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Trip to cover up truth

Police find evidence Khashoggi was killed inside Saudi consulate



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IRGC proposes joint operation with Pakistan against Jaish ul-Adl

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — The Jaish ul-Adl terrorist group kidnapped on Monday night more than 10 Iranian border guards in the Mirjavaveh border region with Pakistan. Sources put the number of the kidnapped border guards at 11. The border guards were from Basij forces, policemen and IRGC personnel, informed sources say.

Ebrahim Azizi, spokesman of Jaish al-Adl, a Sunni militant group, said the group had seized more than 10 people. "This morning Jaish al-Adl forces attacked a border post in Mirjaveh, and captured all their weapons," Azizi said in an audio message sent to Reuters. **→2**

U.S. bullying won't resolve supply shortage in oil market: Zanganeh

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh said U.S. cannot balance a market which is suffering from short supply by words and bullying, ILNA reported. "The oil market is suffering from short supply and this cannot be resolved by words. Trump thinks he can bring the oil prices down by bullying," Zanganeh

said on the sidelines of the 4th Iranian Petroleum and Energy Club Congress (IPEC 2018) in Tehran on Tuesday. The minister criticized Trump's recent interferences in the oil market, saying that the rise of oil prices has been a "self-inflicted pain" resulted from U.S. sanctions against Iranian oil industry, and could be easily resolved by lifting the sanctions. **→4**

Iranian firms to launch medicine production lines in Africa

TECHNOLOGY **TEHRAN** — Two Iranian knowledge-based companies are to establish medicine production lines in Uganda and Kenya. In early October, Iran's vice president for science and technology, Sourena Sattari, headed a delegation of officials and knowledge-based companies' directors to Kenya and Uganda

in order to boost the market of Iranian knowledge-based companies in eastern Africa. "We have already signed a five-billion-dollar agreement with Kenya and a two-million-dollar agreement with Uganda," Hojjatollah Zabih, director of one of the companies told Mehr news agency. **→10**

Mohammad bin Salman resembles Trump: Adib-Moghaddam

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW
By Javad Heirannia

TEHRAN — Professor Arshin Adib-Moghaddam, Chair of the Centre for Iranian Studies at the London Middle East Institute believes that I never saw Mohammad bin Salman as a prudent leader. His approach to politics is ad hoc, coarse and lacks diplomatic skill.

Professor in Global Thought and Comparative Philosophies and Chair of the Centre for Iranian Studies at the London Middle East Institute, also adds that "In this regard, he resembles President Trump, with the major difference that the United States is a democracy where



there is pluralistic oversight of the state by an active and vocal civil society." Here is the full text of the interview:

Syria Idlib deal going ahead despite missed deadline: Kremlin

A day after militants missed a deadline under a demilitarization deal for Syria's Idlib, key power-broker Russia said the deal was still going forward.

The agreement, reached by rebel backer Turkey and Damascus ally Moscow, gave "radical fighters" until Monday to leave a horseshoe-shaped buffer around the last major opposition stronghold in the war-ravaged country. But they have held their ground, and militant heavyweight Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) pledged to continue fighting — despite not having taken an explicit position on the deal.

By Tuesday, more than 24 hours after the deadline, monitor Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said there were "no signs" of an HTS evacuation.

Under the deal, the militants' departure would pave the way for patrols of the zone by its Russian and Turkish sponsors.

"We did not monitor on Tuesday any withdrawal or patrols in the buffer area," head of the observatory Rami Abdel Rahman said.

The Kremlin, however, said Tuesday that the deal was being implemented despite some setbacks.

"The memorandum is being implemented, and the military is satisfied with the way the Turkish side is working in this regard," spokesman for the president Dmitry Peskov told journalists at a regular briefing.

"Of course one cannot expect everything to go smoothly with absolutely no glitches, but the work is being carried out."

There was no reaction from Ankara, which observers said was a sign of a de facto grace period to allow the deal to be fully implemented.

Clearing the buffer of HTS and more extreme militants — including Hurras al-Deen and Ansar

■ Due to the relations between the West and the United States in particular with Saudi Arabia, the subject of Jamal khashoggi has been widely discussed. Usually, in the case of human rights violations, Western countries accommodate Saudi Arabia because of Saudi arms purchases and oil supplies. But in this case it is different. What are the reasons?

A: The reason is, if the evidence by the Turkish authorities is further confirmed, that this is blatant murder of a man who was simply expressing his opinion about his country. Unfortunately, the countries of West Asia and North Africa, Muslim in their orientation and culture, do not shy away from such atrocities. **→7**

al-Islam — was seen as the real test of the accord, which was reached Sept. 17.

The deal provides for a 15-20 kilometer buffer zone semi circling opposition-held areas in Idlib and the neighboring provinces of Latakia, Hama and Aleppo.

It gave until Oct. 10 for the zone to be cleared of any heavy weapons, a deadline Turkey, the observatory and rebels said had been met.

HTS and other hard-liners, which together hold over two-thirds of the planned buffer, also appeared to have quietly met the first target date and pulled heavy arms out of the zone.

But publicly, HTS has stayed vague on the deal. The group, dominated by Al-Qaeda's former Syrian branch, pledged this weekend that it would not stop fighting or give up its weapons, and insisted that Russia should not be trusted. **→13**

Tour a fantasy world of Persian tales in "Tehran Times"

By Manijeh Rezapoor

TEHRAN — "Tehran Times" — no, not the newspaper... an art exhibit in Tehran — can tickle the interest of any art aficionado to find out what it has to offer on the walls out of curiosity.

And there it is. Graphic designer Yazdan Saadi has framed editions of the Tehran Times front page as a surface for his miniature paintings hanging on the walls of Seyhun Gallery in Tehran.

The paintings take visitors beyond their imagination into the world of ancient Persian tales. It is as if a morshed (mentor) is standing there beside the works and is narrating stories driven from the heart of ancient Iranian history for you. **→16**



Artist Yazdan Saadi poses during the opening ceremony of his exhibition "Tehran Times" at Seyhun Gallery in Tehran on October 12, 2018.



EDITORIAL
Mohammad Ghaderi
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Wait and contemplate for a second

Like it or not, the story of liberal democracy in the West has often been unjust and inhumane. You haven't made a mistake if you call it "no human rights."

However, this time the self-proclaimed defenders of human rights have created a commotion over the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, a loyalist to the West. If Khashoggi was not a devotee to the West, his murder was put into oblivion like thousands of innocent men, women and children in today's Palestine, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Myanmar, and Kashmir.

Shouldn't all people be the equally protected or perpetrators of carnage held accountable before the laws of man? What is the difference between the killing of Sheikh Nimr, Saleh Sammad, Ghazanfar Roknabadi, Emad and Jihad Mughniyah, Hassan Shehtah, Mustafa Badr al-Din, Samir Qnatar, Fathi Shaghaghi. These prominent figures died amid deafening silence.

One answer lies in the nature and ideology of liberal democracy that theorizes about individualism and tribalism, from Machiavelli to Hobbes to Theodor Herzl, that extols human societies in contradiction to the creator's command for justice and accord. Human rights assertions are largely in sham in too many places globally.

If assassination and slaughter is considered a crime, and if your conscious is no longer at ease and you feel disgusted by, for example, the story of Khashoggi's murder, be aware that this is your own doing, too. You pick puppets to rule over your lands, scare people off Islamic virtues and create Islamophobia and back the terrorist Wahhabis.

Iranian rocketry exists only to try to defend Iran and the oppressed against the brutality of tyrants. Have the followers of true Islam led by Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) ever started war on each other?

If you want to know the truth about the obscene application of power and militancy you can study the honest narratives of Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Vietnam, Palestine, Iran Air Flight 655, the Balkans, and the war on Yemen, among other atrocities.



ARTICLE
Hanif Ghaffari
Political analyst

Merkel's projection regarding nationalist movements in Europe

In recent years, we have repeatedly spoken about the blows that hit the United Europe hard, and resulted in constant and overwhelming crises in this block. The European authorities now refer to "returning to nationalism" as a potential danger (and in some cases, the actual danger!) In this block, and warn against it without mentioning the origin of this danger.

The German Chancellor has once again warned about the rise of nationalism in Europe. The warning comes at a time when other European officials, including French President Emmanuel Macron, have directly or indirectly, acknowledged the weakening of Europe's common values. This indicates that the EU authorities don't see the danger of extensive nationalism far from reality.

"Nationalism and a winner-take-all attitude are undermining the cohesion of Europe", German Chancellor Angela Merkel said. "Perhaps the most threatening development for me is that multilateralism has come under such pressure," Merkel said. "Europe is facing attacks from the outside and from the inside."

A simple contemplation on the issue of "return of the United Europe to nationalism" suggests that the current European authorities have played an active role in the desire of their citizens to return to the time before the formation of the European Union. In the 2014 general election, we saw more than 100 right-wing extremist candidates finding way to the European Parliament.

This could be the starting point for making fundamental changes in macroeconomic policies and creating a different relationship between the European leaders and the citizens of this block. But this did not happen in practice.

Although the failure of European leaders to manage the immigration crisis and, most importantly, the continuation of the economic crisis in some of the Eurozone countries has contributed to the formation of the current situation, but it should not be forgotten that the growth of radical and nationalist parties in Europe has largely been due to the block's officials incapability in convincing European citizens about the major policies in Europe. **→13**

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Rouhani hosts meeting with top economists

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani on Monday hosted a meeting with 26 economic experts and economics professors to discuss the economic problems and ways to resolve them.

The meeting lasted 3 hours. Rouhani said practical solutions should be proposed to resolve the problems, the Iran newspaper reported.

It was decided that a number of committees consisting of the attendants be established so that they could propose their solutions on unemployment, banking system and other issues through a direct channel to the president.



Iran boosts land-to-sea missile range to 700 km

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Iran has announced that its latest missile technology achievements include a land-to-sea missile with a range of 700 kilometers.

“The missiles we produce, [with ranges] from 200 kilometers to 2,000, are all precision missiles. Those produced in the past are also being enhanced into precision projectiles,” Amir Ali Hajizadeh, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Aerospace, said on Tuesday, according to ISNA.

Over the past years, Iran has made major breakthroughs in its defense sector and attained self-sufficiency in manufacturing military equipment and hardware despite sanctions and economic pressures on the country.

Tehran asserts that its missile arsenal is strictly in the service of defensive purposes and poses no threat to other states.



‘The look on Trump’s face will be priceless after hopeless Nov. 4 sanctions’

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, a senior foreign policy advisor to the parliament speaker, said on Tuesday that the look on U.S. President Trump’s face will be “priceless” after the new and “hopeless” U.S. sanctions on Iran go into effect on November 4.

The Islamic Republic of Iran will continue its path of progress, improving people’s livelihood, and thriving the national economy, in the same way it boosted its missile, scientific and nuclear capabilities, Amir-Abdollahian tweeted.

“The United States will never be able to keep the sanctions in place,” he stated.



‘EU’s Tehran office launch depends on JCPOA package’

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Chairman of the Iranian Parliament National Security and Foreign Policy Committee has said the opening of a European Union office in Tehran is dependent on the European countries’ economic package and its practical effect on protecting Iran’s benefits from the 2015 nuclear pact, aka JCPOA, which the U.S. ditched on May 8.

Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh further voiced hopes that the package, which will be proposed in the coming days, would meet Iran’s required standards and lead to facilitation of the opening of the EU office in Tehran, Euronews reported on Monday.



‘Sovereignty over Persian Gulf nonnegotiable’

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — A member of parliament says Iran’s sovereignty over the three islands of Greater, Lesser Tunbs and Abu Musa in the Persian Gulf is unnegotiable, refuting unfounded remarks by an Emirati MP.

Seyyedeh Fatemeh Hosseini, in a message on social media on Tuesday, said any activity by Tehran regarding the triple islands is the unalienable right of the Islamic Republic.

She also stressed that the “Persian Gulf” is the only historically registered name for the body of water which some Arab countries have been trying to indicate otherwise.

Recently the UAE representative at the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) conference in Geneva repeated the country’s old ownership claims over the islands which were rejected by the UN Security Council back in 1980 after the UAE filed a suit with the international body.



40 forex market disruptors detained

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Forty suspects were detained on Monday as part of the Judiciary’s crackdown on disruptors of foreign currency market.

The suspects were handed to judicial authorities and huge sums of money belonging to them were confiscated, IRNA reported on Monday, citing the Judiciary.

On Sunday, Judiciary spokesman Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Eje’i announced that 196 suspects had been detained in Tehran over smuggling and corruption in the foreign currency market.

He further said the special court tasked with fighting corruption in the foreign currency market had handed down sentences against 49 people.

Seven ambassadors deliver credentials to Rouhani



Mitsugu Saito



Samir Veladzic



Vika Mazwi Khumalo



Veronique Petit



Mohammed Hamad Saad al-Fahid al-Hajeri



Jacques Louis Werner



Amadou Sow

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Ambassadors from seven countries separately handed over their credentials to President Hassan Rouhani and held talks with him.

During his meeting with Japanese Ambassador Mitsugu Saito, Rouhani said that investment by the two countries’ private sector is essential to strengthen economic ties.

Rouhani noted that Iran and Japan share common views on many issues.

For his part, Saito said that Japan seeks expansion of relations with Iran.

Ambassador Saito said that Japanese companies will continue cooperation with Iran in spite of the U.S. sanctions.

■ ‘Iran ready to boost cooperation with European Union’

In his meeting with Veronique Petit, the new ambassador of Belgium, Rouhani said that Iran is ready to expand political and economic relations with the EU states, especially Belgium.

He noted that there is no impediment to closer ties.

The Belgian ambassador, for her part, called the 2015 nuclear deal a “great success” at the international arena.

The EU has been making any efforts to preserve the JCPOA, said Ambassador Petit whose country is the capital of the European Union.

■ ‘Iran, Qatar are determined to expand ties’

During his meeting with new Qatari Ambassador Mohammed Hamad Saad al-Fahid al-Hajeri, Rouhani said that Tehran and Doha are determined to expand ties.

He noted that closer ties between the two countries are beneficial to the whole region. The Qatari diplomat said that Doha seeks to expand relations with Iran in line with interests of the two countries.

In a separate meetings with Senegalese Ambassador Amadou Sow, the president said that Iranian companies are ready to expand activities in Senegal.

The Senegalese diplomat welcomed expansion of ties.

Samir Veladzic, the new ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Rouhani also called or closer ties between the two countries.

■ Rouhani calls South Africa a ‘close friend’

In his meeting with Vika Mazwi Khumalo, the new South African ambassador, Rouhani said that Iran considers South Africa a “close friend”.

He noted that the two countries have good capacities to expand relations.

For his part, the South African diplomat called for expansion of relations, especially in economic area.

The Iranian president also discussed expansion of relations with the new Dutch Ambassador Jacques Louis Werner.

Rouhani told the Dutch envoy that the nuclear deal should be preserved after the U.S. unilateral withdrawal from the international agreement.

In the talks with Ambassador Louis

Werner, whose country is home to the United Nations’ top court, Rouhani said, “I hope ruling of the International Court of Justice would change the U.S. administration’s illegal behavior, especially on the issue of inhuman sanctions.”

The ICJ ordered the U.S. on October 3 to lift sanctions on “humanitarian” goods to Iran.

ICJ unanimously ruled that Washington “shall remove by means of its choosing any impediments arising from the measures announced on May 8 to the free exportation to Iran of medicines and medical devices, food and agricultural commodities” as well as airplane parts, said judge Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf.

■ Five new Iranian ambassadors to foreign countries meet Rouhani

Rouhani also held a meeting with new Iranian ambassadors to Spain, Kuwait, Romania, Bangladesh and Sierra Leone.

He called on the ambassadors to make any efforts in line with expanding relations with other countries.

IRGC proposes joint operation with Pakistan Army against Jaish ul-Adl

Over 10 Iranian border guards kidnapped in the border with Pakistan

1 → The group also claimed responsibility on its Twitter account.

Later on Tuesday, the IRGC Ground Force’s Quds Unit confirmed that “a number of local Basij and border forces were abducted by terrorists late on Monday night in the Mirjavaveh border region.”

In a statement, the Quds Unit said the kidnapping was conducted by agents of “anti-[Islamic] Revolution terrorist groups, with the support of foreign [spy] agencies.”

It added that Iranian security and defense forces were in pursuit of the “bandits, terrorists and the enemy’s agents”, and necessary measures to free the abducted forces were underway.

The Quds unit also called on the Pakistani government to take immediate measures to free the Iranian forces and also put up a serious fight against bandits and terrorists who have nested along Pakistan’s borders and are supported and used by certain reactionary countries of the region.

Mohammad Pakpour, the commander of the IRGC Ground



Forces, proposed a joint military operation with Pakistan’s army against “hooligans” to release the kidnapped forces.

“Terrorists have bases inside Pakistan and we are ready

for joint (military) operation with the Pakistani army against hooligans to free the hostages,” the commander proposed.

He expressed regret that over the past year bandits and terrorists attacked Iranian posts several times.

Iran’s Sunni Muslim community has condemned the terrorist attack, saying such acts of terror are aimed at weakening the “Shia-Sunni unity”.

■ Iran summons Pakistani ambassador
Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi condemned the “terrorist act” and urged Pakistan to take immediate measures and use all its capabilities to free the kidnapped forces and arrest the terrorists.

Qassemi said the Pakistani ambassador to Tehran, who was summoned to the Foreign Ministry, expressed deep regret over the incident and said he will pursue the issue through the Islamabad government and will report on the actions of the government as soon as possible.

He added that Iran’s ambassador to Islamabad is also pursuing the issue through the Pakistani government.

Japan says continuing cooperation with Tehran under sanctions

A senior official of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) announced that the country will not alter its supportive policies towards Iran after implementation of the US sanctions on November 4.

“JICA always supports development of mutual cooperation in the private sector and it will use its utmost efforts to return the Japanese companies to the Iranian market,” the head of JICA’s office in Iran told FNA on Monday.

He explained that JICA is an organization affiliated to the Japanese government, adding that the Japanese government supports Iran.

The official referred to the last month meeting between the Japanese prime minister and Iranian president, and said, “Despite sanctions, the Japanese government will not change its supportive policies towards Iran.”

The Japanese government started Official Development Assistance activities in Iran in 1957 and JICA officially established a Tehran office in 1974. In the almost 60 years of Japan’s assistance program, JICA has helped Iran implement many projects with government agencies and local officials, particularly in the field of environmental conservation.

The chief executive officer of JICA in Iran said in September that general policy of the Japanese government and Japan International Cooperation Agency is to strengthen economic relations between Iran and Japan.

Addressing the fourth Joint Coordinating Committee meeting held at Qeshm Island, Hiroyuki Tanaka added that JICA’s comprehensive plan was launched in Qeshm in 2015 to create conditions for the development of the island based on the participation of local communities, along with ensuring environmental protection.

He underlined that the Japanese gov-

ernment intends to promote the stable development of Iranian economy by sharing experiences and undertaking joint cooperation programs.

Tanaka noted that Qeshm Island has a unique ecosystem and rich natural resources, the preservation and protection of which can attract more tourists to Iran and bring about economic prosperity.

Tanaka said the comprehensive plan is approaching its final stages, which does not mean the end of cooperation, therefore the Free Zone Organization of Qeshm should continue to implement pilot projects and maintain its regulatory role.

Senior Iranian diplomat hold talks with Oman FM on Yemen

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — A senior Iranian diplomat held talks on Tuesday with Oman’s Foreign Minister Yusuf bin Alawi on regional developments particularly the ways to silence the guns in Yemen through dialogue.

Hossein Jaber Ansari, the special assistant to the Iranian foreign minister, who arrived in Muscat late on Monday, also planned to hold separate talks with representatives from different Yemeni groups about diplomatic efforts to end the “imposed war” on Yemen, the Foreign Ministry media office reported.

A few days ago Jaber Ansari held negotiations in Tehran with the Swedish special envoy for Yemen and Libya in line with Tehran’s efforts to end the war on Yemen and bring an immediate end to the human catastrophe in the impoverished state.

Also on October 1, Jaber Ansari, who acts as Iran’s point



man for Arab affairs, held a meeting in Tehran with Muhammad Abdusalam, the spokesman for the Yemeni Ansarullah, discussing ways to settle the Yemen war politically.

The United Nations warned on Monday that Yemen could be facing the worst famine in 100 years if airstrikes by the Saudi-led coalition are not halted.

If war continues, famine could engulf the country in the next three months, with 12 to 13 million civilians at risk of starvation, said Lise Grande, the agency’s humanitarian coordinator for Yemen.

“I think many of us felt as we went into the 21st century that it was unthinkable that we could see a famine like we saw in Ethiopia, that we saw in Bengal, that we saw in parts of the Soviet Union – that was just unacceptable.

“Many of us had the confidence that would never happen again and yet the reality is that in Yemen that is precisely what we are looking at,” Grande told the BBC.

The Saudi-led coalition has been pounding Yemen since March 2015 with sophisticated weapons supplied by the West.

Leading U.S. senator accuses Saudi prince of ordering Khashoggi killing

U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham, a Republican close to President Donald Trump, on Tuesday accused Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of ordering the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi and called him a “wrecking ball” who is jeopardizing relations with the United States.

Many members of the U.S. Congress, which has long had a testy relationship with Saudi Arabia, have issued strong criticism of the kingdom since Khashoggi’s disappearance at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on Oct. 2.

Graham put the blame directly on the crown prince, who is known by his initials, MbS.

“Nothing happens in Saudi Arabia without MbS knowing it,” he said in an interview with Fox News.

“I’ve been their biggest defender on the floor of the United States Senate,” Graham said. “This guy is a wrecking ball. He had this guy murdered in a consulate in Turkey and to expect me to ignore it. I feel used and abused,” Graham said.

“The MbS figure is to me toxic. He can never be a world leader on the world stage.”

Saudi Arabia denies that it had any role in Khashoggi’s disappearance. But last week, 22 senators triggered a U.S. investigation of whether human rights sanctions should be imposed over the disappearance of Khashoggi.

Graham said he did not know what Trump was going to do about the incident, which involves the United States’ close but complicated relationship with Saudi Arabia.

“I know what I’m going to do. I’m going to sanction the hell out of Saudi Arabia,” Graham said. “I feel personally offended. They have nothing but contempt for us. Why would you put a guy like me and the president and in this box after all the president has done? This guy’s gotta go.”

Trump has taken a less aggressive stance toward the Saudis, suggesting on Monday after speaking with Saudi



King Salman that perhaps “rogue killers” were behind the disappearance of Khashoggi, a sharp critic of the crown prince. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met the Saudi king

and crown prince on Tuesday to discuss the disappearance of Khashoggi.

(Source: AP)

NATO cyber command to be fully operational in 2023

A new NATO military command center to deter computer hackers should be fully staffed in 2023 and able to mount its own cyber attacks but the alliance is still grappling with ground rules for doing so, a senior general said on Tuesday.

While NATO does not have its own cyber weapons, the U.S.-led alliance established an operations center on Aug. 31 at its military hub in Belgium. The United States, Britain, Estonia and other allies have since offered their cyber capabilities.

“This is an emerging domain and the threat is growing,” said Major General Wolfgang Renner, a German air force commander who oversees the new cyber operations center, or CYOC, in Mons.

“We have to be prepared, to be able to execute operations in cyberspace. We have already gone beyond protection and prevention,” he told Reuters during a NATO cyber conference.

NATO communication and computer networks face hundreds of significant hacking attempts every month, according to the NATO Communication and Information Agency, while experts say Russia, North Korea and China are constantly deploying sophisticated computer hacking weapons and surveillance software. Accusations by Western governments this month that Russia waged a global hacking campaign have raised the profile of



NATO’s evolving strategy as allied governments look for a response. The European Union on Monday discussed its options, including a special economic sanctions regime to target cyber attackers.

“Our ultimate aim is to be completely aware of our cyberspace, to understand minute-by-minute the state of our networks so that commanders can rely on them,” said Ian West, chief of cyber security at the NATO communication agency.

When fully operational, the cyber center aims to coordinate NATO’s cyber deterrent through a 70-strong team of experts fed with military intelligence and real-time information about hackers ranging from Islamist militants to organized crime groups operating on behalf of hostile governments.

Article 5 debate

NATO has formally recognized cyberspace as a new frontier in defense, along with land, air and sea, meaning battles could henceforth

be waged on computer networks.

The center could potentially use cyber weapons that can knock out enemy missiles or air defenses, or destroy foes’ computer networks if commanders judge such a cyber attack is less harmful to human life than a traditional offensive with live weaponry.

That is now the subject of intense debate at NATO, with alliance commanders saying publicly that cyber will be an integral part of future warfare but allies unclear what would trigger NATO’s Article 5 (collective defense) clause. “Our concept of operations, a toolbox for short-notice decisions about how to respond, is not in place yet. This is one of the challenges we face,” Renner said.

If NATO can agree cyber warfare principles, the alliance hopes to integrate individual nations’ cyber capabilities into alliance operations, coordinated through the Mons cyber operations center and under the command of NATO’s top general, the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, or SACEUR.

That could allow the top general to take quick decisions on whether to use cyber weapons, similar to existing agreements for NATO’s air defenses and its ballistic missile shield, where a commander has only minutes to decide what action to take.

“From my point of view, this is basically possible, but it has to be arranged,” Renner said.

(Source: Reuters)

Two Koreas, UN Command wrap up first talks on disarming border

North and South Korea held their first three-way talks with the United Nations Command (UNC) on Tuesday to discuss ways to demilitarize the border as the neighbors push for peace, South Korea’s defense ministry said.

The two Koreas agreed this week to begin reconnecting rail and road links, in spite of U.S. concerns that a rapid thaw in relations could undermine efforts to press North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons.

Tuesday’s meeting followed a summit between leaders of the two countries in the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, last month.

The two leaders agreed to hold talks with the UNC, which overlaps with U.S. forces in the South and oversees affairs in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating the two Koreas, to smooth the way to disarming one of the world’s most heavily fortified frontiers.

The meeting on Tuesday lasted for about two hours at the border village of Panmunjom, and was led by military officials of the rank of colonel from the two sides and Burke Hamilton, secretary of the UNC Military Armistice Commission, the ministry said.

“They discussed practical issues regarding demilitariza-



tion steps to be conducted in the future,” the South Korean ministry said in a statement.

The steps they are aiming for range from withdrawing firearms and guard posts to reducing personnel and adjusting surveillance equipment, the ministry said, adding that the three-way channel would be used for more discussions.

General Vincent Brooks, who leads the United Nations Command, said the talks were designed to use existing means of managing issues along the DMZ to try to achieve the goals

set out by the two Koreas.

“I am encouraged by this productive, trilateral dialogue,” Brooks said in a statement. Future meetings would move on to tackle the steps the two sides had set out, he said.

North Korea and the rich, democratic South are technically still at war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a truce, not a peace treaty.

As an initial step, the neighbors are looking to pull out 11 guard posts within 1 km (0.6-mile) of a Military Demarcation Line on their border by the end of the year.

They began removing land mines in several small areas this month and will build roads for a pilot project set for April to excavate the remains of soldiers missing from the Korean War.

Both sides will also withdraw all firearms from a Joint Security Area (JSA) at Panmunjom, cut to 35 each the numbers of personnel stationed there and share information on surveillance equipment.

Tourists will be allowed to go into the JSA.

The measures would transform the border into a “place of peace and reconciliation,” the ministry has said.

(Source: Reuters)

U.S. sanctions policy against Russia undermines dollar’s reserve currency position: Goldman Sachs

Washington’s aggressive policy against Moscow could be a sufficient reason behind the recent fall of the dollar’s share of global central-bank reserves, according to economist at U.S. multinational investment bank Goldman Sachs.

Russia’s Central Bank has sold some \$85 billion of its \$150 billion holding of the U.S. assets from April through June after the U.S. Treasury Department announced new sanctions on Russian businessmen, companies and government officials, says Goldman’s strategist Zach Pandl said, as quoted by Bloomberg.

At the beginning of April, Washington expanded its anti-Russian sanction list, including seven Russian tycoons, 12 companies and 17 senior government officials over alleged meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.



According to Pandl, the co-head of global FX and emerging-market strategy, the U.S. policy of unilateral tariff hikes and sanctions is putting at risk the greenback that is still dominating the global currency reserves.

“The Central Bank of Russia likely sold a large portion of its dollar-denominated assets, and perhaps all of its U.S. Treasuries held by U.S. custodians, and transferred them to euro-denominated and yuan-denominated

bonds in the second quarter,” the economist said.

“This would account for more than half of the decline in the share of dollar reserves during the quarter.”

According to the recent data revealed by the International Monetary Fund, share of the U.S. national currency in the global central-bank reserves declined to 62.3 percent in the second quarter with holdings in the euro, yen and yuan gained as a share of allocated reserves.

“Sanction risk appears to explain a significant portion of the observed decline,” the analyst said. “The dollar’s share of reserve assets could decline further if other large reserve holders were to make similar changes as the Central Bank of Russia over time.”

(Source: RT)

Senior Russian officials meet bin Salman to discuss Syria

A high-level Russian delegation has traveled to Saudi Arabia and met with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to discuss the crisis in Syria.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday that the delegation, including senior foreign and defense ministries officials, had been in Saudi Arabia on October 14 and 15.

The Russian team also held talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Adel bin Ahmed al-Jubeir.

“There was a detailed exchange of views on the situation in the region of the Middle East and North Africa with an emphasis on the development of events in Syria,” the ministry said.

“A common understanding was expressed of the need to finally eliminate the hotbeds of terrorism in this country, the importance of speeding up a reliable and long-term political settlement of the Syrian crisis,” it said.

Russia, along with Iran, has been helping the Syrian government its efforts to liberate the country of the terror groups.

The foreign-backed militancy in Syria seems to be nearing an end as Syria and its allies are preparing to liberate Idlib Province, the last terrorist bastion in the country.

Damascus and its allies are now involved in diplomatic efforts with Turkey to retake the city from militants without any military operations.

Many of the terrorists in Syria are either supported by Riyadh or inspired by Wahhabism, a Takfiri ideology dominating Saudi Arabia and freely preached by its clerics.

Moscow’s talks in the kingdom come as Riyadh is grappling with a diplomatic crisis surrounding the disappearance of dissident Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in its consulate in Istanbul, Turkey.

However, the Russian Foreign Ministry made no reference to talks on the matter.

(Source: TASS)

DR Congo: Ebola claims 24 lives in one week

At least 33 people have been infected with the deadly Ebola virus in the past week, 24 of which have since passed away, the health ministry of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) said.

According to the ministry, the cases were discovered between October 8 and October 14.

So far, 211 confirmed and probable cases of Ebola have been reported since early July, when the latest outbreak of the disease started, the World Health Organization (WHO) has said.

Of those, 138 people have died from the highly deadly hemorrhagic fever.

All cases have been found in the northeastern region of the central African country, the WHO has stated.

The latest Ebola outbreak started in July and could go on for another three or four months, the WHO has said.

In recent weeks, the rate of new Ebola cases has more than doubled after rebel violence in northeastern DRC caused response efforts to be briefly suspended, health officials said earlier this week.

Most of the new cases have been in Beni, a city of several hundred thousand people, where experts had to suspend Ebola containment efforts for days after a deadly rebel attack killed 21.

The Congolese army has blamed the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a notorious rebel group, for that attack.

With multiple armed groups active in the region, health officials have said they are effectively operating in a warzone.

In a response to the violence, the government said it would deploy security forces to protect teams transporting the bodies of Ebola victims for burial

Earlier this week, the WHO noted that all of the health workers who have caught Ebola in this epidemic - 19 so far - have been infected outside of hospitals or clinics, meaning that the virus is spreading in the community.

Following the rapid increase in cases in northeastern DRC, the WHO also warned the disease might spread to neighbouring Rwanda and Uganda, adding that those countries are well prepared but have not yet approved the use of a vaccine.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

شرکت توسعه آهن و فولاد گل گهر

GOLOHAR IRON & STEEL DEVELOPMENT CO.

Notice of tender for export sale

No. Ei/97/01

Golgozar Iron & Steel Development Co. announces selling and export 30.000 metric ton of DRI based on EX-WORKS Sirjan, Shiraz road 50 kms, Golgozar mine special road 5 kms, with the following specifications.

Item NO.	DRI Properties	Typical
1	Fe (Total)%	88.1±0.2
2	Fe (Metal)%	81.5±0.5
3	MD%	92.5±0.5
4	C%	2±0.2
5	S%	0.005±0.001
6	P%	0.035±0.002
7	SiO ₂ %	3±0.2
8	Al ₂ O ₃ %	0.8±0.2
9	CaO%	0.7±0.2
10	Mgo%	1.85±0.1
11	TiO ₂ %	0.075±0.005
12	Fine%	3±1

Hereby interested bidders are invited to the Marketing and sales dept. of the seller located at No.22, 31Th ALLEY, ALVAND St. ARGENTINA SQUARE, TEHRAN, IRAN, or refer to www.gisdco.ir within 10 working days from the date of second announcement with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative to purchase tender documents.

STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	182834.3
IFX	2027.54

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	48,494 rials
GBP	55,053 rials
AED	11,430 rials

Source: iribnews.ir

COMMODITIES

WTI	\$71.30/b
Brent	\$80.29/b
OPEC Basket	\$79.36/b
Gold	\$1,229.60/oz
Silver	\$14.81/oz
Platinum	\$848.80/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

NEWS IN BRIEF



Iranian oil minister meets Russian counterpart

ENERGY

desk

TEHRAN — Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh visited Moscow late on Monday to hold talks with Russian counterpart, Alexander Novak, Sputnik reported.

As reported, in the meeting the officials discussed issues regarding the concerns in the global market and bilateral co-operation in the field of oil and gas.

On the sidelines of the meeting, Zanganeh also noted that the two sides discussed the possibility of regulating oil output based on OPEC’s agreement.

Novak, for his part, pointed to the constant contact between his country and Iran adding that the two sides are discussing a variety of bilateral issues.



Reaching \$1b trade with Iran a top priority for Uzbekistan: envoy

ECONOMY

desk

TEHRAN — Increasing the value of trade between Uzbekistan and Iran to \$1 billion is one of the top priorities of the Uzbek government, Uzbekistan Ambassador to Iran Bakhodir Abdullaev said in a meeting with a number of Iranian businessmen in the central city of Arak on Monday evening.

The envoy put the current annual trade between the two countries at \$400 million, IRNA reported.

Abdullaev further mentioned constructional materials, agriculture, medicine, oil and gas as some of the proper fields for increasing bilateral cooperation.

U.S. bullying won’t resolve supply shortage in oil market: Zanganeh

TEHRAN — Mentioning Trump’s plans for zero Iranian oil exports, the official said “We should see how market is reacting, everyone is worried and Trump has failed to reassure them. Big oil producing countries are going off the market under U.S. sanctions and that has led to turmoil.”

The United States announced new sanctions after withdrawing from a nuclear deal with Iran in May. The new round of U.S. sanctions against Tehran are set to start in November 4.

MRPL expects India to get waiver from U.S. sanctions on Iran this month

India’s Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) expects India to get a waiver from U.S. sanctions on Iranian oil exports this month, a company official said on Tuesday.

The company will also look at buying Iraqi oil to replace Iranian oil, said MRPL Managing Director M. Venkatesh on the sidelines of the IHS CERA conference, adding that the company has already made some payments in rupees to Iran for oil.

(Source: Reuters)

Japan to promote foreign takeovers of heirless companies

The Japanese government is set to launch a service aimed at helping foreign companies take over small businesses in the country that are struggling to find successors to aging leaders.

The service, planned by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and provided through the Japan External Trade Organization, is designed to save companies with viable products and services from going out of business by encouraging foreign entities to take over their operation through mergers and acquisitions.

Information on such companies will be stored in a database maintained by the Organization for Small & Medium Enterprises and Regional Innovation, also known as SME Support, through its offices across Japan. It includes roughly 24,000 records of companies looking to sell their operations due to a lack of successors and details of potential buyers.

(Source: Nikkei Asian Review)

Crude oil sales to initiate at IRENEX since Oct. 28

ECONOMY

desk

TEHRAN — Offering crude oil at Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX) will be commenced on October 28 to thwart U.S. sanctions, ISNA quoted Deputy Oil Minister Ali Kardor as saying on Tuesday.

The government is to offer oil in form of at least 35,000-barrel-cargos and the total of one million barrels per day at IRENEX,

he announced addressing the 4th Iranian Petroleum and Energy Club Congress & Exhibition in Tehran.

Offering oil will be continued till November 4, the date when the second round of U.S.-sanctions will be imposed, and the new decision about continuing selling export-grade crude oil at stock market and some other details in this regard would rely on the made



assessments and the gained experiences in this period, Kardor said.

“Purchasers at IRENEX can pay 80 percent of the oil prices in foreign currencies and the rest in rial,” deputy minister added. Iranian government decided to offer

oil at stock market to permit the Iranian private sector export crude oil to foil U.S. sanctions. Since Washington aims to cut Iran’s oil sales, private Iranian companies can transparently buy and sell the crude through this market.

China’s Q3 GDP growth seen hitting lowest since 2009: Reuters poll

At week’s end, global investors and policy makers will likely be given a stark reminder of the costs of a bitter Sino-U.S. trade war, with a Reuters poll predicting that China’s third-quarter growth will slow to its weakest pace since the global financial crisis.

Domestic demand has been faltering in recent months as U.S. President Donald Trump’s campaign to force China to make sweeping changes to intellectual property, industrial subsidy and trade policies start to depress export earnings.

Beijing has been trying to ward off a sharper slowdown in the world’s second-largest economy by stepping up policy support and softening its stance on a de-risking campaign, as the full impact of higher U.S. trade tariffs has still to be felt.

And analysts said more support measures will be needed as risks to China’s growth outlook have increased since the second half of the year.

A poll of 68 economists showed gross domestic product likely grew 6.6 percent in July-September from a year earlier, slowing from the previous quarter’s 6.7 percent and hitting the weakest pace since the first quarter of 2009.

The predicted third-quarter growth would still be higher than the government’s full-year target of around 6.5 percent.

“The downward pressure on the

economy is relatively big as consumption weakens and infrastructure investment has yet to stabilize” from a slowdown, said Tang Jianwei, senior economist at Bank of Communications in Shanghai.

“It’s necessary to make policy adjustments as the external pressure increases.”

Recent economic data have pointed to weakening domestic demand ranging from infrastructure investment to consumer spending, as a multi-year crackdown on riskier lending and debt has pushed up companies’ borrowing costs.

Growth in China’s vast factory sector in September stalled after 15 months of expansion, with export orders falling the most in more than two years, according to private survey showed. An official survey also confirmed that manufacturers were coming under stress.

There are signs that firms have ramped up shipments before broader and stiffer U.S. tariffs take effect, which likely explains an unexpected acceleration in China’s exports growth in September and a record trade surplus with the United States.

The yuan CNY=CFXS has lost about 6 percent against the dollar this year, which may also have taken the sting out of the U.S. tariffs, but could fan risks of capital outflows.

(Source: Reuters)

Degree of calm returns to battered stocks; Italy helps out

World stocks nudged higher on Tuesday, as focus turned to earnings season and a rebound in Italian assets helped battered equities find firmer ground for now.

European shares rallied 0.8 percent, pulling away from Monday’s 22-month lows. That followed gains in some Asian markets, led by Japan’s blue-chip Nikkei index, which closed 1.25 percent higher after a decline of nearly 2 percent the previous day.

The positive tone looked poised to extend into the U.S. session, with stock futures trading higher.

Gains in Italy’s bond and stock markets after Italian Economy Minister Giovanni Tria defended the country’s expansionary budget helped lift sentiment.

Calm in Italy — a major source of turbulence in world markets in recent weeks — helped explain the recovery in risk appetite on Tuesday, said Marchel Alexandrovich, European financial economist at Jefferies in London.

Stock market sentiment in Europe also got a boost from expectations that earnings season will deliver double-digit earnings growth for the third quarter.

About 6 percent of companies in the STOXX 600 index are due to report results this week, with the earnings season passing its mid-point during the first week of November.

Overall, third-quarter earnings for the index are expected to have risen 14 percent, according to Refinitiv I/B/E/S data, while euro zone earnings are seen up 12 percent. That compares with the 21.6 percent growth seen for U.S. companies.

“If you look at what’s happening here and now, it is an improvement from what was happening a week ago,” Alexandrovich said. “How long the stability lasts is anyone’s guess.”

Calmer equity markets took the shine off safe-haven assets.

Japan’s yen was down a quarter of a percent against the dollar, the Swiss franc edged away from almost two-week highs against the greenback and gold dipped from Monday’s 2 1/2-month high as tension between the West and Saudi Arabia triggered a fresh exit out of risk assets.

Signs that Saudi Arabia is preparing to acknowledge the death of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in a botched interrogation helped smooth edgy markets.

But given a rout in stock markets last week — fueled in part by concerns about higher U.S. interest rates, rising Treasury yields and world trade tensions — some caution prevailed.

On Wall Street, the Dow has lost 4.5 percent this month, as long-term Treasury yields soared to their highest level since 2011. Higher yields make equities less attractive.

(Source: Reuters)

Second Announcement

IN THE NAME OF GOD

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NO. 97-07/176

Tender Holder:
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

Subject of Two-Stage Tender:
Technical Specifications of Rack Project and Inner Cooling System according to the tender documents

Deadline of Receiving Documents:
As of publishing second announcement of advertisement latest by the business hour dated on **Monday October 22, 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 114,909** 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 Wednesday November 21, 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 26, 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

Oil falls on U.S. shale output, expected stocks data

Oil prices fell on Tuesday on evidence of higher U.S. oil production and increasing U.S. crude inventories, but reports of a fall in Iranian oil exports helped limit losses.

Brent crude was down 50 cents a barrel at \$80.28 by 0900 GMT. U.S. light crude was 50 cents lower at \$71.28.

“Shale oil production continues unabated in the United States,” said Carsten Fritsch, commodities analyst at Commerzbank. “Rising U.S. oil production is one key reason why the global oil market is likely to be amply supplied next year.”

Oil production from seven major U.S. shale basins is expected to rise by 98,000 barrels per day (bpd) in November to a record of 7.71 million bpd, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) said.

The largest change is forecast in the Permian Basin of Texas and New Mexico, where output is expected to climb by 53,000 bpd to a fresh peak of 3.55 million bpd.

U.S. oil production has increased steadily over the last five years, reaching a record high of 11.2 million bpd in the week to Oct. 5. But infrastructure has not kept pace with rising output, filling domestic tanks.

“Once pipelines and oil terminals are built connecting the Permian to the U.S. Gulf Coast, then there will be a big step up in



U.S. crude oil exports,” Harry Tchilinguirian, oil strategist at French bank BNP Paribas told Reuters Global Oil Forum.

U.S. crude stockpiles are expected to have risen last week for the fourth straight week, by about 1.1 million barrels, according to a Reuters poll ahead of reports from the

American Petroleum Institute (API) and the U.S. Department of Energy’s Energy Information Administration (EIA).

API data are due at 4:30 p.m. EDT (2030 GMT) with the EIA at 10:30 a.m. EDT (1430 GMT) on Wednesday.

Balancing the U.S. data were reports that

Iranian exports of crude oil are falling faster than expected ahead of new U.S. sanctions on Tehran from Nov. 4.

In the first two weeks of October, Iran exported 1.33 million bpd of crude to countries including India, China and Turkey, according to Refinitiv Eikon data. That was down from 1.6 million bpd during the same period in September.

The October exports are a sharp drop from the 2.5 million bpd in April before U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from a multilateral nuclear deal with Iran in May and ordered the re-imposition of sanctions.

Meanwhile, OPEC Secretary General Mohammad Barkindo said on Tuesday that global spare oil capacity was shrinking, adding that producers and companies should increase their production capacities and invest more to meet current demand.

With the world’s only sizable spare oil output capacity, Saudi Arabia is expected to export more to offset the loss of Iranian oil supply from the sanctions.

Tension over the disappearance of a Saudi Arabian journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Turkey also remain.

Saudi Arabia has denied it was responsible for the disappearance of Khashoggi. (Source: Reuters)

Japan’s Inpex to load 1st LNG cargo from Ichthys project this week

Japanese energy explorer Inpex Corp is this week set to load the first liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargo from its long-delayed Ichthys project in northwestern Australia, sources familiar with the matter said.

The shipment would be an important milestone for Inpex, the operator of Japan’s biggest overseas investment and the first major project where it is the lead operator. The \$40 billion project has seen multiple delays and significant cost overruns.

An Inpex spokesman in Tokyo said that production had been going smoothly and that shipments of LNG and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) were set to begin, but he declined to comment on commercial matters including the schedule for shipments.

The LNG vessel Pacific Breeze was located close to the Ichthys LNG Terminal near Darwin with a departure date of Oct. 17, according to Refinitiv data. After the first shipment, three LNG cargoes are scheduled to load next month, according to one of the sources.

It was not clear where the cargo was heading, but some sources said in May that the commissioning LNG cargo from Ichthys would be exported to Inpex’s Naotsu LNG receiving terminal in Japan.

In a statement last year announcing the ship’s name, Inpex said Pacific Breeze would supply 1.75 million tons of LNG annually from Ichthys to Taiwan’s CPC Corp.

The move comes about two weeks after



the first condensate shipment from Ichthys’ floating production, storage and offloading (FPSO) facility.

Ichthys has seen multiple delays and cost overruns of billions of dollars due to technical difficulties. It was originally slated to start in 2016.

At full operation, Ichthys is expected to produce 8.9 million tons of LNG a year, along with about 1.7 million tons of LPG and about 100,000 barrels per day of condensate, an ultra-light form of crude oil.

The company expects to take two to three years to reach full production.

Inpex in August said Ichthys would help add net profit of 10 billion yen (\$89 million) in the second-half of 2018/19, down from a May outlook of 24 billion yen, due to the delays. Inpex holds 62.245 percent of Ichthys, France’s Total 30 percent, with the rest spread amongst CPC and Japanese utilities Tokyo Gas, Osaka Gas, Kansai Electric, JERA Corp and Toho Gas. (Source: Reuters)

Scottish Power to use 100% wind power after Drax sale

Scottish Power will become the first major UK energy company to generate all its electricity from wind power instead of coal and gas, after selling its final gas and hydro stations to Drax.

Power company Drax has paid £702m for the rest of Scottish Power’s conventional generation business.

Scottish Power plans to invest £5.2bn over four years to more than double its renewables capacity.

Chief executive Keith Anderson said it was a “pivotal shift” for the firm.

“We are leaving carbon generation behind for a renewable future powered by cheaper green energy. We have closed coal, sold gas and built enough wind to power 1.2 million homes,” he said.

Scottish Power has closed all of its coal plants in the past decade and has 2,700 megawatts (MW) of wind power capacity operating or under construction in the UK.

It also has projects planned that can generate more than 3,000 MW. Its four-year plan aims to make electricity “cleaner and cheaper for Britain”.

Ignacio Galan, chairman of Scottish Power’s Spanish owner, Iberdrola, said energy companies needed to be part of the solution to climate change.

“Iberdrola is acting now to cut carbon emissions 30 percent by 2020 and be carbon neutral by 2050. The sale of these generation assets is consistent with our strategy,” he said.



Drax chief executive Will Gardiner said: “We believe there is a compelling logic in our move to add further flexible sources of power to our offering.”

Drax runs the UK’s biggest power plant near Selby in North Yorkshire and is moving away from coal ahead of a government deadline for an emissions limit on coal plants from 2025.

It has already converted four of its six generating units to burn wood pellets.

The Selby plant is believed to be the first bioenergy carbon capture storage (Beccs) project of its type in Europe.

The power station has previously been criticised for the levels of air pollution it produces by campaigners, who claim it produces “dangerous” levels of air pollution.

Drax said its emissions were “well within statutory limits”.

In May, it announced a £400,000 pilot scheme to capture the carbon dioxide produced from burning the wood pellets. (Source: BBC)

Saudi Arabia could hike oil prices over the Khashoggi case. Here’s why it would backfire

Fears are spreading that Saudi Arabia, in retaliation against the growing global outcry caused by the disappearance of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, may hit back at potential economic sanctions by weaponizing its oil dominance.

Saudi Arabia’s not-so-veiled threat issued in a government statement Sunday emphasized its “vital role in the global economy” and that any action taken upon it will be met with “greater action”. But as oil ticks upward, a look at history and geopolitics suggests that while a Saudi-driven oil price spike would bring pain for much of the world, it would ultimately backfire on itself.

“If this is something the Saudis were allowed to do, they’d be really shooting themselves in the foot,” Warren Patterson, commodities analyst at ING, told CNBC’s Squawk Box Europe on Tuesday. “In the short to medium term we’ll definitely see an incremental amount of demand destruction, but the bigger issue is in the longer term.”

Any action in withholding oil from the market, he said, “would only quicken the pace of energy transition.”

The crisis began after Turkish officials alleged that Khashoggi, a U.S. resident and Washington Post contributor, was murdered on orders of the Saudi government after he was last seen entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2. The Saudis have fiercely denied this claim, but have so far provided no evidence to the contrary, sparking furor in Congress, where momentum is building to impose sanctions on weapons imports to the kingdom. Media companies and corporate executives are pulling out of Saudi Arabia’s annual investment conference, scheduled for late October, in droves.

And Saudi markets are already feeling the impact — its benchmark Tadawul index tumbled 7 percent on Sunday, and fell 4 percent on opening trades Tuesday.

An incendiary op-ed published in Saudi news outlet Al Arabiya on Sunday threatened “economic disaster” if countries came down on Saudi Arabia over the Khashoggi case. “If the price of oil reaching \$80 angered President Trump, no one should rule out the price jumping to \$100, or \$200, or even double that figure,” the outlet’s general manager Turki Aldakhil wrote.

Trump has already chastised the Saudis on Twitter for high oil prices, demanding they up production to bring prices down ahead of the November midterm elections.

As OPEC’s largest producer and the force behind more



than 10 percent of the world’s crude demand, a Saudi move to withhold production would rock markets and send prices far above their current four-year highs. Brent crude recently broke \$86 a barrel and prices initially rose Monday after the Saudi statement, though they backed down on news that U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was being dispatched to Riyadh for talks.

■ A lesson from history

But the extraordinary move to place a stranglehold on oil markets — one not taken since the Arab oil embargo of 1973 — would ultimately backfire on Saudi Arabia, leading many analysts to believe it’s not a likely course of action.

“Riyadh would be hesitant to go down this route. While there would probably be a significant near-term boost to the Kingdom’s oil income, pushing oil prices higher would only serve to rile President Trump,” London-based research consultancy Capital Economics wrote in a client note Monday. “The Saudis are determined to remain close with Washington to preserve its ‘anti-Iran’ axis.”

What’s more, if history is any guide, oil embargoes are self-defeating. The 1973 oil embargo, imposed by Arab OPEC members on countries supporting Israel during that year’s Yom Kippur war between Israel and several Arab states, quadrupled oil prices and led to shortages across the U.S. But it failed to diminish support for Israel and only spurred the development of alternative energy research

and increased exploration in other markets.

“In addition,” Capital Economics wrote, “higher oil prices would simply encourage other producers to raise output and grab market share from Saudi Arabia.”

■ Oil price ‘could easily hit \$200’

With the already massive outages in the oil market resulting from Venezuela’s collapsing economy and impending U.S. sanctions on Iranian exports, any Saudi move to curtail supplies would jolt prices upward.

This would also trigger demand destruction, particularly in large emerging market importers like India and East Asia, said Helima Croft, head of global commodity strategy at RBC Capital Markets.

But the real cost, Croft emphasized, would be the U.S.-Saudi relationship. “[This] would raise the very real prospect of a host of U.S. sanctions and you would likely hear members of Congress questioning why we are spending so much money of providing a security guarantee for the country.” Still, the threat follows a series of aggressive foreign policy moves from Riyadh and the country’s young and assertive crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman.

In June of 2017, bin Salman led a region-wide blockade of Qatar, and last fall rounded up scores of Saudi royals and businessmen for detention in what he called a “corruption crackdown” but what critics allege may have involved torture. The Saudi government was later accused of kidnapping and detaining Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri, and more recently set off a diplomatic spat with Canada over a tweet about human rights. So at this point, a combative backlash is not off the table.

“If the Saudis were to withhold supply from the market, the price oil could easily hit \$200 (per barrel),” warned John Kilduff, founding partner at commodities investment firm Again Capital. “How high prices go would depend on the amount withheld. The Saudis have avoided using oil as a weapon, but, depending on how cornered Mohammed Bin Salman feels, anything is possible.”

“I sense that this episode will be his Waterloo, which will only add to the rising security premium in oil prices.”

As the market tightens with the loss of other major exporters, the stakes are only moving higher, he added. “A material loss of supply from Saudi Arabia could not be replaced.”

(Source: CNBC)

What’s behind the drop in Asian LNG prices?

Japan-Korea-Marker (JKM) prices for LNG to be delivered in November tanked on Friday by U.S. \$1.039 per million British thermal units (MMBtu) year-on-year, settling at \$9.925/MMBtu, accord to commodities data provider S&P Platts Global.

JKM is often still used as the benchmark price assessment for spot physical cargoes delivered ex-ship into Japan, South Korea, China and Taiwan. Japan, China and South Korea, for their part, are the largest global LNG importers, while the Asia-Pacific region makes up for 72 percent of all global LNG demand with that amount projected to increase to 75 percent amid increased Chinese procurement of the super-cooled fuel.

Prices headed south last week amid ample prompt supply against poor user-demand as well as falling global oil prices which have been facing headwinds over worries of faltering demand growth amid ongoing trade disputes and Middle Eastern geopolitical worries.

On Friday, the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA), in its closely watched monthly oil market report, lowered its oil demand growth forecasts for 2018 and 2019 by 110,000 barrels a day (b/d), to 1.3 million b/d and 1.4 million b/d. The agency said that despite fresh U.S. sanctions set to take effect on Iran’s energy sector on November 5, which have led to a faster-than-expected decline in crude exports from the Islamic Republic, global oil supply still remains robust. The IEA added that other OPEC members have also been ramping up oil production to fill the loss of Iranian barrels on global oil markets.

Crude prices ended Friday up slightly but still near two-week lows amid rising crude supply and global stock markets jitters. Though LNG spot prices are not linked to oil prices as are most long-term supply contracts they are often still influenced by them.

■ The Chinese factor

Moreover, the JKM dipped to its lowest point since August 1 and the first time it’s hit a single digit level since that date. Platts added that it sets a bearish tone for early winter trading.

However, as winter approaches prices should find more support and trend upward again, particularly as China continues to fill storage ahead of winter to avoid a repeat of last year’s fiasco when energy planners rushed to replace dirtier burning coal usage with cleaner burning natural gas ahead of schedule in much of northern China. The result was an embarrassing development for Beijing as critical gas shortages forced the closure of key industrial users and the re-direction of gas to residential end-users.

China Gas, one of the country’s main gas distributors, converted 1.2 million homes last year from coal to gas for heating, but as demand spiked at the onset of colder temperatures, shortages ensued and the utility could only heat around 400,000 homes, according to a South China Morning Post report. An emergency government order allowed owners of those homes to return to burning coal.

However, despite its shortfalls last winter, China Gas says it will be able to supply the 750,000 homes left without gas supply last year. It also plans to convert an additional 2 million homes this year, stating it will be able to supply gas to up to 600,000 of these end users. It has also converted a number of businesses, including the main plant of Tsingtao Brewery, which is the biggest client of China Gas in Qingdao.

“The gas shortage will not be as bad as last year, and the reported cases of freezing villagers will definitely not happen again this year,” Kevin Zhu Weiwei, executive director and managing vice-president of China Gas, said recently. (Source: oilprice.com)

Dismal oil prices could help break logjam in Canadian energy deals

The recent collapse in Canadian oil prices may have a silver lining. Analysts and investors this year have been pushing smaller Canadian energy companies to combine into larger entities that are more efficient, can better allocate capital among multiple plays, and are more attractive to long-term investors. Despite those calls, the value of Canadian energy deals has declined this year, in contrast to a surge south of the border.

However, the recent plunge in heavy Canadian crude to less than \$20 a barrel may spark a wave of consolidation, bringing buyers off the sidelines and causing “capitulation” among entrenched management teams of smaller producers, said Martin Pelletier, a portfolio manager at TriVest Wealth Counsel in Calgary.

“If I’ve got a good balance sheet, if I’m a well-run company with a process that works, why wouldn’t I look to take advantage of this environment?” Pelletier said in an interview. “There’s no better time than when management teams have been beaten up, investors have completely lost patience in the sector, oil prices are in the toilet and you’ve got a very large differential that may not be sustainable.”

Pelletier said his firm has moved 25 percent of its energy investments back into Canada — after temporarily abandoning the country — to buy into possible takeover candidates whose shares have been beaten into “deep value” territory by the widening differentials. He declined to disclose the size of the positions or any particular stocks he’s bought into.

■ Crude slide

Western Canada Select plunged below \$20 a barrel on Thursday, the lowest price since February 2016. That widened WCS’s discount to West Texas Intermediate to \$52.40 a barrel, the biggest discount on record in Bloomberg data back to 2008. WCS rebounded on Friday, narrowing the discount to \$48.50.

That slide has weighed on Canadian energy shares. The S&P/TSX Energy Index dropped 7.8 percent this year through Friday, compared with a 1.3 percent gain for the comparable U.S. index.

The value of acquisitions involving Canadian energy companies has plunged as well, falling 16 percent to \$55.8 billion in the first nine months of this year, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Excluding \$23.6 billion tied to Enbridge Inc.’s roll up of partnerships and other units, the total falls to \$32.2 billion, which would be a 51 percent drop from the same period last year. By contrast, the value of U.S. energy deals has surged 72 percent to \$300.2 billion.

■ ‘Getting killed’

Cheap Canadian oil and stocks already are luring buyers. The Lundin family, a Swedish commodities dynasty, was explicit about the role that weaker Canadian prices played in International Petroleum Corp.’s C\$600 million takeover of heavy oil producer BlackPearl Resources Inc. announced Wednesday.

“Right now, the Canadian oil patch is getting killed by the differential, which is enormous,” Lukas Lundin, IPC’s chairman, said in an interview. “But over time we think that’s going to change because there’s going to be some pipelines coming up. So if you survive this short-term pain, the long-term gain is very big.”

Still, despite the slumping oil prices, many acquisition targets may resist being taken over because they don’t want to sell with their valuations so depressed, said Rafi Tahmazian, who helps manage about C\$1 billion in investments at Canoe Financial in Calgary. Management teams also may fear for their ability to find work again or start up a new company in an inhospitable market, he said. (Source: Bloomberg)

European parliament: Spotlight on the UAE



By Eldar Mamedov

On October 4, the European Parliament adopted a resolution condemning the harassment, persecution, and detention of prominent human rights activist Ahmed Mansoor, who was sentenced to 10 years in prison in May 2018 in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The official statement of the UAE's Ministry of foreign affairs explained that Mansoor was detained on a charge of "spreading false and misleading information over the Internet, through agendas aimed at disseminating antipathy and sectarianism." MEPs concluded that such statements indicated that:

the sole reason for his detention, trial, and conviction was the content of his expression online, and the charges against him are based on alleged violations of the UAE's repressive 2012 Cyber-crime Law, which has allowed UAE authorities to silence human rights defenders and provided for long prison sentences and severe financial penalties for individuals who criticize the country's rulers.

Although the resolution focused on the case of Mansoor, it also addressed the broader context of the intensifying crackdown on any form of peaceful dissent in the UAE, particularly since 2011, as the UAE has sought to lead, together with its close ally Saudi Arabia, the counter-revolutionary reaction to the Arab Spring.

Given the use of technologically highly advanced tools in this repression, MEPs demanded an "EU-wide ban on the export, sale, update and maintenance of any form of security equipment to the UAE which can be or is used for internal repression, including internet surveillance technology." The resolution also called on the high representative for foreign policy and the member states to demand publicly Mansoor's release and to adopt EU-targeted sanctions against individuals related to serious human rights violations in UAE.

That same week, MEPs focused not only on the abuses perpetrated by the Emirati authorities inside the country but also outside its borders. In a resolution on Yemen adopted on the same day, they called for the first time for the introduction of an EU-wide arms embargo against the UAE for the role it plays in Yemen. Previously such calls were issued only with respect to Saudi Arabia.

The politics of these resolutions reflect the divide in the European Parliament when it comes to dealing with the authoritarian Persian Gulf regimes. As previously with condemnations of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain for their human rights violations, the resolution on the UAE is a product of the efforts of the progressive coalition of social democrats, liberals, Greens, and the far left.

The European People's Party (EPP), the main center-right group, and, to its right, the British and Polish-led European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR), participated in the cross-party negotiations but refused to endorse the resulting text for being too critical of the UAE. They tabled their own motions instead, with rather muted criticisms of the human rights abuses. The EPP, for example, failed even to condemn the arrest of Mansoor, merely saying it "pays attention" to his case. Instead, it praised the UAE as "an important and appreciated partner."

So, there were three motions tabled for the vote: the joint progressive one, the one authored by the EPP, and one by the ECR. In the days before the vote, the Emirati lobby intensified its efforts to derail the passage of the joint resolution. Once the lobby secured support of the right wing, it identified the centrist Alliance of Liberals and Democrats of Europe (ALDE) as potentially the weak flank of the progressive coalition and sought to chip away a sufficient number of its members to sink the resolution.

Such efforts, however, produced meager results, with only one liberal MEP revoking her initial support for the resolution. To counter these efforts, pro-human rights NGOs such as Front Line Defenders intensified their own campaign, targeting the fence-sitting MEPs. In the end, the resolution was adopted with 322 votes to 220 against and 56 abstentions.

The results of the roll-call vote showed that the progressive bloc voted in a consolidated fashion, with few exceptions. It was helped by some defections from those political groups that voted against the resolution, such as Italians from the populist Five Star Movement, Flemish nationalists, and assorted moderates from EPP, notably from Sweden, Netherlands, Belgium, and Portugal. The chamber's right wing, including the extreme right of the Europe of Nations and Freedom (ENF) group, which comprises the likes of the French National Front and Italy's Lega, overwhelmingly voted to reject the resolution.

That the European Parliament has been able to adopt a critical resolution with a clear majority, despite its internal divisions and relentless Emirati lobbying, sends an important political message both to Abu-Dhabi and to the EU's member states that the human rights situation in the UAE is under close scrutiny. This is relevant not only with respect to the residents of these countries, but also the EU's own citizens. The Emirati authorities put on trial a British PhD student Matthew Hedges after ludicrously accusing him of spying and holding him in degrading conditions in solitary confinement for five months. Hugging the repressive Persian Gulf regimes too closely, as is the preferred policy of both the United States and the EU, does not moderate their behavior. To the contrary, lack of accountability encourages further reckless behavior. It's time for the EU governments to heed the strong message of the European Parliament.

(Source: Lobelog.com)

If a prince murders a journalist, that's not a hiccup

In the end, Saudi Arabia played Kushner, Trump and his other American acolytes for suckers

By Nicholas Kristof

The reports about Jamal Khashoggi, the missing Saudi journalist and Washington Post contributor, whom I've known for more than 15 years, grow steadily more sickening.

Turkey claims to have audiotape of Saudi interrogators torturing Jamal and killing him in the Saudi Consulate. None of this is confirmed, and we still don't know exactly what happened; we all pray that Jamal will still reappear. But increasingly it seems that the crown prince, better known as MBS, orchestrated the torture, assassination and dismemberment of an American-based journalist using diplomatic premises in a NATO country.

That is monstrous, and it's compounded by the tepid response from Washington. President Trump is already rejecting the idea of responding to such a murder by cutting off weapons sales. Trump sounds as if he believes that the consequence of such an assassination should be a hiccup and then business as usual.

Frankly, it's a disgrace that Trump administration officials and American business tycoons enabled and applauded MBS as he imprisoned business executives, kidnapped Lebanon's prime minister, rashly created a crisis with Qatar, and went to war in Yemen to create what the United Nations calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis there. Some eight million Yemenis on the edge of starvation there don't share this bizarre view that MBS is a magnificent reformer.

Trump has expressed "great confidence" in MBS and said that he and King Salman "know exactly what they are doing." Jared Kushner wooed MBS and built a close relationship with him — communicating privately without involving State Department experts — in ways that certainly assisted MBS in his bid to consolidate power for himself.

The bipartisan cheers from Washington, Silicon Valley and Wall Street fed his recklessness. If he could be feted after kidnapping a Lebanese prime minister and slaughtering Yemeni children, why expect a fuss for murdering a mere journalist?

MBS knows how to push Americans' buttons, speaking about reform and playing us like a fiddle. His willingness to sound accepting of Israel may also be one reason Trump and so many Americans were willing to embrace MBS even as he was out of control at home.

In the end, MBS played Kushner, Trump and his other American acolytes for suckers. The White House boasted about \$110 billion in arms sales, but nothing close to that came through. Saudi Arabia backed away from Trump's Middle East peace deal. Financiers salivated over an initial public offering for Aramco, the state-owned oil company, but that keeps getting delayed.

The crackdown on corruption is an example of MBS's manipulation and hypocrisy. It sounded great, but MBS himself has purchased a \$300 million castle in France, and a \$500 million yacht — and he didn't buy them by scrimping on his government salary.

In fairness, he did allow women to drive. But he also imprisoned the women's rights activists who had been campaigning for the right to drive. Saudi Arabia even orchestrated



America can also make clear to the Saudi royal family that it should find a new crown prince. A mad prince who murders a journalist, kidnaps a prime minister and starves millions of children should never be celebrated at state dinners, but instead belongs in a prison cell.

the detention abroad of a women's rights activist, Loujain al-Hathloul, and her return in handcuffs. She turned 29 in a Saudi jail cell in July, and her marriage has ended. She, and not the prince who imprisons her, is the heroic reformer.

Just last month in London, unidentified Saudi men, one wearing an earpiece, attacked a Saudi dissident named Ghanem al-Dosari, who has mocked MBS as "the tubby teddy bear." As they punched Dosari, they cursed him for criticizing the Saudi royal family.

"MBS's message to Saudis is clear: I will shut you up no matter where you are and no matter what laws I have to break to do it," Sarah Leah Whitson of Human Rights Watch told me. The crown prince showed his sensitivity and unpredictability in August when Canada's foreign ministry tweeted concern about the jailing of Saudi women's rights activists. Saudi Arabia went nuts, canceling flights, telling 8,300 Saudi students to leave Canada, expelling the Canadian ambassador and withdrawing investments. All for a tweet.

Western companies should back out of MBS's Future Investment Initiative conference later this month. That includes you, Mastercard, McKinsey, Credit Suisse, Siemens, HSBC, BCG, EY, Bain and Deloitte, all listed on the conference website as partners of the event.

The president of the United States asks, 'What's an ally?'

In a wide-ranging interview with '60 Minutes,' Donald Trump revisited one of his favorite themes

By Uri Friedman

Donald Trump's tangles with America's traditional friends — on trade, military spending, handshaking — are well known. But on Sunday, in an interview with 60 Minutes, the American president distilled his revolutionary view of the country's alliances in Europe, Asia, and North America, which have formed the foundation for U.S. foreign policy for decades, to its essence. Asked by Lesley Stahl about the tariffs he's threatened to impose on allies such as Canada, Japan, and the European Union, Trump responded, "I mean, what's an ally?"

American leaders have long clashed with allies. Yet Trump is unique in casting these allies not as occasionally problematic partners, but as direct threats to the United States — threats that, in many cases, are actually more dangerous than America's customary enemies because they drain the country of its vitality while masquerading as a friend.

During his appearance on 60 Minutes, for example, Trump asserted, "Nobody treats us much worse than the European Union," which he claimed was created in the post-World War II period "to take advantage of us on trade," and he disputed the conventional wisdom in Washington that America's system of defense, diplomatic, and economic alliances has helped the United States project power and promote stability in the world.

"Are you willing to disrupt the Western alliance? ... It's kept the peace for 70 years," Stahl noted. "You don't know that," Trump shot back.

Trump has been making this argument about the fatally overlooked threat from supposed allies for three decades; it appears, in



American leaders have long clashed with allies. Yet Trump is unique in casting these allies not as occasionally problematic partners.

fact, to be among his core convictions. Perhaps the most vivid articulation of his perspective came in a 1990 Playboy interview in which he focused his ire on Japan, the rising power of that era: "Japan gets almost seventy percent of its oil from the Persian Gulf, relies on ships led back home by our destroyers, battleships, helicopters, frog men. Then the Japanese sail home, where they give the oil to fuel their factories so that they can knock the hell out of General Motors, Chrysler and Ford," Trump observed at the time. "Their openly screwing us is a disgrace. Why aren't they paying us? The Japanese cajole us, they bow to us,

they tell us how great we are and then they pick our pockets. We're losing hundreds of billions of dollars a year while they laugh at our stupidity. The Japanese have their great scientists making cars and VCRs and we have our great scientists making missiles so we can defend Japan."

This worldview helps explain why the president tends to describe America's security commitments to and free-trade deals with allies as graver dangers to the national interest.

And it helps explain the president's relatively restrained response so far to the disap-

pearance and suspected Saudi-government-sponsored murder of the Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Turkey. This isn't about shielding the kingdom simply because it's a long-standing U.S. ally in the Middle East. As Trump told Stahl on 60 Minutes, it's primarily about not putting at risk the billions of dollars' worth of weapons that Saudi Arabia has pledged to purchase from the United States and that the Saudis could buy from U.S. rivals such as China and Russia if the United States imposes sanctions over the Khashoggi case. "I don't wanna hurt jobs. I don't wanna lose an order like that," Trump acknowledged.

The president has repeatedly expressed revulsion at the apparent targeting of a journalist and vowed punishment if the kingdom's rulers are found to be behind the alleged hit. But he has also pointed out that Khashoggi, who lived in Virginia and wrote for The Washington Post, is not a U.S. citizen and did not vanish in "our country." "We don't like [what happened to Khashoggi] even a little bit. But as to whether or not we should stop \$110 billion from being spent in this country ... that would not be acceptable to me," Trump recently told reporters in the Oval Office. "What good does that do us?"

The president's world is one in which there are no friends and no enemies, just coldhearted, self-interested nations in the throes of zero-sum competition — either you have your pockets picked or you do the picking. And at the moment the United States is stuffing its pockets with cash from the House of Saud, whatever Saudi leaders may have done to forever silence a critic seeking to speak his mind.

(Source: The Atlantic)

Israeli occupation epicenter of global Human Rights abuses: UK-based analyst

TEHRAN (Tasnim) — A political commentator based in London slammed Israel's recent killings of Palestinians during weekly protests along the Gaza border, describing the Tel Aviv regime's occupation of Palestine as "the epicenter of global human rights abuses".

"Let's get one thing very clear, the Israeli occupation of Palestine is the epicenter of global human rights abuses," Riaz Karim said in an interview with the Tasnim News Agency.

"The deeper issue of injustices involved in the colonization and occupation of Palestine, and inhumane treatment of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza are the most important factors threatening world peace in general and they have been carefully kept 'out of sight' by creating smokescreens or subsequent wars as a way of diverting attention from the world's only surviving apartheid state," he said.

Dr. Riaz Karim holds a PhD from Harvard University. He is also the Director of Veritas Centre for Strategic Studies in London. He is also an analyst and commentator for a number of media outlets around the world.

Following is the full text of the interview:

■ As you know, seven Palestinians died Friday after being shot by Israeli soldiers along the security fence between Gaza and the occupied territories during weekly protests, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health. A total of 252 people were injured -- 154 of them by live fire, the ministry said. Since March 30, Israeli forces have killed about 200 Palestinians during the demonstrations dubbed the "Great March of Return" along the Gaza border. Most of the dead and the thousands wounded were unarmed civilians against whom Israel was using excessive force. What is your opinion about the developments and the Israeli regime's crimes?

A: According to a report published by the Abdullah Al-Hourani Centre for Studies, Israeli forces killed dozens of Palestinian protesters in Gaza, including seven children. Three were killed in the occupied West Bank, including 24-year-old Mohammad Al-Rimawi, who was beaten to death. The Israeli occupation forces also wounded 2,300 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, West Bank, and Jerusalem, including 2,014 in the Gaza Strip alone.

Occupation forces also demolished 16 houses and 18 facilities in the occupied West Bank and Jerusalem and handed over 27 demolition orders for Palestinian homes and facilities in the occupied West Bank and Jerusalem.

The Israeli Planning and Construction Committee has agreed to build 4,700 settlement units on 841 dunams (208 acres) of land belonging to the Palestinian village of Al-Walaja in the occupied northwest of Bethlehem. Meanwhile, the committee approved the construction of 75 new illegal settlement units in the occupied Beit Hanina neighborhood of Jerusalem.

These numbers reflect the atrocities that took place in September 2018 alone. It's not in recent times that Israel has started using excessive force, they have been doing it for the last 50 years. The difference is it has to come to light in recent times due to the explosion of social media and the speed at which information is being relayed around the world.

Having said that, Israel has been very successful in creating Hasbara ("explaining" in Hebrew); Israel and its supporters must march forth to the TV studios, the newsrooms, on the blogosphere and in Twitterverse, spreading the good word, attacking those who write against Israel, rebutting and rooting out inaccuracies and calumnies according to Zionist scripts. Israel has an army of amateurs known as the Hasbara Warriors let loose on campuses, call centers, websites and blogs, and all the Israel projects in order to sway opinions towards Zionist ideology, failing which your social media accounts will be hacked, Now the Saudis are following suit and doing the same thing.

The idea of Israel killing and kidnapping children with impunity is to get rid of an entire generation which has never seen or tasted freedom from occupation and thus it is a generation which will not be very forgiving to the atrocities being committed on their people.

This is the very reason why people like Ayelet Shaked have gone on record saying "They are all enemy combatants, and their blood shall be on all their heads. Now, this also includes the mothers of the martyrs, who send them to hell with flowers and kisses. They should follow their sons, nothing would be juster. They should go, as should the physical homes in which they raised the snakes. Otherwise, more little snakes will be raised there." Or Naftali Bennet who said "I have killed lots of Arabs in my life -- and there is no problem with that." Or Michael Ben Ari who went on record saying "There are no innocents in Gaza, mow them down and kill the Gazans without thought or mercy" and the Palestinians are the bad



Israel knows very well that what it is doing is tantamount to more than human rights abuses, it amounts to "Murder" call it a pariah state or an apartheid state. Fifty years after Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip, it controls these areas through repression, institutionalized discrimination, and systematic abuses of the Palestinian population's rights.

people? The world needs to wake up to these atrocities that are abrogating an entire people of their freedom.

■ Israel has rejected international calls for probes into recent deaths and insisted that its open-fire rules for Gaza will not change. Some Western states, particularly the U.S. and Britain, who call themselves champions of human rights, have supported the Tel Aviv regime's crimes against Palestinians. The UN has also failed to restore the rights of the people. What is your assessment?

A: Israel knows very well that what it is doing is tantamount to more than human rights abuses, it amounts to "Murder" call it a pariah state or an apartheid state. Fifty years after Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip, it controls these areas through repression, institutionalized discrimination, and systematic abuses of the Palestinian population's rights. They have conducted unlawful killings; forced displacements; abusive detention; constant closures or movement restrictions; and the development of illegal settlements, along with the accompanying discriminatory policies that disadvantage Palestinians.

Many of Israel's abusive practices were carried out in the name of security, whether it's a child imprisoned by a military court or shot unjustifiably, or a house demolished for lack of an elusive permit, or checkpoints where only settlers are allowed to pass, few Palestinians have escaped serious rights abuses during this 50-year occupation. Israel today maintains an entrenched system of institutionalized discrimination against Palestinians in the occupied territory this is repression that extends far beyond any security rationale.

What Israel is committing now are war crimes and crimes against humanity. Under the Geneva Convention, the definition of such crimes includes political, racist or religious persecution and/or other inhuman treatment. Under the Rome Statute, the basis for the establishment of the International Criminal Court in The Hague, "war crime" is a generic term that refers to those sorts of actions during an armed conflict.

Crimes against humanity, the convention says, are events that constitute part of a government policy (although the perpetrators don't necessarily have to identify with this policy), or involve a widespread practice of perpetrating atrocities by a government or an authority acting de facto on its behalf.

The IDF is committing war crimes and crimes against humanity, and most of the perpetrators are never called to account. In the colonialist reality in which the army operates these are routine practices against a population that is subject to dehumanization. The IDF sees its soldiers as belonging to a different "level of civilization." After all, the colonial officer cannot share the same universal moral values as the native who attacks him with a knife. Therefore, there is continued chatter here about "the most moral army in the world" -- the product of a dichotomy that Israel makes between what the international community has determined is a war crime and its struggle against a people that it sees as not subject to the ethical rules shared by civilized nations. The sad part is countries such as the USA and UK side with the Zionist ideology and at the same time tout themselves as beacons of democracy and justice!

There are now 4.75 million Palestinians living in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip together with 1.75 in Israel itself i.e. a total population of 6.5m indigenous people. However, there are now also 600,000 Israeli settlers illegally living in the Occupied Territories in defiance of UN Resolution 2334 and in clear defiance of international law.

Astonishingly, both the U.S. Trump administration and the UK Conservative government continue to arm and support the extremist Right-wing, Netanyahu Likud coalition that authorizes and subsidizes the illegal settlements in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights. This unholy alliance between Netanyahu, Donald Trump, and Theresa May flies in the face of international law, justice, human rights and the tenets of democracy, and in violation of the will of the United Nations General Assembly.

The question is, why support an anti-democratic regime that has maintained a blockade of essential goods against civilian families in Gaza, and which continues its illegal occupation of the Palestinian Territories in deliberate violation of the Geneva Conventions on Human Rights? South Africa, a country that has experienced apartheid first hand, has described Israel as the only apartheid state in the world, in remarks made at a session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva and they are not wrong in saying so!

■ In a recent speech to the UN General Assembly, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu once again accused Iran of developing a nuclear weapons program. He claimed he was revealing the existence of a "secret atomic warehouse" in Tehran but offered no proof of the claim or details. In response, Iranian officials dismissed the claim as a despicable lie and said such lies are aimed at covering up the Tel Aviv regime's heinous crimes against the defenseless people of Palestine. This is while, Israel is the only possessor of nuclear weapons in the Middle East, but its policy is to neither confirm nor deny that it has atomic bombs. The Tel Aviv regime is estimated to have 200 to 400 nuclear warheads in its arsenal. What do you think about Netanyahu's comments?

A: Israel wants the United States to fight a war with Iran on its behalf. That is what it all boils down to Bibi. Netanyahu has been absolutely obsessed with Iran from the get-go and his theatrics are getting worse as the days go by.

Netanyahu's statements clearly undermine the CIA and the IAEA, because both of them categorically state that there are no nuclear weapons in Iran's arsenal and the enrichment program has been suspended as per the terms of the JCPOA agreement. If what Netanyahu is saying was true, the CIA would have been all over it.

A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the United States is aware of the facility Netanyahu announced and described it as a "warehouse" used to store "records and archives" from Iran's nuclear program.

A second U.S. intelligence official called Netanyahu's comments "somewhat misleading, we have known about this facility for some time, and it's full of file cabinets and paper, not aluminum tubes for centrifuges.

Netanyahu's false claim that the facility held "massive amounts of equipment and material" appears to be completely unfounded. The IAEA doesn't need to inspect this site because there is no reason to think that there is anything there.

Netanyahu has made a habit of making preposterous claims about Iran's nuclear program for decades. He has been consistently lying about Iran's nuclear program, it is a real shame that his statements continue to be taken seriously in the West. He keeps trying to mislead the world into believing his alarm-ism about Iran's nuclear program by prevarication and theatrics, but his warnings have been so wrong for so long that the west should stop listening to his song and dance about Iran.

We live in a world where surveillance has become such a powerful tool that they are able to count the hair on a grasshopper's legs and yet the surprising part is that Netanyahu sees what nobody else does whereas the same people had blinders on when it came to the surveillance of Daesh terrorist truck convoys wreaking havoc in the Middle East, yet another proof that wars are being engineered and manufactured for profits.

Let's get one thing very clear, the Israeli occupation of Palestine is the epicenter of global human rights abuses. The deeper issue of injustices involved in the colonization and occupation of Palestine, and inhumane treatment of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza are the most important factors threatening world peace in general and they have been carefully kept 'out of sight' by creating smokescreens or subsequent wars as a way of diverting attention from the world's only surviving apartheid state. So it comes as no surprise that Bibi Netanyahu's announcement about the grand discovery of a Secret Atomic Warehouse comes at a time when Israel's atrocities have increased ten-fold towards the people of Palestine.

There are a lot of mysteries surrounding Israel's nuclear arsenal. That is partly due to the Israeli security establishment's unwritten rule of never speaking about the country's nuclear weapons program in public in order to preserve the principle of deterrence. But there are indeed some basic elements of Israel's nuclear program that are acknowledged by defense analysts around the world. In a fair world and a level playing field the state of Israel would have been forced to declare its nuclear arsenal and face the consequences of its human rights abuses and land grabbing but alas it is neither a fair world nor a level playing field.

Mohammad bin Salman resembles Trump: Adib-Moghaddam

➡ Europe, even the United States, may have double standards on many things, but when it comes to such obvious violations of human dignity, there will always be outrage. From the perspective of states it is one thing, to kill civilians in a combat situation - equally deplorable in my opinion of course - but something very different to send hit squads around to murder dissidents. Again, all the states of that region have a chequered and rather sorry history in this regard and none of them can claim a moral highground until they institute forms of national reconciliation or truth commissions.

■ Some believe that as Saudi Arabia did not lower the price of oil at request of Trump, the United States is putting pressure on Saudi Arabia through khashoggi subject. What is your opinion?

A: I don't think this is the case. As indicated, even the Trump administration can't be seen to cover up the death of a dissident. Moreover, there is also a global civil society that picks things like this up and disseminates news of human rights violations on a global scale, even when governments fail to follow their duty.



■ Some Western countries, including the United States, have threatened Saudi Arabia with sanctions. In contrast, Saudi Arabia has spoken of an appropriate response in the event of a sanction. How far do you think the opposition with Saudi Arabia will go?

A: Saudi Arabia is cornered even without sanctions and that has a lot to do with the wrong tactical moves that have been done. The war in Yemen is a total disaster, politically Saudi allies in Lebanon, Iraq and Syria are marginalised and the countries recent multibillion PR campaign to

promote Mohammad Bin Salman as a new great moderniser has backfired. There is a lesson to be learned for governments in the region and beyond: You can't really bend the truth. There IS a reality out there that can't be manipulated in total for political reasons. The pen will always be mightier than the sword, certainly in the longue duree of global history.

■ What effects will have the subject of Jamal khashoggi, on the future power of Mohammad bin Salman?

A: I never saw MBS as a prudent leader. His approach to politics is ad hoc, coarse and lacks diplomatic skill. In this regard, he resembles President Trump, with the major difference that the United States is a democracy where there is pluralistic oversight of the state by an active and vocal civil society. In Saudi Arabia and most other countries of that region, there is no such thing. Hence, people continue to die in such tragic circumstances. It is noteworthy, as the line of your questions shows, that it is the so called "west" that is seeking justice for this man and not the people of the region where he lived almost his whole life.

First Announcement



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National Iranian South Oilfields Company intends to purchase the following goods

ITEM	Description	Quantity.
01	ACCESSORIES FOR COILED TUBING LOGGING REEL 15/32 IN.(11.79MM),15000 FEET LONG	4 RL
02	ACCESSORIES FOR COILED TUBING LOGGING REEL 15/32 IN.(11.79MM),22000 FEET LONG	4 RL

Vendors who intend to participate in the A/M tender are requested to send their resume & tendency letter via fax/ mail to the following address not later than 14 days after the second announcement. The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide a bid bond of Euro 24,224 / Rls 1,180,000,000 in favor of NISOC. Iranian vendors shall submit their resume Acc. to forms Nos. 01, 02 and 03 which are available at www.shana.ir, www.nisoc.ir and <http://iets.mporg.ir>

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Permit No. 1397/3485

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good access to highway
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Apt in Zafarani
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Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

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2 Bdrs. to 4 Bdrs., furn & unfurn,
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diplomatic building
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Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

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Villa

Duplex Villa in Jordan
1200 sq.m built up, 3700 sq.m
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Antidepressants could stave off dementia

People with a diagnosis of dementia can also face depression. For this reason, they may end up taking antidepressant drugs. Now, a study has found that these drugs may be able to treat not just depression, but dementia itself.

A new study tests out the potential of antidepressants to tackle dementia mechanisms in the brain.

According to data cited by the Alzheimer's Association, 1 in 10 people aged 65 and over has Alzheimer's disease, a form of dementia, characterized chiefly by memory loss, disorientation, and having trouble with normal daily activities.

Moreover, people with Alzheimer's can often also develop mental health issues, especially depression.

For this reason, healthcare professionals may prescribe selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) — a class of antidepressants — to individuals with dementia.

Recently, researchers from the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada, have found a surprising mechanism at play, namely that SSRIs appear to inhibit the growth of dementia-specific aggregates in the brain.

"These are promising findings for people with Alzheimer's who are on SSRIs," notes Prof. Praveen Nekkar Rao, one of the current study's authors.

"These finding may not only highlight benefits for people with depression and Alzheimer's but can also provide insights to serve as a guide to future drug development to treat the disease," he suggests.

The research team reports the study's results in the journal ACS Chemical Neuroscience.

■ SSRIs vs. beta-amyloid plaques

A key mechanism of Alzheimer's in the brain is the build-up of toxic plaques, made up of sticky beta-amyloid proteins that over-accumulate.

Beta-amyloid plaques interfere with the signals that neurons (brain cells) transmit to one another. This blocks information from circulating in the brain and contributes to the progression of dementia.

Current treatments for Alzheimer's disease focus on managing its symptoms, but none, as yet, act on the underlying mechanism. Furthermore, developing new drugs for Alzheimer's can be very costly and time-consuming.

An existing drug used to treat liver disease may also help tackle Alzheimer's, researchers show.

That is why the University of Waterloo researchers wanted to find out if any existing drugs could be useful in treating dementia.

In the current study, Prof. Nekkar Rao and team looked at how SSRIs — specifically, fluvoxamine, fluoxetine, paroxetine, sertraline, and escitalopram — might affect beta-amyloid aggregation in the brain.

The researchers experimented with different types and quantities of SSRIs in the laboratory, aiming to establish which types and dosages might help people with dementia.



According to data cited by the Alzheimer's Association, 1 in 10 people aged 65 and over has Alzheimer's disease, a form of dementia, characterized chiefly by memory loss, disorientation, and having trouble with normal daily activities. Moreover, people with Alzheimer's can often also develop mental health issues, especially depression

Prof. Nekkar Rao and colleagues found that fluoxetine and paroxetine had the most promising effect, as they inhibited the growth of amyloid-beta plaque by 74.8 percent and 76 percent respectively.

The researchers hope that their current findings — using drugs that have already gained approval from the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) — may pave the way to a more effective, safe, and readily available treatment for Alzheimer's disease.

"Our results can also inform future drug development. The chemical structure of SSRIs presents a type of blueprint for how to develop a medication that will prevent beta-amyloid aggregation."

"We can explore developing new drugs based on that model to treat Alzheimer's," says Prof. Nekkar Rao.

Still, the scientists note that further research is needed to confirm these benefits before healthcare practitioners can recommend SSRIs for the treatment of dementia.

(Source: Medical News Today)

Smoggy air tied to higher odds for mouth cancers

Living in urban areas with heavy air pollution could increase your risk for mouth cancer, a new study says.

Middle-aged men living in 64 municipalities throughout Taiwan were more likely to develop oral cancer if they lived in places with high levels of air pollutants, the researchers report.

Those exposed to the highest levels of fine particulate matter in the air were 43 percent more likely to be diagnosed with mouth cancer, the study found.

The association held even after researchers controlled for other habits that could contribute to mouth cancer, such as smoking tobacco or chewing betel quid, a type of smokeless tobacco popular in Southeast Asia.

Heavy metals contained in particulate air pollution could be responsible for this risk, said senior researcher Yung-Po Liaw, a professor of public health at Chung Shan Medical University in Taichung City, Taiwan.

"The mechanism behind the association between air pollution and oral cancer is not very clear," Liaw said. "However, some metallic components of [fine particulate pollution] like lead, cadmium, arsenic, chromium and nickel, as well as organic compounds like polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons [PAHs], are believed to be carcinogenic."

The study only found an association and not a cause-and-effect link. Up to now, air pollution has been mainly associated with health problems related to the lungs and the heart, said Dr. Jacqueline Moline, of Northwell Health in Manhasset, N.Y.

"Given that many of the compounds that comprise overall fine particulate matter are carcinogens, this study raises important questions related to the health effects of pollution, beyond cardiac and respiratory effects," said Moline, vice president of occupational medicine, epidemiology and prevention.

Nearly 49,750 Americans are diagnosed with mouth cancer every year, and only about half will still be alive in five years, according to the Oral Cancer Foundation. The death rate associated with this cancer tends to be high because it is routinely diagnosed at a late stage.

"This important work could explain why there is an increase in the oral cancers among World Trade Center-exposed workers, who had a massive exposure to fine particulate matter," said Moline, who was not involved with the new study.

"Further research like this is critical to understanding the implications of air pollution, whether from industrial facilities, or the aftermath of a disaster such as the World Trade Center attacks," she added.

Fine-particle pollution -- the main cause of haze -- stems from chemicals emitted by power plants, industries and automobiles, as well as smoke from fires, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

For this study, researchers compared the health records of more than 482,000 men 40 and older with pollution data gathered from 66 air quality monitoring stations across Taiwan.

Smoking and frequent betel quid chewing were associated with increased risk, but so too were heavy levels of particulate pollution. (Source: WebMD)

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‘smart police’ initiative speeding up

TECHNOLOGY **TEHRAN** — The smart police project which has initiated years ago in Iran, is now being accelerated, General Saeid Montazer-al-Mahdi, the police spokesman, said on Monday, IRIB reported.



Iran's police spokesman General Saeid Montazer-al-Mahdi

“Smart police is not a concept for us, but it is a practical and insightful project,” he explained.

According to the guidelines declared by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the police should be kind, strong and at the service of citizens, he said.

Regarding the modernization of the societies in coming years, the traditional approach of police cannot be useful anymore, he said.

The police should have a smart approach toward the social issues, he said.

He also explained about the smart management and the smart managers, which are important for benefiting from smart system.

He named smart systems for issuing passport, driving license as well as smart traffic control camera and data centers as some steps taken to smart police project.

He said that the police plans to use Internet of Things (IoT) as well as negotiating with startups and support knowledge-based companies, which offer services and ideas to improve police services to people in near future, he added.

SOCIALLY SAFE

Safety tips for the Internet of Things

The internet of things (shortened to IOT) is a term commonly used to describe physical objects which are connected to the internet, but non-traditional in that they are not computers, tablets or mobile phones.

Rather than being such devices used for communication or traditional downloading, they are everyday objects which have embedded operating systems that use the internet to receive controls from and provide usage data to their owners or third parties such as their manufacturers or utilities providers.



For private individuals and small businesses, these objects include IP cameras used for security, surveillance and infant monitoring, central heating controllers, connected televisions / set top boxes, multi-room entertainment devices, ‘smart’ electrical goods (from refrigerators to bathroom scales to dimmable, programmable lighting) and increasingly, motor vehicles. All are increasingly using the internet to inform of status or performance, or increase efficiency, in real time. Many – connected to the internet via the home or business Wi-Fi router, enable their owners to monitor and manage some or all of their functions remotely from their mobile phone or other device.

■ The risks

However, because these objects are connected to the internet, just like computers and mobile devices they are vulnerable to unauthorized intrusion or hacking. But the risk is in fact greater as it simply does not occur to many people that these objects can be hacked.

It seems unlikely that anybody would want to hack into your refrigerator. However, there have been prolific cases of domestic and business IP CCTV cameras being hacked into with the intention of spying on their owners’ activities and families, in some cases with the resulting video footage streamed online for all to see. The risk is that you and your family members could be illicitly observed in your own home, and your

Whether it is your cameras or your other domestic or business items which are accessed, the privacy and confidentiality of your home, business, family, employees and customers is compromised.

■ Safeguarding your ‘things’

Every connected item you buy has to be configured to connect to your router, and most require a password, which in most cases is pre-set at the factory. We advise that you:

- Change the default password to one that is difficult to crack/guess but that you can remember. Keep your passwords to yourself.

- Ensure your Wi-Fi is secured to WPA2 level at all times and do not reveal the access code to unauthorized persons.

- Read and familiarize yourself with the manufacturer’s instructions, especially on connecting to the internet. If anything is not clear, contact the manufacturer.

(Source: getsafeonline.org)

Iran to expand international co-op in nanotech sphere

TECHNOLOGY **TEHRAN** — Several countries have participated in the 11th Nanotechnology Festival and Exhibition of Iran (Iran Nano 2018), through which Iran eyes to expand cooperation in the international arena, the secretary of the event said.

Saeid Sarkar said that forty delegations from different countries including Russia, Bolivia, Oman, Iraq and South Korea have attended the Iran Nano 2018, ISNA reported.

Iran plans to hold M.S. courses in the field of nanotechnology in Bolivia by dispatching experts, he added.

The Iran Nanotechnology Initiative Council (INIC) is to establish nano laboratory in the near future, the INIC director, Sarkar, said.

He also explained about The NanoCity project of Oman, which is developed in collaboration with INIC in coming years.

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

“The NanoCity will be a platform for production and exporting of nano products to Arab and African countries,” he explained.

About 40 Iranian knowledge-based companies will also be established at the NanoCity, he explained.

The INIC will also export some products in the field of nano education to Iraq, he announced.

Some negotiations have already been conducted with Malaysia during the exhibition, Sarkar announced.

According to the agreement some Iranian nano products in the field of environment are planned to be applicable in that country.

He also said that the INIC plans to have a joint project with Russia in the near future.

“Iran had exported 65 million dollars nano products during the past Iranian calendar year 1396 (ended March 20, 2018) and it is planned to increase to 110 million



A group of foreign visitors at the Iran Nano 2018, which was held from October 13 to 16 in Tehran

Iran had exported 65 million dollars nano products during the past Iranian calendar year 1396 (ended March 20, 2018) and it is planned to increase to 110 million dollars this year.

dollars this year,” he said.

Representatives from 40 countries including South Korea, Russia, Armenia, Oman, Malaysia and Indonesia attended the expo.

The festival, which was held from October

13 to 16, hosted 107 participants active in the field of nanotechnology including knowledge-based companies, university student, organizations and the private sector.

Iran has already boasts of 460 nanotechnol-

ogy products and over 180 knowledge-based companies nationwide, he said.

Organized annually by the INIC, it is the largest and most credible domestic exhibition in the field of nanotechnology.

Iranian firms to launch medicine production lines in Africa

1→ He added that his company would establish five production lines in the two countries in the near future.

“Three lines are allocated to syrup, capsule and ointment and two lines are for animal products,” he said.

For ten years, the raw material will be produced in Iran and dispatched to Kenya and Uganda, he said.

The raw material preparation for the product lines create job opportunities for Iranian farmers during this time, he explained.

Capsules are for pain, digestion, rejuvenation,

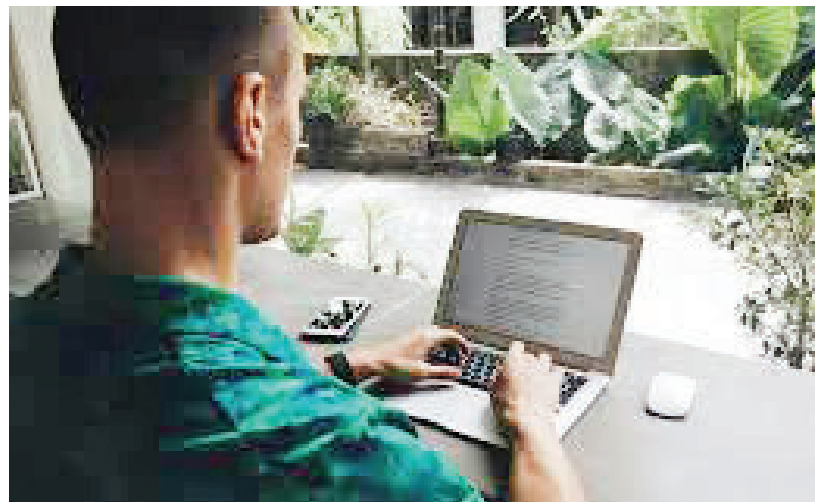
libido enhancement and immune boosting, he said.

Ointments for different treatment purposes including bed sore, diabetic ulcers, hemorrhoids, sunburns and spot correcting will be produced at the countries, he said.

He went on to say that the project will bring 20 to 30 million dollars for 150 to 200 Iranian farmers per year, he explained.

The lines will start production by the end of 2018, he added.

Why you must have IT skills as an entrepreneur



IT skills are something we all can use in our business or even life but when it comes to startups and entrepreneurship then it is almost a must have skill. In this article we will take a look at some reasons to back this notion and in the end you will know why you need it.

■ Social media

There is no denying that social media is something we all need in the business. It is a great and free platform to reach your audience and make them use the systems and products you offer or at least know about them.

If you have IT skills then you can use them in social media to make the most out of it. If you have it skills then you can make use of multiple platforms and make them work the way you want. It means that you don’t need programming and coding skills. This is the most basic use of IT skills and in the upcoming points you will see a little higher level of IT skills you must use.

Managing and maintaining your own IT systems

Using technology is not a strange thing and in any business you have to use computers and machines to work with current day customers. If you have

IT skills then you can assemble, upgrade and use your computer systems easily. But if you do not have these skills then you have to pay some experts to use it and then you have to wait for their required time to deliver what you need.

On the other hand working with software is another thing you need IT skills for it. You have to be able to install, manage and upgrade your software infrastructure and this can be hard for none IT people. So once again time and money will be preserved if you have IT skills.

■ Creating and management of website

Website is like your shop shelf, it is like a national ID which shows your identity and there is no surprise that it needs IT skills to work. Designing a website can be a simple thing for IT people but for people without IT skills, it can turn into a great hassle.

If you use your coding knowledge then you can change your website whenever you may need and that’s why we can be more flexible, agile and ready for any change. So if you have them then use it and if you don’t, then try to learn it. It’s never late so start today.

(Source: startupik.com)

Emergency landing astronauts to launch again in spring



The two International Space Station crew members will re-launch in 2019

Russian missions to the International Space Station on Soyuz rockets have been halted following the almost catastrophic failure.

The U.S. and Russian astronaut who were forced to make an emergency landing after a rocket failure will attempt to launch again next spring.

NASA astronaut Nick Hague and Russian cosmonaut Aleksey Ovchinin were forced to make an emergency landing shortly after their mission launched yesterday.

It was an unprecedented mishap for the Russian space program and a criminal investigation is now under way to determine whether safety regulations had been violated during construction.

Although Russia has decided to ground its own spaceflights until the issue is solved, NASA has stated that it will use the country’s Soyuz rocket again.

According to Dmitry Rogozin, the head of the Russian part of the International Space Station (ISS), the next flight to bring the astronauts to the ISS is being planned for the spring of next year.

The malfunction affected the booster rocket, which appeared to fail to separate properly. The pair are alive after they landed safely in Kazakhstan, about 12 miles east of the city of Dzhezkazgan.

NASA’s deputy chief astronaut, Reid Wiseman, said the crew “handled their procedures exactly as planned” and are “in great shape”. The craft was “about 50km in altitude when the abort occurred - just about on the boundaries of space”.

He added: “Russian forces were on the ground when the capsule touched down.

“The extraction happened not long after that.” ISS operations integration manager Kenny Todd described the incident as a “major anomaly” and said he had “every confidence our Russian colleagues will figure out what’s going on”.

He added that “technical issues don’t know political boundaries”.

A comparison of the booster separation in a normal Soyuz mission and Thursday’s by meteorologist Greg Dutra apparently shows increasing debris and a less-symmetrical jettison stage in the aborted mission.

All Russian manned space launches have been suspended after the incident, according to Russia’s RIA news agency.

Spaceflight historian Gunter Krebs noted on Twitter that the situation reminded him of another Soyuz rocket failure in 1972, when “an in-flight booster failure occurred and the crew was rescued after ballistic re-entry”.

(Source: news.sky.com)

Study reveals best use of wildflowers to benefit crops on farms

With bee pollinators in decline and pesky crop pests lowering yields, sustainable and organic farmers need environmentally friendly solutions.

One strategy is to border crops with wildflower plantings to attract pollinators and pest predators. But scientists have suggested that such plantings may only be effective when farms are surrounded by the right mix of natural habitat and agricultural land.

For the first time, a Cornell University study of strawberry crops on New York farms tested this theory and found that wildflower strips on farms added pollinators when the farm lay within a "Goldilocks zone," where 25 to 55 percent of the surrounding area contained natural lands. Outside this zone, flower plantings also drew more strawberry pests, while having no effect on wasps that kill those pests.

Still, more pollinators in this ideal landscape zone boosted strawberry yields overall. The analysis has implications for many types of state and federal programs in the United States and abroad that promote establishing pollinator habitats on farms.

■ Huge amounts of money
"We're investing huge amounts of money on these programs and right now it's not part of the policy to think about the landscape context of where these habitats are placed," said Heather Grab, Ph.D. '17, the paper's first author and a postdoctoral researcher in the lab of Katja Poveda, associate professor of entomology and a co-author of the study.

The paper, "Landscape Context Shifts the Balance of Costs and Benefits From Wildflower Border on Multiple Ecosystem Services," published Aug. 1 in Proceedings



of the Royal Society B, suggests targeting wildflower borders to farms with the right conditions and modifying wildflower plant species could maximize success.

The rationale behind the Goldilocks zone theory: wildflower strips surrounded by too much natural land would not add additional beneficial insects, because ample habitat would drown out a small strip of flowers. On the other hand, farms surrounded by other

farms are already low on natural habitat and beneficial insects, making a wildflower strip too small to attract more insects.

"It's in this zone in the middle, where there's enough natural habitat around, and there are beneficial insects there, and you can attract them [insects] from the natural habitat into the crop habitat to actually see a benefit in terms of crop production," Grab said.

In the study, the researchers planted

In the study, the researchers planted strawberry plots on 12 small New York state farms that represented a gradient of landscapes, from farms surrounded by natural habitat to farms next to agricultural lands.

strawberry plots on 12 small New York state farms that represented a gradient of landscapes, from farms surrounded by natural habitat to farms next to agricultural lands. Each farm had two strawberry plantings, one plot bordered by a wildflower strip, and another control plot on the other side of the farm, edged with mowed grass.

The researchers conducted surveys of pollinators, pests, wasps that parasitize pests, fruit yield and fruit damage over three years.

■ The annual yield
The tiny parasitizing wasps lay their eggs inside tarnished plant bug nymphs — a pest that costs New York strawberry growers 30 percent of their annual yield. When the eggs hatch, the larvae feed on the nymphs.

The wildflower strips were increasingly effective at attracting pollinators as each year passed. The result that "between 25 and 55 percent [surrounding natural landscapes] was the best range in terms of promoting bees," closely matched what the Goldilocks theory predicted, Grab said.

But when it came to pests, wildflowers outside the Goldilocks zone attracted the most pests and didn't add more wasps. "It suggests the parasitoids are not responding to wildflower strips at all," Grab said. More study is needed to understand why.

Analyses revealed many wildflower species attracted both pests and bees, but some species like fleabane (*Erigeron annuus*) lured the most pests and were least effective at drawing bees.

"If you wanted to optimize the wildflower patches, I would suggest we eliminate some of those from the list of recommended species in the plantings," Grab said.

(Source: *phys.org*)

Anomalously huge planets have been detected orbiting a bafflingly young star

A wee baby star at the tender age of just 2 million years has revealed itself to be quite the precocious little cosmic object.

Astronomers have discovered it has not one, but four planets in the protoplanetary disc of dust and gas that surrounds it - and they are all gargantuan, with the biggest coming in at 11 times the mass of Jupiter, and the smallest about the mass of Saturn.



Moreover, their orbits are incredibly distant. The outermost is more than 1,000 times the distance from the star than the innermost. That's the most extreme range of orbits ever observed in a planetary system; Pluto, for context, is only around 102 times the distance from the Sun as Mercury.

The star is named CI Tau, located around 500 light-years away in a star-forming region of the constellation Taurus, and it's been a bit of a brain teaser since 2016. That's when the first of its planets - the largest of the four, the super-Jupiter named CI Tau b - was discovered, orbiting really close to the star, completing a full orbit every 9 days.

Because it's so close, it's what is known as a "hot Jupiter," which is a type of planet that shouldn't exist according to current models of planetary formation. That's because gas giants can't form that close to their host star - gravity, radiation and stellar winds prevent the gas from coalescing. Yet exist they do, seen orbiting about 1 percent of stars.

One explanation for their existence is that hot Jupiters start to form much farther out, then migrate inwards - but the estimated timescale for this is hundreds of millions of years, not two.

Piqued by this strange system, astronomers used the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) to search CI Tau's protoplanetary disc for signs of other planets.

(Source: *sciencealert.com*)

Oldest evidence for animals found by researchers

Researchers at the University of California, Riverside, have found the oldest clue yet of animal life, dating back at least 100 million years before the famous Cambrian explosion of animal fossils.

The study, led by Gordon Love, a professor in UCR's Department of Earth Sciences, was published today in *Nature Ecology & Evolution*. The first author is Alex Zumberge, a doctoral student working in Love's research group.

Rather than searching for conventional body fossils, the researchers have been tracking molecular signs of animal life, called biomarkers, as far back as 660-635 million years ago during the Neoproterozoic Era. In ancient rocks and oils from Oman, Siberia, and India, they found a steroid compound produced only by sponges, which are among the earliest forms of animal life.

■ Early animals
"Molecular fossils are important for tracking early animals since the first sponges were probably very small, did not contain a skeleton, and did not leave a well-preserved or easily recognizable body fossil record," Zumberge said. "We have been looking for distinctive and stable biomarkers that indicate the existence of sponges and other early animals, rather than single-celled organisms that dominated the earth for billions of years before the dawn of complex, multicellular life."

The biomarker they identified, a steroid compound named 26-methylstigmastane (26-mes), has a unique structure that is currently only known to be synthesized by certain species of modern sponges called demosponges.

"This steroid biomarker is the first evidence that demosponges, and hence multicellular animals, were thriving in ancient seas at least as far back as 635 million years ago," Zumberge said.

The work builds from a 2009 study by Love's team, which reported the first compelling biomarker evidence for Neoproterozoic animals from a



different steroid biomarker, called 24-isopropylcholestane (24-ipc), from rocks in South Oman.

■ Biomarker evidence
However, the 24-ipc biomarker evidence proved controversial since 24-ipc steroids are not exclusively made by demosponges and can be found in a few modern algae. The finding of the additional and novel 26-mes ancient biomarker, which is unique to demosponges, adds extra confidence that both compounds are fossil biomolecules produced by demosponges on an ancient seafloor.

The study also provides important new constraints on the groups of modern demosponges capable of producing unique steroid structures, which leave a distinctive biomarker record. The researchers found that within modern demosponges, certain taxonomic groups preferentially produce 26-mes steroids while others produce 24-ipc steroids.

The "combined Neoproterozoic demosponge sterane record, showing 24-ipc and 26-mes steranes co-occurring in ancient rocks, is unlikely attributed to an isolated branch or extinct stem-group of demosponges," Love said. "Rather, the ability to make such unconventional steroids likely arose deep within the demosponge phylogenetic tree but now encompasses a wide coverage of modern demosponge groups."

(Source: *eurekalert.org*)

Plastic waste of ocean could impact human health and food security: new research

Each year, an estimated 18 billion pounds of plastic waste enters the world's ocean from coastal regions. That's about equivalent to five grocery bags of plastic trash piled up on every foot of coastline on the planet. All that plastic is causing harm to the creatures that live in the ocean, from coral reefs smothered in bags, to turtles gagging on straws, to whales and seabirds that starve because their bellies are so jammed with bits of plastic that there's no room for real food.

New research is emerging apace about the possible long-term impacts of tiny pieces of plastic on the marine food chain — raising fresh questions about how it might ultimately impact human health and food security.

About 40 percent of all plastic produced is used in packaging, and much of that is used only once and then discarded. Less than a fifth of all plastic is recycled, though many countries and businesses are trying innovative solutions to increase that number.

■ Package to plastic
National Geographic magazine devoted a special cover package to plastic in June 2018, and since then, the issue has received more attention from the media, public, and politicians the world over. Here, we track some of the developments around this important issue. We will update this article periodically as news develops.

President Trump called out other nations, including China and Japan, for "making our oceans into their landfills" when he signed legislation last week to improve efforts to clean up plastic trash from the world's oceans.

"As president, I will continue to do everything I can to stop other nations from making our oceans into their landfills," Trump said at a White House signing ceremony. "That's why I'm please — very pleased, I must say — to put my signature on this important legislation."

The law, passed with bipartisan support,



amends the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Debris Act and funds the program through 2022. The law fosters efforts to clean up plastic trash from the world's oceans and encourages federal trade negotiators to prod "leaders of nations responsible for the majority of marine debris" to improve management of waste that ends up in the oceans.

■ The bill's co-sponsors
Trump agreed with Democratic Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, one of the bill's co-sponsors that trade talks with the Philippines should include plastic waste. "We're okay with that," he said. "I understand. A lot comes from there."

Trump also blamed other unnamed countries that "abuse the oceans" and whose trash floats to the West Coast of the United States, "creating, he said, a "very unfair situation."

"It's incredible. It's incredible when you look at it," Trump said. "People don't realize it, but all the time we're being inundated by debris from other countries."

Comparatively, the beaches of the United States are among the world's cleanest. Kamilo Beach in Hawaii, which faces the Pacific gyre, where ocean trash collects, is the exception. But most of the world's plastic trash collects in coastal regions and on beaches in developing nations that lack adequate municipal waste collection systems.

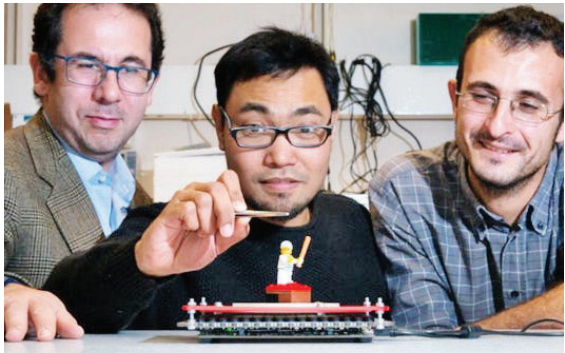
(Source: *nationalgeographic.com*)

SoundBender levitates objects by curving sound waves around obstacles

Levitation is often thought of as the realm of magicians or The Jetsons, but it is technically possible. That said, the tech seems to be moving pretty slowly. Now, researchers at the University of Sussex have developed SoundBender, a technology that bends sound waves around obstacles to acoustically levitate objects above them.

The SoundBender is a hybrid system, combining phased arrays of transducers (PATs) and acoustic metamaterials. PATs are made up of a series of small transducers that each give off pulses of ultrasound waves, which can be directed by changing the order they pulse in. These are arranged in a rectangular plate, above which sits a circular metamaterial designed to guide the sound waves up and around, creating a "hollow" space in the middle.

This combination allows small objects to hover above obstacles placed in the center of the sound field, which the team demonstrated by levitating a particle over the top of a Lego figure. The process could also be used to generate haptic feedback when someone places their hand in the beam, or to move non-solid objects — controlling a candle's



flame, for example, or moving clouds of particles to create visible "holograms."

■ Significant drawback
"This is a significant step forward for ultrasound levitation and overcomes a significant drawback that has been

hampering development in this field," says Gianluca Memoli, co-creator of SoundBender. "We have achieved incredibly dynamic and responsive control, so real-time adjustments are just one step away."

As for what you might one day be able to do with this technology, the team has a few ideas. SoundBender could be put to work in interactive museum displays, directing smells from diffusers to targeted spots or rooms, or sculpting shapes out of fire or fog. That last bit sounds like it begins to cross over with the team's previous work in fog screens like MisTable and MistForm.

"Following our breakthrough, the potential now is for a device that can bend around larger objects, potentially even as the obstacle is moving," says Sriram Subramanian, co-creator of SoundBender. "We are also pursuing how to make the device broadband so it can work for all frequencies of sound. This would allow, for instance, sending the music of a radio behind a corner or creating zones of silence in the middle of a dance floor."

(Source: *New Atlas*)

Good gorilla fathers are more reproductively successful: new study

Researchers at Northwestern University, the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology and the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund studied why wild male mountain gorillas in Rwanda spent so much time with the kids in their group even when they didn't know who the father was. Published in *Nature Scientific Reports* on Monday, the study showed how much more successful these male gorillas were at reproduction and challenged assumptions on paternal care in primates.

"About 15 years ago, I worked as a research assistant for the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, studying male gorilla behavior. I was very struck by how much time males and kids spent together, even in large groups where multiple males might be the father," Stacy Rosenbaum, a post-doctoral fellow at Northwestern University and lead author on the study, told *Newsweek*. "It looked very much like fathering in humans, which just isn't something that we really think of apes engaging in."

In a study she'd published a few years ago, Rosenbaum found that male gorillas weren't treating their own biological children any differently from other kids in their group, so she decided to figure out why they interacted so differently from many other mammals.

The new study found that the male gorillas who groomed and rested more with the young in the group had more reproductive opportunities with the female gorillas. Male gorillas who spent the most time with kids sired five times as many children as the gorillas who spent the least amount of time with kids. That could be because the females chose to mate with the male gorillas because of the interactions they had with the young.

"We actually first found this result more than three years ago. I was pretty skeptical that it was real, so we waited until we had more paternity results, and sure enough, not only was the relationship still there, it got stronger," Rosenbaum said.

(Source: *Newsweek*)

Mammals cannot evolve fast enough to escape current extinction crisis

The sixth mass extinction is underway, this time caused by humans. A team of researchers have calculated that species are dying out so quickly that nature's built-in defense mechanism, evolution, cannot keep up. If current conservation efforts are not improved, so many mammal species will become extinct during the next five decades that nature will need 3-5 million years to recover to current biodiversity levels. And that's a best-case scenario.

We humans are exterminating animal and plant species so quickly that nature's built-in defense mechanism, evolution, cannot keep up. An Aarhus-led research team calculated that if current conservation efforts are not improved, so many mammal species will become extinct during the next five decades that nature will need 3-5 million years to recover.

There have been five upheavals over the past 450 million years when the environment on our planet has changed so dramatically that the majority of Earth's plant and animal species became extinct. After each mass extinction, evolution has slowly filled in the gaps with new species.

The sixth mass extinction is happening now, but this time the extinctions are not being caused by natural disasters; they are the work of humans. A team of researchers from Aarhus University and the University of Gothenburg has calculated that the extinctions are moving too rapidly for evolution to keep up.

If mammals diversify at their normal rates, it will still take them 5-7 million years to restore biodiversity to its level before modern humans evolved, and 3-5 million years just to reach current biodiversity levels, according to the analysis, which was published recently in the scientific journal, *PNAS*.

However, not all species have the same significance. Some extinct animals, such as the Australian leopard-like marsupial lion *Thylacoleo*, or the strange South American *Macrauchenia* (imagine a lama with an elephant trunk) were evolutionary distinct lineages and had only few close relatives.

(Source: *Science Daily*)

Tehran municipality to make disabled-friendly bus stops

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — Tehran municipality has taken measures to make bus stops across the city more accessible for people with disabilities, councilor Majid Farahani said on Tuesday.

Last week in a note to Tehran Municipality the city council has urged the directorate for traffic and transport affairs to increase accessibility for the physically challenged people at the bus stops and the municipality saw to it, ISNA quoted Farahani as saying.



Moreover the municipality has put bus stop signs in Braille for people with vision loss, he added.

■ Making the city disability-friendly requires determination

The new law on the rights of persons with disabilities has been approved on December 27, 2017, by the Majlis [Iranian parliament]. According to Hossein Nahvinejad, deputy director for Iran's Welfare Organization rehabilitation affairs, the law will be fully implemented by the next Iranian calendar year starting on March 21, 2019.

One of the articles of the law aims to create an environment in which people with disability can have an equal chance of accessing social facilities as normal people. People with multiple disabilities can use public transportation—including buses and subway—free of charge.

Head of Iran's Welfare Organization Anoushirvan Mo-hseni-Bandpey said in mid-July that the government has allocated a total budget of 2 trillion rials (nearly \$47 million) for implementing the law on rights of persons with disabilities.

But Nahvinejad said on Monday that in order for the law to go into effect fully the Welfare Organization require a budget of 120 trillion rials (nearly \$2.8 billion).

Looking around the city it is clear the Tehran is not much disability-friendly and it's already too late. This doesn't solely concern one organization. There are number of responsible bodies which have to join hands in both allocating the necessary budget as well as developing necessary infrastructure to the city a better place for people who are already making a great effort to live a better life.

LEARN ENGLISH

You Missed The Deadline!

A: And so, I just wanted to check in with you and find out where we are with this project. As you know, you've missed a **fairly significant** deadline last week, and this will negatively **impact** the team's ability to **move forward** with the next stages of this project.

B: I know, I'm really sorry that I missed the deadline. But really, it wasn't my fault. You see, we had all of these **unexpected** technical problems at the **last minute**, and that I couldn't get into the database and extract the kind of information that I needed for the data analysis. You know, if the tech guys would have done their job and kept the CRM stable, then I wouldn't have missed my deadline.

A: Oh, come on! An excuse like that is **tantamount** to lying. You're **essentially** blaming the tech team for your time management issues, rather than accepting responsibility for the fact that you were **procrastinating** for the past two weeks.

B: No, I'm not trying to **pass the buck** here; I know that it was me who is **ultimately** responsible for getting this done. But the thing is, I could have finished on time if the system hadn't gone down. And you know, with everything I've got going on now, I can't afford to waste time dealing with technical problems. I've got a lot **on my plate** and there are only twenty-four hours in a day...

A: I'm not going to accept this excuse. You're using these small technical **glitches as a crutch** and trying to **rationalize** the fact that you've missed your deadline. Look, we have standards and I expect you to live up to those standards. No more **phony** excuses. If you're **in over your head**, you tell me. No more missed deadlines. Now, I want that data on my desk by nine am!

■ Key vocabulary

fairly significant: very important or very relevant

impact: to have an effect on something

move forward: continue, go on

unexpected: coming without warning

last minute: at the last moment

tantamount: same as, equivalent to

essentially: in essence, basically

procrastinate: leave tasks or duties for a later time

pass the buck: blame someone else, pass on the responsibility

ultimately: at last; in the end; eventually

on my plate: another way of saying I have many things to do

glitch: a small fault in a machine or piece of equipment, that stops it working

as a crutch: used to indicate you justify failure with excuses

rationalize: to explain bad behavior in a way that (falsely) makes it seem proper or better

phony: not true, fake or false

in over your head: too much to handle

■ Supplementary vocabulary

behind schedule: later than expected

procrastination: the action of delaying one's work

fabricate: to create an untrue story

justify: to give the reasons why you did something wrong

tardiness: the quality of being late often

(Source: irlanguage.com)

University of Tehran's Jihad Daneshgahi to manufacture subway equipment

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — Jihad Daneshgahi, the University of Tehran's academic center for education, culture and research, will domestically produce equipment for developing subways, deputy mayor of Tehran for traffic and transport affairs has said.

As per a memorandum of understanding signed between Jihad Daneshgahi and directorate for traffic and transport affairs at Tehran Municipality on Monday the research center will provide Tehran metro with home-grown equipment, YJC reported.

Mohsen Pourseyyed Aqaei explained that thankfully Iran is fully capable of manufacturing all subway equipment regarding rail equipment and construction materials.

Though some equipment still should be imported to the country and in order to develop rail transport "we" need to become self-sufficient in manufacturing such equipment and now with the newly signed memorandum of understanding Jihad Daneshgahi will produce them.

He further explained that the decision for domestic production of the equipment is not just because of the brutal sanctions imposed on Iran, but also to improve the national industry.

He also noted that Tehran should have 12 operational subway lines to provide the whole province with public transportation.

Currently there are five operational subways lines in the city of Tehran which deliver some 2.2 million rides on a daily basis, and lines 6 and 7 are yet to be completed and once they are fully operational they can increase the metro ridership to some 5 million a day.

As Pourseyyed Aqaei said after the completion of line 6 and 7 Tehran Municipality is planning on constructing a new subway line within the next 3 years.

According to a United Nations 2014 report, half of the world's population is now urban and this means that subways are vital for commuting in crowded cities, something that will become more and more important over time. They can also play a part in reducing outdoor air pollution in large



A view of a subway station of line 6 which is under construction

metropolises by helping to reduce motor-vehicle use.

Large amounts of breathable particles (particulate matter, or PM) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2), produced in part by industrial emissions and road traffic, are responsible for shortening the lifespans of city dwellers. Public transportation systems such as subways have thus seemed like a solution to minimize air pollution in the urban environment.

More than 95 percent of the world's population are

breathing dangerously polluted air, with those in developing countries at considerably greater risk. According to a large-scale study by the Health Effects Institute published by the Independent in mid-April air pollution was responsible for 6.1 million deaths in 2016, with ambient (outdoor) air pollution being the largest contributor, accounting for 4.1 million deaths. Global deaths attributed to ambient air pollution are estimated to have increased by 19.5 percent from 3.3 million in 1990.

Iran inaugurates school special for Afghan nationals

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — An elementary school opened in Varamin, southeastern Tehran, for Afghan nationals, Fars reported on Tuesday.

The school including 6 classes was opened during a ceremony with Education Minister Mohammad Bat'haei in attendance.

The school was built in a collective attempt between Iranian philanthropists and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the report added.

In an interview with the Tehran Times in early August deputy for international affairs department of the Ministry of Education Gholamreza Karimi said that Tehran province ranks first in the number of foreign national students as more than 100,000 students are studying at schools in Tehran.

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



are allowed to attend schools now.

There are some 450,000 foreign national students studying at schools in Iran of which 420,000 are Afghan nationals, Karimi said stating that, this increased the number of students by 110,000 and now all students who have a health permit from Ministry of Health and a statement from Interior Ministry can attend schools.

Karimi also explained that there are some schools which are solely allocated to Afghan national students and Afghan teachers also teach the students, however, they are required to implement the curriculum subjects taught at other Iranian schools, but in general most Afghan students are studying at schools along with Iranian students.

Climate change already negatively affecting mental health, study shows

Mental health has already been impacted by events linked to climate change, such as multi-year temperature warming, increased rainfall and extreme weather events, a new study shows.

Scientists analysed data from nearly two million US residents who reported the state of their mental health for 30 days with the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention between 2002 and 2012, coupling this with climate data.

On average, months with temperatures above 30C or more than 25 days of rainfall saw increased reports of stress, depression and "problems with emotions", scientists said in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Nick Obradovich, the study's co-author and Massachusetts Institute of Technology research scientist, said: "It's really important to consider this as yet another piece in the puzzle of understanding how climate change will influence society, and the conclusion here is that it's not likely to be good."

The sheer scale of the study adds important weight to the growing body of evidence that shows exposure to climate change-related heat worsens mental health and increases suicide rates.

Alarmingly, Dr Obradovich's team also found that women and those on low incomes were 60 per cent more likely to report mental health problems as a result of weather than the highest earners.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ع

Traffic-related deaths up 2.5% yr/yr

Some 5,497 lost their lives in traffic-related accidents over the first 4 months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22) which indicates a 2.5-percent increase compared to the same period last year, Fars reported on Sunday.

Data, published by Iran's forensics organization shows that about 4,281 of the individuals are men and the rest are women.

Fars province with 483 deaths, Tehran province with 399 deaths, and Khorasan Razavi province with 377 deaths are the areas with the highest number of fatalities caused in road crashes.

PREFIX/SUFFIX

“mon(o)-”

■ **Meaning:** one, single

■ **For example:** Ireland opened the first commercial **monorail** in 1888.

PHRASAL VERB

Gross somebody out

■ **Meaning:** to make someone wish they had not seen or been told about something because it is so unpleasant [= disgust]

■ **For example:** His dirty fingernails really gross me out.

IDIOM

Have sticky fingers

■ **Explanation:** have a tendency or inclination to steal things

■ **For example:** I think the new cashier we hired has sticky fingers, because money has begun disappearing from the till on the days that he's working.

رشد ۲,۵ درصدی مرگ های حوادث رانندگی نسبت به سال گذشته

به گزارش خبرگزاری فارس در ۴ ماه نخست امسال ۵ هزار و ۴۹۷ نفر در حوادث رانندگی کشور جان خود را از دست دادند که نسبت به مدت مشابه سال گذشته ۲,۵ درصد رشد داشته است.

پزشکی قانونی کشور اعلام کرد: بر اساس آمارها، ۴ هزار و ۲۸۱ نفر از تلفات تصادفات ۴ ماهه نخست امسال را مردان و یک هزار و ۲۱۶ نفر را نیز زنان تشکیل داده‌اند.

استان‌های دارای بیشترین تلفات حوادث رانندگی به ترتیب، فارس با ۴۸۳، تهران با ۳۹۹ و خراسان رضوی با ۳۷۷ کشته بودند.

Syria Idlib deal going ahead despite missed deadline: Kremlin

1→ On Tuesday, progovernment daily Al-Watan said HTS's refusal to withdraw "gave Ankara a powerful slap."

"It puts the agreement on the edge of the abyss and provides the justification for the Syrian army and Russian air force to start a military operation to oust [HTS] from the area," it wrote.

It said Ankara had asked "Moscow to give it more time to influence" HTS members who were resisting the deal.

That came a day after Syria's top diplomat said it was too soon to say whether the deal had been fulfilled.

"We have to wait for the Russian reaction. Russia is monitoring and following the situation," Foreign Minister Walid Mualllem told reporters in Damascus.

But he said Idlib would inevitably return to government control, implying that a military assault was still on the table.

"We have to wait, but at the same time our troops are still ready around Idlib," Mualllem said.

After a string of battlefield wins this year, troops loyal to President Bashar Assad hold about two-thirds of Syria.



The Idlib region, home to about 3 million people, is the country's last major opposition bastion and has been in Assad's sights for months.

World powers and aid agencies had

expressed relief after the buffer zone deal, hoping that it would help avert a military assault that could have caused a humanitarian catastrophe.

Nawar Oliver, an analyst at Turkey-based

Omran Center, said the deal may still reach fruition.

"Although the time frame has nominally expired, there are continuing efforts to implement the deal," he told AFP.

Oliver said all stakeholders in the deal, even local actors, realized that the timeframe granted in the public agreement would not be enough.

"That's why it needs more time," he said.

One possible hurdle is the internal divide within HTS over the deal.

According to a brief this month by the Omran Center, HTS chief Abu Mohammad al-Jolani appears supportive of the deal and of aligning with the Turkish-backed National Liberation Front, the second-most-powerful group in Idlib.

A second faction, led by an Egyptian commander, was leaning toward rejecting the deal and any partnership with the NLF.

The terms of the accord mention only "radical fighters," without specifying HTS, and give no details on monitoring mechanisms, besides Turkish and Russian patrols.

(Source: Reuters)

Trip to cover up truth

By staff & agencies

U.S. top diplomat Mike Pompeo met Tuesday with Saudi King Salman and the crown prince seeking to defuse a crisis over missing journalist Jamal Khashoggi, with American officials saying Riyadh had agreed the need for a "thorough" probe.

The urgent talks came after U.S. President Donald Trump dispatched Pompeo to the Persian Gulf kingdom amid a growing international outcry about Khashoggi's disappearance.

Khashoggi has not been seen since he walked into the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on Oct. 2 to sort out marriage paperwork.

"Rogue killers" could be to blame, Trump said after telephone talks on Monday with the king.

After first meeting with the king, Pompeo held separate talks with Minister of Foreign Affairs Adel al-Jubeir and powerful Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman.

"We are strong and old allies. We face our challenges together," the crown prince said as he warmly welcomed Pompeo at the palace. The two men were also due to have dinner together later Tuesday.

"The secretary and the foreign minister agreed on the importance of a thorough, transparent, and timely investigation," State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said later.

Turkish police Monday searched the consulate for the first time since the disappearance of Khashoggi, a Saudi national and U.S. resident who had become increasingly critical of Prince Mohammad.

Turkish officials have said they believe he was killed – a claim Saudi Arabia has denied – with the controversy dealing a huge blow to the prince's efforts to showcase a reform drive and burnish the kingdom's image.

U.S. media reported Monday that the oil-rich kingdom is considering an admission that Khashoggi died after an interrogation that went wrong during an intended abduction.

The UN human rights chief called Tuesday for the lifting of the immunity of officials who might be involved in Khashoggi's disappearance.

Due to the seriousness of the case "I believe the inviolability or immunity of the relevant premises and officials... should be waived immediately," Michelle Bachelet said in a statement.

The investigators, who searched the premises for eight hours into Tuesday morning, took samples with them, including soil from the consulate garden, one official at the scene said.

Istanbul police are now also planning to search the nearby consul's residence, a diplomatic source said.

Trump's comments came after a telephone conversation with King Salman, father of the crown prince, the first such talks since the crisis erupted.

"Just spoke to the King of Saudi Arabia who denies any knowledge of whatever may have happened 'to our Saudi Arabian citizen'," Trump tweeted.

"The denial was very, very strong," Trump told reporters. "It sounded to me like maybe these could have been rogue killers. Who knows?"

But CNN cited two sources as saying the Saudis are preparing a report that his death resulted from a botched interrogation, while the Wall Street Journal said the kingdom was weighing whether to say that rogue operatives killed Khashoggi by mistake.

After his crunch talks in Riyadh Tuesday, Pompeo was expected in Turkey on Wednesday to meet Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, the state-run Anadolu news agency said.

Pressure mounts on Australia over child refugees held in Nauru

Hundreds of people marched to the Australian parliament on Tuesday to demand the government suspend its policy of sending asylum seekers and refugees to remote Pacific territories, and bring children already detained on Manus Island to Australia.

About 500 protesters representing 30 different groups from around rural Australia, including high school students, took part in the rally, amid mounting concern over a five-year-old offshore detention policy that requires any asylum seekers who attempt to get to Australia by boat to be held offshore and banned from ever settling in Australia itself.

The march was organized to "focus attention on the plight of asylum seekers and refugees who remain on Nauru and Manus Island, and particularly the need to provide homes and safety for children and their families either in Australia, or in another country that would welcome them", Rural Australians for Refugees said in a statement.

On Monday, nearly 6,000 doctors delivered a letter calling on Prime Minister Scott Morrison to remove children from detention given the serious physical and mental health risks they face.

"The medical profession is demanding children and families be moved from Nauru," the Australian Medical Association tweeted on Tuesday. "For thousands of doctors to be motivated to take this course of action is testament to the severity and

the urgency of this issue."

Three representatives from the ruling Liberal Party also broke ranks to call for the children to be brought to Australia.

About 1,100 people are currently being held on Nauru including 102 children, according to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. Single men are detained on nearby Manus Island.

■ Looming by-election

The fate of the families threatens to become a major political problem for Morrison's government, which has a parliamentary majority of just a single seat and is facing a by-election this weekend in Sydney.

The constituency of Wentworth, which includes the beachfront suburb Bondi and some of the city's wealthiest neighbourhoods, was previously held by Malcolm Turnbull who was deposed by Morrison in late August.

"The issue is front and centre of the by-election campaign," said Al Jazeera correspondent Andrew Thomas.

In a close race, the Liberal Party is defending a winning margin of 17.7 percent, which was supported by Turnbull's personal popularity. The electorate is seen as one of the most progressive in Sydney.

Doctors Without Borders (known by its French initials, MSF), which worked on Nauru for nearly a year until it was forced to leave by the island's government last week, said the mental health situation was "beyond desperate". The medical group was given just 24 hours to leave.



"The mental health situation of the refugees indefinitely held on Nauru is devastating," Dr Beth O'Connor, MSF psychiatrist, said in a statement last week. "Over the past 11 months on Nauru, I have seen an alarming number of suicide attempts and incidents of self-harm among the refugee and asylum-seeker men, women and children we treat."

Some children were suffering from traumatic withdrawal syndrome and were unable to eat, drink or even walk to the toilet, O'Connor added.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has also called for the evacuation of the offshore camps given the deteriorating health of those confined there, stressing that Australia has a responsibility to those that

seek its protection.

■ 'OK to be white'

Meanwhile, Morrison's government is also facing ridicule after some of its own members backed a parliamentary motion declaring "it is OK to be white".

Officials blamed an "administrative process failure" after it emerged on Tuesday that the attorney general had issued instructions to Liberal members to back the motion, drafted by right-wing populist Pauline Hanson and railing against what it described as "the deplorable rise of anti-white racism".

The motion was defeated 31-28, with several government ministers voting in favour, including its top official for indigenous affairs.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

"All airstrikes are carried out by the army outside residential areas," Rifai said Tuesday.

Journalists are barred from going to areas targeted in the Sinai 2018 campaign, although the army organized a rare visit to the North Sinai capital of El-Arish in July.

A countrywide state of emergency was imposed in April last year, following two suicide bombings at churches that were claimed by Daesh.

On Tuesday, President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi extended the measure by a further three months.

(Source: AFP)

Merkel's projection regarding nationalist movements in Europe

1→ In this regard, those like Angela Merkel and Macron don't actually feel any responsibility.



Undoubtedly, if this process doesn't stop, the tendency to nationalism will spread across the Europe, and especially in the Eurozone. European officials are now deeply concerned about next year's parliamentary elections in Europe. If this time the extreme right parties can raise their total votes and thus gain more seats in the European Parliament, there will be a critical situation in the Green Continent.

The fact is that far-right extremists in countries such as France, Sweden, Austria and Germany have been able to increase their votes, and while strengthening their position in their country's political equations, they have many supporters in the social atmosphere.

Finally, the German Chancellor remarks, shouldn't be regarded as a kind of self-criticism, but rather a new projection of the European leaders. Merkel, Macron and other European officials who are now warning about the emergence of nationalism in Europe should accept their role in this equation.

This is the main prerequisite for reforming the foundations in Europe. If they refuse to feel responsible, the collapse of the European Union will be inevitable, an issue that Merkel and Macron are well aware of.

Macron reshuffles cabinet, hoping to draw line under turbulent few months

French President Emmanuel Macron reshuffled his government on Tuesday, naming the head of his ruling party to the sensitive post of interior minister and maintaining a left-right balance as he builds a broad base to fight the 2019 European elections.

Macron's immediate aim is to steady an administration after a series of resignations that have challenged his authority. He also wants to inject new energy into his social and economic reform agenda and reverse a slump in his popularity.



France's leader had been expected to announce the revamp last week before postponing it, a delay he said was to ensure the right decisions were made but which opponents said raised questions about the depth of experience in his party.

A Macron aide said there would be no shift in policy direction. "We have at the same time incoming names with a reputation in their areas of expertise, which will strengthen the government's efficiency, and others who have a broader profile," the official said.

Macron and his prime minister, Edouard Philippe, had been weighing the reshuffle for two weeks following the resignation of interior minister Gerard Collomb, one of Macron's earliest backers. Collomb's departure followed two other ministerial resignations just weeks earlier.

In the end, the appointment of Christophe Castaner as interior minister, moving from the position of head of Macron's political party, was the only high profile change.

Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire, who has spearheaded Macron's euro zone reform push, and Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian retained their posts.

Nonetheless, other lower profile positions underlined Macron's ambitions to strengthen the broad base of his Republique En Marche (REM/LRM/LREM/LaREM/ The Republic on the move!/En Marche!/Forward!/Onward!/Working!/On The Move!) party as he prepares to go head-to-head with France's far-right in next May's European elections.

Didier Guillaume, a former Socialist Party chief whip, moves into the job of agriculture minister. Franck Riester, a lawmaker belonging to a group which splintered from the center-right Les Republicains (The Republicans) after Macron blew apart the traditional mainstream parties last year, will head the culture ministry.

Macron's popularity has sunk in recent months as voter frustration has welled up over a leader many see as arrogant and the architect of policies that favor the affluent, including the scrapping of a wealth levy and a cut to corporate taxes.

The cabinet resignations and a scandal surrounding the violent conduct of a presidential bodyguard have distracted Macron, a 40-year-old former investment banker, from his push to overhaul the pension and unemployment benefit systems.

Opponents on the left and right have sought to depict Macron as a leader with diminished star power now paying the price for centralizing authority and decision-making in the hands of a small inner circle, but he faces no immediate threat.

His parliamentary party holds a commanding majority in the National Assembly, his presidential term runs until 2022, and the opposition is divided.

Analysts, however, said a reshuffle alone may not be enough to draw a line under the challenging few months.

"Past presidential terms have shown that there has been no tangible benefit from cabinet reshuffles," said Jerome Fourquet of pollster IFOP. "There is good reason to believe this will be the same."

(Source: Reuters)

Mourinho charged by FA over ‘abusive’ comments

Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho has been charged over comments he made in Portuguese to a television camera after his side's win over Newcastle.

It is claimed Mourinho used “abusive, insulting or improper language” after the 3-2 comeback victory at Old Trafford on 6 October.

The Football Association used a lip reader and the 55-year-old's remarks were interpreted as offensive.

Mourinho had been under pressure amid reports he would be sacked.

His side had been 2-0 down to winless Newcastle at half-time of the Premier League game, but they scored three goals in the final 20 minutes to turn the match around.

After the game, Mourinho said he could “cope with the man-hunt” against him.

A 90th-minute winner from Alexis Sanchez ended a run of four games without a win, United have recorded their worst league start for 29 years and are eighth in the table.

Mourinho has until 18:00 BST on Friday to respond to the charge.

(Source: BBC)

Bolt offered contract with Maltese club - report

Olympic champion sprinter Usain Bolt has been offered a two-year contract to play soccer with a Maltese club, ESPN reported, triggering speculation he may be set to walk out from his trial at Australian team Central Coast Mariners.

Maltese champions Valletta FC said they hoped to sign the eight-times Olympic gold medallist in time for him to participate in their Maltese Super Cup match on Dec. 13 against Balzan.

“A champion is always welcome and at Valletta FC we believe nothing is impossible,” ESPN quoted Valletta managing director and CEO Ghasston Slimen as saying.

Bolt's agent in Australia, Tony Rallis, had also confirmed the approach, ESPN said.

Bolt scored two goals for the Mariners in a pre-season trial match on Friday but has not been offered a professional contract by the A-League team.

A Mariners spokesman said there was no change in Bolt's position at the club, describing reports that he might quit his trial as “rumors”.

The 32-year-old Jamaican has repeatedly expressed his hope to win a contract ahead of the Mariners' 2018-19 A-League campaign which kicks off this weekend.

Most Australian soccer pundits said Bolt had shown signs of improvement and better fitness in the Mariners' 4-0 win over an amateur local side on Friday but felt he was some way off the level of being able to compete in the Australian top flight.

(Source: Reuters)

German regulator probes Sky's Champions League streaming deal with DAZN

Germany's antitrust regulator said on Tuesday it was investigating whether Sky Deutschland's streaming deal with DAZN to air Champions League soccer matches was in accordance with competition law.

Sky Deutschland is owned by Sky Plc, which has just been taken over by Comcast in a \$40 billion deal. DAZN, part of tycoon Len Blavatnik's Perform Group, is positioning itself as the ‘Netflix of sport’.

The Federal Cartel Office said in a statement announcing the investigation that Sky had acquired rights from European soccer governing body UEFA to broadcast all Champions League games from 2018-21.

It then reached an agreement with DAZN to share the slate of matches, meaning that from this season no Champions League soccer can be watched on terrestrial TV in Germany.

“We are investigating whether and in what form the cooperation between the two companies was agreed, and whether it has served or hindered the interests of consumers,” cartel office President Andreas Mundt said in a statement.

In that context the cartel office also said that Sky, as Germany's leading Pay-TV operator, is subject to particular restrictions in cooperating with competitors, and that the deal with Perform may serve to strengthen its market position.

Sky Deutschland said it had been informed by the cartel office about the investigation and would cooperate fully, but declined to comment further.

No comment was immediately available from Perform Group, whose DAZN sports streaming service operates in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Japan and Canada.

(Source: Eurosport)

Ukrainian twins banned for match fixing

Ukrainian twins Gleb and Vadim Alekseenko have been banned from tennis for life and each fined \$250,000 (£190,018) for match fixing.

The pair were found guilty of multiple match-fixing offences at a number of ITF Futures tournaments between June 2015 and January 2016.

They also arranged for another person to bet on matches which they contrived the result.

The case was based on an investigation by the Tennis Integrity Unit.

The match-fixing offences occurred at tournaments in Romania, Russia, Germany and Turkey on the Futures tour, tennis' third-tier of tournaments.

Vadim Alekseenko is 1,113th in the ATP rankings, having reached a career-high 497th in June 2014.

Gleb Alekseenko is ranked 1,724th, with a career-high of 609 in May 2011.

(Source: Goal)

Manchester United fans divided on potential takeover bid from Saudi Crown Prince

Manchester United fans are divided over Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman's apparent interest in a takeover bid for the club.

The Saudi royal family, worth an estimated £850billion, are understood to be keen on buying United from the Glazer family, who took over in 2005, to rival Abu Dhabi's ownership of Manchester City.

The move would be hugely controversial amid international outrage over Saudi Arabia's role in the apparent murder of a dissident journalist.

However, investors warmed to the news of a potential takeover, with Manchester United PLC's share price rising by more than five per cent on Monday.

Speculation was fuelled after it emerged that United co-owner Avram Glazer is due to fly to Riyadh for an investment conference next week, although a number of prominent business leaders have already pulled out over Saudi Arabia's alleged involvement in the disappearance of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

And United supporters have had their say on social media, with opinions certainly divided. Some are for the takeover, believed to be worth between £3bn and £4bn, advocating that ousting the Glazer family would be a positive step and could possibly provide a means for the club to clear its debt.

‘We might actually get owners who want us to be the best in the world and not just a cash cow,’ one Twitter user said.

‘Why [are] people complaining?,’ another added. ‘It would only be good for the club. If they wanna [sic] pay £3-4bn for the club they will pay £6-700m to clear the debts!’

‘Glazers just want to skim off the top. They don't care about the club!’



Some, however, have taken umbrage with the appalling human rights record of Saudi Arabia's rulers.

‘From a team investment standpoint it would be good,’ one user began on Reddit. ‘From any moral, respectable, club, or literally any other standpoint this would be an absolute disaster.’

Concussion & vision problems - Ireland's Latimer counts cost of 15-second loss



Irish boxer Jordan Latimer says he has concussion, ear damage, facial injuries and vision problems after a bout which lasted around 15 seconds.

Latimer, 20, took on Scotland's 2018 Commonwealth Games bronze medallist John Docherty in Newcastle on Saturday.

But Docherty - making his professional debut - put Latimer down after eight seconds before the towel was thrown in.

Manchester-based Latimer says he has “no recollection” of where he was and that he still has “double vision”.

‘I've got a really bad concussion,’ said Latimer, who claims he took the Metro Arena bout at four days' notice.

“Done my ear drum in. Think a slight fracture in my cheek bone. Damaged nose. My eye sight is still double vision. And my balance isn't great still. CT scan done.

“The risk didn't pay off. I didn't quit, I was knocked out on my feet. I was asking where I was as I have no recollection of

where I was or any memory of fight.”

Latimer's corner threw the towel in 15 seconds into the bout as he attempted to get back to his feet after taking a flurry of blows, including a heavy left uppercut.

In stark contrast to his opponent's plight, 20-year-old Docherty has already pointed to a “dream come true” after his promoter Eddie Hearn told the super-middleweight he will get to box in America in November.

The 2018 Gold Coast medallist wished Latimer a “speedy recovery”. Sligo-born Latimer meanwhile - who now has two wins and a loss to his name - says he lived a “dream” in competing on a televised show.

But after stressing the need to focus on recovering, he said he will no longer take bouts at short notice.

“I won't put my family through that again,” he added.

(Source: BBC)

Race for world No. 1 heats up after Novak Djokovic's victory in Shanghai



Novak Djokovic extended his incredible form at the Shanghai Masters, winning a record fourth title Sunday to set his sights on the world No. 1 spot.

The Serb defeated 21-year-old Berna Coric 6-3 6-4 to claim his 32nd Masters 1000 title, now leaving him just one behind Rafael Nadal's all-time record.

Victory means Djokovic's winning streak now stands at 18 matches as he closes to just 35 points behind world leader Nadal in the race to be No. 1 after the season-ending ATP Finals in London.

“It's phenomenal, I'm very proud of it,” Djokovic told the ATP website. “Obviously the last three, four months have been terrific for me.

“Not many holes in the game in general, especially this week. Everything worked perfectly.” The 31-year-old Djokovic didn't drop serve all week -- a total of 47 service games -- and moves above Roger Federer into the world No. 2 spot after Monday's

updated rankings.

“This was definitely one of the best service weeks that I've had in my career,” Djokovic said.

“I was saying before that I have never played on faster courts here in Shanghai, so this year more than ever I needed a lot of success with the first serves in, and I have had plenty of success with first serves and high per cent of first serves in every match. “So obviously that brings me a lot of joy.”

The extra 1,000 ranking points help Djokovic break into the world's top two for the first time since June 2017, while he also earned \$1,360,560 in prize money for his efforts in Shanghai.

Victory extends Djokovic's love affair with Masters 1000 events, after his defeat of Federer in the final of August's Cincinnati Masters helped him become the first man in history to win all nine titles since the series' inception in 1990.

(Source: CNN)

Barcelona star Arda Turan faces 12 years jail for ‘attack’ on Turkish pop star



according to the statement cited in Turkish media.

Video then emerged in Turkish media of the incident which shows a gun being flung onto the sofa at the hospital.

Former Turkish international Burak Yilmaz, who currently plays for Trabzonspor, was with Turan at the nightclub and is listed as a witness.

In a statement on his widely-followed Instagram account, Turan described some media reports about the incident as a “lie” and also an affront to his wife, who is eight-and-a-half months pregnant.

Turan admitted he had reacted “disproportionately”

and said “the only thing I care about is my wife Aslihan”, admitting regretting leaving her at home to go to a nightclub just before she was due to give birth.

■ **Record of ill-discipline**

The attacking midfielder, who won 100 caps for the national side, has for years been Turkey's best-known footballer and is a strong supporter of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

He backed Erdogan strongly after the failed July 2016 coup, appearing at rallies outside his home and the Turkish president even came as a witness to Turan's marriage.

Turan is notorious for poor behaviour both on and off the field.

He was banned for a record 16 games by the Turkish football authorities in May after he shoved and verbally abused a referee in a game for Basaksehir.

In June 2017, Turan was thrown out of a training camp by former coach Fatih Terim following a fracas with a reporter on a plane.

Ironically, weeks later Terim himself resigned after himself becoming involved in a fight at a kebab restaurant.

Turan joined Basaksehir last season on loan from Barcelona, where he had largely endured an unhappy spell on the bench after joining from Atletico Madrid.

Pundits say he has been on the decline ever since leaving Atletico.

(Source: AFP)

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Film Museum of Iran to host Forum and Forum Expanded

A R T TEHRAN — The Film Museum of Iran will be hosting the Forum and Forum Expanded, a Berlin Film Festival program that will screen a lineup of short films on Saturday.



“Today Is 11th June 1993”, a co-production between Germany and Bosnia directed by Clarissa Thieme, will be screened in the Forum and Forum Expanded in Tehran.

The Forum and Forum Expanded is a program independently organized by the Arsenal Institute for Film and Video Art as part of the Berlin Film Festival — Berlinale.

A selection of six Iranian and foreign short films already screened at the Berlinale will go on screen during the program.

The short films are “Bruce Lee in the Land of Balzac” by Maria Thereza Alves from France, “Falgosh, Blames & Flames” by Mohammadreza Farzad from Iran, “Have You Ever Killed a Bear or Becoming Jamila” by Marwa Arsanios from Lebanon and “On Construction of Griffith’s Films” by Harun Farocki from Germany.

Also included are “Today Is 11th June 1993”, a co-production between of Germany and Bosnia directed by Clarissa Thieme and “Xenogenesis” by Morishita Akihiko from Japan.

Forum and Forum Expanded director Stefanie Schulte Strathaus is expected to talk about the program and the Arsenal Institute before the screening session, which will be organized in collaboration with Iran’s Art and Experience Cinema and the Embassy of Germany.

The Forum and Forum Expanded aims to expand the understanding of what film is, to test the boundaries of convention and open up fresh perspectives to help grasp cinema and how it relates to the world in new ways.

Iranian cineastes picked for Duhok festival jury

A R T TEHRAN — Iranian film editor Mastaneh Mohajer and her fellow screenwriter, Khosro Sina, have been selected for the jury of the 6th Duhok International Film Festival running in the Iraqi city from October 20 to 27.



This combination photo shows film editor Mastaneh Mohajer (L) and screenwriter Khosro Sina.

They will judge the films selected for the Kurdish Cinema competition, the organizers have announced.

American director and actress Nancy Gere is the president of the jury.

Iranian director Mostafa Gandomkar’s “Alan” won the Golden Leaf for Best Kurdish Short Film at the Duhok festival last year.

Bob Dylan’s “Blood on the Tracks” album to be adapted into 1970s-based movie

NEW YORK (Billboard) — The director of Oscar-nominated film “Call Me by Your Name” is pulling on Bob Dylan for cinematic inspiration.

In an interview with The New Yorker, Luca Guadagnino said that a producer on “Call Me By Your Name” acquired the film rights to Bob Dylan’s 1975 record, “Blood on the Tracks”, and asked the director if he wanted to make a movie based off of it. Guadagnino agreed, only if Richard LaGravenese wrote it.

“Somehow, the moon shot landed,” he said. “LaGravenese cleared his schedule and, between April and July, hunkered down to produce a hundred-and-eighty-eight-page screenplay following characters through a multiyear story, set in the seventies, that he and Guadagnino had invented, drawing on the album’s central themes. ‘When they’re repressing, we dramatize the repression, and what that does to them,’ LaGravenese says. ‘And we dramatize what happens when you let your passions take over too much.’”

Tour a fantasy world of Persian tales in “Tehran Times”

1 → The characters of Ferdowsi’s epic masterpiece Shahnameh—like Rustam as a symbol of a strong Iranian man, winged angels, dragons and demons—are all seen here and there on the front pages of the editions picked for the collection.

“Iranian miniatures have long been accompanied by Persian texts telling the story of a writer, a poet, or a hero to help viewers to better understand the story,” Saadi told the Tehran Times in an interview on Saturday.

In the contemporary world, where miniatures, tales and stories are sinking into oblivion, the art has its own key.

He said, “I tried to separates texts from images. That is, there is no real story told but the images remain here and there. And sure enough, the text is not in Persian, so it cannot distract the viewer.”

“The viewer only sees miniatures of old Persian tales through images. It is like taking a quick trip and touring inside the ancient Persian tales and returning home through a newspaper from the modern world,” he explained.

This was accomplished by adding miniatures to the world of art of today he said, adding, “I actually made it modern.”

“I set the characters, and the viewer can make a story out of it. When you see the work you think it tells you a story or you can trace a storyline, but actually, there is no story.”

Saadi said that, in fact, the exhibition calls on the visitors to engage in a clever visual game.

“They suddenly travel on a fairy tale and then return to the real world through a painting.”

“With a simple image on a newspaper, I take the visitors to a fantasy world and bring them back home in time. This does not happen with usual paintings; it is the newspaper that reminds one of being in the moment.”

He also explained about his reasons for selecting the Tehran Times for use as an artistic material. “I knew this would not be good with Persian fonts since they do



An art aficionado visits Yazdan Saadi’s exhibition “Tehran Times” at Seyhun Gallery in Tehran on October 12, 2018. (Honaronline/Mojtaba Arabzadeh)

not have the potential to be worked and played with.”

The editions of the Tehran Times selected for the collection were published in 2014.

He said, “I wanted the news to be old and be forgotten. I did not intend to give a specific perspective to the visitors because I did not want to draw the visitors’ attention to the texts.

“I liked the graphic design of the daily. I worked on the 2014 editions. The logo was located just in the middle of the page in the best place possible. It was quite simple and the top photo was right in the middle with two columns each besides

the photo.

“I wanted to pick something that reflected the moment. I chose the Tehran Times because of its name and its beautiful graphic fonts. It was classic and attractive, so I chose the daily out of several English dailies I came up with.”

He added that he began in 2014 and finished the same year, when he came up with the idea of mixing Persian miniatures with English texts. He called it a simple research effort for himself.

“I intended to depict the stories from many years ago on an upscale daily leading to a fine and interesting contrast,” he

remarked.

Saadi also noted that the paintings on the front page of the daily are done in such a way that one can read the back of the page.

“I practiced to accomplish [painting] on a type of material whose back page would not be spoiled. I thought maybe someone who has the painting would like to open the frame and read the news some years later, since all the pages of the daily are preserved in one frame,” he concluded.

The exhibition will run until October 24 at the gallery located at No. 11, 4th St., Vozara Ave.

Iranian films line up for Poland’s Toffest



Hedeyeh Tehrani acts in a scene from “Orange Days” directed by Arash Lahuti.

A R T TEHRAN — Four Iranian movies will be screened at the 16th Toffest International Film Festival, which will be held in the Polish town of Torun from October 20 to 28.

Among the films is “Orange Days” directed by Arash Lahuti about Aban, the only female contractor in the cutthroat and male-dominated orange harvesting industry, who enters a competition to win a large contract.

The lineup also includes “Like a Good

Kid” directed by Arian Vazirdaftari. It tells the story of Sara, a 22-year-old woman who is a babysitter for 7-year-old Matin. One day, Matin tells a story that makes Sara plan to steal something from the house.

The festival also will screen director Jafar Panahi’s “3 Faces” and “Taxi”.

“3 Faces” is about a relationship between popular Iranian actress Behnaz Jafari and a provincial girl who lives with a dream of becoming an actress.

“Taxi” stars Panahi as a taxi driver talking to passengers in the streets of Tehran.

“Tom and Jerry”: Tim Story in talks to direct for Warner Bros.

LOS ANGELES (Hollywood Reporter) — Tom and Jerry are ready to play cat and mouse once more.

Filmmaker Tim Story is in talks to direct a live-action hybrid Tom and Jerry movie for Warner Bros. Animation Group, The Hollywood Reporter has confirmed.

Tom and Jerry began life as a series of long-running shorts created by animation pioneers William Hanna and Joseph Barbera and first introduced in 1940. They centered on the exploits of house cat Tom and his never-ending battle with mouse Jerry. Seven of the shorts, released by MGM, won Oscars from 1943-53. The animated pair have remained in the pop culture consciousness over the years, first getting their own full-length theatrical film with 1993’s “Tom and Jerry: The Movie”.

Story is also known for 2014’s “Ride Along”, starring Kevin Hart and Ice Cube, and its 2016 sequel. He also directed a pair of “Fantastic Four” movies, as well as “Think Like a Man” and its 2014



“Tom and Jerry” (Photofest)

sequel. Story next has the “Shaft” reboot, starring Samuel L. Jackson and Jessie T. Usher, which is due out June 4, 2019.

In addition to Tom and Jerry, Warner Bros. has movement on another property as well. Harry Potter filmmaker Chris Columbus has boarded an animated “Scooby-Doo” movie as creative producer. The animated franchise, about a gang of friends who solve mysteries with the help of their Great Dane, last appeared on the big screen with the 2004 live-action/hybrid “Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed”.

Iranian center to organize photo contest on Arbaeen pilgrimage



A poster for the Arbaeen pilgrimage photography contest.

A R T TEHRAN — Al-Ummah, a satellite institute of Iran’s Study Center of the Islamic Revolution Cultural Front, plans to organize a photography contest on the Arbaeen pilgrimage this year.

“Iran and Iraq Cannot Be Separated” is the main theme of the competition, the center announced on Tuesday and asked photographers to send their photos to the institute until November 21.

The competition aims to neutralize the videos and other materials published on the social networks to damage the friendly

relations between Iranian and Iraqi people, the organizers said.

Hundreds of thousands of Iranians have embarked on a journey to the Iraqi city of Karbala to observe the holy day of Arbaeen at the holy shrines of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Imam of the Shia, and his brother, Hazrat Abbas (AS).

Arbaeen, which will be observed on October 30 this year, marks the end of the 40-day mourning period following the martyrdom of the Imam and his loyal companions on Ashura.

Nicole Kidman radically transforms for drama “Destroyer”

LONDON (Reuters) — Hollywood star Nicole Kidman undergoes a dramatic makeover for new drama “Destroyer”, playing a tired-looking and worn out police detective with a painful history.

The Oscar winner swaps her blonde locks for a short bob and rugged style to play Erin Bell, a detective whose past continues to haunt her years after infiltrating a criminal gang undercover in an operation with devastating consequences.

“I just felt her and I felt sadness and I felt pain for her,” Kidman said at the BFI London Film Festival on Sunday.

“I thought there was a restlessness and a complexity to her anger which I thought I had never seen on screen, particularly in the form of a female.”

The 51-year-old is no stranger to changing her looks for roles, such as when she played Virginia Woolf in “The Hours”, for which she won an Oscar.

Critics have praised her performance in “Destroyer” and described her appearance as “almost unrecognizable”.

“The way I look and behave in the film



Cast member Nicole Kidman and director Karyn Kusama arrive at the world premiere of “Destroyer” during the London Film Festival, in London, Britain October 14, 2018. (Reuters/Simon Dawson)

is the result of a lot of trauma,” Kidman said. “That’s the beauty of cinema, you use the image, you don’t always have to have the words.”

Director Karyn Kusama described Bell as a “really complicated human” dealing with regret, guilt and shame. A team of hairdressers and makeup artists worked together to transform Kidman’s looks.