.

“Many Uber trips can be more expensive than a standard cab. However, a standard cab offers a standard service. Uber drivers will often have exceptionally clean cars and fresh water for their passengers,” Ms. Boyd said.

According to Mr. Helling’s data, passengers who do tip only leave an average of 5.5 percent. The ride-sharing app Via suggests leaving drivers 15 to 20 percent.

■ **Do drivers depend on your tips?**

“With fares, tips, and bonuses factored in, I average around \$20 an hour and give around 75 rides per week,” said Jon Sycamore, a driver in Salt Lake City who also runs a real estate business. “If you remove tips, it drops to around \$15 an hour.” By comparison, Salt Lake City’s living wage is \$11.48 an hour for a single adult and \$24.12 an hour for a single adult with a child.

Surveying more than 2,600 active Uber drivers, Mr. Helling found that the average median hourly income for UberX drivers, who made up 74.7 percent of respondents, was \$13.70 an hour, not including tips. The average was slightly higher for Uber XL drivers, who earned \$14.84 an hour.

Why not include tips in the survey? “That’s because tip income was negligible in the majority of cases,” Mr. Helling said. Half of the surveyed drivers’ tips were less than \$5. Over a third of the surveyed drivers didn’t earn any tips at all.

Mr. Sycamore said he averages \$1.26 in tips from Uber riders and 86 cents from Lyft riders. Based on his last 77 rides

with each service, less than half of passengers tipped. “Based on our findings, Uber riders are still very set in Uber’s old no-tipping policy,” Mr. Helling said. “Drivers are paying for their own vehicle, which comes with its own slew of expenses. A dollar or two on every ride really adds up, offsetting the high cost of operating the vehicle.”

■ **Why should you tip in the first place?**

For Ms. Boyd, it makes sense to tip your driver because they are providing a personal service which involves safety and comfort, and our cultural norm is to tip those who provide this kind of service. She pointed out that this norm will vary in overseas markets. “In Europe the tipping expectations would be lower, and many passengers would simply ‘round up’ the bill. And don’t even think about tipping any driver in Japan — that would be considered rude,” she said.

Both Uber and Lyft limit their tip amount to 200 percent. So you wouldn’t be able to leave a \$15 tip for your \$5 Uber ride if you were feeling extra generous — at least not on the app. The companies put a ceiling on this to keep passengers from accidentally adding an extra zero and overtipping.

Whether you give your driver cash or just tip through the app, they receive 100 percent of the tip; Uber, Lyft, Gett and Via don’t take a cut. Generally, drivers are just happy to get a tip, Mr. Helling said, and many don’t have a preference for cash versus tipping directly in the app. Still, if you have the cash on hand, it can’t hurt to ask.

(Source: The New York Times)

Japan deals with ‘tourism pollution’ from surges in visitors

It was the afternoon of Aug 5, which saw a high temperature of 39.5°C in the city of Kyoto, Japan. The throng of foreign visitors unable to board appeared somewhat resentful as the bus departed, stranding them in scorching heat. Such sights are increasingly common in Kyoto as more and more tourists visit the country.

Some visitors had brought small portable fans after conducting research in advance. Even so, “Heat like this is really hard to bear,” complained a man in his 20s from Xian, China.

Local residents are likewise having more

trouble immediately boarding buses. “I’ve gotten used to it,” said wagashi sweets shop owner Kazuhisa Namikawa, 54, with a look of resignation. Such excessive growth in tourism has damaged the environment and disturbed residents’ everyday lives, such as by causing traffic congestion. This phenomenon, dubbed “tourism pollution”, has emerged as a worldwide problem, and can also lead to disappointment for visitors.

This year, the resort island of Boracay in the Philippines was swamped by tourists, which

caused a rapid acceleration in environmental degradation. The island was forced to deny entry to tourists for six months. At a press conference, Philippines Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat stressed that she had learned that promotion of tourism should not compromise the health of the environment.

In response to such problems, efforts are under way to discourage visitors from converging during certain seasons and times of day. To combat overcrowding at Mount Fuji — a top destination for foreign tourists

— the Yamanashi and Shizuoka prefectural governments are urging visitors to avoid crowds, view the sunrise at mountain huts before heading for the peak, and climb on weekdays when congestion is less severe.

The central government has likewise been spurred to take action. In June, the Japan Tourism Agency established an office to promote sustainable tourism, and is working to grasp the current situation and rapidly implement countermeasures.

(Source: star2.com)



# The ambitious startup out to reverse climate change by capturing carbon from the air

If solving the problem of climate change was a 100-piece jigsaw puzzle, systems that suck CO<sub>2</sub> out of the air might make up one or two pieces. But as a warming planet and rising global emissions loom large, there are many who believe this unproven technology will have an important role to play – the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) among them.

Climeworks is a Swiss company at the vanguard of this technology, and having just completed a year-long pilot project collecting CO<sub>2</sub> at the world's first negative emissions power plant, is rather optimistic about the way things are headed.

The idea of removing carbon dioxide from the air has long been a controversial one. A range of technologies have been bandied about as a way of achieving this, including planting monumental amounts of trees to remove CO<sub>2</sub> biologically through photosynthesis, carbon sequestration where it is pulled from the chemical processes in power plants before it enters the atmosphere and pumped into underground reservoirs, and direct air capture (DAC), where it is collected from the ambient air.

The trouble is, none of them have been proven to be economically viable on any kind of meaningful scale. Beyond that, experts worry that pursuing these technologies will do more harm than good. The danger is that a great deal of the world today leans



on burning fossil fuels and pumping out CO<sub>2</sub> to keep things ticking over. If direct air capture systems become cheap, reliable and widespread, what incentive would there

**Once the filter is full, the CO<sub>2</sub> is heated to 100° C (212° F) and then cooled to 45° C (113° F), allowing it to then be used for a variety of applications, such as carbonating beverages, creating other climate-neutral fuels and certain types of agricultural materials.**

be to change?

## ■ Far-reaching changes

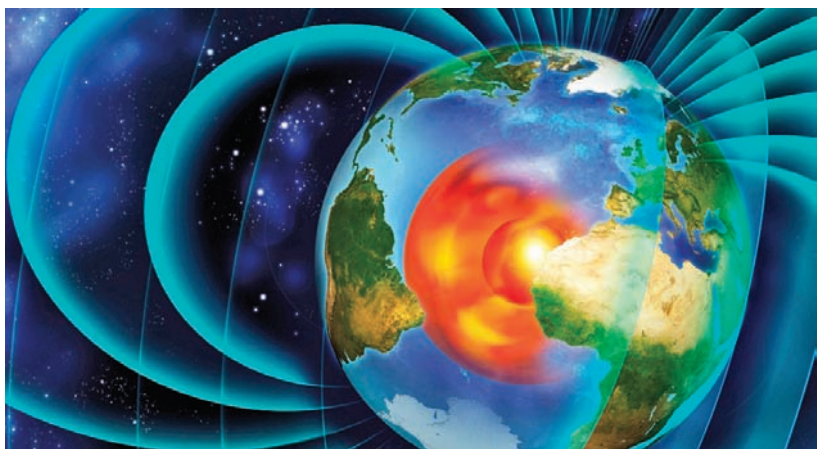
Prepared by 91 authors from 40 different countries, the report states that limiting warming to 1.5° C (2.7° F) above pre-industrial levels will involve fast and far-reaching changes in almost every aspect of society. We'd need to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 45 percent by 2030, and eliminate them entirely by 2050.

Its DAC systems work by using huge fans to draw ambient air through an integrated filter material that selectively captures only CO<sub>2</sub>. Once the filter is full, the CO<sub>2</sub> is heated to 100° C (212° F) and then cooled to 45° C (113° F), allowing it to then be used for a variety of applications, such as carbonating beverages, creating other climate-neutral fuels and certain types of agricultural materials.

It took some time, but in 2017 Climeworks opened its very first commercial plant, and the world's first carbon capture plant that sells its product to a customer. Sat atop an incineration facility in Hinwil, Zurich, the system uses waste heat generated by that facility to bring the captured carbon up to the required temperatures, and pipes the finished product directly to a nearby greenhouse where it is used to help grow vegetables. Climeworks says the Hinwil plant captures 900 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> every year.

(Source: New Atlas)

## Fast, accurate estimation of the Earth's magnetic field for natural disaster detection



Researchers from Tokyo Metropolitan University have applied machine-learning techniques to achieve fast, accurate estimates of local geomagnetic fields using data taken at multiple observation points, potentially allowing detection of changes caused by earthquakes and tsunamis.

A deep neural network (DNN) model was developed and trained using existing data; the result is a fast, efficient method for estimating magnetic fields for unprecedentedly early detection of natural disasters. This is vital for developing effective warning systems that might help reduce casualties and widespread damage.

The devastation caused by earthquakes and tsunamis leaves little doubt that an effective means to predict their incidence is of paramount importance. Certainly, systems already exist for warning people just before the arrival of seismic waves; yet, it is often the case that the S-wave (or secondary wave), that is, the later part of the quake, has already arrived when the warning is given. A faster, more accurate means is sorely required to give local residents time to seek safety and minimize casualties.

## ■ Earthquakes and tsunamis

It is known that earthquakes and tsunamis are accompanied by localized changes in the geomagnetic field. For earthquakes, it is primarily what is known as a piezo-magnetic effect, where the release of a massive amount of accumulated stress along a fault causes local changes in geomagnetic field; for tsunamis, it is the sudden, vast movement of the sea that causes variations in atmospheric pressure.

This in turn affects the ionosphere, subsequently changing the geomagnetic

field. Both can be detected by a network of observation points at various locations. The major benefit of such an approach is speed; remembering that electromagnetic waves travel at the speed of light, we can instantaneously detect the incidence of an event by observing changes in geomagnetic field.

However, how can we tell whether the detected field is anomalous or not? The geomagnetic field at various locations is a fluctuating signal; the entire method is predicated on knowing what the "normal" field at a location is.

## ■ Geomagnetic field

Thus, Yuta Katori and Assoc. Prof. Kan Okubo from Tokyo Metropolitan University set out to develop a method to take measurements at multiple locations around Japan and create an estimate of the geomagnetic field at different, specific observation points. Specifically, they applied a state-of-the-art machine-learning algorithm known as a Deep Neural Network (DNN), modeled on how neurons are connected inside the human brain.

By feeding the algorithm a vast amount of input taken from historical measurements, they let the algorithm create and optimize an extremely complex, multi-layered set of operations that most effectively maps the data to what was actually measured.

Given the relatively low computational cost of DNNs, the system may potentially be paired with a network of high sensitivity detectors to achieve lightning-fast detection of earthquakes and tsunamis, delivering an effective warning system that can minimize damage and save lives.

(Source: eurekaalert.org)

## Researchers trying to use algae to make diesel fuel



The University of Michigan professors and their team will try to do this for \$2.5 million, most of it from a U.S. Department of Energy grant.

When they've finished the project in three years, Boehman, Cardinale and the rest of the team, including researchers from Penn State and the University of Delaware, hope to provide one possible solution to the challenges of climate change and pollution.

The grant will help pay for the team's plans to separate oil from algae into a viable diesel fuel blend, one that is primarily a renewable energy source.

University of Michigan PhD student Jonathan Martin shows how he runs tests on the heat release rate of diesel fuel to help with efficiency and emissions on Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at the Walter E. Lay Automotive Laboratory on the University of Michigan campus in Ann Arbor. Researchers from the University of Michigan received an Energy Department grant to use algae as a biofuel source for diesel engines.

## ■ Diesel fuel

University of Michigan Ph.D. student Jonathan Martin shows how he runs tests on the heat release rate of diesel fuel to help with efficiency and emissions on Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at the Walter E. Lay Automotive Laboratory on the University of Michigan campus in Ann Arbor. Researchers from the University of Michigan received an Energy Department grant to use algae as a biofuel source for diesel engines.

With a United Nations panel warning this month of the need for "rapid and far-reaching" changes to limit global warming

impacts, algal fuel could be an answer, said Boehman, a mechanical engineer and director of the University of Michigan's W.E. Lay Automotive Laboratory.

"We have to start making ... faster moves for reducing our carbon footprint," Boehman said. "And one of the most effective ways of reducing our carbon footprint, which could be put into effect almost immediately, is to burn lower-carbon fuels in the vehicles we have today. That may take a decade or a generation to make it happen at scale, but we need technologies that are scalable, and that's where Brad comes in."

Cardinale, a professor of environment and sustainability, has been growing algae in artificial ponds in the Pinckney area.

## ■ Stable crop of algae

His challenge is to grow a stable crop of algae, which can be turned over to chemical engineers and then to Boehman for use in a diesel engine.

In July 2016, combinations of algal species were grown in 80 cattle tanks in a federally funded biofuels experiment at the University of Michigan's E.S. George Reserve near Pinckney, Mich. Each of the 290-gallon cattle tanks contains from one to four freshwater algal species.

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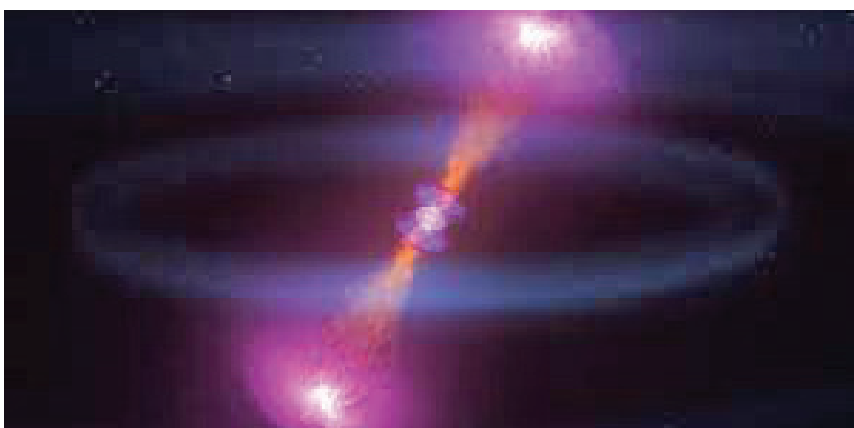
(Source: Detroit Free Press)

## Astronomers have witnessed the birth of a neutron star binary

When the violent death of a massive star concluded with a whimper instead of a bang, astronomers weren't sure what to make of it. Now it turns out that oddly anemic death indicates a never-before-seen cosmic phenomenon - the birth of a binary neutron star system, two dead stellar remnants locked in a death spiral.

The event, called iPTF 14qqr (SN 2014ft) was first discovered in October 2014, located on the outskirts of a spiral galaxy some 920 million light years away. It was a core-collapse supernova, but not like any we've seen before.

For a star to go supernova, or spectacularly explode, it has to be at least several times the mass of the Sun; estimates put the minimum at around eight solar masses. At the end of its life, the star runs out of fuel. The core collapses rapidly, which generates



a shockwave that explodes the star's outer material.

So, as you can imagine, when the big kaboom happens, it typically blasts several

solar masses' worth of material into the surrounding space. But with iPTF 14qqr, that's not what happened. Only material about a fifth of the Sun's mass was ejected in the explosion - and that explosion was pretty weak.

It wasn't always so naked, though. The star must have had mass to start with in order to be massive enough for its core to collapse. So if it hadn't been ejected in the supernova, it had to have gone somewhere else.

No, not Narnia. The team inferred, based on the strength and mass of the supernova, that the star had a previously unnoticed but very dense binary buddy, such as a white dwarf, black hole, or another neutron star, that stripped off most of its material before the supernova.

(Source: sciencealert.com)

## Lizards exhibit two sleep states, researchers claim

Researchers have confirmed that lizards exhibit two sleep states, just like humans, other mammals, and birds. They corroborated the conclusions of a 2016 study on the bearded dragon (*Pogona vitticeps*) and conducted the same sleep investigation on another lizard, the Argentine tegu (*Salvator merianae*).

During sleep, the body carries out many vital activities: consolidation of knowledge acquired during the day, elimination of metabolic waste from the brain, hormone production, temperature regulation, and replenishment of energy stores.



It would appear that this physiological phenomenon is shared by all members of the animal kingdom and has been preserved throughout evolution.

But scientists long thought that only land mammals and birds experienced two separate sleep states: slow-wave sleep and REM, or paradoxical, sleep. The latter, associated with dreaming, is a complex phase during which the body exhibits behaviors in limbo between those of sleeping and waking hours.

A study whose findings were published by Science in 2016 focused on the bearded dragon (*Pogona vitticeps*) and demonstrated that this lizard also entered two distinct sleep states. It further hypothesized that such sleep states originated in a common ancestor of mammals and reptiles, 350 million years ago.

(Source: Science Daily)

## Dinosaurs may be to blame for human sunburns: new study

Basking in the sun can be a great way to spend an afternoon while replenishing your vitamin D. However, too much time in the sun can lead to a nasty sunburn and an increased risk of skin cancer. Why are we so vulnerable to sunlight when it's all around us? A new study seeks to explain this evolutionary conundrum, and it might all be thanks to the dinosaurs.

The sun emits electromagnetic radiation across the spectrum, but the visible portion is the only part we can see. There's also ultraviolet rays, and this part of the spectrum has enough energy to damage your DNA. When you slather on sunscreen, that's to block UV from damaging your cells.

Humans need sunscreen because we're part of a wide-ranging group known as placental mammals. We also don't have fur to protect us from sunlight like many other mammals. Placental mammals lack a genetic feature called photoreactivation DNA repair function. Organisms that do have such an ability can activate DNA repair mechanisms in response to sunlight. That's how plants and most animals can spend all day in the sun without frying their DNA.

According to the new study, there's one animal other than placental mammals that lacks this mechanism: the Somali blind cavefish, *Phreatichthys andruzzii*. As its name implies, the cavefish lives in underwater caves where there is no light, so it doesn't need eyes. After millions of years of evolution, it also lost the photoreactivation DNA repair function. By analyzing the fish's DNA, scientists found the genes that should control those DNA repair abilities, but they are no longer functional because of mutations.

It comes back to dinosaurs when you look at the history of our mammalian ancestors. They evolved at a time when dinosaurs were sauntering around all day, looking for small morsels to eat.

(Source: extremetech.com)

## Adorable newborn sea monster from the dinosaur age discovered in Kansas

About 85 million years ago, when a vast sea covered Kansas, a wee, little sea monster died almost immediately after it was born.

Despite its short life, this newborn, which head to tail, was as long as André the Giant was tall (well, it was tiny compared to its parents) is making waves today; a new analysis of its fossils reveals that it's the smallest *Tylosaurus* — a type of mosasaur, a fearsome marine reptile that lived during the dinosaur age — on record.

But it took years and meticulous detective work for researchers to identify this creature as a *Tylosaurus*. Paleontologists made the ID by examining tiny broken pieces of the creature's snout, braincase and upper jaw, the only fossils of the animal they could find, a new study reports.

When the tiny leviathan's remains were found in the Smoky Hill Chalk Member of western Kansas, in 1991, researchers thought it was a *Platecarpus*. This medium-size genus of mosasaur had a short, rounded snout and could grow to almost 20 feet (6 meters) long.

But the new analysis revealed that the remains belonged to a much larger genus: *Tylosaurus*, said study lead researcher Takuya Konishi, an assistant professor-educator in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Cincinnati. This monster of a mosasaur could grow up to 42 feet (13 m) in length, or nearly as long as a semitrailer.

## ■ The beasts' anatomy

It didn't hurt that Konishi had done his dissertation on the *Platecarpus*, so he knew the beasts' anatomy inside and out. A few other clues indicated that the wee babe was a *Tylosaurus*, one of the largest mosasaurs to swim in the Western Interior Seaway — a giant waterway that covered much of the U.S. Midwest and South from about 100 million to about 75 million years ago, Konishi told Live Science.

The biggest clue was the newborn's snout. The *Tylosaurus* is famous (at least among paleontologists) for its long snout, which is filled with sharp teeth, except for at the tip. *Tylosaurus* may have used this long, toothless tip as a battering ram to stun and wound prey, much like the orca whale (*Orcinus orca*) does today, Konishi said.

The genus *Tylosaurus* is known for its long snout (rostrum), which doesn't have any teeth at the upper tip. Curiously, the newborn *Tylosaurus* (right) barely has this feature, unlike the juvenile (left), which has a well-developed snout that is toothless near the tip.

(Source: Live Science)



## Huge reduction in meat eating ‘vital to maintain world food supply’

Groundbreaking report calls for Earth’s population to adopt plant-based ‘flexitarian’ diet with meat eaten less than once a week.

A massive reduction in the quantity of meat being consumed combined with huge changes to farming techniques are essential to guarantee our planet’s future ability to support humanity, a major new report has warned.

The analysis, which examines future population projections across the planet and the impact of current farming techniques



Scientists are calling for everyone to eat meat less than once a week ( Getty )

on the environment, warns rapid change is vital as global warming causes pronounced impacts on food production.

For every degree Celsius of additional temperature rise, global wheat yields are estimated to drop 6 per cent, while global rice yields are estimated to fall 10 per cent, the authors said.

The warning comes as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has warned the planet is currently “nowhere near on track” to keep the rise in temperatures below 1.5C.

Under current climate commitments by world leaders, the Earth will be 3C warmer by the end of the century, the IPCC said.

But growing populations will mean farming 50 per cent more food to support almost 10 billion people in the next 30 years, according to the new report published in the journal Nature.

If no changes are made, the impacts of food production on the environment will rise by up to 90 per cent by 2050, the authors said, meaning the planet will no longer be a “safe operating space for humanity”.

As a result, they have called for the Earth’s population to adopt a plant-based “flexitarian” diet, in which meat is typically eaten less than once a week.

“An important first step would be to align national food-based dietary guidelines with the present evidence on healthy eating and the environmental impacts of diets,” the report states.

It also calls for a dramatic reduction in food waste, improved freshwater management, controlled fertilizer application and major investments in agricultural infrastructure and educational campaigns.

“No single solution is enough to avoid crossing planetary boundaries,” said Marco Springmann of the University of Oxford and the lead author of the study, which he said was the first to take a comprehensive look at the impact global food production has on the planet.

“But when the solutions are implemented together, our research indicates that it may be possible to feed the growing population sustainably”.

Livestock are responsible for about 14.5 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

“For the average consumer ... the takeaway message is, change your diet and write to your politicians to implement better regulations,” Dr Springmann said.

The stark warning comes after the IPCC said the planet has only until 2030 to prevent catastrophic climate change.

(Source: The Independent)

## LEARN ENGLISH Building Your Dream Home

A: Mr. and Mrs. Robinson! Let’s get straight to it. You have saved up your money for years and are now ready to build your dream home. What did you have in mind?  
B: A suburban **bungalow** straight out of the **sixties**! A perfect lawn with **minimal landscaping**. A brick **patio** in the backyard with an old-fashioned grill, **quaint** lawn furniture, and a swimming pool. A two-car carport, **pastel siding** and a **gable** roof. Completed with white **shutters** and a white picket fence!  
C: Uh, honey?  
B: In the living room we would have moss-green rugs and a fireplace with a stone **mantle** and wood **paneling** on the walls. In the kitchen, the cupboards would be a pale yellow and we would have a turquoise metal oven and vinyl flooring.  
C: Umm, sweetie, but I was thinking of a more modern style house. An open concept house, all glass, wood, metal, and concrete.  
B: But sweetgums, there is always a lot of wasted space in those kinds of homes. Besides, it’s just a fad. It doesn’t have the homey feeling the old homes do.  
C: Sweetie-pie it’s not a lot of wasted space. It is relaxing and the house would be eco-friendly with an in-floor heating system and designed to retain the heat of the sun in the winter and keep the house cool in the summer. We would have solar panels on the roof.

B: Do you know how much those things cost?  
C: What about your vintage furniture, dearest? And instead of a lawn, which is also a lot of wasted space and would require environmentally harmful pesticides, we would have a fish pond in the backyard and a garden that would cover the whole yard so we could grow our own food!  
B: But buttercup, I thought you always said that you loved visiting your grandmother’s house!  
C: And I thought you, Mr. Scientist, were all up on saving the planet with your technological advancements!  
A: Umm well I am just going to go get some coffee while you two keep discussing.

■ **Key vocabulary**  
**bungalow**: a house which is built on one level  
**the sixties**: the years from 1960 to1969  
**minimal**: the smallest possible amount or size  
**landscaping**: a view across an area of land  
**patio**: an area of the garden with a hard surface  
**quaint**: unusual or old-fashioned in an attractive way  
**pastel**: a kind of dry color in sticks  
**siding**: material attached to the outside of a building  
**gable**: the triangular upper part of a wall at the top of a building  
**shutter**: covers unfold in front of a window  
**mantle**: the shelf above a fire place  
**paneling**: sheets of wood fit into a frame to form a wall  
■ **Supplementary vocabulary**  
**turquoise**: a bluish-green, precious stone  
**vinyl**: firm plastic which can be bend  
**sweetgums**: used as a term of endearment  
**fad**: fashion  
**homey**: having a feeling of home; comfortable  
**retain**: to keep or keep possession

# ‘Reducing waste generation, segregation at source crucial in waste management’

**ENVIRONMENT** **TEHRAN** — While reduction of waste generation and separation of waste at source are the two major processes in waste management, in Iran the focus is mainly on the last phase of waste management which is waste disposal, head of soil and water office at the Department of Environment (DOE) has said.

Disposing waste either in incinerators (burning of waste at high temperature to convert them into heat, flue gas and ash) or burning them in landfills will slow down the path to waste minimization and waste sorting at source, ISNA quoted Ali Moridi as saying on Saturday.

Without technology, waste management practices are nearly impossible and Iran’s economic hardships hindered the adoption of new technologies, so that waste management has become an unresolved problem in Iran, he further noted.

The responsible body for waste management is the Ministry of Interior, and the DOE is the only supervisor in this field, he said, adding, the Ministry’s plans for waste management mainly focuses on burning and composting which are not highly efficient or operational in addition to not being cost effective.

Pointing to the DOE’s alternative plan for waste management in the country, he explained that the plan concentrates on waste sorting at source and reduction of waste generation. As the plans must be implemented through materials recovery facilities or mechanical biological treatment systems, not traditional methods of curbside recycling bins, using IT to provide online waste collecting services is among most important programs.

In this regard, the DOE supports startups working on new ideas in waste collection and recycling, he highlighted, adding that currently, many residents separate dry and wet wastes at households, but do not know what to do with it, so that the DOE plans to



**‘Many residents already separate dry and wet wastes at their households, while do not know what to do with it, so the Department of Environment plans to address the issue through startups offering dry waste collection online’**

address the issue through startups offering dry waste collection.

He went on to note that this waste collection method, in addition to providing proper waste management, creates job opportunities and also growth for the small enterprises.

The companies can design related apps so citizens can send their locations to the company in order to sell their dry wastes, such as paper, glass, plastic or metal cans. If citizens find out the financial, environ-

mental and health benefits of the plan, they will be encouraged to cooperate, Moridi concluded.

According to a report published by United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in October 2016, waste generation per capita in Iran’s urban areas is about 658 grams per day while Iranian waste generation per capita in rural areas is about 220-340 grams per day. Average Iranian waste generation per capita amounts to some 240 kilograms per year.

In Tehran alone waste generation per capita is estimated at 750-800 grams per day and each Tehrani citizen generates about 270-450 kilograms of waste per years.

The report continues that unfortunately only 7 percent of the waste is separated at the source, 13 percent is recycled and only 2.5 percent of them end up in formal or sanitary landfills and some 77.5 percent of the waste will be burnt or buried in informal landfills located in the countryside or deserts near cities.

## ICMM Pan Asia-Pacific Regional Congress underway in Tehran

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — The 4th International Committee of Military Medicine (ICMM) Pan Asia-Pacific Regional Congress is being held in Tehran on October 13-16, Fars reported on Saturday.

This year, the Congress with a theme of “The Future Horizon of Military Medicine”, attending by 107 participants from 30 countries, emphasizes the common goals of promoting medico-military scientific activities, strengthening the bonds between medical services of Member States, not only in the Asia Pacific region, but also between all of the ICMM Member States around the world.

The main scientific topics of the Congress include Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense (CBRN defense or CBRNE defense), psychology and cognitive science in military community, disaster management and military traumatology, and military medicine education and international collaborations.

A workshop centering around the role of Iranian traditional medicine in military medicine and crisis conditions is held on the sidelines of the international event.

According to ICMM website, International Committee



of Military Medicine (ICMM) is an international and intergovernmental organization, which was established in 1920, after World War One had revealed the importance of a closer cooperation between the Armed Forces Medical

Services worldwide. The first International Congress of Military Medicine was held in July 1921, in Brussels, Belgium.

Today, ICMM has 116 Member States and 6 Observer Members, and has held 42 World Congresses, the 16th of which was held in Tehran, Iran in 1959. In addition, it has relations with international organizations, including World Health Organization (WHO), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), UNAIDS, International Military Sports Council (CISM), World Veterinary Association (WVA), and World Medical Association (WMA).

The main goals of ICMM are to maintain and to strengthen the bonds between all medical services of Member States, promote medico-military scientific activities, and participate in the development of the medical and medico-military setting of humanitarian operations.

The first Pan Asia-Pacific Regional Congress was held in China in 2010, the second one was in Thailand in 2012, the third one was in Russian Federation in 2016, and now Islamic Republic of Iran has the honor to host the 4th ICMM Pan Asia-Pacific Regional Congress.

## Govt. allots \$12m to compensate for flood damages in northern Iran

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — Iranian government has earmarked a total budget of 500 billion rials (nearly \$12 million) compensating for the losses resulting from floods hitting Mazandaran Province, northern part of the country, IRNA reported on Saturday.

While significant amount of precipitation in less than 24 hours has led to severe flooding in Mazandaran province since last week, claiming 5 lives, an estimated 7 trillion rials (about \$166 million) was worth of damages,

destroying infrastructures, residential units, roads and huge tracts of farmlands.

“With the decision of the National Disaster Management Organization, the first phase of government compensation payment will be spent on rehabilitating roads and other necessary infrastructures,” the province’s governor general Mohammad Eslami said.

Construction and rebuilding the flood-damaged infrastructures will begin within next week, he sated, adding, so far,

some 500 billion rials (nearly \$12 million) has been allocated by the government compensating for the flood affected areas.

He went on to say that the first part of government aids will be provided to the flood victims by the next week, prioritizing the most affected areas to assign the resources.

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



### ENGLISH IN USE

#### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ع

## National Hepatitis B prevention plan to start next month

A national plan for the prevention of Hepatitis B transmission through blood transfusion, will be implemented by the beginning of [the Iranian calendar month of] Mehr (September 23) nationwide, Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization spokesman has said.

Frequent blood donors who were born before the Iranian calendar year of 1386 (March 1989- March 1990), will have an opportunity to receive the 3-shot Hepatitis B vaccine free of charge, referring to the nearest blood donation center in their city of residence, Tasnim quoted Bashir Haji Beigi as saying on Friday.

### PREFIX/SUFFIX

#### “-ac, -acally, -acal”

■ **Meaning:** a person or thing affected by a condition  
■ **For example:** Nevertheless **insomniac** patients are surprisingly wakeful people even though they don’t sleep well at night.

### PHRASAL VERB

#### Laugh something off

■ **Meaning:** to pretend that something is less serious than it really is by laughing or joking about it  
■ **For example:** Knox laughed off rumors that he would be running for mayor.

### IDIOM

#### Child’s play

■ **Explanation:** to be simple or easy to do  
■ **For example:** Using this new computer is child’s play compared to the old one.

## طرح ملی پیشگیری از هپاتیت B از اول مهر آغاز می شود

سخنگوی سازمان انتقال خون گفت: از ابتدای مهر ماه، طرح ملی پیشگیری و واکسیناسیون اهداکنندگان مستمر خون در مقابل هپاتیت B در سراسر کشور اجرا می شود.

به گزارش سلامت خبرگزاری تسنیم، دکتر بشیر حاجی بیگی اظهار داشت: اهداکنندگان مستمر خون که پیش از اول فروردین سال ۶۸ متولد شده باشند، از اول مهرماه سال جاری تا ابتدای اسفند ماه فرصت دارند تا با مراجعه به نزدیکترین مرکز اهدای خون شهر محل سکونت خود، معرفی نامه واکسیناسیون دریافت کنند و با مراجعه به مراکز بهداشتی درمانی مجری برنامه، واکسن هپاتیت B مورد تایید وزارت بهداشت را به طور رایگان در سه نوبت دریافت کنند.



# Gazans to keep up anti-occupation rallies until end of Israeli siege: Haniyeh

## Israeli settlers stone to death Palestinian woman in West Bank

The leader of the Palestinian resistance movement of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, says the weekly anti-Israel rallies will continue as long as the Gaza Strip remains under siege.

Haniyeh said on Saturday that Palestinians will not stop the Great March of Return protests until a decade-long Israeli blockade on Gaza is lifted completely.

He was speaking at a funeral of Palestinians who were killed by Israeli forces along the border fence between the besieged Gaza Strip and the occupied territories a day earlier.

Palestinian mourners across the Gaza Strip held funerals for seven protesters killed by Israeli forces during the weekly rallies on Friday.

### Funeral processions

Elsewhere in Khan Younis and at Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza, hundreds of people held funeral ceremonies for Ahmad al-Tawil as well as 17-year-old Ahmed Abu Naim who lost their lives during anti-occupation rallies east of al-Bureij refugee camp on Friday.

Gaza health officials said seven Palestinians were killed and 140 people wounded by Israeli forces during weekly protests on Friday.

Tensions have been running high near the fence since March 30, which marked the start of a series of protests dubbed "The Great March of Return." Palestinian protesters demand the right to return for those driven out of their homeland.

The clashes in Gaza reached their peak on May 14, the eve of the 70th anniversary of the Nakba Day, or the Day of Catastrophe, which coincided this year with Washington's relocation of the United States embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied al-Quds (Jerusalem).

Around 200 Palestinians have so far been killed and over 20,000 others wounded in the renewed Gaza clashes, according to the latest figures released by the Gaza Health Ministry.

Gaza has been under Israeli siege since June 2007, causing a decline in living standards as well as unprecedented unemployment and poverty.

Israel has also launched several wars on the Palestinian sliver, the last of which began in early July 2014 and ended in late August the same year. The Israeli military aggression killed nearly 2,200 Palestinians and injured over 11,100 others.

### Israeli settlers stone to death Palestinian woman in West Bank

The developments followed as a mid-



dle-aged Palestinian woman has been stoned to death by Israeli settlers in the northern part of the occupied West Bank, reports say.

Aisha Mohammed Aravi, 47, was driving in her vehicle along her husband near a West Bank checkpoint south of Nablus late on Friday when they came under attack by Israeli settlers who came onto the road and began throwing large stones at the couple's car.

According to local sources, the attackers broke the windshield of the car, hitting the couple multiple times in the head and upper body with a barrage of stones. Aisha, from Bidya town, lost her life on the scene due to blunt force trauma to the head caused.

The reports said that Aisha's husband also sustained moderate to severe injuries in the attack.

The tragic incident came two days after a group of Israeli settlers from the Yitzhar settlement broke into a high school in Urif village, located in southern Nablus, and began throwing stones at horrified students inside their classrooms.

Dozens of students were injured during the invasion, which also led to disruption of classes and material damage.

Minutes after the incident, Israeli forces also entered the high school and provided protection for the settlers while escorting them out of the area. The troopers also fired rubber-coated steel bullets and tear-gas canisters at students, causing a number of them to suffer from tear-gas inhalation.

About 600,000 Israelis live in over 230 illegal settlements built since the 1967 Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and East al-Quds (Jerusalem).

Palestinians want the West Bank as part of a future independent Palestinian state with East al-Quds (Jerusalem) as its capital.

Israel's continued settlement expansion on Palestinian territories has been a major sticking point in Israeli-Palestinian talks, which have stalled since 2014.

### 7 Palestinians killed, 112 injured by Israeli fire

At least seven Palestinians have been killed and 112 others injured by Israeli fire during anti-occupation protests at the border of the besieged Gaza Strip with the occupied territories.

The Gaza Health Ministry said Israeli forces killed six Palestinians on Friday, four of them east of al-Bureij refugee camp.

Ashraf al-Qidra, a spokesman for the ministry, identified the victims who lost their lives east of al-Bureij as Ahmed al-Tawil, Muhammad Ismail, Abdullah al-Dagham, all in their twenties, as well as 17-year-old Ahmed Abu Naim.

Afifi Atta, 18, was also among the protesters killed on Friday, the spokesman added. According to the report, 112 Palestinians, including children and females, were wounded during the clashes, most of them with live fire.

Among those wounded, a girl was critically injured while five other people were in serious condition.

### Israel orders immediate halt of fuel deliveries to Gaza

To intensify the situation, Israel's war Minister Avigdor Lieberman has ordered an immediate halt to fuel deliveries headed to the besieged Gaza Strip in response to what he said were attacks against Israeli soldiers and civilians, his office announced on Friday.

The announcement on Friday follows the killing of six Palestinians by Israeli forces during the ongoing March of Return protests.

"Israel will not tolerate a situation in which fuel tankers are allowed to enter Gaza on the one hand, while terror and violence are used against [Israeli] soldiers and Israeli citizens on the other," the statement from Lieberman's office read.

Qatari-bought fuel began arriving on Tuesday in a bid to alleviate the humanitarian situation in the besieged enclave and prevent any escalation in Israeli-Palestinian violence.

"The Qatari fuel to the Gaza strip's power plant today is aimed at partially improving electricity [supply] in Gaza," Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem said at the time.

The fuel deliveries were aimed at easing months of protests along the separation fence east of Gaza, which has been under a crippling Israeli and Egyptian blockade for more than a decade.

Last week, Lieberman's office announced a further reduction to the Gaza's fishing zone, from nine nautical miles to six.

Lieberman said the measure was in response to "riots" along the fence dividing Israel and Gaza and a midweek beach protest in which fishing boats and demonstrators gathered at the northwest end of the Gaza Strip.

### Humanitarian disaster

The United Nations has warned that Israel's 11-year blockade of the strip has resulted in a "catastrophic" humanitarian situation.

Under the UN-brokered deal, Qatar pays for the fuel which is then delivered through Israel with UN monitoring, a diplomatic source said.

A Qatari official, speaking to Reuters news agency on Sunday, said Doha planned to help with Gaza's power crisis "at the request of donor states in the UN, to prevent an escalation of the existing humanitarian disaster".

Israel's energy minister, Yuval Steinitz, told Reuters on Monday that Qatar "was trying to help" prevent a Gaza flare-up.

(Source: agencies)

## 15 Yemenis killed as Saudi regime war planes target buses in Hudaydah

**I→** No further details about the incident have come out as of yet.

The coalition began the invasion in March 2015 to restore power to Yemen's former Riyadh-allied officials.

Around 15,000 people have died since the war began, says Yemen's Health Ministry.

The invasion has pushed the country close to the brink of famine. Al-Hudaydah came under a concerted coalition operation in June. The operation has raised the prospect that the nation could be tipped over the edge of famine as the port city takes in the bulk of Yemen's vital imports.

"The raids [on al-Hudaydah], which have intensified in recent weeks, have prompted thousands of families to seek refuge elsewhere in the country," Press TV's Yemen correspondent Mohamad al-Attab reported on Friday.

(Source: Press TV)

## Trump vows 'severe punishment' if journalist killed by Saudis

U.S. President Donald Trump said in a CBS interview Saturday that there would be "severe punishment" for Saudi Arabia if it turns out that missing Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi was killed in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul.

Trump said he did not want to block military sales to Saudi Arabia, one option that has rattled U.S. defense contractors, saying, "I don't want to hurt jobs."

Khashoggi, a prominent critic of Riyadh and a U.S. resident who wrote columns for the Washington Post, disappeared on Oct. 2 after visiting the consulate.

"We're going to get to the bottom of it and there will be severe punishment," Trump said.

Asked whether Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman gave an order to kill Khashoggi, Trump said, "Nobody knows yet, but we'll probably be able to find out." Trump added in excerpts of the "60 Minutes" interview that will air on Sunday, "We would be very upset and angry if that were the case."

Trump said there was much at stake with Khashoggi case, "maybe especially so" because he was a reporter.

Major U.S. defense contractors have expressed concern to the Trump administration that lawmakers angered by Khashoggi's disappearance will block further arms deals with Riyadh.

But Trump said he did not want to lose military sales to Saudi Arabia that are coveted by U.S. competitors Russia and China, also exporters of military equipment.

"I don't want to lose an order like that," he said, mentioning the companies Boeing, Lockheed and Raytheon. "And you know what, there are other ways of punishing," he said, without elaborating.

Turkish sources have told Reuters the initial assessment of the police was that Khashoggi was deliberately killed inside the consulate. Riyadh has dismissed the claims.

(Source: Daily Star)

## Russia promises tough response to Ecumenical Patriarchate over Ukraine

The Russian Orthodox Church said Saturday it would respond firmly to the Istanbul-based Ecumenical Patriarchate over its decision to back Ukraine's request to establish an independent, or "autocephalous", Church.

Kiev sees the move, endorsed by a synod meeting in Istanbul Thursday, as a vital step against Moscow's meddling in its affairs, but the Russian clergy fiercely opposes it as the biggest split in Christendom in 1,000 years.

Alexander Volkov, spokesman for Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill, said the Holy Synod of the Church would "express its position", without elaborating on what measures it might take.

"The Synod, which will convene in Minsk [on Monday], will give its final assessment," Volkov told reporters.

"At any rate, the response will be in kind and tough," he added.

Last month the Russian Orthodox Church announced it would no longer participate in structures chaired by the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, deepening the row over the Ukrainian Church's bid to break away from Moscow's orbit.

(Source: Reuters)

## Cooperation between CORC, FAO on Iran's saffron

**TEHRAN** — The Central Organization for Rural Cooperation of Iran (CORC) has recently started cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on saffron value chain.

The head the CORC Hossein Shirzad said that the purpose of the collaboration between the two organizations is to build agricultural crops marketing, boost the production and export capacity of the CORC.

The cooperation began with exchange of letters between the CORC and the FAO office in Italy. Shirzad pointed to the role and function of the CORC and expressed the organization is prepared to expand cooperation with European parties in marketing saffron.

Saffron is not only a tasty spice, but its active ingredients (including crocin, picrocrocin and safranal) have medicinal and therapeutic effects.

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to FAO Hossein Emadi, held joint meeting with José Graziano da Silva, the director general of FAO to discuss technical aids including supporting sustainable development of saffron, quality improvement of saffron as well as its by products, and supporting the geographical indication (GI) of Iran saffron. The director general of FAO also expressed strong desire for cooperation with the CORC of Iran.

For the first time, saffron had been graded on the morphological indexes, initiated by the CORC and with the aid of authorized laboratories nationwide. Meanwhile the CORC had purchased saffron through six managers in Razavai Khorasan and South Khorasan Provinces, Shirzad noted.

Iran's share of the saffron in the global market is extremely low right now, but it is expected that the cooperation between the CORC and FAO will enhance the figure through study, contract farming, better standards, labeling a national brand for saffron, Shirzad said.

(Source: corc.ir)

## Turkey obtains recordings of Khashoggi's murder: paper

Turkey has obtained recordings indicating that prominent Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi was tortured and killed at the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul, a Turkish newspaper reported on Saturday.

The recordings were made on his Apple Watch which synced with his iPhone being carried outside the consulate by Khashoggi's fiancée, the pro-government Sabah daily reported.

"The moments when Khashoggi was interrogated, tortured and murdered were recorded in the Apple Watch's memory," the paper said.

Senior Turkish officials have previously been quoted as saying that Khashoggi was wearing a black Apple watch when he entered the consulate and that it was connected to a mobile phone he left outside.

Sabah cited "reliable sources in a special intelligence department" as saying that Khashoggi is believed to have turned on the recording feature on the phone before entering the consulate.

According to the paper, Saudi intelligence agents had realized after the killing that the phone was recording and they used Khashoggi finger print to unlock it, deleting some files but not all of them.

The recordings were subsequently found on his phone, the paper said.

On Thursday, a Saudi delegation including senior royal Prince Khaled al-Faisal arrived in Turkey and the two sides agreed to form a joint working group at Riyadh's initiative to investigate the case.

The House of Saud regime's Interior Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Naif on Friday praised the joint investigation with Turkey as he broke a deafening silence on the murder, condemning what he called "lies and baseless allegations" against the kingdom.

"What has been circulating about orders to kill him are lies and baseless allegations," he was quoted by the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) as saying in a statement.

According to Turkish sources, the initial assessment of the police is that Khashoggi, an outspoken critic of the Saudi regime, has been deliberately killed inside the consulate.

Former U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Robert Jordan told CBS News on Friday he was "95 percent certain" that Saudi Arabia killed Khashoggi.

"I have seen no explanation from the Saudis as to how we could see video of Jamal going into the consulate, but not coming out," said Jordan.

"Their explanation that their closed circuit TV is only a live feed and not recording makes no sense at all and would be absurd in terms of security tradecraft."

Asked if he had any reason to doubt reports that Saudi agents killed Khashoggi, Jordan replied, "I'd say it's about 95 percent certain."

Khashoggi, a Virginia-based critic of the Saudi regime Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's policies, entered the Saudi regime consulate in Istanbul on October 2 for some paperwork regarding his divorce, but never exited the mission.

News of his disappearance broke out after Khashoggi's Turkish fiancée, who was waiting outside the diplomatic building, called the police.

The Washington Post, to which Khashoggi contributed as a columnist, has said the Turkish government had told the U.S. officials it had audio and video recordings showing how Khashoggi was "interrogated, tortured and then murdered" by a 15-member Saudi regime security team inside the consulate before his body was dismembered.

The suspected assassins had made a mysterious one-day trip from Riyadh to Istanbul the day Khashoggi vanished at the consulate.

### America's 'commercial' concerns

The US initially opted to remain silent, but after the news of the incident became viral, President Donald Trump brazenly said on Thursday that he was not willing to throw away billions of dollars in military deals with Saudi Arabia.

Major U.S. weapons companies have contacted the administration to express concerns about the fate of lucrative arms exports to the kingdom over Khashoggi's suspected murder.

Reuters quoted a senior U.S. official as saying on Friday that the contractors were worried Congress would stall billions in weapons sales to Riyadh.

However, Trump described Washington's relations with Riyadh as "excellent" and made it clear that whatever the outcome of the inquiry into the disappearance of Khashoggi, the U.S. would not forgo the arms deals.

"What good does that do us?" Trump asked. "This took place in Turkey and to the best of our knowledge, Khashoggi is not a United States citizen."

### Businesses boycott Riyadh summit

Global business leaders, however, said they were reassessing their ties with Saudi Arabia and boycotting the Future Investment Initiative conference due in Riyadh on October 23-25.

The president of the World Bank, Jim Yong Kim, said he would not be attending the upcoming event. The Financial Times, Bloomberg, CNN and CNBC have also withdrawn as media sponsors of the summit.

British billionaire Richard Branson, the founder of Virgin Group, said that he was halting talks over a \$1 billion investment by Saudi Arabia in the company's space ventures.

Additionally, Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi said that he might not attend the Riyadh investment conference.

### Britain preparing sanctions on Saudis over journalist

The British government has begun gathering a list of Saudi regime officials who could potentially come under sanctions over the disappearance of dissident Saudi regime journalist Jamal Khashoggi, British media report.

The list being drawn up by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office could be used in case Britain decides to invoke the "Magnitsky amendment," passed this year, a source close to both Riyadh and London told The Independent newspaper.

The source, a former government adviser, said they were briefed by a British intelligence official and others. "Initially



this was a position-paper scenario but now it is definitely being looked at as a real possibility."

The so-called Magnitsky amendment allows Britain to impose sanctions on foreign officials accused of human rights violations, or to apply restrictions on the Saudi regime trade and travel in coordination with the European Union.

British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt also warned on Thursday that the House of Saud regime would face "serious consequences" if suspicions of Khashoggi's murder turned out to be true.

"Across the world, people who long thought themselves as Saudi's friends are saying this is a very, very serious matter," Hunt said. "If these allegations are true there would be serious consequences."

### American senators: U.S.-Saudi relationship 'on the line'

Elsewhere, the U.S. Senators have warned President Donald Trump that ramping up pressure on the Saudi royal family over the disappearance of the U.S.-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi could endanger relations between Washington and Riyadh.

Top Republican senators expressed hope on Thursday that the Trump administration would heed their warning and act on the Senate's request for the White House to conduct a statutorily required investigation into Khashoggi's case or whether punitive measures, including sanctions, against the Saudi regime were needed.

"I think the burden of proof is now on the Saudis to demonstrate that they were not participants in any way in harming, killing or kidnapping Mr. Khashoggi," said Senator Tim Kaine (D-Va.), a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"The burden of proof is on them. They got to show it, and if they don't show it, I think it will fundamentally change the nature of the relationship," he added.

Most members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee sent Trump a letter on Wednesday night, calling on him to conduct an investigation under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act.

(Source: agencies)



## Ex-Italy forward Cassano retires for third time - seven days after his return

Former Italy forward Antonio Cassano's latest return to football has lasted just seven days.

The 36-year-old has announced he is retiring from football for the third time, just a week after he started training with Serie C side Virtus Entella. "The day has come, the day when you decide it really is over," said Cassano, who played for major European clubs including Real Madrid, Roma and both Milan teams.

"Over the last few days of training, I realised that I no longer have the mentality to train consistently. In order to play football, you need passion and talent, but above all determination and at this moment I have other priorities."

Cassano first announced he was retiring just eight days after signing for Hellas Verona in July 2017.

But within hours he had a change of heart and said he would stay, adding he wanted to "rise to the challenge" and have a "crazy season".

Six days later, and after playing in two pre-season friendlies for his new side, he again said he was retiring and has not played a league game since May 2016.

"I know, if I'd had another personality I could've won more and played better," added Cassano, who was capped 39 times by Italy.

"Now the second half of my life begins, I am curious and fired up to prove first of all to myself that I can do good things even without the help of my feet."

(Source: BBC)

## Stockholm's Olympic bid on brink of collapse

Just days after Stockholm was confirmed as a candidate to host the 2026 Olympics, the city's bid is in doubt. Stockholm had been the clear favorite, ahead of Calgary and a joint bid from Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo.

Stockholm's bid to host the 2026 Olympics could be in jeopardy just three days after the Swedish city was announced as an official candidate.

A new coalition - combining a center-right alliance and environmentalists - is set to run Stockholm's government and has poured cold water on the idea.

Karin Ernlund of the Centre Party said Stockholm would not host the Winter Games, saying the city "is facing other large challenges that we have to work with" at a press conference announcing the coalition's deal.

Anna Konig Jerlmyr of the Conservatives, who is tipped to be Stockholm's new mayor, said there was no political majority for a big and that there was "a lack of basic data".

The International Olympic Committee had formally approved Stockholm as one of three candidates to host the 2026 Olympics, alongside Canada's Calgary and a joint-Italian bid from Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo.

A vote on Stockholm's bid is expected in June next year and the two remaining bids are also not 100 percent certain. Calgary's bid faces a November 13 referendum, while the Italian bid is not yet guaranteed full government support.

(Source: AP)

## Liverpool's Mohamed Salah withdraws from Egypt squad amid injury concern

Mohamed Salah is returning to Liverpool after suffering a muscle injury while on international duty with Egypt.

Salah was taken off in stoppage time of Egypt's 4-1 win over Swaziland on Friday night.

The Egyptian Football Association (EFA) released a statement on Saturday and said the forward would play no part in Tuesday's return fixture in Swaziland.

"[Head coach] Javier Aguirre decided to allow Salah to return back to Liverpool to give him extra rest, as medical scans revealed that getting him ready for Tuesday's match would be difficult," the EFA said.

Egypt's assistant coach Hany Ramzy did not believe the issue to be serious when he spoke after the game.

Aguirre criticized the state of the pitch at the Al-Salam Stadium in Cairo at a news conference following the Africa Nations Cup qualifier. Salah scored directly from a corner in the first half against Swaziland before his injury occurred in the 88th minute.

Those Liverpool players not on national team duty were given time off over the international break and report back to Melwood on Monday as preparations for next Saturday's trip to Huddersfield Town begin.

(Source: Soccernet)

## 49ers apologize to Kaepernick for photo omissions

The San Francisco 49ers apologized on Friday for initially leaving former quarterback Colin Kaepernick out of a photo gallery that displayed exploits of previous games against the Green Bay Packers.

The 49ers were celebrating their history against the Packers — who they play on Monday night — on the team website with dozen of photos but none included Kaepernick, who led San Francisco to playoff victories over Green Bay after the 2013 and 2014 seasons.

That omission has since been changed.

"Unfortunately there were a handful of obvious misses in this gallery posted by our website team and we appreciate them being brought to our attention," the 49ers said in a statement. "The 49ers organization has tremendous respect and gratitude for the contributions Colin made to our team over the years."

The lack of Kaepernick photos stood out since he enjoyed some memorable performances against Green Bay.

Kaepernick rushed for an NFL quarterback-record 181 yards in a playoff victory on Jan. 12, 2013; passed for 412 yards in a season-opening win in 2013 and led the 49ers on the decisive scoring drive in a playoff triumph on Jan. 5, 2014.

(Source: Eurosport)

# Basque Country: The Spain internationals playing for a different team

Spain's oldest goal scorer Aritz Aduriz played in an international friendly on Friday - but not for Spain.

The 37-year-old captained a Basque Country team that also featured fellow Spain internationals Inaki Williams, Inigo Martinez and Asier Illarramendi against Venezuela - the world's 32nd best side.

As they are not an 'official' team, they are not part of Fifa's rankings - but they still won 4-2 in front of a crowd of 15,000 at Alaves' Mendizorrotza stadium in Vitoria-Gasteiz.

"To be able to become official, it is necessary to show that you have a team capable of competing in international tournaments," said coach Mikel Etxarri.

The squad is selected from players born in the autonomous region in northern Spain, as well as the neighbouring regions of Navarre and the French Basque Country.

The Basque Country has a large degree of self-rule, its own language and cultural traditions, and Basque Football Federation general secretary Kepa Allica said Friday's match, their first since December 2016, was "more than a game".

Players can play for both Spain and the Basque Country because the latter is not affiliated with Fifa or Uefa, but that is their ultimate goal. "This game is something more," Allica told BBC Sport before the game. "It is an identification with a region, where the people live, where they have grown up."

"It is very important for a lot of people here. We want our own team playing in official competitions."

The Basque region is home to four La Liga teams - Athletic Bilbao, Alaves, Eibar and Real Sociedad - and they are where the majority of players are drawn from.

Aduriz is the Basque Country side's top goalscorer with 12 goals in 11 games, while Sociedad legend Xabi Prieto is their record appearance-maker.

Notable former players include Spanish



World Cup winner Xabi Alonso, French World Cup winner Bixente Lizarazu and Tottenham striker Fernando Llorente.

Allica says it is "not difficult" to call up players who play for Spanish teams, but it is "more difficult" if they play in other leagues around Europe.

"[Playing for the Basque team] is very important for them," said Allica. "If we select players, they want to play and try to feature in as many matches with the selection in their career."

Spain beat Wales on Thursday in a friendly, with Chelsea's £71m goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga the only Basque player to feature.

"We are not playing 'official' matches so it is

understood that if Spain calls players up then they play for Spain, after that though they can play for the Basque Country," added Allica.

Before Friday's match, their last outing was in 2016, where they beat Tunisia 3-1 at Bilbao's San Mames stadium.

In recent years the Basque Country have hammered Peru 6-0 and Bolivia 6-1. They beat Uruguay 2-1 in 2003 and three years later lost 1-0 to Wales, with former Manchester United winger Ryan Giggs scoring the winner.

Friday's game, played on Spain's national day public holiday, was the third time Venezuela have faced the Basque Country. They have lost all three matches.

"I expect a rival of the highest quality," Venezuela manager Rafael Dudamel said in his pre-match comments. "Beyond being a selection not admitted by Fifa, it is composed of players of the highest level."

"Surely they feel a great pride to represent their region and they are professional players who know that every time they jump on the pitch they are being very well observed and evaluated."

Allica said the team is "always strong", adding: "They are players from the same region, with more or less a similar style of play. It is a very important match for us and we want a good result."

(Source: BBC)

## Henry given first job as head coach by Monaco



Former France striker Thierry Henry was given his first head coaching role when AS Monaco appointed him on a three-year deal to replace the sacked Leonardo Jardim, the Ligue 1 club announced on Saturday.

Henry, who started out playing for Monaco and went on to enjoy a stellar club career with Arsenal and Barcelona, has been working as assistant coach for the Belgian national team since 2016 but has never been in charge of a team in his own right.

Henry, 41, played for Monaco for five seasons, winning a league title with them in 1997.

"I thank AS Monaco for giving me the opportunity to coach the team of this club which is so special to me," said Henry, who had previously been linked with Girondins Bordeaux and English second tier side Aston Villa.

"I am very happy to come back to AS Monaco and extremely determined to meet the challenges ahead. I cannot wait to meet the players to start working together."

AS Monaco, last season's runners-up, are 18th in the 20-team Ligue 1 table after winning one of their first nine games. They have also lost their opening two games in the Champions League.

But Jardim, who was sacked on Thursday, will still be a hard act to follow as Monaco never finished lower than third during his four-year spell in charge and won Ligue 1 in 2016-17 when they also reached the Champions League semi-finals.

"(Henry's) knowledge of football, his passion for the game, his high standards and his commitment to our colours make his nomination a reality," said Monaco's chief executive Vadim Vasilyev.

"Thierry is both aware of the task ahead and eager to start his new job. He can count on our trust and all our support to bring a new dynamic to the team and carry out the mission."

After leaving Monaco, Henry had one season at Juventus before moving to Arsenal where he won two English Premier League and two FA Cup titles in several seasons.

(Source: Reuters)

## Doping agency denies trying to bully athletes' representative

The World Anti-Doping Agency denied on Friday that it had disrespected or attempted to bully athletes' representative Beckie Scott during a debate in which tensions were "running high" over a decision to reinstate Russia's anti-doping organization.

Scott, chair of the WADA Athlete Committee, said in an interview with the BBC that she was "treated with disrespect" and faced "inappropriate" comments and gestures from the WADA executive committee for her opposition to Russia's reinstatement during a September meeting.

WADA denied that it had mistreated Scott, saying the atmosphere at the meeting was the product of "strong and divergent views."

"Following some remarks made by Ms Scott at the executive committee meeting last month, there was discussion among the members on a number of different topics and it is fair to say that during this stage of the meeting, tensions were running high leading to comments from all sides that reflected the strong views held," WADA said in a statement sent to Reuters.

Scott, an Olympic gold medal winner for Canada in cross-country skiing, felt that the tone of the meeting was



more dismissive than inclusive, arguing that WADA had little interest in hearing from athletes or their concerns.

"This behavior will never be acceptable. Time to show leadership," said WADA Vice President Linda Helleland, who opposed Russia's reinstatement.

"Time to understand one of the reasons WHY WADA Executive Committee exists: To respect and protect the athletes. And listen to their views. It should be no place

for bullies!" she said.

Russia's Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) was suspended in November 2015, after an independent WADA report carried out by Canadian lawyer Richard McLaren outlined evidence of state-backed, systematic doping and cover-ups in Russian sport.

WADA laid out a road map to compliance, but on Sept. 20 reinstated RUSADA without Russia having fully met two conditions: recognizing the findings of the McLaren Report and allowing access to stored urine samples at its Moscow lab.

Travis Tygart, head of the United States Anti-Doping Agency and an outspoken WADA critic, said on Friday that Scott was now speaking for the overwhelming majority of the global athlete community.

"Today's BBC interview with World Anti-Doping Agency athlete chair Beckie Scott presents a damning and accurate reflection of the fragile state of the WADA-led global anti-doping system as it exists today," Tygart said in a statement. "It is unacceptable that the athlete voice is marginalized by those in charge of WADA and the IOC."

(Source: Reuters)



# Iran record best ever showing at Asian Para Games



By Masoud Hossein

**TEHRAN** — Iran delegation moved one place up to third place at the Asian Para Games in Jakarta, Indonesia. Iran won 51 gold, 42 silver and 43 bronze medals and were placed third in the overall rankings. Asian heavyweights China came atop of the overall rankings with 172 gold, 88 silver and 59 bronze followed by South Korea (53 gold, 25 silver and 47 bronze). A total of 210 athletes, consisting of 137 men and 73 women, represented Iran in 13 sports in the competition. Iran finished in fourth place in the first edition held in the 2010 Asian Para Games in Guangzhou, China, earning 27 gold, 24 silver 29 bronze medals. Four years later in Incheon, South Korea, Iran came fourth with 37 gold, 52 silver and 31 bronze medals. The closing ceremony of the third edition of the 2018 Asian Para Games was held Saturday at the Madya Stadium, Gelora Bung Karno sporting complex with participation of 18,000 spectators.

## Gold Medal Winners:

### Para Archery:

- Mohammadreza Zandi - Men's Individual W1 Open
- Zahra Nemati, Gholamreza Rahimi, Pouriya Jalalipour - Mixed Team Recurve Open W2/ST

### Para Athletic:

- Younes Seifipour - Men's Club Throw F32
- Alireza Ghaleh Nasser - Men's Discus Throw F54/55/56
- Ozra Mahdaviikiya - Women's 1500M T12/13
- Vahid Alinajimi - Men's 200m T12
- Vahid Alinajimi - Men's 400m T12
- Mahdi Olad - Men's Shot Put F11
- Mahdi Olad - Men's Discus Throw F11
- Mohammadreza Ahmadi - Men's Shot Put F33
- Farzad Sepahvand - Men's Discus Throw F43/44/F62/64
- Hossein Khorsand Amiri - Men's Discus Throw F51/52/53
- Batoul Jahangiri - Women's Shot Put F33
- Hashemiyeh Motaghian - Women's Discus Throw F56/57
- Alireza Mokhtari - Men's Shot Put F53
- Aref Baharyvand - Men's Shot Put F36
- Mahnaz Amini - Women's Javelin Throw F57
- Arezo Rahimi - Women's Shot Put F32
- Omid Zarif Sanayei - Men's 400m T13
- Mehdi Alizadeh - Men's Javelin Throw F33/34
- Hamed Amiri - Men's Shot Put F54/55
- Sajad Mohammadian - Men's Shot Put F42/61/63
- Hamed Amiri - Men's Javelin Throw F53/54
- Eshrat Kordestani - Women's Shot Put F56/57
- Peyman Nasiri - Men's 1500M T20
- Saman Pakbaz - Men's Discus Throw F12
- Elnaz Darabian - Women's Discus Throw F51/52/53
- Hamid Eslami - Men's 1500M T11
- Mohammad Alvanpour - Men's Javelin Throw F56/57

### Chess:

- Omid Karimi - Men's Individual Standard VI B2/B3
- Atefeh Naghavi - Women's Individual Standard VI B2/B3
- Atefeh Naghavi, Fariba Zendejboudi, Fatemeh Barghoul - Women's Team Standard VI B2/B3
- Fatemeh Barghoul, Fariba Zendejboudi, Atefeh Naghavi - Women's Team Rapid VI - B2/B3

### Judo:

- Vahid Nouri - Men's 90 Kg
- Ehsan Mousanezhad - Men's 100 Kg

### Powerlifting:

- Amir Jafari Arangeh - Men's 59 Kg
- Roohallah Rostami - Men's 72 Kg

- Hamed Solhipour - Men's 97 kg
- Siamand Rahman - Men's + 107

### Shooting Para Sport:

- Sareh Javanmardi - P4 - Mixed 50M Free Pistol - SH1
- Sareh Javanmardi - P2 - Women's 10M Air Pistol - SH1
- Roghayeh Shojaei - R2 - Women's 10M Air Rifle Standing - SH1

### Para Swimming:

- Shahin Izadyar - Men's 100M Butterfly S10
- Shahin Izadyar - Men's 100M Freestyle S10
- Shahin Izadyar - Men's 200m Individual Medley SM10
- Shahin Izadyar - Men's 100m Breaststroke SB9
- Shahin Izadyar - Men's 50m Freestyle S10
- Shahin Izadyar - Men's 100M Backstroke S10
- Men's Sitting Volleyball Team
- Men's Wheelchair Basketball Team
- Men's Goalball Team

## Silver Medal Winners:

### Para Athletic:

- Behzad Azizi - Men's Javelin Throw F12/13
- Aliasghar Javanmaradi - Men's Shot Put F35
- Ali Mohammadyari - Men's Discus Throw F54/55/56
- Javid Ehsani Shakib - Men's Discus Throw F57
- Ali Olfatnia - Men's 200M T37
- Elham Salehi - Women's Javelin Throw F53/54
- Nourmohammad Arekhi - Men's Shot Put F11
- Hajar Safarzadeh - Women's 200m T12
- Saman Pakbaz - Men's Shot Put F12
- Hashemiyeh Motaghian - Women's Javelin Throw F55/56
- Asadollah Azimi - Discus Throw F51/52/53
- Davoudali Ghasemi - Men's 100m T37
- Siamak Saleh Farajzadeh - Men's Shot Put F34
- Asadollah Azimi - Men's Shot Put F53
- Hashem Rastegari - Men's 400m T37
- Mohsen Kaedi - Men's Javelin Throw F33/34
- Jalil Bagheri Jeddi - Men's Shot Put F54/55
- Hajar Safarzadeh - Women's 400m T12
- Abdolreza Jokar - Men's Javelin Throw F53/54
- Hormoz Seidi - Men's Javelin Throw F37/38
- Fereshteh Moradi - Women's Shot Put F34
- Masoud Heydari - Men's Discus Throw F12
- Marzieh Sedghi - Women's Shot Put F54
- Faezeh Kermani - Women's Javelin Throw F33/34
- Amanollah Papi - Men's Javelin Throw F56/57

### Para Archery:

- Zahra Nemati - Women's Individual Recurve Open W2/ST
- Hadi Nori, Razieh Shirmohammadi, Sommayeh Abbaspour - Mixed Team Compound Open W2/ST

### Chess:

- Leila Zarezadeh, Maliheh Safaei, Zahra Mohammadi Rad - Women's Team Standard VI B1
- Maliheh Safaei, Leila Zarezadeh, Zahra Mohammadi Rad - Women's Team Rapid VI - B1
- Omid Karimi, Majid Bagheri, Alireza Ghourchibeygi - Men's Team Standard VI B2/B3
- Fariba Zendejboudi - Women's Individual Standard VI - B2/B3
- Maliheh Safaei - Women's Individual Rapid VI - B1
- Fatemeh Barghoul - Women's Individual Rapid VI - B2/B3

### Judo:

- Mohammadreza Kheirollahzadeh - Men's +100 Kg
- Reza Gholami, Ali Abbasnejad, Omid Jafari, Vahid Nouri, Mohammadreza Kheirollahzadeh - Men's Team

### Powerlifting:

- Yousef Yousefi - Men's 59 Kg
- Nader Moradi - Men's 80 Kg
- Aliakbar Gharibshi - Men's 107
- Mansour Pourmirzaei - Men's +107kg

### Shooting Para Sport:

- Samira Eram - P2 - Women's 10M Air Pistol - SH1

### Para Swimming:

- Shahin Izadyar - Men's 400m Freestyle S10
- Women's Sitting Volleyball

## Bronze Medal Winners:

### Para Archery:

- Majid Kakoosh - Men's Individual W1 Open

### Para Athletic:

- Erfan Hosseini - Men's Javelin Throw F12/13
- Ali Omid - Men's Javelin Throw F42-44/61-64
- Jalil Bagheri Jeddi - Men's Discus Throw F54/55/56
- Davoudali Ghasemi - Men's 200M T37
- Davoudali Ghasemi - Men's 400m T37
- Omid Zarif Sanayei - Men's 200M T13
- Zahra Bornaki - Women's Long Jump T45/46/47
- Ozra Mahdaviikiya - Women's Javelin Throw F12/13
- Solmaz Bazargan - Women's Discus Throw F43/44/F62/64
- Mehdi Alizadeh - Men's Shot Put F33
- Masoud Heydari - Men's Shot Put F12
- Alireza Mokhtari - Men's Discus Throw F51/52/53
- Omid Zarif Sanayei - Men's 100m T13
- Arian Lotfi - Men's Discus Throw F11
- Farhad Kahrizi - Men's 400m T36
- Ahmad Ojaghlo - Men's 100m T45/46/47
- Ahmad Ojaghlo - Men's 200M T45/46/47
- Hajar Safarzadeh - Women's 100m T12
- Amir Khosravani - Men's Long Jump T12
- Zhila Yousefi - Women's Discus Throw F40/41
- Mikael Dayani - Men's 5000M T12/13
- Younes Seifipour - Men's Shot Put F32
- Parvin Moghaddam - Women's Shot Put F55
- Amin Abdolpour - Men's 1500M T45/46
- Javad Hardani - Men's Javelin Throw F37/38
- Shahla Hadidi - Women's Shot Put F54
- Batoul Jahangiri - Women's Javelin Throw F33/34
- Mohammad Khalvandi - Men's Javelin Throw F56/57
- Hamed Amiri - Men's Discus Throw F54/55/56

### Chess:

- Leila Zarezadeh - Women's Individual Standard VI B1
- Fatemeh Barghoul - Women's Individual Standard VI B2/B3
- Fariba Zendejboudi - Women's Individual Rapid VI - B2/B3 - Women
- Erfan Mohamadilazadeh, Mehdi Roumifard, Hassanali Ghadiri - Men's Team Standard VI B1

### Judo:

- Meysam Banitaba - Men's 60 Kg
- Reza Gholami - Men's 66 Kg
- Omid Jafari - Men's 81 Kg

### Para Swimming:

- Mohammadhossein Karimi - Men's 50M Freestyle S12
- Women's Goalball Team

### Table Tennis:

- Hassan Janfeshan - Men's Singles- TT 2

### Para Cycling:

- Mehdi Mohammadi - Men's C5 Individual Pursuit 4000M

## Iranian swimmer Shahin Izadyar Persian version of Michael Phelps

**S P O R T S TEHRAN** — Shahin Izadyar, who won six gold medals at the 2018 Asian Para Games in Jakarta, Indonesia, resembles the most decorated Olympian of all time Michael Phelps.

Surpassing Japan in the third place in medal table, Izadyar helped Iran record the best ever showing at the Games.



Izadyar has yet to win a medal in the Paralympics, though his performance at the Gelora Bung Karno Aquatics Centre was a good sign for the 25-year-old sensation to make history in Tokyo 2020.

"People say I'm Michael Phelps of Iran, and that's the best compliment I can receive. Phelps has won 27 gold medals in the Olympics, and it's not a fair comparison," Izadyar said in an interview with the Tehran Times.

"I want to participate in the Iran league this year. I am among the top three swimmers [healthy] in the 100m breaststroke and I can also take part in the other events," he added.

"I am honored to have won six gold in the Asian Para Games, but I also want to grab my first ever medal in Paralympics", Izadyar concluded.

## Iranian Greco-Roman wrestlers claim two golds at Youth Olympic Games

**TASNIM** — Amir Reza Dehbozorgi and Mohammad Nosrati claimed two gold medals at the 2018 Summer Youth Olympics.

Dehbozorgi won a gold medal at the 45kg after beating Jeremy Peralta González from Ecuador 8-0 in the final match.



Bulgarian Edmond Nazaryan claimed the bronze medal. Moreover, Nosrati beat Turkey's Osman Ayaydin 3-1 in the 92kg final.

The bronze medal went to Mukhammad Evloev from Russia. Wrestling at the 2018 Summer Youth Olympics is being held from 12 to 14 October.

The events take place at the Parque Polideportivo Roca in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

## Iran VP congratulates Iranian athletes for achievements in Asian Para Games

**IRNA** — Iran's First Vice-President Eshaq Jahangiri on Saturday congratulated Iranian athletes for making great achievements in Asian Para 2018 in Jakarta.

In his message, the Iranian vice-president congratulated the Iranian athletes attending the event, particularly the female athletes winning medals for the country.

He said that the victory of the Iranian representatives in Asian Para Games was enjoyable and source of pride. Jahangiri thanked the efforts by all the athletes, coaches and all the members of the technical team of the Iranian sports caravan.

The 3rd edition of Asian Para Games came to an end in Jakarta earlier on Saturday as Iranian squad ranked 3rd with 51 gold medals, 42 silver and 43 bronze ones.

## Iran futsal out of Youth Olympic Games

**TASNIM** — Iran were defeated against Russia 2-1 and knocked out of the 2018 Summer Youth Olympics on Saturday.

Mehdi Alizadeh scored for the Iranian team and Danil Karpiuk and Illia Fedorov were on target for Russia.

Iran had started the campaign with a 9-2 win over Solomon Islands and lost to Brazil 4-0 in Group B.

The futsal competition at the 2018 Summer Youth Olympics is and taking place at Tecnópolis and the CeNARD, the first one located in Villa Martelli, and the second one in Buenos Aires.

There are two tournaments, one for boys and one for girls.



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■ Managing Director: Ali Asgari  
■ Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Ghaderi

» Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895  
editor@tehrantimes.com  
» Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000  
» Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051450  
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## Iranian movies to compete in 36th Milano Intl. FICTS Festival

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — A lineup of Iranian movies will be competing in the 36th Milano International FICTS Festival, which is dedicated to sports movies.

The films will go on screen in different sections of the festival running in the Italian city of Milan from November 14 to 19, the organizers have announced.



Former wrestler Alireza Heidari acts in "I Am Iranian" directed by Mohammadreza Ahanj.

"My Sister Mohadeseh" by Atefeh Mehrabi will be screened in the Sport & Disability section.

"I Am Iranian" by director Mohammadreza Ahanj is an entry to the Wrestling section.

"Iran plus Two Powers" by director Farzaneh Amini will go on screen in the Movies & TV Football-Medium and Feature section. Amini's other movie "Sniff" will also compete in the Boxing category.

The Federation Internationale Cinema Television Sportifs (FICTS) is the organizer of the event, which is the final phase of the World FICTS Challenge that runs in 16 countries including Iran.

According to the FICTS, Tehran will host the event from October 16 to 18.

The Tehran festival is held in collaboration with the National Olympic and Paralympic Committee, the Ministry of Sports and Youth, IRIB and the Tehran Municipality.

## Cinema Verite to review docs from German-speaking nations

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Cinema Verite, Iran's major documentary film festival, plans to review films from German-speaking nations in a special program during its 12th edition, the organizers announced on Saturday.



Documentaries from German, Austrian and Swiss filmmakers will be screened during the program, the Documentary and Experimental Film Center (DEFC) said in a press release.

A lineup of documentaries produced in 2017 and 2018 has been prepared for the program, the DEFC added, without giving additional details about the films.

The festival has discussed documentary films from Denmark, Italy, Japan and India during special programs over its previous editions.

The 12th edition of the Cinema Verite festival will be held in Tehran from December 9 to 16.

## Aladdin in the flesh - Disney to release live-action remake next May

**LONDON (Reuters)** — The street rat is back - and this time in the flesh.

Disney has announced that it is planning to release a live-action adaptation next May of its animated classic Aladdin, the ancient tale of the penniless market boy who, with a little help from a certain genie in a lamp, marries the headstrong Princess Jasmine.

The remake, shot in London and on location in Jordan, is directed by Guy Ritchie and stars Will Smith as the Genie, Mena Massoud as Aladdin and Naomi Scott as Princess Jasmine, Disney said.

One early fan is Will Smith himself, who took to Instagram to share his enthusiasm for his latest role: "LEMME OUT!! Can't wait for y'all to see Me BLUE!! :-)", he wrote.

Disney, which released a teaser trailer on YouTube to spread the word of its new production, said the film score includes new songs as well as re-recordings of the original songs written by Alan Menken and lyricists Howard Ashman and Tim Rice.

# “Rona, Azim’s Mother” and “The Rib” share Kim Ji-seok Award at Busan festival

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — “Rona, Azim’s Mother”, a co-production between Afghanistan and Iran, and “The Rib”, a Chinese drama about the country’s trans community, shared the Kim Ji-seok Award at the 22nd Busan International Film Festival in South Korea on Saturday, the organizers announced.

The festival established the Kim Jiseok Award in memory of Kim Ji-seok, co-founder of the festival who passed away this year.

The Tehran-based Afghan brothers Jamshid and Navid Mahmudi are the director and producer of “Rona, Azim’s Mother”, whose story is set in Tehran.

Starring Iranian actors Mohsen Tanabandeh and Mojtaba Pirzadeh, the film is about Azim, an Afghan refugee who works as a janitor in Tehran. While helping his mother and his brother’s family plan to smuggle themselves into Germany, he feels betrayed by his brother when he abandons their mother. Nonetheless, Azim takes good care of his mother. One day, she ends up hospitalized in critical condition, and the only way to save her is through a kidney transplant. However, it is impossible for a foreigner to get a donor in Iranian society, so Azim tries to donate his kidney, but the doctor has him detained.

“The Rib”, directed by Zhang Wei, is an empathetic and elegantly crafted portrait of the struggle for rights and recognition within China’s transgender community, told through a story of parents and children, whose faith and identity are at odds.

“Savage” by Si Wei Cui from China and Korean psychodrama “Clean Up” by Kwon Man-ki also shared the New Currents award.

The organizers decided to award two female actors this year instead of one female and one male. Hee-seo Choi was awarded for her role in “Our Body” and Juyeong Lee also was honored for her role in “Maggie”.



“Rona, Azim’s Mother” by Jamshid Mahmudi.

## Imam Khomeini’s daughter publishes memoirs

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Farideh Mostafavi, a daughter of Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic, has recently published her memoirs, “The Passage of Days”, the Institute for the Compilation and Publication of Imam Khomeini’s Works has announced.

The book is a first-hand account of her life story with her father who led one of the major revolutions of the 20th century.

She talks about what happened to Imam Khomeini during his struggles against Iran’s last monarch, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, his life in exile, and the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

It also carries materials about Imam Khomeini’s family, his family lifestyle and the leadership of the Islamic Republic after the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

“The Passage of Days” has been published by Oruj Publishing House under the auspices of the Institute for



Front cover of “The Passage of Days” by Farideh Mostafavi.

the Compilation and Publication of Imam Khomeini’s Works.

## Austrian writer Alois Hotschnig to attend reading session in Tehran

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Austrian writer Alois Hotschnig will be attending a session at the Book City Institute in Tehran on Tuesday to read one his stories as part of Österreich Liest, Austria’s largest literary festival meaning “Austria Reads”.

Translator Ali-Asghar Haddad will accompany the writer during the session, the Book City Institute has announced.

Alois Hotschnig is the winner of the Erich Fried Prize in 2008. “Ludwig’s Room”, “Maybe This Time”, “Absolution” and “Leonardo’s Hands” are among his noteworthy credits.

The thirteenth edition of Austria’s largest literary festival “Austria Reads” takes place this year from October 15 to 21, during which reading and libraries are promoted throughout the country.

For a week, the Austrian libraries will offer diverse and attractive events. The offer ranges from classical book presentations to picture book cinemas, and book markets to literature walks, balloon launches and



A poster for “Austria Reads”.

reading circles.

The program is an initiative of the Austrian Library Association (BVÖ).

## Family and U.S. politics collide in Thanksgiving film “The Oath”

**LOS ANGELES (Reuters)** - Satirical dark comedy “The Oath” could reflect many American households this Thanksgiving with its depiction of a family getting through the holiday while trying to avoid politically polarizing arguments.

Written, directed and starring Ike Barinholtz as a liberal news junkie, and Tiffany Haddish as his wife, the film is set around a Thanksgiving gathering after the government demands, on pain of arrest, all citizens to pledge an oath of allegiance to an unnamed U.S. president.

The movie, which arrived in U.S. theaters on Friday, turns into a tense horror film when law enforcement turns up to make an arrest and family members are forced to choose between their loyalty to each other and their political convictions.

Barinholtz denied the film’s premise was far-fetched. “As we were making the movie, there were things



Cast member Ike Barinholtz arrives for the gala presentation of “The Disaster Artist” at the AFI Film Festival in Los Angeles, California, U.S., November 12, 2017. (Reuters/Mike Blake)

happening in real life that were echoing the movie,” he told Reuters Television.

Barinholtz wrote the screenplay after President Donald Trump was elected to the White House in 2016, and although Trump is never mentioned in the film the director wanted it released before Americans vote in the Nov. 6 congressional midterm elections.

“We’re at this very high concentration point with politics and the midterms are going to be the next plateau. After that, we have another two years to see what happens, so we thought if we could get it out at this time we’d be hitting the target,” he said.

Barinholtz said he hopes the divisive nature of current U.S. politics would not permanently damage interpersonal relationships.

“Governments change ... We have to try and get to a point when that is over, that we still have some fragments of our relationships left,” he said.

## Buyer goes ahead with purchase of shredded Banksy painting

**LONDON (Reuters)** — The woman who bid more than 1 million pounds for a painting by the mysterious British artist Banksy which shred itself into pieces at the moment of the sale has gone ahead with the purchase, auction house Sotheby’s said on Thursday.

Onlookers gasped and laughed after the bottom half of “Girl with Balloon”, one of Banksy’s best-known works, was sucked into a shredder hidden in its frame as the hammer fell last Friday after a bid of 1,042,000 pounds (\$1.38 million) - matching Banksy’s all-time record.

“When the hammer came down last week and the work was shredded, I was at first shocked, but gradually I began to realize that I would end up with my own piece of art history,” the buyer, an unnamed female European collector, said according to Sotheby’s.

The auction house said the artwork had been granted a certificate by Banksy’s authentication body and has given a new title, “Love is in the Bin”.

“Banksy didn’t destroy an artwork in the auction, he created one,” said Alex Branczik, Sotheby’s Head of



Banksy artwork ‘doubles in value’ after being shredded in front of stunned buyers at Sotheby’s auction

Contemporary Art, Europe.

Banksy himself posted an Instagram picture of shocked attendees watching the painting disintegrate last week, with the caption: “Going, going, gone...”

The artist, whose real identity is unknown, is known for sharply ironic outdoor graffiti with political themes.

Once a small-time graffiti artist from the English city of Bristol, Banksy’s work has become hugely valuable.

## Going for gold: Sotheby’s to hold first sale dedicated to precious metal

**LONDON (Reuters)** — From a sculpture of model Kate Moss to an elaborate elephant liqueur set, an array of items made with gold will go under the hammer next week in auction house Sotheby’s first ever sale dedicated to the precious metal.

From antiquities to contemporary pieces, “The Midas Touch” sale on Oct. 17 in London features jewelry, art, furniture - and even a Ferrari car.

“It’s the first time we’ve had a sale totally devoted to gold,” Constantine Frangos, senior director at Sotheby’s, said.

“We’re looking at gold objects that are pure gold, objects that are gilt gold, which means that there is gold leaf on them or the color gold. So we’ve kept it pretty open to cover all types of gold.”

Among the highlights is an 18 carat gold sculpture of Moss’ head made by British artist Marc Quinn, estimated to be worth between 300,000 and 400,000 pounds (\$395,000-\$527,000).

An artwork with gold leaf by Yves Klein, “Monogold Sans Titre”, is seen fetching 800,000 pounds - 1.2 million pounds, while a Baccarat gilt-bronze and frosted cut-crystal liqueur set in the shape of an elephant is estimated at 250,000 pounds



A Sotheby’s employee poses with a bust of Kate Moss in solid 18-carat gold during a photocall for ‘The Midas Touch’ collection at Sotheby’s in London, Britain, October 12, 2018. (Reuters/Henry Nicholls)

- 400,000 pounds.

The 1977 Ferrari 512 BB model, whose paintwork boasts a rare shade of gold, is priced at 350,000 pounds - 450,000 pounds.

“It’s the rarity of gold”, Frangos said of the metal’s popularity. “Gold is extremely rare, and it’s one of the few materials that can’t be reproduced. There’s no such thing as manmade gold.”