



Cleric likens joining FATF to going to the gallows **2**



Russia cannot force Iran out of Syria **2**



Iran move 17 spots up at Youth Olympic Games **15**



Asghar Farhadi to receive Stockholm Visionary Award **16**

Pilgrims on the way to Karbala

Over 1.1m Iranians applied for visa for Arbreen pilgrimage



See page 12

Iran's oil exports total 2.2m bpd in first 2 weeks of Oct.

Iranian crude oil and condensate exports averaged 2.2 million barrels per day (bpd) in the first two weeks of October, an increase of 195,618 bpd over the full month of September, Kallanish Energy reports.

According to data released by online monitoring service TankerTrackers.com, the volume is based on the first 13

days of the month, due to delays caused by AIS manipulation during maritime transportation.

In September, an average of 2 million bpd was tracked by the service.

In the period of Oct. 1-13, the OPEC member exported 28.64 million barrels, according to TankerTrackers.com. **→4**

Medicine tops Iran's biotech export list

TECHNOLOGY **TEHRAN** — Medicine is on top of the list of exports of biotechnology products in Iran, the secretary of biotech development center (BioDC) announced, Tasnim reported on Sunday.

Mostafa Qanei said that Iran has a great improvement in the field of biotechnology

specially biomedicine during past years.

"By producing biomedicine, we already save 540 million dollars through decreasing import of medicine," he said.

"We are already producing biotech medicine, which are very expensive due their hi-tech process of manufacturing," he explained. **→10**

Saudi looking for bin Salman replacement

Having found Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's antics too costly for its already stained reputation, Saudi Arabia's ruling family is looking to replace the young prince with his less ambitious brother, Khalid, a new report suggests.

The report by the French paper Le Figaro cited a diplomatic source in Paris as saying that the Saudi Allegiance Council had secretly met to discuss the disappearance of anti-Riyadh journalist

Jamal Khashoggi, who is believed to have been killed at the Saudi consulate in Turkey's Istanbul upon an order from MBS.

As crisis grows, Saudi king checks son's power

So grave is the fallout from the disappearance of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi that King Salman has felt compelled to intervene, five sources with links to the Saudi royal family said. **→13**



ARTICLE

Hamid Bayati
Tehran Times journalist

U.S. air force; competing with rivals or creating a new weapons market

U.S. President Donald Trump has once again stressed the need for formation of U.S. space force, reasoning that Russia and China are pioneers in the area.

The U.S. Space Force, which is intended to have control over military operations in outer space, would be a new branch of the military by 2020, on par with the army, navy, air force, marines and coast guard.

Trump's remark proves that Washington's main objective of the space force is not to lag behind in the competition with its traditional rivals.

This is the first time since the adoption of National Security Bill in 1947 that a new branch of military is added to the U.S. Armed Forces. Air Force Space Command (AFSPC), sometimes referred to informally as U.S. Space Command, will be a major branch of the United States Air Force, with its headquarters at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. This command intends to support U.S. military operations worldwide with a variety of satellites and cybercrime operations. Approximately 47,000 people in 88 locations throughout the world will carry out AFSPC operations.

Trump believes that a mere U.S. presence in space is not enough, that it must dominate it as he does not want to see the dominance of China and other countries in space.

The new space force will have the same power as the other branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, and will monitor space and cyber-attack operations, including satellite management and launches, including launches of ballistic missiles. But unlike NASA, which focuses mainly on space exploration and scientific discovery, the new space force will focus on military aspects and space defense.

Adversaries

The BBC writes that military and non-military operations in space carried out by the U.S. Global Positioning System (GPS) could interfere with each other. Satellite navigation uses GPS, which the U.S. military invented and is used by civilians, too. **→7**

For Why Trump is Attacking Iran as he Defends MBS: Askari

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

By Javad Heirannia

TEHRAN — Professor Hossein Askari, an expert on Saudi Arabia who also teaches international business at the George Washington University, believes that Trump has to invent something for defending MBS and King Salman to his evangelical base and the millions of other Americans who get their news from Fox.

"National security is a well-proven candidate and it is less debatable because common folks assume that that is an area left to the government and people in the know. So he says that the U.S. needs King Salman and MBS for America's national security," Hossein Askari, who served as

special advisor to Saudi finance minister, tells the Tehran Times

Following is the text of the interview:

■ What we are increasingly hearing is Trump's attacks on Iran as he defends MBS and King Salman in the murder of Jamal Khashoggi. Why do you think Trump is using this tactic?

A: Trump has to invent something for defending MBS and King Salman to his evangelical base and the millions of other Americans who get their news from Fox. National security is a well-proven candidate and it is less debatable because common folks assume that that is an area left to the government and people in the know. So he says that the U.S. needs King Salman and MBS for America's national

Saudi conference boycott over Khashoggi shows political threat to economy

A Western boycott of a major business conference in Riyadh next week suggests rising political risks in Saudi Arabia could harm its ambitions to attract foreign capital and diversify its economy away from oil.

Rather than whipping up interest in Saudi investment opportunities, the event risks becoming a public relations debacle because of the disappearance of Saudi dissident Jamal Khashoggi, company executives and analysts say.

Turkish officials have said Khashoggi was killed inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. Saudi Arabia denies this.

More than two dozen top officials and executives from the United States and Europe, including U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and the chief executives of JP Morgan Chase and HSBC, have canceled plans to attend the Future Investment Initiative due to unease over the Khashoggi affair.

That may not prevent the event from proceeding

-over 150 speakers from more than 140 organizations originally signed up, organizers said. But it deprives the conference of much of its star power.

As Western companies fret over the risk to their reputations of doing deals and possible exposure to any sanctions imposed over the Khashoggi case, they are likely to put much new business in Saudi Arabia on hold for now.

The freeze may apply to both new Western contracts or investments in Saudi Arabia, and the Saudi government's own program of buying corporate assets abroad through its \$250 billion Public Investment Fund (PIF).

"Most Western businesses will come under pressure to reconsider their exposure to Saudi Arabia in light of the Khashoggi affair," said Ayyham Kamel, head of the Middle East practice of political risk consultancy Eurasia Group.

But the freeze on new deals may start to ease within a few months. Many Western firms have

security. He can't now repeat what he had said in the past. Namely, how he loves the Saudis because they buy and rent things from him. He has to say that the Saudis are critical for U.S. security. So what is he saying? All lies but here is a partial list: We need Saudi Arabia to fight terrorism, yet he forgets that Osama bin Laden was a Saudi and 15 of the terrorists who were responsible for 9/11 were Saudis; and today it is Saudi Arabia that is killing thousands of innocent Yemeni women and children with indiscriminate aerial bombing supported by the U.S. military and with U.S. bombs and planes that Trump so proudly advertises to the world. And atrocities that will only create more enemies for the U.S. in the future. **→7**

too much at stake to abandon the Middle East's biggest economy; privately, some told Reuters they would send lower-level executives to the conference.

Billions at stake

Larry Fink, chief executive of U.S. investment manager BlackRock, said he was pulling out of the conference but would not cut ties with Saudi Arabia as he wanted to "preserve the relationships that we'd worked so long for".

Companies in China and Japan have shown little or no sign of withdrawing from the event, so U.S. and European firms may lose out on business if they stay cool toward Riyadh for too long.

"In the new year the impact may start to ease, particularly given that the U.S. seems to be helping Saudi Arabia sweep the incident under the carpet," said Jason Tuvey, senior emerging markets economist at Capital Economics.

(Source: Reuters)



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Spouses of envoys attend gastronomy, crafts festival in Tehran

A group of spouses of foreign-diplomats in Tehran participated in a gastronomy and handicrafts festival, which was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on October 18, 2018.

The event was held at the Institute for Political and International Studies, a Tehran-based foreign policy think tank affiliated with the ministry.

The Iranian cuisine, usually dominated with fragrant herbs, varies from region to region, but it principally accentuates freshness, deliciousness, and colorfulness.



REPORT

Mahnaz Abdi

Head of the TehranTimes Economy Desk

Debate over offering crude oil at IRENEX to tackle sanctions

The issue of offering crude oil in the stock market of Iran dates back to the Iranian calendar year of 1379 (March 2000-March 2001). Since then it has come on the table several times but was never materialized.

But now, with the U.S.'s withdrawal from Iran's nuclear deal in May and re-imposition of sanctions against Iranian economy, the issue has come again under the spotlight as an approach to counter the new round of sanctions.

On July 1, Iran's First Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri announced that in a move to beat U.S. sanctions, Iran will let private companies to export crude oil.

Speaking in a ceremony to celebrate the national day of industry and mine, the official said that Iranian crude will be offered on the bourse and the private sector can export it.

The latest news in this due came on Tuesday, when National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC)'s Managing Director Ali Kardor announced that offering crude oil at Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX) will be commenced on October 28 to thwart U.S. sanctions.

The government is to offer oil in the 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 crude oil in the stock market for export 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.

As the U.S. sanctions on Iran's oil sales targets the Iranian state-run sector, Iranian government decided to offer oil in the stock market to permit the private sector to export the product to foil U.S. sanctions. **→4**

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Cleric likens joining FATF to going to the gallows

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Tehran Friday prayer leader Ayatollah Ahmad Khatami has criticized the notion of joining the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), comparing it with going to the gallows.

"The FATF's executive secretary has said there's no guarantee Iran would be removed from its blacklist," Khatami told worshippers in Tehran on Friday, asking, "Now that there's no guarantee, why should we tie such noose around our neck and strangle ourselves?"

He stressed that international organizations are "not trustworthy", IRNA reported.

He further explained that following the parliament's decision to approve the FATF-related bill, joining the FATF is subject to the Guardian Council's decision, and if the two bodies do not see eye to eye, the issue would be submitted the Expediency Council to take final decision.



U.S. sanctions violate two ICJ orders, Zarif warns

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Wednesday that the latest U.S. sanctions against the Islamic Republic violate two International Court of Justice (ICJ) orders.

"Latest U.S. sanctions violate 2 ICJ orders: to not impede humanitarian trade & to not aggravate the dispute. Utter disregard for rule of law & human rights of an entire people," Zarif tweeted.

"U.S. outlaw regime's hostility toward Iranians heightened by addition to sanctions," he added.

It came a day after the U.S. announced new sanctions against more than 20 Iranian banks and corporations.



U.S. is the killer of 66 Iranian kids: envoy

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Gholamali Khoshroo, Iran's ambassador to the UN, said on Thursday that the U.S. killed 66 Iranian kids in 1988 when it shot down an Iranian passenger flight, hence it cannot act as the loving mother of Iranian children.

Khoshroo was responding to the outgoing U.S. Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley, who cited the case of Hossein Fahmideh, a 13-year-old Iranian student who was martyred during the Iran-Iraq war (1980-88), to accuse Iran of recruiting children to fight in Syria, ISNA reported.

Instead, she should have said that a large number of Iranian children were martyred during the war waged against Iran by the former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein with the support of the U.S. itself, Khoshroo said.



Iran, Turkey discuss border security

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Murat Zorluoglu, the governor of Turkey's Van, has met with Emamali Khodaeifar, the Iranian commander of border crossing of Razi, in Iran's city of Khoy to discuss border security, tourism and trade ties between the two countries.

During the meeting, the two sides also discussed terrorism, human trafficking, smuggling and the security of bilateral borders, ISNA reported.

At the end of the meeting, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed on boosting border security.

The Turkish official also pointed to the common cultural backgrounds between Iran and Turkey, and called for expansion of tourism and trade ties.



'Russia continuing Iran co-up after U.S. JCPOA exit'

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — The Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman has stressed his country's determination to maintain cooperation with Iran in the aftermath of U.S. withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal and restoration of sanctions, IRNA reported on Friday.

European firms started cooperation with Iranian partners, Maria Zakharova said, adding, "We have also maintained cooperation in those areas which were our right."

She said Russia had earlier announced its position on the U.S. withdrawal from the nuclear deal, aka JCPOA.

Russia believes that the JCPOA is not just related to politics but it includes economic and global stability and international relations, she added.



Moscow hosts Iran-Russia-India summit

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — The Russkiy Mir Foundation held a trilateral summit between the Islamic Republic of Iran, Russian Federation and India in Moscow on Friday. The summit will continue on Saturday.

The trilateral summit is being in line with strengthening and broadening cooperation among the trio, Mehr reported.

The expert-level summit hosts senior experts and authorities of the three countries to exchange their views on the threats facing the world and also the problems ahead of regional cooperation.

Iranian Ambassador to Russia Mehdi Sanaei and Chairman of Foreign Ministry's Political and International Research Institute Seyed Kazem Sajjadpour attend the meeting.

Russia cannot force Iran out of Syria: Putin



POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that Russia cannot force Iran to end its presence in Syria and rejected U.S. and Israeli calls for Moscow to persuade Iran to pull its military forces out of Syria.

It is not what Russia can make a decision about and a possible withdrawal is an issue between Damascus and Tehran to decide, Press TV reported him as saying in an address to the annual meeting of the Valdai Discussion Club in the Black Sea resort city of Sochi.

The issue, however, can be discussed among Iran, Syria, and the U.S., with Russia joining the dialog, he added.

Putin also said the countries calling for Iran to leave Syria should provide guarantees that they would not meddle in Syria's affairs.

■ U.S. must withdraw from Syria: Iranian diplomat

FATF gives Iran until February to complete reforms

By staff and agency

The Paris-based Financial Action Task Force said on Friday Iran had until February to complete reforms that would bring it into line with global norms or face consequences.

The FATF said after a meeting of its members that Tehran had acted on nine out of 10 of its guidelines, according to Reuters.

"We expect Iran to move swiftly to implement the commitments that it undertook at a high level so long ago," said Marshall Billingslea, the U.S. assistant Treasury Secretary, after chairing an FATF meeting.

"In line with that, we expect that it will have adopted all of these measures by February. If by February 2019 Iran has not yet done so, then we will take further steps," he said.

In the meantime, the FATF said it had decided to continue



suspending counter-measures, which can go as far as limiting or even banning transactions with a country.

Armed Syrian groups joining peace process are 'non-terrorists': Iran's Jaber Ansari



All those armed Syrian oppositionists who have joined the peace process for their country and have renounced violence are part of the solution to the Syrian crisis and shall be discriminated from terrorist groups, Iran's chief negotiator for Syria says.

In an interview with Press TV published on Thursday, Hossein Jaber Ansari, a top aide to Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, said while any form of armed opposition to an elected government is technically and universally defined as terrorism, those armed Syrians who have joined the peace process for Syria after more than seven and a half years of war could now be considered "non-terrorists" regardless of their opposition to Damascus.

The Syrian government and its state media sweepingly refer to all armed government opponents as "terrorists". Jaber Ansari said that that manner of reference is "natural" from the technical perspective but he also said that the case of Syria was an exceptional one.

"That the Syrian government considers all those who have taken up arms outlaws is a natural thing from one perspective," the Iranian official said.

He was referring to the peace process launched jointly by Iran, Russia, and Turkey in the Kazakh capital of Astana in January 2017. A parallel peace process, under the auspices of the United Nations (UN) and known as the Geneva process, has been underway in the Swiss city for much longer but with far lesser results.

Jaber Ansari explained that in Syria's case, groups that took up arms "mistakenly," and as a "tactic" and not a "strategy," but later accepted "the logic of return to normal conditions" were being negotiated with in Astana.

"Given Syria's special situation, and that the opposition has, for good or for bad, believed that because of the specific political conditions of the country and 'closed and uncompromising political structures,' peaceful political opposition has not been possible the way it should have, we are faced with an exceptional case."

He said despite the complexities of the job, Iran, Russia, and Turkey were being particularly nuanced in the Astana literature and were taking care to differentiate between the armed groups described above and other violent outfits.

Asian partners seek to keep nuclear deal: Mogherini



POLITICS **TEHRAN** — European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said on Thursday that the EU's Asian partners seek to keep the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

"I have to say that our partners from Asia have always shown a lot of interest in working to keep the full implementation of the JCPOA; obviously for security reasons that also concern Asia and Central Asia," the EU's official website quoted her as saying upon arrival to the Europe-Asia Meeting (ASEM) Summit.

She added, "Iran is not only a Middle Eastern country; it is also a country that have long borders with Afghanistan for instance, and that has many interests and links with Asia. I have always very much seen the interest and also exactly the same position that we have with our Asian partners on the need to maintain the JCPOA and on the need for Iran to stick to the full compliance to the nuclear commitments taken."

Mogherini also said the bloc has decided to put its plan aimed at creating a payment channel to preserve

Es'haq Al-e-Habib, the Iranian deputy ambassador to the UN, said on Wednesday that the U.S. must withdraw from Syria and stop supporting terrorism.

During his speech at the UN Security Council, he said that Washington must end its occupation of Syrian territory — where it has thousands of boots on the ground -- and its support for terrorist groups.

The Iranian official also denounced the destructive role that Washington's close ally Saudi Arabia is playing in the Middle region, including its support for Takfiri terror groups in Syria.

Regarding the armed opposition groups fighting the Syrian government, he said all states with influence over such groups must encourage them to lay down arms and join the political process.

Al-e-Habib further stressed that Iran's legitimate presence in Syria is aimed at fighting the U.S. and Saudi-backed terrorists in the Arab country.

Iran's parliament approved some new measures against funding terrorism earlier this month under pressure to adopt international standards. But FATF said that it could only consider fully enacted legislation.

Members of FATF had already given Tehran until this month to bring its laws against money-laundering and funding of terrorism up to its guidelines.

Otherwise, Iran risked being returned to a blacklist of non-compliant countries that makes foreign investors and banks reluctant to deal with it.

Britain, France and Germany are trying to keep some financial channels open to Iran after the United States pulled out of a 2015 nuclear deal in May and re-imposed sanctions.

Analysts say that inclusion on the FATF's blacklist could effectively make that all but impossible.

New Iran sanctions most serious mistake in U.S. foreign policy: Jack Straw

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Former British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said on Thursday that imposition of sanctions on Iran is the most serious mistake in U.S. foreign policy.

"The current sanctions imposed on Iran are not the toughest sanctions rather it is the most serious mistake done in U.S. foreign policy," Iran Press quoted him as saying during a meeting on Prospects and Development of Business Relations between Britain and Iran.

He said that the U.S. has isolated itself in the international arena as a result of imposition of sanctions against Iran unilaterally.

Elsewhere, he said, "British government backs the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action wholeheartedly." U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew Washington



from the nuclear deal in May and reintroduced sanctions on Iran in August. The second wave of sanctions, which targets Iran's oil exports and central bank, is due to start in early November.

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

■ Tehran-London relations at a historic point
Hamid Baedinejad, the Iranian ambassador to London, said in the meeting that Tehran-London economic relations are at a historic point and have never been so strategic.

He said that now the European Union and the three European countries are encouraging high-level political, economic and business partnerships with Iran.

Turkey to host four-nation summit on Syria crisis

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will host a summit on the Syria conflict with the leaders of Russia, Germany and France on Oct. 27 in Istanbul, his spokesman said Friday, the first such gathering with key EU leaders.

The summit will be attended by Russian President Vladimir Putin as well as French and German leaders Emmanuel Macron and Angela Merkel, Turkish presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin said, cited by the state-run Anadolu news agency.

Turkey, which has supported Syrian rebels, has been working with Syrian supporters Russia and Iran on a drive to end the over seven year civil war, in efforts that have often been greeted with suspicion in the West.

Erdogan has on three times attended trilateral summits on Syria with Putin and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani. But this is the first time a meeting will bring the Turkish and Russian strongmen together with the EU's two most significant national leaders.

The meeting will aim to find a "long-lasting solution" to the Syria conflict as well as the situation in the last major Syrian rebel-held bastion of Idlib, Kalin said.

Erdogan had previously planned to host the international summit in September, but it did not take place then. The Kremlin, Elysee and Merkel's office all also confirmed the date of the Oct. 27 meeting.

The meeting comes after Syria-ally Russia and rebel supporter Turkey announced an agreement on Sept. 17 to create a demilitarized buffer zone ringing the Idlib region, home to three million people.

The deal to create a 15-20 kilometer-wide zone came after a flurry of activity as Turkey sought to avoid an assault by President Bashar Assad and a further influx of people across its border.

According to the deal, the zone would separate rebel and regime zones under the supervision of the two sponsor countries.

It gave until Oct. 10 for the zone to be cleared of any heavy weapons but the second deadline for the withdrawal of "radical" fighters – taken to mean militant heavyweight



Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) and other hardliners – was seen as the accord's real test.

Both Ankara and Moscow said the deal was still on course, despite delays in the pullout of the jihadists. The deal has received a warm welcome both from Europe and the United States, relieved that more bloodshed has been averted for now.

James Jeffrey, Washington's special representative on Syria, hailed Wednesday the Russian-Turkish deal as a "major step" that has frozen the war, after a meeting with Turkish officials in Ankara.

The Kremlin said that the Istanbul summit will include "exchanging views on the Syria issue, including the question of advancing the process of a political settlement as well

as further steps in the interest of strengthening security and stability."

France primarily wants to ensure the Idlib ceasefire is maintained to avert a "humanitarian catastrophe and a new mass wave of refugees," the Elysee said in a statement.

An Elysee source also warned that Macron would reconsider his plan to attend if any regime assault was launched on Idlib.

Merkel's spokesperson Martina Fietz said Berlin wanted to work towards a process of stabilization on Syria.

"We expect that we can make progress towards a stabilization in Syria, knowing that this process will be very complicated and will take years."

(Source: Daily Star)

Turkey says it has not shared Khashoggi audio with anyone

Turkey has not shared audio recordings said to document the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, its foreign minister said Friday, dismissing reports it had passed them on to the United States.

Saudi Arabia has denied Turkish allegations that Khashoggi was murdered and his body removed from the consulate after he entered on Oct. 2.

Turkish pro-government newspaper Yeni Safak has published what it said were details from the audio, including that his torturers severed Khashoggi's fingers during an interrogation and later beheaded and dismembered him.

ABC News, citing a senior Turkish official, reported on Thursday that the recording had been played for U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo during his visit to Ankara a day earlier and that he was given a transcript.

Pompeo denied the report, telling reporters, "I've heard no tape, I've seen no transcript."

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told reporters during a trip to Albania: "Turkey has not given a voice recording to Pompeo or any other American official."

"We will share the results that emerge transparently with the whole world. We have not shared any information at all with any country," he added.

Turkish police meanwhile are searching a forest on the outskirts of Istanbul and a city near the Sea of Marmara for Khashoggi's remains, two senior Turkish officials told Reuters on Thursday.

His disappearance and presumed death has caused an international outcry and strained relations between Saudi Arabia and the West.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin



and senior ministers from France, Britain and the Netherlands have abandoned plans to attend an Oct. 23-25 investor conference in Riyadh, joining a list of Western business executives and putting the high-profile event in question.

Airbus said Friday its defense chief Dirk Hoke would no longer attend either.

British foreign minister Jeremy Hunt said on Friday allegations regarding Khashoggi would be totally unacceptable if true but any response by Britain would be "considered."

"Part of our reaction will depend on the Saudi reaction, and whether we sense that they are taking it as seriously as we are taking it. But this is a very, very serious matter," Hunt told BBC radio.

U.S. President Donald Trump has appeared unwilling to distance himself too much from the Saudis, citing Riyadh's role in countering

Iranian influence in the region and tens of billions of dollars in potential arms deals.

He said on Thursday he believes Khashoggi is dead and that the U.S. response to Saudi Arabia will likely be "very severe" but that he wanted to get to the bottom of what happened. He has previously speculated without providing evidence that "rogue killers" could be responsible.

Trump, who has forged closer ties with Saudi Arabia and Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, says the United States has asked Turkey for any audio or video evidence, while Pompeo said Riyadh should be given a few more days to complete its own probe.

A U.S. government source said U.S. intelligence agencies are increasingly convinced of Prince Mohammad's culpability in the operation against Khashoggi, which they believe resulted in his death.

Prince Mohammad has painted himself as the face of a new, vibrant Saudi Arabia, diversifying its economy away from reliance on oil and making some social changes.

But there has been criticism of some of his moves, including Riyadh's involvement in the Yemen war, the arrest of women activists, and a diplomatic row with Canada.

Turkish authorities widened the geographic focus of their search after tracking the routes and stops of cars that left the Saudi consulate and the consul's residence on the day Khashoggi was last seen.

Investigators have recovered many samples from searches of both buildings, senior officials have told Reuters, and will attempt to analyze those for traces of Khashoggi's DNA.

A pro-government Turkish daily published preliminary evidence last week from investigators who it said had identified a 15-member Saudi intelligence team that arrived in Istanbul on diplomatic passports hours before Khashoggi disappeared.

One name matches a LinkedIn profile for a forensic expert who has worked at the interior ministry for 20 years. Another is identified in a diplomatic directory from 2007 as a first secretary at the Saudi Embassy in London. Others resemble officers in the Saudi Army and Air Force.

A New York Times report, citing witnesses and other records, linked four suspects to Prince Mohammad's security detail.

Turkish pro-government newspaper Sabah on Thursday published a series of photos of a man it identified as someone who travels with the Saudi crown prince. The time-stamped photos showed the man outside the Saudi consulate on the morning Khashoggi disappeared, it said.

(Source: Daily Star)

Russia, Uzbekistan hail \$11B nuclear plant project during Putin visit

Russia and Uzbekistan Friday hailed the construction of an \$11 billion nuclear power plant that should help solve an energy deficit in the Central Asian country while binding it tighter to Moscow politically. Russian President Vladimir Putin was paying a first state visit to Uzbek counterpart Shavkat Mirziyoyev since Mirziyoyev replaced the late Islam Karimov, who ruled for nearly three decades before his death in 2016. During the visit the two countries signed deals worth \$27.1 billion, according to the Uzbek economy ministry. "Uzbekistan is our loyal ally and our strategic partner... We will do all we can to strengthen our cooperation," Putin said while meeting Uzbek counterpart Shavkat Mirziyoyev in the capital Tashkent. "Dear Russian friends, welcome to Uzbekistan!" read billboards along the main roads of Tashkent where Russian and Uzbek flags flew side by side. The nuclear power plant, set to be completed by 2028, has strategic significance for Moscow which is looking to reassert its economic and political clout in Central Asia amid fierce competition from China and other players.

According to the Russian Rosatom nuclear energy agency overseeing the project the plant's output should account for a fifth of Uzbekistan's overall power generation. Putin suggested Friday that the facility – the first of its kind in ex-Soviet Central Asia – might also help provide power to other countries in the region where the Chernobyl disaster and Soviet-era atomic weapons testing in the Kazakh steppe have colored attitudes towards nuclear power.



Addressing the two leaders via tele-link from the western region of Navoi where the plant is set to be built, Rosatom chief Alexey Likhachev assured Uzbekistan that the plant would be built in strict accordance with international standards.

"The main criteria here is safety," Likhachev said at a ceremony marking the start of the project. Bilateral trade between Russia and Uzbekistan jumped by more than a third year-on-year to \$3.7 billion in 2017 as Uzbekistan shakes off nearly three decades of economic isolation under Karimov's rule. Karimov, who died in 2016, maintained generally good

relations with Moscow but was wary of the Kremlin's influence over Uzbekistan and the Central Asian region. Mirziyoyev, who served as Karimov's prime minister for 13 years, has kept the authoritarian regime intact while also reversing some of his predecessor's most controversial policies.

Putin Friday paid tribute to reforms launched by Mirziyoyev that have whetted the appetites of foreign investors eyeing new markets in a commodity-rich country of around 33 million people.

"We see how quickly and how fundamentally the situation in Uzbekistan is changing, how reforms are being organized and carried out," Putin said. Under Mirziyoyev, the government has overhauled its foreign exchange policies, pledged to modernize its banking system and re-launched ties with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development that were effectively severed more than a decade ago. Among the other economic agreements signed at a business forum running parallel to the two leaders' talks was a memorandum of understanding between Russia's Lukoil energy major and Uzbek state energy company Uzbekneftgaz.

Security was also high on the agenda during talks between the two heads of state. Under Mirziyoyev, Uzbekistan has declared its readiness to host talks between the Taliban and the government of Afghanistan, with whom Uzbekistan shares a border.

"It is in our common interest to normalize the situation in Afghanistan," Putin said, backing the initiative.

(Source: AFP)

Afghanistan delays vote in strategic Kandahar after killing of commander



Saturday's parliamentary election in the southern Afghan province of Kandahar will be delayed by a week after the assassination of one of the country's most powerful security chiefs dealt a stunning blow to the Western-backed government.

General Abdul Razeq, the Kandahar police commander, was killed outside the provincial governor's office on Thursday, when a bodyguard opened fire on a group of officials as they left a meeting with General Scott Miller, the commander of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan.

Miller was not wounded but the regional intelligence agency commander was killed and the provincial governor severely wounded, crippling the leadership of one of the country's most strategically important provinces.

Although nominally a provincial police chief, Razeq was one of the most powerful political figures in Afghanistan and a formidable opponent of the Taliban, with unchallenged authority across the volatile south of the country.

The decision to suspend the vote was taken over the objections of some officials who warned that any delay would threaten the whole process and hand the Taliban a major propaganda victory.

Miller himself gave a show of confidence on Friday, filming a television interview on the street outside the U.S. embassy in Kabul and assuring Afghanistan of continued support.

"My message to the people of Afghanistan has been very consistent: you have every right to be proud of your security forces and the preparations that made for this election despite this unfortunate event, tragic event, down in Kandahar," he said.

Saturday's election has been seen as a major test of the government's ability to organize a nationwide ballot ahead of the more important presidential election next April.

But the shock of Razeq's death meant the people of Kandahar were "morally not ready to vote", Hafizullah Hashimi, spokesman of the Independent Election Commission, said.

The Taliban issued a fresh warning not to vote on Friday, telling people to stay at home and saying they would shut down roads and would be "closely monitoring all developments".

The United Nations mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) issued a statement of its own expressing concern at Taliban threats to attack schools and other buildings used as polling centers.

"UNAMA urges the Taliban to respect and protect civilians and not to threaten them or carry out violence," it said.

On top of mounting security concerns, the elections have been dogged by technical and organizational problems, notably around the use of untested biometric voter verification equipment rushed in after allegations of widespread voter fraud.

■ Precarious

Thursday's attack underlined how precarious the situation remains in Afghanistan after more than 17 years of war despite preliminary contacts between Taliban and U.S. officials to find a basis for future peace talks.

U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said it was too soon to say what effect Razeq's death would have but added that the U.S. military's mission was unaltered. "We need to find who's done this," Mattis told reporters traveling with him in the Southeast Asian city-state of Singapore. "But right now, we are going toward the election and we will continue to defend the Afghan people."

He said the attack would not affect U.S. military movements around Afghanistan or security arrangements for General Miller, who said he did not believe he was the target of the attack.

It was unclear how the attack would affect moves toward a peace process, following a meeting last week of Taliban officials and the U.S. special envoy, Zalmay Khalilzad, but it complicates an already difficult situation. "You're going to start asking questions about, 'Well, how trustworthy are they? What influence do they really have?'" said one former Defense Department official who left the Pentagon recently, referring to the Taliban.

"And you know the bottomline question is, 'Why are we still dealing with them?' or 'Should we deal with them?'"

However Mattis said the U.S. aim of finding a negotiated political solution was unchanged.

"We remain absolutely committed to an Afghan-led Afghan reconciliation," he said.

■ Election threat

Miller, who knew Razeq well from his previous tours of duty in Afghanistan, issued a statement saluting a "great friend".

"Afghanistan lost a patriot," he said on Twitter. "The good he did for Afghanistan and the Afghan people cannot be undone."

A disarmingly youthful-looking figure, with a toothy smile belying a fearsome reputation, the 39-year-old Razeq was regularly accused of building a fortune by extracting millions of dollars from traders and businesses.

He was also accused of torturing prisoners and other abuses, which he denied.

Last year, the United Nations Committee against Torture cited "numerous and credible allegations" that Razeq was complicit in severe human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings and secret detention centers.

He clashed frequently with President Ashraf Ghani, defying attempts to sack him, but was adept at navigating the region's complex tribal politics and enjoyed popular support in Kandahar and the surrounding provinces.

He was also highly respected by U.S. officers who saw his ruthless methods as the most effective weapon against the Taliban in both Kandahar and the wider south.

"Razeq was, kind of, the embodiment of security, not just in Kandahar. It is Urugzan, it's Zabul province," said the recently retired Defense Department official. "He had a lot of sway over other senior officials and certainly in the police."

(Source: Reuters)

STOCK MARKET	
TEDPIX	182929.1
IFX	2020.44
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	\$69.45/b
Brent	\$80.15/b
OPEC Basket	\$79.50/b
Gold	\$1,229.70/oz
Silver	\$14.74/oz
Platinum	\$839.95/oz
Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com	

Iranian oil armada heads to China ahead of U.S. sanctions

An unprecedented volume of Iranian crude oil is set to arrive at China's northeast Dalian port this month and in early November before U.S. sanctions on Iran take effect, according to an Iranian shipping source and data on Refinitiv Eikon.



A source from the National Iranian Tanker Company said the company is shipping more than 20 million barrels of oil to Dalian.

"As our leaders have said it will be impossible to stop Iran from selling its oil. We have various ways of selling our oil and when the tankers reach Dalian, we will decide whether to sell it to other buyers or to China," the source said, without elaborating further.

So far, a total of 22 million barrels of Iranian crude oil loaded on supertankers owned by the National Iranian Tanker Co (NITC) are expected to arrive at Dalian in October and November, the data showed. Dalian typically receives between 1 million and 3 million barrels of Iranian oil each month, according to the data that dates back to January 2015.

The Islamic country previously stored oil at Dalian during the last round of sanctions in 2014 that was later sold to buyers in South Korea and India. Some of the biggest refineries and commercial oil storage facilities in China are located in Dalian.

(Source: Reuters)

Turkey's Tupras in talks with U.S. for Iran sanctions waiver

Turkey's top refiner, Tupras, is in talks with U.S. officials to obtain a waiver allowing it to keep buying Iranian oil after Washington reinstates sanctions on the Islamic Republic's energy sector in November, industry sources said.

The United States is preparing to impose the new sanctions on Iran's oil industry after Washington withdrew from a nuclear deal between Tehran and other global powers earlier this year, but is also considering offering waivers to some allies that rely on Iranian supplies.

Turkey depends heavily on imports to meet its energy needs and neighboring Iran has been one of its main sources of oil because of its proximity, the quality of its crude, and favorable price differentials.

"They would like to be able to continue importing 3-4 cargoes a month, like they did during the previous sanctions round," an industry source familiar with the matter said.

A Tupras spokeswoman was not available for comment. Turkey's Energy Ministry was not immediately available for comment.

Turkey imported around 97,000 barrels per day of Iranian oil in August and 133,000 bpd in September, compared with just over 240,000 bpd in April, tanker tracking and shipping data showed.

And in the first two weeks of October, Turkey has purchased three 1 million barrel-cargoes of Iranian oil - a level that would equate to about 97,000 bpd if it made no other purchases this month.

(Source: Reuters)

Iran's oil exports total 2.2m bpd in first 2 weeks of Oct.

As U.S. sanctions against Tehran approach, the world is closely watching what is already happening and what may come after Nov. 4 - the deadline for countries/companies to halt business with Iran. The Trump administration has vowed to reduce to zero Iranian exports and apply harsh secondary sanctions on those who continue purchasing Iranian oil.

The data showed China remains Iran's largest buyer - taking some 877,239 bpd, or 39.83% of the total exports in the period. India followed, importing some 707,922 bpd, or 32.14% of sales.

(Source: kallanishenergy.com)

TEDPIX up 90% since March

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Tehran d e s k

Stock Exchange (TSE)'s main index (TEDPIX) has increased 86,639 points or 90 percent since the beginning of current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2018), Mehr news agency reported on Friday.

As reported, some 289.765 billion shares worth 853.137 trillion rials (about \$20.312 billion) have been traded through about 16.313 million deals since the start of this year.

Some 193.411 billion shares worth 485.692 trillion rials (about \$11.564 billion) were traded through 8.748 million deals in the first market and 91.558 billion shares worth 284.094 trillion rials (about \$6.764 billion) were traded

through 7.399 deals in the second market over the mentioned period of time.

Some 534 new trading codes have been issued for Iranian investors during the first half of the current calendar year (March 21-Septemehr 22), increasing the number of trading codes to 10.483 million in the stock market, Iranian Central Securities Depository and Settlement Funds Company (known as SAMAT) has previously announced.

There are currently over 10.376 individual investors and 106,000 institutional investors in Iran's stock exchange market.

Presence of new shareholders in TSE rose 40 percent in the past Iranian calendar year



1396 (ended on March 20), compared to its preceding year, as the former head of TSE, Hassan Qalibaf-Als, has previously announced.

Debate over offering crude oil at IRENEX to tackle sanctions

While offering crude oil at IRENEX is to be a temporary measure, there are ideas supporting it while there are some against it.

Those who are supporting the idea say that there are some reasons that offering crude oil in the stock market has not come true in the past; one is that it was planned to be offered in one step and private sector was not due to have any authority over it. The government decided to sell 500,000 barrels of heavy crude at a fixed price. The buyers wanted a lower price, but it was not offered; it is while the stock market's activity is based on supply and demand.

These group say that the private sector's basket is smaller and the private companies can sell the cargos of 50,000-100,000 barrels; therefore, they can successfully skirt the sanctions.

But those who are against the idea, say once we have not still resolved the problems and weaknesses in the stock trades, how can we set up a new proper ground for offering



oil in this market?

Disapproving this attitude, Reza Padidar, the chairman of the Energy Committee of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA), says: "Mate-

Italy's budget crisis threatens the entire EU project, strategist says

The European Union needs to be "sensible" in how it deals with the Italian budget crisis or the entire project could come to an end, one strategist told CNBC Friday morning.

The ongoing confrontation between the anti-establishment government in Italy and the European Commission has intensified over the few last weeks, with Rome insisting on increasing its spending next year, despite the EU's disapproval. The concern in Brussels is that the higher spending will increase Italy's debt pile, which is already the second

largest in the euro zone.

"I think it is important the European Union give them some leeway and allow them to have some kind of deficit," Bryn Jones, head of fixed income at Rathbones, told CNBC on Friday morning.

"I think the Italians are actually in a very strong negotiation position. If they (the EU) don't want to jettison Italy from Europe, the whole project dies. They have to be quite sensible," Jones said on "Squawk Box Europe."

On Thursday, the Brussels-based institution sent a letter to the Italian finance minister, Giovanni Tria, warning him that the 2019 budget draft seemed to point to a "particularly serious non-compliance with the budgetary policy obligations laid down" in European rules.

The Italian government has until Monday to reply to the commission's latest letter. If from that response, the commission still believes that the budget is in serious non-compliance, it has two weeks to adopt

an opinion and request a new draft budget within three weeks.

The dispute has also caused unease among market players. The yield on the 10-year Italian bond returned on Friday morning to levels not seen since 2014, hitting 3.73 percent as the dispute with Brussels intensified.

Jones told CNBC that despite the high yield, which gives investors high returns, he would rather wait to see what happens before taking a position.

(Source: CNBC)

China inks deal in Iran for co-manufacturing desalination equipment

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Industrial d e s k Development & Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO) and Chinese ZSM Company signed a deal for cooperation in manufacturing high-tech reverse osmosis water desalination equipment and machinery and also for transferring the technical know-how into Iran.



As reported by Shata, based on the deal the Chinese side will provide the machinery and technical knowledge for manufacturing desalination filters to an IDRO representative company which is going to launch the factory within 18 months.

Once this factory is established, about 50,000 one-meter filter with 8-inch diameter will be produced annually to be used for desalinating drinking water and in petrochemical and steel industries.

The report put the total investment needed for the construction of this factory at 1 trillion rials (about \$24 million).

Iran, Germany ink MOU on industrial, training co-op

ENERGY **TEHRAN** — Iran and Germany d e s k signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for cooperation in training and education of industry managers and entrepreneurs on Wednesday in Germany, IRNA reported on Thursday.

The MOU was signed by the Managing Director of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization Sadeq Najafi and a deputy at the German ministry of economic affairs and energy.

Najafi visited Germany to attend Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)'s 20th anniversary. GIZ is a service provider in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development and international education work.

According to the official, the draft for MOU was prepared two years ago and the two sides continued negotiations and cooperation since then.

"Based on the MOU, the two sides will continue their cooperation until 2021", Najafi said.

First Announcement

IN THE NAME OF GOD

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NO. 97/120-22/10

Tender Holder:
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

Subject of Tender:
Purchasing of Audio and Video Equipment (LTO Cartridge, LTO Drive, SSD, HDD) accordance with the technical specifications and other terms and conditions mentioned in the tender documents.

Deadline and How to Receive the Tender Documents:
From **20 Oct. 2018 (1397/07/28)** by **4 p.m.** on **Tuesday 25 Oct. 2018 (1397/08/03)** with presentation of introductory letter by company or its representative and the receipt of paying the documents fee.

Place of Receiving the Tender Documents:
Interested participants may refer to purchasing (KALA) Dept., 4th Floor of IRIB Administration Complex, Hotel Esteghlal St., Vali-e Asr Ave., Tehran Iran.

The Fee of the Tender Documents and How to Deposit it:
Submission of payment receipt for the amount of 1,000,000 Rials to Account No. 4101029171204273 (IBAN: IR310100004101029171204273) with CENTRAL BANK OF IRAN in the name of IRIB.

Type and Amount of Guarantee for Participation to Tender:
The amount of deposit for participant in tender is **USD 35,000** fixed or its equivalent in 3,500,000,000 Rials which should be in the form of Bank Guarantee.

Time and Place of Delivering Priced Bid:
The sealed A, B & C packages/envelopes should be submitted no later than **4 p.m.** on **01 Dec. 2018 (1397/09/10)** and at the address mentioned in the 4th clause.

Time and Place of Opening Envelopes:
The date of opening the envelopes A&B is on **02 Dec. 2018 (1397/09/11)** at **3 p.m.** in the office of Financial Vice President and opening of envelope C will be after technical evaluation.

For more information, please see:
www.iriboffice.ir/tenders and http://iets.mporg.ir/ **Tel: 00982122167463**

Purchasing (Kala) Dept. of IRIB

Oil up but set for weekly loss on stock build, trade row

Oil prices rose on Friday on signs of surging demand in China, the world's second-biggest oil consumer, although the market was heading for a second week of losses on rising U.S. inventories and concern that trade wars were curbing economic activity.

Benchmark Brent crude oil was up 60 cents a barrel at \$79.89 by 0918 GMT. U.S. light crude was 35 cents higher at \$69.00.

For the week, Brent crude was 1 percent lower while U.S. crude was down 3.5 percent, both on track for a second consecutive weekly decline, and down around \$7 a barrel from four-year highs reached in early October.

"It looks like the oil market moved too fast too far," said Carsten Menke, analyst at Swiss bank Julius Baer. "Prices are down around 8 percent from recent highs, trading back below \$80 a barrel. Sentiment in the futures market seems to have cooled."

Refinery throughput in China, the world's largest oil importer, rose to a record high of 12.49 million barrels per day (bpd) in September as some independent plants restarted operations after prolonged shutdowns over the summer to shore up inventories, government data showed on Friday.



Undermining sentiment were official figures showing China's economic growth slowed in the third quarter to its weakest pace since the global financial crisis, with gross domestic product expanding by only

6.5 percent, missing estimates.

The data raised concerns that China's trade war with United States was beginning to hit growth, which may limit oil demand. Also denting confidence was evidence

this week that U.S. oil inventories had risen sharply.

U.S. crude stocks last week climbed 6.5 million barrels, marking a fourth straight weekly build and almost triple the amount analysts had forecast, the U.S. Energy Information Administration said on Wednesday.

"EIA Weekly Petroleum Status Report was a complete shocker sending oil markets spiraling lower amidst some concerning development for oil bulls," said Stephen Innes, head of trading APAC at OANDA in Singapore.

Inventories rose sharply even as U.S. crude production slipped 300,000 barrels per day (bpd) to 10.9 million bpd last week due to the effects of offshore facilities closing temporarily for Hurricane Michael.

Meanwhile, Iranian oil exports may have risen in October as buyers took cargoes before U.S. sanctions on Tehran take effect from Nov. 4.

An unprecedented volume of Iranian crude oil is set to arrive at China's northeast port of Dalian this month and in early November before then, according to an Iranian shipping source and data on Refinitiv Eikon.

(Source: Reuters)

Iraq transfers ownership of nine state oil companies to new National Oil Company

Iraqi Oil Minister Jabar al-Luaibi has issued a decree transferring the ownership of nine state-owned oil companies, including state oil marketer SOMO, from the oil ministry to the newly-formed National Oil Company which he also heads, a ministry spokesman said on Thursday.

Luaibi took the decision in his capacity as National Oil Company chief, not minister, according to a statement by spokesman Asim Jihad. The decision will be "followed by others within the same framework," Jihad said.

The Iraqi government had last week named Luaibi as head of the new National Oil Company, which is to serve as an umbrella organization for state oil firms. The positions of company chief and minister are not related, but Luaibi currently holds both.

Parliament voted in March to establish the company,



which is meant to manage Iraq's upstream operations, freeing up the ministry to set plans and strategies for developing the sector.

The nine companies included in Thursday's decision are SOMO, the Iraqi Oil Exploration Company, the Iraqi Drilling Company, the North Oil Company, the Midland Oil Company, Basra Oil Company, Dhi Qar Oil Company, Maysan Oil Company and the Iraqi Oil Tankers Company.

Prime Minister-designate Adel Abdul Mahdi, who is tasked with forming a new government months after a political deadlock following a May election, called on officials in the outgoing government to refrain from signing urgent contracts, making non-essential hires, or other key decisions. It was unclear if his statement was related to Luaibi's decision.

(Source: Reuters)

Exxon Mobil bets big on China LNG, sidesteps trade war

In the middle of a Sino-U.S. trade war, the world's largest publicly traded oil and gas company is turning toward Beijing for business at a time when most of Corporate America is looking elsewhere to avoid the threat of tariffs.

Exxon Mobil Corp is placing big bets on China's soaring liquefied natural gas (LNG) demand, coupling multi-billion dollar production projects around the world with its first mainland storage and distribution outlet.

Its gas strategy is moving on two tracks: expanding output of the super-cooled gas in places such as Papua New Guinea and Mozambique, and creating demand for those supplies in China by opening Exxon's first import and storage hub, according to an Exxon manager and people briefed on the company's plans.

That combination "will guarantee us a steady outlet for lots of our LNG for decades," said the Exxon manager who was not authorized to discuss the project and spoke on condition of anonymity. One of the company's top policy goals this year, the manager said, is building its Chinese client roster.

"China's natural gas demand is rising really fast, with imports soaring well over 10 percent annually at the moment because of the government gasification program and due to fast rising industrial demand, including in petrochemicals," the Exxon manager said.

An Exxon spokesman declined to provide an executive to discuss the company's LNG investments in China.

Exxon said last month it would participate in the construction of an LNG import terminal in Huizhou, Guangdong region and provide supplies to it. This makes it only the second foreign major with such a stake in an LNG terminal.

Years in the making, the strategy delivers an added benefit: helping Exxon sidestep a global trade war. Exxon's massive LNG projects in Papua New Guinea and Mozambique will not incur the 10 percent tariff China put on U.S. gas as part of the trade war between the Trump administration and Beijing.

Jason Feer, head of business intelligence at LNG tanker brokers Poten & Partners, which tracks LNG sales, said the deal provides "a sign that China is willing to let foreign interests invest in things that in the past were seen as strategic."

Exxon is among the top ranked U.S. companies that are pushing ahead in China despite the trade dispute, but it is not alone. U.S. and European



car makers are opening or expanding China plants to avoid hefty tariffs and transport costs. Tesla Inc this month acquired a Shanghai site for a car and battery-manufacturing complex.

Exxon's Asian and African LNG will offer a cost advantage over U.S. rivals' exports that face tariffs and greater transport, while China's support for the project offers a rebuttal to Trump administration complaints about the country's closed markets.

The decision to expand its LNG production and open an import terminal in the world's fastest growing LNG market is a step by Exxon Chief Executive Darren Woods to pull the company out of an earnings rut that has left its shares flat over the past seven years.

Trade war risks

Woods appeared holding discussions with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on state-run media last month days after disclosing local approvals for the LNG terminal and a massive chemical project. Since becoming CEO last year, Woods has pushed Exxon to take greater risks, including in energy trading operations.

His timing with LNG is key. Next year, China will become the world's largest importer of natural gas, and its LNG imports are forecast to rise 70 percent by 2020, from 38.1 million tonnes last year, estimates Beijing consultancy SIA Energy.

Exxon has not publicly named its partner in the import terminal. State-run power company Guangdong Yuedian Group said on its website it will join the project. BP Plc is the only other foreign major with a stake in a Chinese LNG terminal.

Yuedian did not respond to a request for comment.

The multi-billion dollar bets still faces risks from the Sino-U.S. trade dispute. China has vowed to respond to any new tariffs by the Trump administration, which recently accused China of meddling in November elections and trying to recruit Americans to spy for it. But it remains unclear what that response will be and if it puts agree-

ments like Exxon's in China in jeopardy.

In addition to the LNG terminal, Exxon received approval for its first wholly-owned chemical plant in China, becoming one of two foreign firms including Germany's BASF to gain approval to operate such plants without a local sponsor.

The terminal and chemicals plants combined will cost about \$9 billion to build, consultancy IHS Markit estimates.

Call for new projects

China in 2017 embarked on a huge program to shift millions of households and factories from coal to natural gas for power and heating, a move to clear the smoggy skies over its cities.

That surge has injected new life into an LNG industry that suffered from plunging prices between 2014 and 2017, which forced energy companies to put off liquefaction projects.

But with prices for LNG rising this year, major producers have boosted investment. In addition to Exxon, Royal Dutch Shell PLC this month gave the go-ahead to a \$31 billion LNG Canada project that will export fuel primarily to China.

"Major Independent Oil Companies such as Exxon aim for large-scale tier one positions, and in the LNG game that is Qatar, East Africa, and possibly some North American and Papua New Guinea projects," said Saul Kavonic, oil and gas researcher for Credit Suisse in Sydney, Australia.

Exxon and other LNG producers also are adapting to changing buyer behavior. In the past, LNG was dominated by long-term supply contracts - especially with Japanese and South Korean buyers - that could span several decades and in which buyer and seller agree to a fixed monthly volume at a set price formula, usually priced off crude oil.

That is changing, in part because China's importers either demand more contract flexibility or simply buy LNG at short-notice in the spot market whenever they need it.

The shift away from such rigid price-supply deals is forcing producers to trade new LNG supplies and give import terminals a larger role in encouraging spot purchases.

"LNG players are increasingly adopting an LNG portfolio model whereby supply projects are not directly linked to end customers, with over 50 percent of contracts now coming from portfolio suppliers rather than specific projects," said Credit Suisse's Kavonic.

(Source: Reuters)

EMBASSY OF INDIA SCHOOL KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA TEHRAN

Tehran, Saidi Avenue. Qayedi Ave. Noormohammadi Ave. Darvish Street. No.24
Tel. No. +98-21-77531183, 77635033 Fax: +98-21-77520242



Admissions open for the academic session 2018-19 for class LKG to XII (Science and Commerce Stream).

Embassy of India School-Kendriya Vidyalaya Tehran (was established in 2004 under the patronage of embassy of India in Tehran. The Embassy of India School is a global standard school caters the educational needs of the children of employees of Embassy of India, Diplomatic missions of Iran, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iraq, Kenya, Nepal, Romania, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Tanzania Vietnam, Australia, German, Azerbaijan, Lebanon, Pakistan and Uganda, MNC's, Indian Professionals, Other Foreign Nationals, Local Indian Community, and other students belonging to more than 19 Nations.

This school is one of the 1192 schools in India and abroad under the control of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), New Delhi (www.kvsangathan.nic.in) an autonomous organization under Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) Govt. of India, New Delhi.

The Kendriya Vidyalayas has come to be known as Centers of Excellence in the field of secondary and Senior Secondary Education in India and abroad, promoting National Integration and International Understanding among the children.

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE SCHOOL

- Highly qualified, professionally trained, experienced, dedicated and committed teachers are deputed by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, New Delhi.
- It has classes from LKG to XII standard (A-Level). The medium of instruction is English. Besides English- French, Persian, Hindi and Punjabi languages are also taught at different levels. Science and Commerce Streams are available at 'A' level.
- All classes are smart classes, learning through activity, play-way methods using Interactive Boards, e-learning, use of various Teaching Learning Materials (TLM), School Readiness Programmes, bridge Courses are adopted.
- Well maintained class rooms, well equipped Computer Laboratory, Science Laboratories, and Library with ideal Teacher- Student ratio (1:15) enables the teachers to give individual attention to students.
- Innovative e-learning, e-library facilities, Coaching for Entrance Exams - IIT, NEET, CLAT conducting various competitions like Olympiads, KVPY, NTSE, Spell-Bee, Counseling Cell and Book Store etc.
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- This school also imparts training to the teachers of other CBSE affiliated schools
- To cater to the educational needs of children of the employees of Central Government, Embassy of India, Diplomatic missions and Defense by providing a common programme of education.
- To pursue excellence and set pace in the field of school education.
- To initiate and promote experimentation and innovativeness in education in collaboration with other bodies like Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi.

For more details please contact the school office and see the Frequently asked questions (FAQ) in the school website.

Principal

Trump is awash in a sea of red ink



The books are closed on the first full year of fiscal policy under President Trump and a Republican Congress, and the result is a sea of red ink. The federal deficit came in at \$779 billion for the year ending Sept. 30, according to the Treasury Department, up from \$666 billion in the previous 12 months. That makes the fiscal 2018 deficit the largest since fiscal 2012, when the United States was still digging its way out of an epic recession.

The past year of steady economic growth and near-full employment should have helped bring the deficit down. Instead, Republicans slashed taxes, mostly for wealthy individuals and corporations, while agreeing with Democrats to boost spending. Of the \$113 billion increase in the deficit, \$92 billion can be accounted for by the tax cut for corporations alone, according to Treasury Department figures. Government revenue from all sources actually increased slightly (by \$14 billion), but this is hardly vindication for the Republican contention that the tax cuts, projected to cost \$1.2 trillion between 2018 and 2028, will pay for themselves in increased growth. Instead, net interest increased by \$62 billion, because the Federal Reserve is sensibly pushing back against a possible overheating of the economy because of the massive fiscal stimulus Trump and Congress applied.

Structural causes of the federal government's long-term debt problems, Social Security and Medicare, remained unaddressed, in keeping with Trump's repudiation of the GOP's previous support for reform of entitlements. In other words, what we've had under Year One of Trump is a combination of the worst of Republican fiscal policy — tax cuts regardless of macroeconomic need or distributional equity — and the worst of Democratic fiscal policy — no changes in the most expensive programs for the elderly.

Instead of fiscal responsibility, we have gotten fiscal populism — which does turn out to be, well, popular. It's also unlikely to cause visible economic harm in the short run. Rather, the problem is insidious: To the extent the government's massive borrowing finances current consumption, as opposed to productivity-enhancing investment, it will weaken the country's ability to grow and pay its debts over the long term. Additionally, a country that is already borrowing 3.9 percent of its economic output, as the United States did in fiscal 2018, has less margin for fiscal stimulus in the next recession.

The situation calls for a balanced blend of revenue increases and spending restraint to restore fiscal sustainability, but the difficulty of that task, political and economic, grows each year we postpone it. There are still three weeks to go until Election Day. That's plenty of time for candidates of both parties to offer the American people some idea of how they propose to deal with this inescapable fiscal reality.

(Source: The Washington Post)

To fight corruption, Kenyans study integrity

The country's anti-corruption body, alarmed at a rise in bribery, starts a Bible-based campaign to educate people on their role in standing up to corruption.

Kenya's official body for fighting corruption conducted a survey last year, and it was shocked at the results. The number of people paying bribes for government services had risen to 62 percent, up from 46 percent two years earlier. The survey found corruption was now seen as the country's leading problem.

Yet the real shocker was this: Nearly two-thirds of Kenyans had done nothing to promote ethical behavior or fight corruption.

The results pushed the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) to focus more on graft prevention — starting with the people themselves — while still going after corrupt officials. Last month, it launched an unusual public campaign. It issued a Bible study guide aimed at inspiring individuals to better understand the role of integrity in private and public life.

"Every member of our society has an opportunity to contribute to the success of the war against corruption. Regardless of your status in the society, you can make a difference," the commission stated on Twitter.

"The fight against corruption is winnable but everyone must commit to live a life that enhances the virtues of integrity, justice, patriotism and love for one another."

Kenya has many laws and institutions to curb corruption. It now audits the personal wealth of civil servants, for example. Under President Uhuru Kenyatta, who recently vowed to end a culture of impunity among the political elite, dozens of officials have been arrested in recent months. "A time has come for every Kenyan to realize no matter how powerful you think you [are] or how much money you have ... that will not save you," the president says.

Still, an estimated one-third of the government budget is lost to corruption each year. And compared with other African countries, Kenya ranks low on Transparency International's 2017 Corruption Perceptions Index.

"When the instruments of the State are captured by those interested solely in the primitive accumulation of wealth, the State itself cannot survive for long. It is for this reason that Kenyans must act....," writes Samuel Kimeu, Transparency International's executive director in Kenya, in a commentary.

The EACC's Bible study campaign is intended to help Kenyans discover God's "direction on living a corruption-free life." In a democracy like Kenya's, the moral compass of citizens can help elect honest leaders and assist prosecutors and judges in ensuring rule of law. It is also the starting point in refusing to pay bribes and in calling out officials who ask for them.

But the first task is a better understanding of individual integrity, a quality that has helped many countries keep corruption in check.

(Source: The CSM)

Could Saudi Arabia take steps to punish America?

By Mostafa Salem

Could Saudi Arabia take steps to punish America? In the wake of the disappearance, and presumed murder, of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, it's a pertinent question. Theoretically, the Saudi government could punish the U.S. financially, and inflict some heavy losses. The Kingdom would also respond strongly to U.S. President Donald Trump's threats to inflict harsh punishment on Riyadh if it is found to have been involved in the assassination of the Saudi journalist.

In theory, of course, the Saudis could punish the whole world and deprive thousands of people, power plants, factories and companies of fuel. The Kingdom has the potential to influence important global markets. This is especially true in the case of the energy and financial sectors.

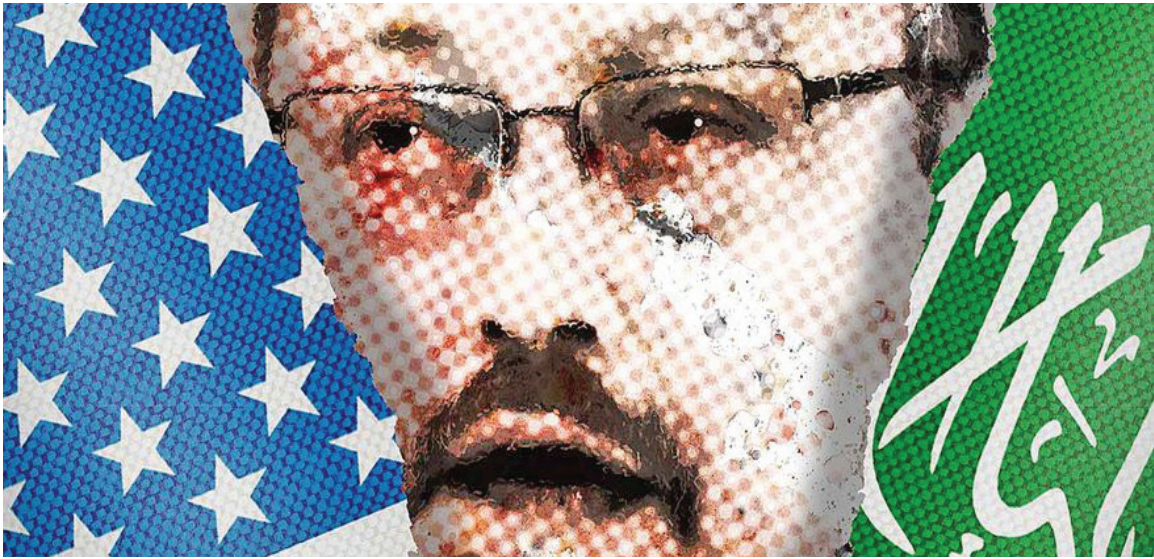
If Riyadh decided to use the oil weapon, the prices of commodities and raw materials would rise, not least because Saudi Arabia is the largest producer of oil among OPEC members. It produces about 11 million barrels per day, of which at least 7 million are exported. Media figures affiliated with the Saudi regime have hinted at the potential use of this weapon. U.S. citizens would be amongst the first to be affected.

This would give Trump a jolt, as he has boasted about his economic prowess and ability to lower America's unemployment and inflation rates despite global price hikes. He also boasts of his ability to create thousands of jobs in America by increasing Saudi investment. Indeed, he has been pushing the Saudis to increase oil production by 2 million barrels a day to compensate for the shortage from Iran, Venezuela and Libya, and the resultant higher prices.

The use of the oil weapon by the Saudis could also influence the U.S. mid-term congressional elections, putting the Trump administration on the spot. If he loses control of the Senate and House of Representatives, The U.S. President would have difficulty in passing controversial legislation, such as the Tax Reform Act.

If the Saudis also decide to withdraw the Kingdom's investments from the U.S. — estimated at \$1 trillion — it could crash the American financial and business sector. Banks would also be placed in a very difficult position if Saudi deposits were taken elsewhere. What's more, Riyadh currently holds around \$165 billion in U.S. bonds. What would happen if it decided to cash them in?

It would also be a huge embarrassment to Trump if Riyadh cancelled or froze the massive arms deals, said to be



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worth \$110 billion to the U.S. economy. American arms manufacturers would want answers from the White House.

All of this, of course, is dependent on the political will existing in Riyadh to retaliate if Trump takes steps to punish Saudi Arabia for what has happened to Jamal Khashoggi. Could, or would, the Saudis actually respond to any U.S. or Western sanctions against the Kingdom with even more serious measures, as one official claimed this week?

Despite the possibilities and options open to it, it is doubtful if Saudi Arabia would actually take steps to punish America. Apart from anything else, the country has never withdrawn as much as one cent from the U.S., even in times of stress in its relationship with Washington.

Moreover, its own economy depends on oil production, and it is unlikely that it could withstand losing 95 per cent of its revenue for any meaningful length of time. There are also major restrictions on withdrawing foreign funds from U.S. banks or even pulling investments out of companies and the selling of shares.

In reality, therefore, the options available to Saudi Arabia to respond to possible U.S. sanctions are limited. The cards held by Riyadh are duplicated in the hands of others, including its potential adversaries in the fallout of the Khashoggi affair. We are unlikely to see much happening of any great significance.

(Source: Middle East Monitor)

Why UAE's Mohammed bin Zayed cancelled his Paris visit

Mounting pressure on Saudi Arabia over the murder of Jamal Khashoggi might account for Mohammed bin Zayed's decision to cancel Paris visit

By Adlene Mohammedi

On 15 October, Mohammed bin Zayed, known as "MBZ", crown prince of Abu Dhabi and supreme vice commander of the Emirati Armed Forces, was scheduled to arrive in Paris for a meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron. The visit was cancelled a few days earlier.

The French presidency said in a statement that Paris and Abu Dhabi were working to set a new date for the visit, without providing the reasons why the UAE's vice president cancelled it.

Both Macron and MBZ had in fact already met, first in Paris in June 2017, a month and a half after Macron's swearing in, and then in Abu Dhabi in November of last year for the inauguration of the Louvre Abu Dhabi.

■ Strong bilateral relations

The visits underscore the strong bilateral relations between France and the UAE. With \$5.17bn worth of exports to the Emirates in 2017, the UAE is France's second-largest trading partner in the Persian Gulf, according to French treasury department numbers; bilateral trade with Saudi Arabia stands at \$9.8bn.

Furthermore, recent arms deals signed with the Emirates should lead to reinforced cooperation between the two nations. The UAE has purchased two corvette-class Gowinds developed by France's Naval Group, and a French naval air station has been based in Abu Dhabi since 2009.

Cordial bilateral relations aside, the Emirati leaders are in a tight spot, as their principal Persian Gulf ally, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia, is looking increasingly isolated.

The UAE must undoubtedly be feeling the heat over the fate of Jamal Khashoggi, the Saudi journalist who disappeared on 2 October after entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. Turkish investigative teams claim the Washington Post columnist was murdered by a Saudi hit squad.

With accusations against Riyadh piling up, and governments across Europe (including Paris) demanding explanations, UAE officials are determined to stand up for their powerful neighbor. The mounting tensions could conceivably account for MBZ's cancelled trip to Paris.

On Thursday, France pulled its finance minister out of a Saudi investment conference in response to Khashoggi's unexplained disappearance.

But Mohammed bin Zayed is more than just a friend to France. The crown prince is a key figure of the "Axis of Moderation" — which could rightly be called the "Axis of Order and Counter-Revolution" — spearheaded by Riyadh and Abu Dhabi. Moreover, he is behind the modernization efforts of the UAE army that began in the early 1990s.



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■ Geopolitical reconfiguration

The alliance between the Emirates and Saudi Arabia is further cemented by what appears to be a personal bond. MBZ is thought to be a mentor to the younger crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, though we mustn't forget the two leaders' many common strategic interests: containing Iran, defeating the Muslim Brotherhood, and shaping the future of the Persian Gulf region with the generous support of the United States. Following the example of the U.S. president, Donald Trump, the strategy of the Riyadh-Abu Dhabi axis often comes across as brutal and arrogant. The kidnapping of the Lebanese prime minister, Saad Hariri, a year ago in Saudi Arabia, is a case in point.

In his columns for the Washington Post, Khashoggi was prone to criticize the fundamental premises of Saudi foreign policy and, for that matter, readily defended the Muslim Brotherhood and demanded an end to the Saudi-led military intervention in Yemen.

The elimination of dissidents in exile is nothing new in the Arab world: Morocco's Mehdi Ben Barka was killed in France in 1965, and Lebanon's Musa Sadr disappeared in Libya in 1978. However, this latest case confirms the

existence of a new balance of power in the region.

Indeed, the respite in Syria together with near-unanimous opposition to the Islamic State (ISIS) terrorist group has led to the emergence of three distinct axes: the Riyadh-Abu Dhabi-Cairo axis (though Sisi's Egypt shows less hostility to the Syrian regime), the Tehran-Damascus-Hezbollah axis, known as the "Resistance Axis", and the Ankara-Doha axis, which could also be called the "Islamic-reform axis".

In the wake of the victory of the "Axis of Resistance" in Syria, in which Moscow played a critical part, differences between the Riyadh-Abu Dhabi alliance and the Ankara-Doha alliance have come to the fore.

Standing up to Turkey, isolating Qatar, waging a war in Yemen and weakening Hezbollah in Lebanon is a tall order, even with Washington's backing. Moreover, Washington is counting on the Riyadh-Abu Dhabi axis to push through its "deal of the century" to "settle" the Palestinian question in favor of Israel.

■ Abu Dhabi's proactive foreign policy

Abu Dhabi does not simply endorse good relations with Riyadh. In recent years, the UAE has revealed political and military ambitions

beyond the Persian Gulf. Faced with Turkey, and what has been called the "Islamic reform axis", Mohammed bin Zayed has embarked on a battle taking him well beyond the Emirati borders, from Libya to the Horn of Africa.

The Emiratis have French-made Mirage 2000 aircraft stationed at a base in Eritrea (Assab). The Turks have a military base in Somalia. In Libya, Turkey and Qatar support the Muslim Brotherhood in Misrata, whereas their UAE and Egyptian adversaries back Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar.

France refuses to take sides in the conflict, maintaining cordial relations despite the imposed isolation of Qatar by its Persian Gulf state neighbors. Qatar, it so happens, is a regular purchaser of French arms.

Along with its U.S. bodyguard, its Saudi counsellor and its French ami, Abu Dhabi can rely on another partner of choice: Russia. In recent years, the UAE has emerged as Russia's leading economic partner in the Persian Gulf.

From the political standpoint, the UAE and Russia share a similar law-and-order mindset and a future collaboration on the question of Yemen is not to be ruled out.

(Source: Middle East Eye)

U.S. air force; competing with rivals or creating a new weapons market

1 → “People are unlikely to know that space is now a military environment,” said Alexandra Stickings, research analyst for Space Policy and Security within the Military Sciences team at RUS, explaining that this has been going on for decades.

During the Cold War, the U.S. and Soviet Union weren’t fighting in space but used spy satellites. At that time, Washington had deployed an anti-satellite rocket in the Pacific Ocean, and Moscow developed a weapon that could destroy a satellite in orbit.

According to Secure World Foundation, China, Russia and the U.S. have the technology to destroy satellites. These weapons are missiles thrown directly from earth to a satellite in orbit.

These weapons are known as “same orbit” and are actually satellites launched by rockets from the ground. After the missile is separated, the satellite will target itself to the orbit of the satellite and will either connect to it or collide with it.

In 2007, China launched an anti-satellite rocket to destroy a meteor orbiting 800 kilometers above Earth. The experiment succeeded.

Meanwhile, Washington has claimed that Russia is developing a laser aerial system designed to disrupt U.S. space systems. The Pentagon also claims that Moscow is creating missiles that can be launched from fighter planes to destroy U.S. satellites.

Cecil Eugene Diggs Haney, a retired U.S. Navy admiral who previously served as Commander, United States Strategic Command (STRATCOM), said that the U.S. should study raise funding for space programs and overall preparedness.

■ Fruitless efforts to demilitarize space

Although the U.S. is pursuing military goals in space, under the pretext that China and Russia are taking military action there, in 2008 Moscow and Beijing proposed a draft international agreement to prevent the deployment of weapons in space. To this day, Washington has made various excuses and has not signed the agreement.

In 2014, Russia presented another draft resolution to prevent the deployment of weapons in space to the UN General Assembly, which once again faced opposition from the U.S. and its allies.

In line with that, Reuters writes that evidence suggests the Trump Administration has defined space as a new battlefield. In his speech in the Pentagon, Mike Pence said: “History proves that peace only comes through strength. And the next generation of Americans to confront



the emerging threats in the boundless expanse of space will be wearing the uniform of the United States of America as well.” Trump’s vice president several months ago also said that the U.S. should strengthen its space force in the future as much as its ground forces.

Many people like Pence believe the U.S. will face new threats in space soon. The Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force, General David Goldfein, recently delivered a speech at the Air Force’s annual meeting where he said that mankind will eventually face space warfare that must use information from all areas, including air, cyber, land, sea and space, to increase its military strength.

U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis has recently announced that the Pentagon agrees with the plan to form a space force and considers space a new battleground and that it plans to create a combat command. He added that the Pentagon fully understands Trump’s concerns about protecting U.S. assets in space, thus the U.S. intends to take this into account because other countries have shown that they can attack these assets.

NASA chief told CBS News in an interview last month: “Our very way of life is dependent on space. If we lose the GPS signals, there are no interbank transfers, and no food in the

stores among other things, which is why hostile countries around the world are taking steps to harm U.S. capabilities.”

Some argue that the formation of a space force is time-consuming and requires a huge effort. Some political observers have also warned that a space force could trigger an arms race in outer space. Critics believe that many of the assigned missions are already being carried out by the other branches of the U.S. military, and that a “space force” is unnecessary and too costly.

Former U.S. Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James has claimed that few or no one in the Pentagon wants President Trump’s Space Force. “None of them are in favor of a Space Force. I say none of the top leaders, but they’re stuck.”

She also said that close to 35,000 people are already working in the U.S. Air Force and formation of a new military wing could be disruptive.

Since Democrats in the U.S. Congress also do not support Trump’s plan, formation of a U.S. space force may also face a legal barrier. For example, Senator Brian Emanuel Schatz has called establishment of U.S. Space Force a stupid idea and predicted that it would never be realized.

Vermont senator Bernie Sanders has also criticized the plan saying, “Maybe, just maybe, we should make sure our people are not dying because they lack health insurance before we start spending more billions to militarize outer space.”

Farid Karimi writes in Zoomit: “The United States now has more than 800 satellites in total, but while the U.S. Army will not need any new satellites, it cannot form a space force overnight. The formation should be approved by the Congress, just as the U.S. Air Force separated from the Army long ago with Congressional approval.

■ A new weapons market

In addition to the U.S., Russia, and China, many other states such as India, Iran and Japan have been operating in space and have launched satellites. No doubt they will also try to improve their defenses against their enemies in space. This will ignite a weapons race and a new weapons market.

The U.S., Russia and China are three of the world’s largest arms manufacturers and the world’s weapons market is in their hands. The formation of a new arms market puts more profits into the pockets of arms manufacturers. That may be one reason for Trump’s insistence on the development of U.S. space forces.

What Is Europe’s Strategy on the JCPOA?



By Saeed Sobhani

TEHRAN — The disputes over the “future of the nuclear deal” are still ongoing. The analysis of this conflict is not so easy, considering the remarkable relations between Washington and Europe. In other words, Western officials look at the nuclear deal not as an “independent legal variable”, but as a “dependent political variable”. On the other hand, along with the talks held between Iran and the five countries of Russia, China, Germany, Britain and France, we are witnessing the formation of parallel negotiations between the White House and the European Troika. The overall nature of these parallel negotiations reflects Europe’s standpoint so that the EU authorities would be more willing to continue their international cooperation with the United States (especially in the face of the JCPOA).

One of the tricks that the US Treasury Department used to directly and negatively affect international companies’ trade with Iran was to increase the risk of having any kind of trade ties with Iran. Recently, European officials have repeatedly announced their “collective commitment” to maintain the nuclear deal with Iran. However, senior European officials have acknowledged that it’s impossible to maintain the JCPOA without the United States of America, and despite the reintroduction of secondary sanctions by the U.S. Treasury Department against Iran. Even those with a more optimistic view believe that it’s not possible to provide European companies with “definite assurance” on having risk-free relations with Iran. Well, the reason is quite clear! Considering the importance of the “private sector” in the Western countries (compared with the public sector and the state economy), many European companies prefer to carry out their economic activities in other countries (and not Iran) with the least possible economic risk. The US Treasury Department has tried to increase this economic risk for European companies by reintroducing secondary sanctions against Iran; an issue that automatically leads to less willingness of these companies to invest in Iran.

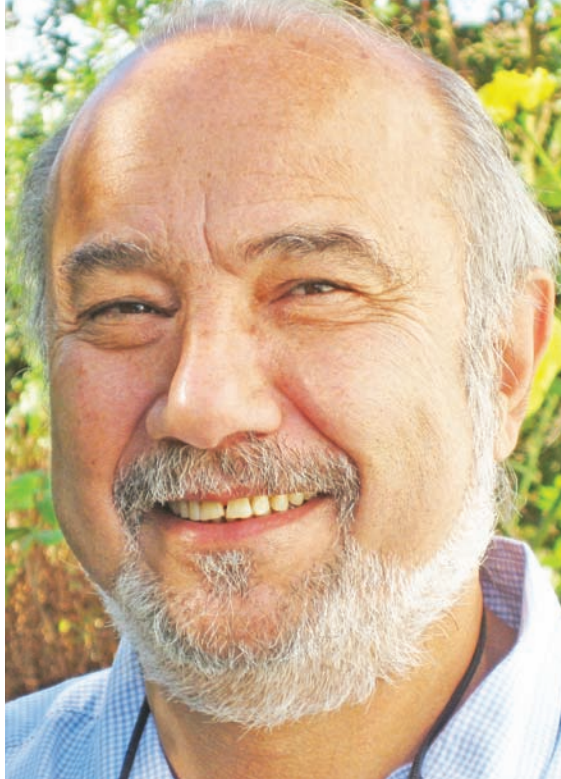
The United States has severely reduced the willingness of European companies to have trade ties with Iran, and thus prevented their investment in Iran. The withdrawal of companies such as Total from Iran reflects the ineffectiveness of EU’s future guarantees in the face of such a situation. On the other hand, German Chancellor Angela Merkel has explicitly stated that EU’s program to support trade relations with Iran mainly includes small and medium enterprises. This is an important issue that should not be ignored in our calculations!

A review on the European troika’s undeniable performance in the post-JCPOA time well indicates that the European troika can’t, and shouldn’t be trusted in this critical period. Besides, European haven’t been committed to the content of the nuclear deal. It should not be forgotten that, just hours before the announcement of the United States withdrawal from the nuclear deal, the European authorities sought to change the nuclear deal and the four illegal conditions set by Trump could be included in it! Similarly, European governments have not taken a real in holding trade relations with Iran since 2015. Even in the normalization of banking relationships, European countries didn’t resume their cooperation with Iran following US Treasury orders. Now at this changing period, it’s not difficult to guess what the performance of European governments and companies would be.

Moreover, during the last three years, and especially since the conclusion of the JCPOA, the European troika took aggressive positions against our country, while fully supporting the United States. At the time of expansion of ISA Act (AN ACT to impose sanctions on persons making certain investments directly and significantly contributing to the enhancement of the ability of Iran to develop its petroleum resources.) and the passage of the KATSA bill (law of sanctions against revolutionary guard corps), they simply ignored the United States’ clear violation of the nuclear deal. We can well remember that about a year ago, the British Foreign Office announced an illegal statement (contrary to their commitments) that Iran was a challenging place for English companies to invest. Obviously, in such a situation, there’s no way that the European authorities can be trusted, especially when the European troika is the director of the play!

For Why Trump is Attacking Iran as he Defends MBS: Askari

1 → But Trump, and pliant Fox media, say their nonsense that they need Saudi Arabia to fight Iranian terrorism! We need Saudi Arabia to combat religious extremism, yet he forgets that Saudi Arabia with its Salafist religious extremists are universally recognized as preaching a false, harshest and most oppressive interpretation of the Muslim faith. We need Saudi Arabia to oppose Iran from taking over the Middle East, yet he forgets that it was Iran that was invaded



For the vast majority of Americans, news comes in the form of 10 second sound bites. They have no interest or time to understand that Iran has legitimate needs for missiles for its defense given regional realities and recent history. The U.S. and its allies have thousands of sophisticated missiles pointed at Iran, they have overwhelming air power, sophisticated electronic devices and yet they want Iran to have no defense whatsoever. It is a fantasy!

■ Still it seems that more than ever before the U.S. is supporting Saudi Arabia and attacking Iran. Are there special reasons for this dual track?

A: Yes, there are some unique reasons. MBS has attached himself to Israel and the Israeli lobby in the U.S. He has figured out that this is one direct channel for more permanent U.S. support. The second is money. Former U.S. officeholders have always happily lobbied for Saudi Arabia in exchange for money but this time they have a lobbyist in chief in the person of the U.S. President and his assistant, his son-in-law Jared Kushner. We must face facts, U.S. foreign policy and support is up for sale as never before. America’s Founding Fathers feared such a practice and they must be turning over in their graves at what they see. The third leg of the stool is that the Iranian economy has been mismanaged and is bad shape; Trump and Netanyahu smell blood and are pushing for regime change. There is a cartoon making the rounds that says it all. I don’t know where it came from but it is accurate. Trump, standing next to Salman, says “If you pay 500 billion, we will say that Khashoggi died outside the consulate, and if you pay 1000 billion, we will accuse Iran of killing him” to which King Salman replies “I will pay 2000 if you add Hezbollah and the Huthis with Iran.” Look Saudi Arabia is a new country. It discovered oil. It has been catapulted to the world stage because of its oil and money. It has used its money as its most important instrument to buy support, both foreign as well as domestic. And it is doing it here. It is doing what it knows best. So you shouldn’t be surprised.

■ Is there anything Iran can do to combat this unwarranted onslaught on Iran?

A: Most important, Iran needs better economic management. If Iran is economically strong it makes itself largely immune to U.S. attacks. With a strong economy, other countries are more likely to cooperate with Iran and defy the United States. Iran also needs to cultivate truly close friends in its region, friends that will stand with Iran. The best candidates are Iraq, Qatar, Oman, Turkey, Afghanistan and Pakistan. It will take time and effort to develop truly strong relations. Finally, it always helps if Iran can muster a few articulate and charismatic voices to express its views to the rest of the world.

■ Are we likely to see a change in Saudi and U.S. policies anytime soon?

A: That’s a tough one. Look the Al-Sauds are all about keeping a tight grip on power and the country’s oil wealth for

themselves. Just a few days ago, I saw the following estimate on a major U.S. network, the wealth of the rulers of Saudi rulers is put at 16 times that of the British royal family—\$1.4 trillion versus less than \$100 billion. It took the British a few centuries and the Saudis about 80 years. How and why? Well they take what they want from the national treasury—oil wealth that belongs to all Saudis of this and future generations, a wealth that is being rapidly depleted to finance their lavish lifestyle and buy superpower support. So do you think that MBS and the Al-Sauds will hand this piggybank over to anyone anytime soon? Of course not! Will former politicians and opportunistic businessmen in the U.S. give up their indirect access to MBS’ piggybank? No, they may distance themselves for a little while to keep up appearances but they will soon go crawling back. If Iran wants less hostile U.S. and Saudi policies, then Iran must become strong economically and militarily and cultivate a few close regional allies. And the faster Iran sets about doing these, the easier it will be.

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Farmanieh (\$2700) 280sq.m, 4bdrs, S/p, S, J, balcony, & pkg
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Arjantin bldg 4storey, 10bdrs, pkg lots, & yard

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Elahiyeh 260sqm, 3 bdrs, SPJ \$ 4000 USD Hojati: (+98) 9309701169	Zaferaniyeh 180sqm, 3 bdrs, SPJ \$ 3000 USD Hojati: (+98) 9309701169	Shahrak-e- Gharb, Villa 600sqm, 5bdrs, SPJ \$ 10000 USD Hojati: (+98) 9309701169

How a 150-year old drug might help battle cancer

A muscle-relaxant first discovered in 1848 might soon be at the cutting edge of cancer treatment. Researchers from The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center investigate.

A new study approaches the challenge of hypoxia in cancer.

There are a number of ways to attack cancer; one of the most commonly used is radiation therapy.

Radiation works on tumors in two ways; firstly, it damages DNA and, secondly, it produces oxygen radicals that also harm cancer cells.

However, when oxygen levels are low (hypoxia), the body produces fewer oxygen radicals, meaning that radiation therapy is less effective.

Because cancer cells divide so quickly, they require more oxygen than healthy tissue. At the same time, blood vessels within tumors are often poorly constructed, making them less efficient.

This means that cancer cells often run out of oxygen, making radiation therapy less deadly to cancer.

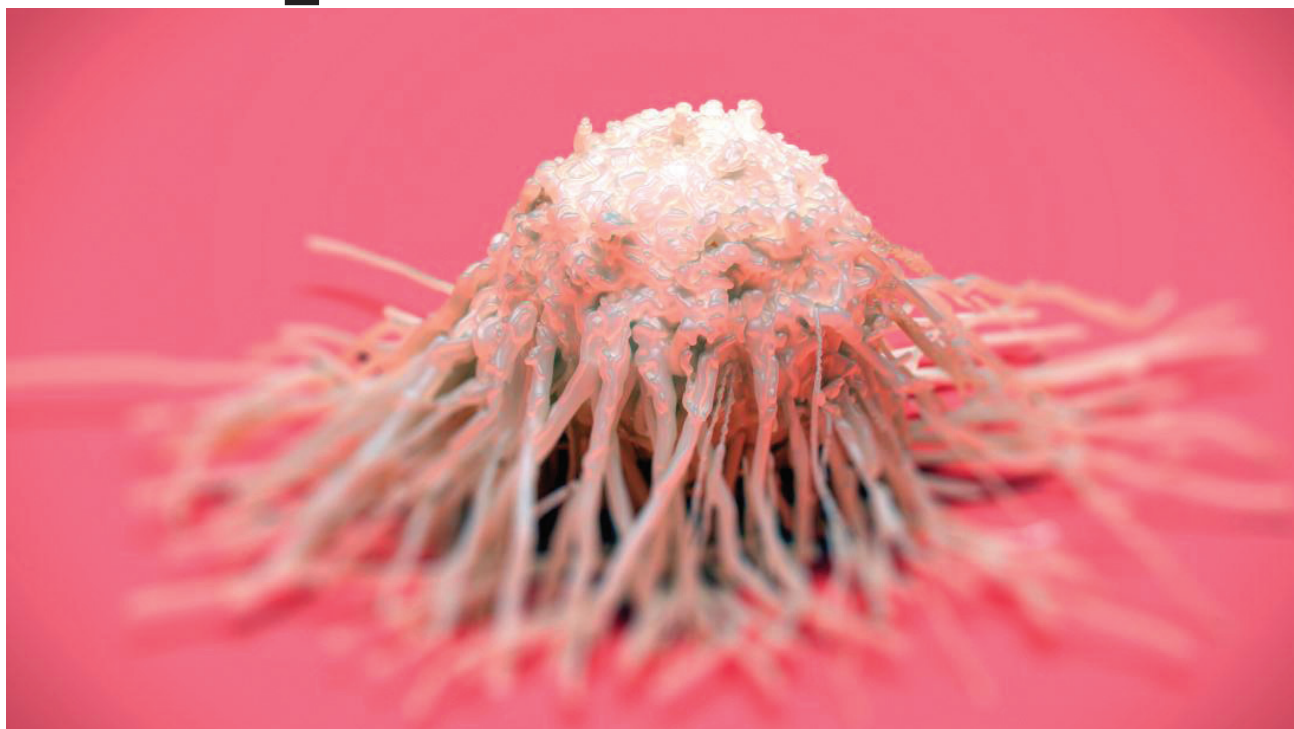
Similarly, these dead, hypoxic zones in the tissue, where blood supply is limited, are difficult for drugs carried in the blood to reach. In this way, hypoxia can reduce the impact of both radiation therapy and chemotherapy.

■ Can we get around hypoxia?

The author of the current study, Dr. Nicholas Denko, Ph.D., explains why hypoxia is such a problem in cancer treatment: "We know that hypoxia limits the effectiveness of radiation therapy, and that's a serious clinical problem because more than half of all people with cancer receive radiation therapy at some point in their care."

Dr. Denko continues, "If malignant cells in hypoxic areas of a tumor survive radiation therapy, they can become a source of tumor recurrence. It's critical that we find ways to overcome this form of treatment resistance."

In his search for ways to improve radiation therapy, Dr. Denko and his team came across a drug called papaverine. Currently, papaverine has a variety of uses, none of which have direct links to cancer.



If malignant cells in hypoxic areas of a tumor survive radiation therapy, they can become a source of tumor recurrence. It's critical that we find ways to overcome this form of treatment resistance.

For instance, papaverine can be used to reduce muscle spasms and to treat erectile dysfunction.

An existing antipsychotic drug might help to treat an aggressive form of breast cancer.

Papaverine works by inhibiting respiration in mitochondria, the fabled powerhouses of the cell. Dr. Denko and his team found that by blocking the activity of oxygen-consuming mitochondria, they could make tumors more sensitive to radiation therapy.

They showed that one dose of papaverine before radiation therapy reduced mitochondrial activity, thereby limiting hypoxia and enhancing the destruction of tumor cells.

Earlier attempts to address the hypoxia problem have focused on adding more oxygen to the tumor. This study takes the opposite approach, by reducing the oxygen demand.

Importantly, the drug did not make healthy tissue more sensitive to radiation therapy.

■ The future of hypoxia

These findings were published recently in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. In an associated commentary in the same issue of the journal, the authors write:

"It is well established that hypoxic cells are two to three times more resistant to radiation than aerobic cells [...] [This research] represents a potential landmark

in the 6-decade-old quest to eliminate hypoxia as a cause for radiotherapy treatment failure."

This is far from the end of the road, though. The researchers hope that by adjusting the structure of papaverine, they might be able to enhance its benefits further. By tinkering with its makeup, they might potentially reduce side effects, too.

Although a great deal more work will be needed before this intervention comes into wider usage, it is an exciting finding. It is a relatively simple process, using a well-tested drug that might help boost the performance of existing cancer treatments.

(Source: Medical News Today)

Taking steps toward a wearable artificial kidney

There just aren't enough kidney transplants available for the millions of people with renal failure. Aside from a transplant, the only alternative for patients is to undergo regular dialysis sessions to clear harmful cellular waste from their bodies.



Now, scientists report in ACS Nano a new urea sorbent that could accelerate progress toward the development of a lightweight, wearable artificial kidney with the potential to make dialysis more convenient, comfortable and effective.

Dialysis typically requires three visits every week to a health care center, where patients are tethered to a machine for hours. Not only is this cumbersome, but health outcomes with the treatment are poor. The problem is that kidneys filter blood around the clock; dialysis just can't do as good of a job when performed for only a few times each week.

Scientists are eager to develop an artificial kidney that could be worn all the time, continuously performing dialysis. One obstacle, though, is urea, which must be removed to maintain the body's nitrogen balance. Currently, dialysis deals with urea using an enzyme that breaks the molecule down into ammonia and carbon dioxide, but the amount of material required to perform this reaction is too big and heavy to be comfortably worn on the body. So, Babak Anasori, Yury Gogotsi and colleagues wanted to try a new approach.

The researchers turned to an emerging nanomaterial called MXene, two-dimensional nanosheets of metal carbides. Instead of breaking down urea, MXene can capture the compound by sandwiching urea molecules between its nanometer-thin layers.

At room temperature, the material could capture 94 percent of urea from the discarded materials from dialysis machines. When tested at body temperature (98.6 F), the material could hold onto even more urea. Furthermore, MXene did not kill cells, suggesting that it could be safely used in people. The researchers conclude that the material could help turn the concept of a comfortably wearable artificial kidney into a reality.

(Source: Science Daily)

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Zaferaniyeh

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sq.m,spj,\$8000

Niavaran

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garden,500 sq.m built up

area,indoor spj,4Bdrs,fully

furn,triplex,\$15000

Darous

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facilities,\$8000

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Farmaniyeh

Aghdasiyeh

Shahrak Gharb

Shariati-Pasdaran

Valiasre

Tajrish

Jordan

Vanak

Arjantin

Zafar...

nice cases ready to move in.

Medicine tops Iran's biotech export list

➔ In July, the vice president for science and technology Sourena Sattari announced that Iranian startups meet 98 percent of the domestic market's need to biotechnology medicine.



■ Biotechnology in medicine

According to economywatch.com, the benefits of biotechnology in medicine are without doubt staggering. Although many exciting developments have taken place in the past few years, with continuing research, it is expected that more and more revolutionary procedures, substances, and devices will be developed to improve and enhance human life. When it comes to biotechnology in medicine, there are many different things that have already been discovered and even more on the near horizon.

For instance, today's biotechnology is now being used to develop much-needed vaccines, new drugs to combat tough illnesses, creating xenotransplant organs, developing a variety of nanomedical diagnostic techniques, and even determining origins of disease. Because of the vastness of biotechnology specific to medicine, millions more people will be helped over those who have already benefited from different opportunities.

SOCIALLY SAFE

Safety tips for buying tickets

Watching your favorite band, team or standup comic from the comfort of your armchair is great, but it's nothing like being there live, on the day.

Tickets to big entertainment and sporting events sell out very quickly, which is very disappointing when you've really been looking forward to the big day. This can make it very tempting to buy them from sources other than official websites.

■ The risks

- Fraud resulting from making payments over unsecured web pages.
- Bogus ticketing sites – fake websites and email offers for tickets that do not exist.
- Bogus posts on fan forums - buying tickets that do not exist.
- Not receiving tickets, having transferred money directly into a fraudster's bank account.

Receiving tickets which do not match the seller's description.

■ Safe ticket buying

- Buy tickets only from the venue box office, promoter, official agent or reputable ticket exchange sites.



- Remember that paying by credit card offers greater protection than with other methods in terms of fraud, guarantees and non-delivery.
- Double check all details of your ticket purchase before confirming payment.
- Do not reply to unsolicited emails from sellers you don't recognize.

- Before entering payment card details on a website, ensure that the link is secure, in two ways:

- There should be a padlock symbol in the browser window frame, which appears when you attempt to log in or register. Be sure that the padlock is not on the page itself ... this will probably indicate a fraudulent site.

- The web address should begin with 'https://'. The 's' stands for 'secure'.

- The above indicate only that the link between you and the website owner is secure, and not that the site itself is authentic. You need to do this by carefully checking the address for subtle misspellings, additional words and characters and other irregularities.

- Some websites will redirect you to a third-party payment service (such as WorldPay). Ensure that these sites are secure before you make your payment.

- Safeguard and remember the password you have chosen for the extra verification services used on some websites, such as Verified by Visa.

- In the event that you choose to buy tickets from an individual (for example on eBay), never transfer the money directly into their bank account but use a secure payment site such as PayPal, where money is transferred between two electronic accounts.

- Check sellers' privacy policy and returns policy.

Always log out of sites into which you have logged in or registered details. Simply closing your browser is not enough to ensure privacy.

- Keep receipts.

- Check credit card and bank statements carefully after ticket purchase to ensure that the correct amount has been debited, and also that no fraud has taken place as a result of the transaction.

- Ensure you have effective and updated antivirus/antispayware software and firewall running before you go online.

(Source: getsafeonline.org)

ICT ministry provides telecom facilities for Arbaeen pilgrims

TECHNOLOGY TEHRAN — The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has provided facilities for Arbaeen pilgrims this year, Mehr reported on Thursday.

Following previous political negotiations with the Etisalat, a multinational Emirati based telecommunications services provider in Iraq, and Iraq's Ministry of Communications, talk tariff between two countries in decreased during Arbaeen pilgrimage, minister for ICT Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi announced.

According to the agreement, talk tariff is decreased from 30,000 rials (about 70 cents) per minute to 9,000 rials (about 20 cents), he announced.

Iranian internet companies also provides free WiFi for Arbaeen trekkers in ten spots from Najaf to Karbala, he added.

Moreover, free WiFi will be provided at the Hazrat Zahra Courtyard at the Imam Hussein shrine in Karbala, he said.

The telecommunication capacity doubled between two countries in comparison to the past year, Azari Jahromi declared.

He asked Iranian not to use data roaming during the pilgrimage, which is become very expensive due to high rate of foreign exchange in Iran.

"They can use Iraqi SIM card for data, which would be more economic," he suggested.

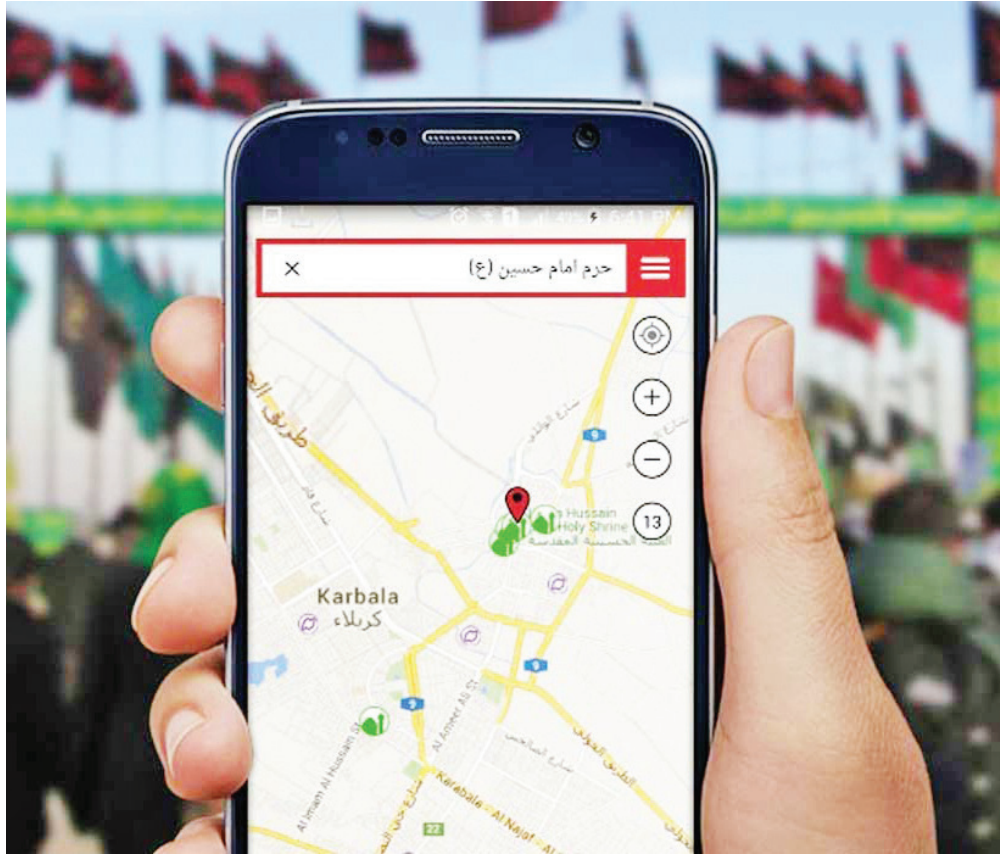
Over 500,000 visas have so far been issued for Iranian pilgrims who are to make their ways to the holy Iraqi cities of Najaf and Karbala.

A total of 820,000 people have applied for the visas, of whom 500,000 have been granted the permits till October 17, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

Arbaeen pilgrimage, aka Arbaeen trek, is a characteristic spiritual exercise in which hundreds of thousands of Shia and Sunni Muslims, even Christians and Zoroastrians, etc. from various nationalities participate.

The long treks will be destined to Karbala, where Imam Hussain (AS), the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), is laid to rest.

The event marks an end to the 40-day mourning period following martyrdom of the Imam and his loyal companions at the Battle of Karbala on Muharram 10 in the year 61 AH (680 CE).



An Arbaeen pilgrim navigates shrine of Ima Hussain (AS) on the cellphone

Microelectronic researchers should be supported: academic

TECHNOLOGY TEHRAN — Iran should support academic teams active in the field of microelectronic in order to improve the industry in the country, scholar Kheirollah Hadidi said, Mehr reported on Thursday.

He made the remarks during the 1st meeting of microelectronic industry at Urmia University in Western Azarbaijan Province on Thursday.

The microelectronic industry has a great importance in different fields of national defense, medical science, com-

puter science and telecommunication, Hadidi highlighted.

The improvement in microelectronic industry leads into manufacturing of smartphones, tablets and TVs, he said.

The government should invest in telecommunication and automotive industry, in which, microelectronic has a crucial role, he concluded.

At the meeting, it was announced that Iran will host the first international conference on microelectronic on December 19, 2019.



Create quality Instagram content

Create quality Instagram content is an important key to engage your audience, but how can you ensure these followers engage with your posts and help you to grow as a business on Instagram? These words: quality Instagram Content

This post will cover exactly how to create quality contents for your Instagram account and You'll also find some helpful design tips to make creative content.

■ 1. Makes a great Instagram caption

As you want to create quality Instagram content The great Instagram caption will show off your brand's personality, entertain the audience, and/or force people to take action. Length of captions can be up to 2,200 characters, include emoji, and up to 30 hashtags.

That doesn't mean your captions should be hashtag-ridden with cryptic emoji messages. Your Instagram caption should gain attention and easy to read.

- Here's how to write your captions:

- keep your captions brief If there's any doubt as to how long your caption should be, as you know Most people scroll through their Instagram posts at a brisk pace.

- In Instagram, only the first three lines of a caption will be displayed. For captions longer than that, people will tap "More" to read the whole thing so Instagram recommends using 125 characters or fewer.

- As you know captions are cut off in users' posts after a few lines of text, so you need to write your key point or call to action at beginning of that and Put any mentions and hashtags at the end. You should give the reader a reason to tap "More."

● Use hashtags in the right way

- Use them that are relevant to your post and target audience. And don't use so many that they crowd your text and make it difficult to read.

- Use these ways to "hide" your hashtags and avoid to clutter your captions:

- When you have finished writing your caption, tap the 123 key in the bottom left corner of the keyboard. choose Return and then enter a period, dash, or asterisk. Repeat these steps at least five times.

Don't place hashtags in your captions at all of your posts. Instead, write them in the comment after you publish the post. Once audience or followers leave a few comments, the hashtags won't be viewable unless the option to See all is selected.

Pose a question in your caption

One of the best ways to get more comments on your post is by using the caption to pose a question to your followers.

With a call to action encourage engagement

Inviting people to leave a comment or tag their friends. Use emoji in your caption

Animated emoji can help draw the reader's eye in and are a good way to add a personality. It can also stand in for entire words, keeping your copy short.

■ 2. Use high-quality images

If you want to create quality Instagram content using high-quality images is another way, to find high-quality photos that don't actually look "stocky", go to Unsplash or Stocksnap.io websites. You can find a range of images for free, and you're bound to find something suitable whatever your niche. If you have the budget to spend, try Stocksy. Just make sure to use the correct image size (there are a few keep in mind the recommended dimensions of an Instagram post are 1080p x 1080p. Place white space and borders in your image



using white edges around your Instagram images can create an effect which attracts the eye. That help that elements in your post design have room to breathe: an important aspect to consider if you want to avoid a busy post.

Use true contrast and balance

The contrast can refer to colors, fonts, light, scale and many more. Finding the true contrast which makes your image attractive is entirely down to you and it is an important step in getting your audience to engage with your content.

■ 3. Make Your Instagram Stories attractive

Attractive Instagram stories is another way to create quality Instagram content. Over 200 million people using the Instagram Stories every day and this feature is now more popular than Snapchat. Instagram has been releasing so many new features for Instagram Stories, for example, selfie stickers, a color wheel for drawing, "hands-free" mode, and so on. A lot of these features are hidden. If you want to be an Instagram Stories professional, keep reading these tips and tricks for Instagram Stories.

READ

- Instagram Influencer Marketing
- Drop Shadow Effect on Text in your Instagram Stories
- Tap the "Aa" icon and write your text

Again, tap the "Aa" icon again and write the same message using a different color

- Now arrange the top layer of text so that it's slightly off-center from the bottom layer of the message

- Create a Selfie Sticker on Instagram Stories
- Tap the sticker button, Select the camera option (on the second row of stickers)

- Now, take a selfie

Now you can place the selfie sticker anyplace that you like on the screen. To create a circular border around it, you must tap the sticker and remove the border just Tap it again.

Mention Other Accounts in Your Instagram Stories One of Instagram's feature is that you can tag other accounts in your story. It's a way to give a shout-out to business or showcase an influencer.

- How to do it:

Tap the "Aa" icon to add text

Type the @ immediately followed by the username of the account you'd like to mention

- vChoose the account you want to mention
- Check How Your Instagram Stories Are Performing
- Open story

- Swipe up on the screen

Now you can see the number as well as the names of people who have seen each photo or video in your story

■ 4. Consider some tips While You're Live on Instagram

- It is an effective feature in Instagram for reaching your audience in an exciting and interactive way.

- Instagram Live can:

- Grow Visibility: With new algorithm of Instagram, your content may not always get the attention. This feature increases your visibility when it sends push notifications to anyone who follows your account.

Increase Engagement: live Instagram help you to talk directly by your favorite Instagram influencer, celebrity, or even brand and ask questions from them and this cause increase engagement by bringing followers closer to your real-life.

Create Relationships: When you are on a Live story your audience is making their relationship with you. This relationship turns into a brand identity. Brand develop its identity by Live on Instagram and share it with the Instagram community.

Determine the Purpose of Your Live Broadcast

According to our goal, create quality Instagram content, Live on Instagram should give viewers something extra special that they can't get from your normal Instagram account so how you can use this feature to deliver value to your follower:

- Introduce New Products: Introduce your new product by using Instagram Live

- Behind the Scenes: Viewers feel like they're actually there with you by Instagram Live, make a tour of your product.

- vSpecial Guest: Doing an Instagram Live with Influencers who interested with your Brand

- Questions and Answer on Instagram Live: An awesome tactic for directly engaging with your followers is Using Instagram Live to answer their questions. This technique shows that you care about what they have to say.

- Know feedback of your viewers: Get instant feedback using Instagram Live to ask your followers what their feedback about your new product.

- When You're Live on Instagram
- Pin Your Live 'Title'
- Type the 'Title' in the comments of the Live Feed
- Tap the comment.
- See Who's Watching
- Tap the eye icon on your screen.
- Switch your Camera's View
- Engage your viewers by switching up your camera's view
- Ask Followers to Direct Message Your Account
- When the Live on Instagram is finished
- Save Your Live Video
- Tap the 'save' button and it will be exported to your Library.

- Write Down Metrics
- Keep track of how many people interacting on your live broadcast.

- Create a Post-Live Instagram Post or Story
- Summarizes what happened during your live video as a new post.
- Follow Up and Answer Questions
- startupik.com

For the first time, geologists confirm that Earth’s core is actually solid

For the first time, geologists have confirmed that our planet’s inner core is indeed solid – although not quite as firm as previous models have suggested.

Thanks to a new method for detecting soft whispers of seismic waves, analysis of an elusive type of earthquake ripple has revealed key properties of our planet’s deepest layer.

Researchers from the Australian National University (ANU) zeroed in on a low amplitude ‘J-phase’ seismic wave that passes through the planet’s core, allowing them to finally put constraints on its solidity.

As the planet’s crust grinds and groans on the surface, waves of energy are sent rippling their way through its gooey insides.

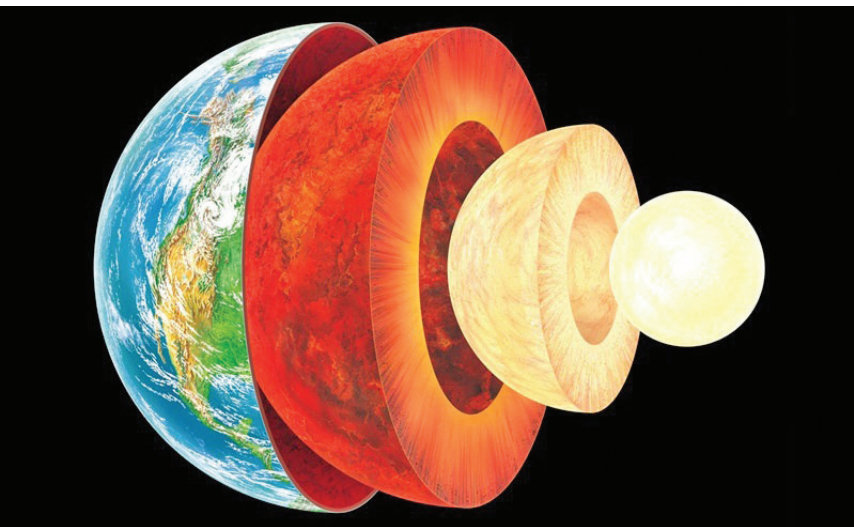
These come in various forms. Some, described as compressional waves, push back and forth through the planet’s body like a series of jittering train carriages. Others, called shear waves, surge up and down like the ocean’s surf along surfaces.

One particular variation called a J-phase should pass through the planet’s inner core, picking up details of the layer’s elasticity. That’s always been the theory, at least.

■ Holy Grail of seismology

The only problem is they’re rather quiet, making them virtually impossible to detect, so geologists have sent their measurement as something of a ‘Holy Grail’ of seismology.

Two ANU Earth scientists have now worked out a clever way to listen to these incredibly



faint waves in the hum of earthquake vibrations echoing through our planet.

The method relies on taking any two seismic receivers on the planet’s surface and comparing notes several hours after the loudest rumbles have died away. With enough pairs of signals, a pattern can emerge.

“Using a global network of stations, we take every single receiver pair and every single large earthquake – that’s many combinations – and we measure the similarity between the seismograms,” says researcher Hrvoje Tkali.

As the planet’s crust grinds and groans on the surface, waves of energy are sent rippling their way through its gooey insides.

“That’s called cross correlation, or the measure of similarity. From those similarities we construct a global correlogram – a sort of fingerprint of the Earth.”

■ Properties of Earth’s layers

A similar process was recently used to accurately measure the thickness of ice in Antarctica, providing a novel way to determine not just the properties of Earth’s layers, but potentially of other worlds as well.

Getting a grip on the nature of our planet’s guts is no easy task. We can barely dig more than 12 kilometers (about 7.5 miles) into the crust, which hardly scratches the surface, let alone reveals what’s thousands of kilometers underfoot.

A century ago, it was thought our planet had a thick crunchy outer coating and a gooey center made of molten metals.

That all changed in the 1930s, following seismic readings of a large earthquake in New Zealand, which threw up signs of compression waves that shouldn’t have been there. A Danish seismologist by the name of Inge Lehmann suggested these patterns were most likely an echo bouncing off a solid center.

This inner core has been firmly established in geological models of our planet’s structure. It’s about three quarters the size of our Moon, made of iron and nickel, and sizzles at a temperature roughly as hot as the Sun’s surface.

(Source: sciencealert.com)

Blazar’s brightness cycle confirmed by NASA’s Fermi mission



A two-year cycle in the gamma-ray brightness of a blazar, a galaxy powered by a supermassive black hole, has been confirmed by 10 years of observations from NASA’s Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope. The findings were announced today at the Eighth International Fermi Symposium meeting this week in Baltimore.

“This is the first time that a gamma-ray period has been confirmed in an active galaxy,” said Stefano Ciprini, a researcher at the INFN Tor Vergata division of the Italian Space Agency’s Space Science Data Center in Rome. The “gamma-ray period is also seen in other wavebands, including visible light, and additional X-ray and radio data hint at similar brightness peaks.”

Some of the matter falling into the blazar, named PG 1553+113, forms a jet of particles that radiates gamma rays, the highest-energy form of light, almost directly toward Earth.

“This result has been achieved after 10 years of continuous monitoring by Fermi’s Large Area Telescope (LAT), said Sara Cutini, a researcher at the Italian Institute for Nuclear Physics (INFN) in Perugia. “We first saw a hint of a periodic modulation in 2014, when we produced detailed analyses of LAT data. Now we can say with certainty that this long-term behavior is real.”

■ Supermassive black holes

A pair of supermassive black holes

in the heart of the blazar is the most tantalizing possibility. In this scenario, one of the supermassive black holes would be emitting the gamma rays in a jet, and the direction of this jet “wobbles” due to interactions with its companion black hole. This would make PG 1553+113 a prime target for a future space-based gravitational wave detector, such as the European Space Agency’s Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (LISA), set for launch in the 2030s, or by the Square Kilometer Array (SKA), a giant radio telescope, which is under construction in South Africa and Australia.

The scientists caution that other interpretations can explain the cyclic emission. For example, there could be periodic instabilities in a disk of matter swirling around a single supermassive black hole, or there could be general relativistic effects that cause the gamma-ray-emitting jet to precess.

The “periodic variations in visible light, gathered over 12 years by optical telescopes on Earth and in space, are similar and well correlated with what we see in high-energy gamma-rays from Fermi’s Large Area Telescope. It is a totally new discovery for high-energy gamma-ray blazars and active galaxies,” said Stefan Larsson, a researcher at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden.

(Source: phys.org)

Wild songbirds can pick up new tunes, scientists find



Researchers taught two dozen wild sparrows new songs, by playing them the recordings of sparrows that live thousands of miles away. Jason G. Goldman reports.

Only a few kinds of animals are known to learn their vocalizations from listening to others. Us, of course. Elephants. Bats. Cetaceans – whales and dolphins. Pinnipeds – walruses, seals and sea lions. And parrots, hummingbirds and songbirds. That’s it.

“When your cat meows or your dog barks, it does that because it has genetically inherited that sound. But birds are like us, young animals have to hear adults in order to develop normal sounds.”

There have been hundreds of conventional experiments done in laboratories with captive birds that support the idea that young birds learn to sing by listening to older birds. These studies also taught us that birds, like humans, have what’s called a “sensitive period” early in life, a time when they are most disposed to learn how to vocalize from their elders.

■ Wild birds

But nobody ever did one of those experiments with wild birds. Observational studies, yes. But no true experiments. Until now, thanks to some wild savannah sparrows.

“So this population of savannah sparrows lives on an island in the Bay of Fundy in eastern North America, and it’s been studied since the 1960s, so we know a lot about this population. It means we know every kind of sound that has ever been uttered by a savannah sparrow in this population over the course of many decades.”

Mennill and his team installed a series of loudspeakers on the island, and they played new tunes that the sparrows would never have heard otherwise.

The “kinds of sounds that we broadcast to the animals were based on savannah sparrows, the same species, but recordings collected on the western coast of North America, many thousands of miles away from our study population.”

For six years, the researchers broadcast these novel songs to five cohorts of sparrows.

■ Reproductive success

In all, 26 birds learned their songs from loudspeakers rather than from other birds. And they had the same survival and reproductive success as all the other birds. All but one successfully mated and defended their territories. And four additional birds learned songs from birds that had originally learned from the loudspeakers.

“What we have now is a very unique, maybe a globally unique population of animals, where some of the animals sing population typical songs that sound like other animals in their breeding population. But our experimental subjects who are living there now, are singing songs that are slightly different.”

By returning to the island year after year, Mennill can study not only vocal learning, but the transmission of culture from one generation to the next. There’s a lot going on in those bird brains.

(Source: Scientific American)

Working lands play a key role in protecting biodiversity, research suggests

With a body the size of a fist and wings that span more than a foot, the big brown bat must gorge on 6,000 to 8,000 bugs a night to maintain its stature. This mighty appetite can be a boon to farmers battling crop-eating pests.

But few types of bats live on American farms. That’s because the current practice of monoculture – dedicating large swathes of land to a single crop – doesn’t give the bats many places to land or to nest.

Diversifying working lands – including farmland, rangeland and forests – may be key to preserving biodiversity in the face of climate change, says a new review paper in Science by conservation biologists at the University of California, Berkeley.

Diversification could be as simple as adding trees or hedgerows along the edges of fields, giving animals like birds, bats and insects places to live, or as complex as incorporating a patchwork of fields, orchards, pasture and flowers into a single working farm.

■ Habitat of critters

These changes could extend the habitat of critters like bats, but also much larger creatures like bears, elk and other wildlife, outside the boundaries of parks and other protected areas, while creating more sustainable, and potentially more productive, working lands.

“Protected areas are extremely important, but we can’t rely on those on their own to prevent the pending sixth mass



extinction,” said study co-author Adina Merenlender, a Cooperative Extension Specialist in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management at UC Berkeley. “This is even truer in the face of climate change, because species will need to move around to adapt to shifts in temperature and climate.”

Maintaining even small pieces of the original landscape – even a single tree – can help conserve the original diversity of species, Merenlender said.

Clearing oak woodlands and shrublands to establish large

vineyards hits many native species hard. Animals that are well adapted to urban and agricultural areas, such as mockingbirds, house finches and free-tail bats, continue to flourish, while animals that are more sensitive to disturbance, like acorn woodpeckers, orange-crowned warblers and big brown bats, begin to drop away.

■ Sensitive birds

“If you can leave shrubs, trees and flowering plants, the habitat suitability – not just for sensitive birds but also for other vertebrates – goes way up,” Merenlender said. This is true not only in California’s vineyards, but on working lands around the world.

Incorporating natural vegetation makes the farm more hospitable to more creatures, while reducing the use of environmentally degrading chemicals like herbicides, pesticides and man-made fertilizer.

The ideal farming landscape includes woodland pastures and vegetable plots bumping up against orchards and small fields, said Claire Kremen, a professor in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management.

Integrating livestock produces manure which can fertilize the crops, while those same crops produce feed for livestock. Birds and bats provide pest control, and bees boost crop production by pollinating plants.

(Source: eurekalert.org)

Study reveals 3.7 billion-year-old fossils may actually be just rocks

Several years ago, a group of researchers revealed a new fossil discovery suggesting that life on Earth started even earlier than we thought. The 3.7 billion-year-old structures found in Greenland certainly looked like they had a biological origin, but a new study casts doubt on the original claims. A different team says the structures identified in Greenland are most likely just rocks. Technically, fossils are rocks, but the question is whether they used to be alive.

The original team uncovered unusual cone-like structures in the Isua supracrustal belt in Greenland, dating to 3.7 billion years in the past. At the time, the researchers concluded that these shapes were most likely “stromatolites,” small clusters of single-cell organisms and biofilms that fossilized. If true, that would push back the earliest evidence for life on Earth by hundreds of millions of years. The next oldest fossils are from the Strelley Pool Formation in Australia, which date from 3.45 billion years ago.

With fossils this old, there’s not much you can do to differentiate them from surrounding rock on a chemical level – there’s no DNA or protein to confirm without a doubt that this structure used to be alive. However, the morphology of the fossils can tell you a lot. The Greenland find does look like newer fossils of single-celled organisms, and the rare-Earth element composition didn’t rule out life.

The new analysis led by NASA astrobiologist Abigail Allwood looked at the 3D shape of the rock features rather than just the exposed surface.

On the end, they do look like biological stromatolites. However, the latest study says that’s just a cross section of elongated triangular tubes. In addition, some of the structures were upside down, which doesn’t make sense if they were growing upward from an ancient seabed, as the previous team had surmised.

(Source: extremetech.com)

New material, manufacturing process use sun’s heat for cheaper renewable electricity

Solar power accounts for less than 2 percent of U.S. electricity but could make up more than that if the cost of electricity generation and energy storage for use on cloudy days and at nighttime were cheaper.

A Purdue University-led team developed a new material and manufacturing process that would make one way to use solar power – as heat energy – more efficient in generating electricity.

The innovation is an important step for putting solar heat-to-electricity generation in direct cost competition with fossil fuels, which generate more than 60 percent of electricity in the U.S.

“Storing solar energy as heat can already be cheaper than storing energy via batteries, so the next step is reducing the cost of generating electricity from the sun’s heat with the added benefit of zero greenhouse gas emissions,” said Kenneth Sandhage, Purdue’s Reilly Professor of Materials Engineering.

The research, which was done at Purdue in collaboration with the Georgia Institute of Technology, the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Oak Ridge National Laboratory, published in the journal Nature.

This work aligns with Purdue’s Giant Leaps celebration, acknowledging the university’s global advancements made for a sustainable economy and planet as part of Purdue’s 150th anniversary. This is one of the four themes of the yearlong celebration’s Ideas Festival, designed to showcase Purdue as an intellectual center solving real-world issues.

Solar power doesn’t only generate electricity via panels in farms or on rooftops. Another option is concentrated power plants that run on heat energy.

(Source: Science Daily)

The world’s largest organism is dying, but there are still ways to save it

The “Trembling Giant,” as it is known, is actually a massive single organism connected by one sprawling root system. This ancient marvel of nature is thousands of years old – scientists don’t know exactly how old – and is considered the largest living organism on Earth.

To be clear, according to new research published in PLOS One, it isn’t necessarily human disregard or negligence that has threatened the Trembling Giant. It’s the herbivorous ungulates, aka the deer and cattle that graze in the area that we allow to graze among the Pando’s trees.

“While several human alterations to this forest have taken place in recent decades, it is the lack of simultaneous herbivore regulation that has caused this stand’s degeneration,” the study says.



Grazing species like the mule deer are thought to be degrading the Pando aspen system.

“This all relates back to human decisions,” Paul Rogers, the author of the study, told CNN. Rogers is an adjunct professor at Utah State University and the Director of the Western Aspen Alliance.

The solution, Rogers says, is in aligning plant and animal conservation efforts so they work together.

“We can no longer manage wildlife and forests separately,” he says. “Typically, state governments regulate animals and the federal government regulates the forests or vegetation.”

According to the study, which included samples, photography and other data taken from a sample site within the Pando, the forest started to thin out about 40 to 50 years ago. Around that time, Rogers says populations of elk started to grow around the area.

The Pando aspen clone lies more than 5,000 feet above sea level in central Utah.

Now, other species such as mule deer are protected by certain hunting regulations and roam unbothered. Grazing cattle populations and the rise of campgrounds and roads around the area have posed even more threats to the Pando’s ecosystem.

(Source: cnn.com)

Tehran to play host to Asia-Pacific Regional Conference addressing rapid population ageing

Population ageing is one of the major demographic transitions globally, especially in the Asia and Pacific as one of the most populated areas in the world. The speed and scope of population ageing as well as its profound implications for socio-economic development, call for immediate action at different levels particularly at the level of policy formulation and planning.

Most countries in the region are advancing in adapting policies and practices to the demands of rapid population ageing. Some of these countries are more ahead in this process i.e.; Thailand, Vietnam, Republic of Korea, Japan while others are at different stages of policy development.

Given that, exchanging knowledge and experiences among these countries is essential, to better grasp potential solutions to the issues related to population ageing and the needs of older people.

In this context, the Government of Iran in collaboration with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Asia and Pacific Regional Office of the HelpAge International held a regional forum on policy implications of population ageing in July 2017 in Tabriz.

This forum mainly aimed at facilitating exchange of knowledge and expertise among these countries, and to contribute to the process of policy formulation and came to an end with endorsement of a statement.

As a follow-up to Tabriz forum, this year, in partnership with the UNFPA, the Ministry of Cooperative, Labor and Welfare, the State Welfare Organization of Islamic Republic of Iran, the HelpAge Asia-Pacific Regional Conference will be held in Tehran from October 23 to 25.

HelpAge International in Asia-Pacific has been holding regular regional conferences on ageing for the last 20 years. Previous conferences have taken place in India (2006), Indonesia (2008), Australia (2010), Myanmar (2012), Thailand (2014) and Vietnam (2016).

The conference is also being supported by Age International and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

UNFPA Executive Director and Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations, Dr. Natalia Kanem, high level Iranian officials, foreign missions representatives as well as 121 delegates from 28 countries including government ministers, non-government and civil society organizations, academics and researchers, and members of the media will attend the conference.

Sessions at the conference will focus on a range of themes and issues, including:

- The impact of longevity on family structures;
 - How older persons can be better involved in shaping policies that impact them;
 - Financial security in old age;
 - The evolution of long-term care;
 - Addressing exclusion and isolation in old age by fostering age-friendly communities;
 - How older persons can continue to work well beyond retirement age; and
 - The gender dimensions of population ageing.
- The expected outcomes of the conference are:
- A greater understanding of how communities and governments can work together to support families facing challenges associated with rapid population ageing;
 - Shared international experience in how countries shape their public policies, structures and services to adapt to demographic change; and
 - Wider and deeper networking among a range of organizations interested in population ageing issues in the Asia-Pacific region and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

(Source: UNFPA)

LEARN ENGLISH

Tune Up

A: Welcome to AI's Garage. What seems to be the problem?
B: No problem at all! I am taking a long **road trip** and I want to make sure my car is in good mechanical condition.
A: Very wise decision. When was the last time you had a **tune up**?
B: Not that long ago, I think it was four months ago.
A: We usually recommend that you bring your car in every five thousand kilometers.
B: Why? I mean, what exactly do you do to a car that you need to check it so often?
A: First of all, we change the motor oil and oil filter. If you don't do this, it can cause your **engine** to wear faster and that means you would probably have to change the **pistons** and intake valves.
B: I see. What else?
A: We also check your **spark plugs**, fuel filter, and other oil levels such as hydraulic fluid. We also check the **clutch** and **brakes** to determine when you will need new ones.
B: Ok, well, when you put it that way, it doesn't seem like a waste of time and money.
A: Trust me, **regular** tune ups will keep your car running **smoothly** and avoid **break downs**.
■ **Key vocabulary**
road trip: long trip by car
tune up: a process in which small changes are made to something (such as an engine) in order to make it work better
engine: the device which helps cars getting running
piston: a part of an engine that moves up and down inside
spark plug: a device in the engine which produces electric spa
clutch: pedal that you press before you change gear
brake: a device that slows down or stops something
regular: ordinary
smoothly: without problems or difficulties
break down: stop working
■ **Supplementary vocabulary**
brake pads: part of the disk brake, brake pads are squeezed together to help the car brake
antifreeze: a chemical compound used in internal combustion engines, helps to regulate the temperature of the engine
ABS; **anti-lock braking system**: prevents the wheels of the car from locking up while braked
mileage: the number of miles traveled over a period of time
(Source: irlanguage.com)

Rules on carrying firearms for rangers still awaiting approval

ENVIRONMENT **TEHRAN** — While a bill to uphold the **d e s k** rights of rangers, including rules on carrying and use of firearms, has been approved by the judiciary committee of Majlis [Iranian parliament] in late September, it is still waiting for approval, ISNA reported on Friday.

“The Majlis speaker Ali Larijani has agreed to review the bill urgently to be passed soon by the parliament,” Jamshid Mohabbat Khani an official with the Department of Environmental (DOE) has said.

The bill was drafted in July 2016 by the Department of Environment (DOE) following the death of two rangers, Mohammad Dehqani and Parviz Hormozi, who were killed in June 2016 during an armed conflict with poachers in Hormozgan province.

The country's current gun rules and regulations for rangers sound inefficient due to lack of clarity in the law and ineffective legislative strategies which allows the rangers to use weapons only in case of self-defense, otherwise they are not allowed to shoot, Mohabbat Khani further explained.

This sounds to be in conflict with the job description of the rangers who are supposed to protect the environment and the precious biodiversity.

As he explained once spotting a poachers ranges should shoot bullets in the air to warn them and then they can shoot them in the leg, which is not normally possible as things don't usually happen in such order and they have to make a decision in a very short time-span that's why rangers get killed in such armed conflicts.

So, the law must be revised so that the rangers can use their weapons in armed conflicts with poachers or in case of any crimes spotted in protected areas, he also added.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he stated that although the bill offers solutions for part of the ranger's judicial problems, the most significant problem is inadequate number of forces.

“Some 8,500 rangers are required as per DOE's organizational chart, while there are only 3,000 forces for monitoring protected areas, which needs a serious consideration,” he highlighted.

He went on to say that the DOE requests the government to take measures to increase the number of rangers by 80-90 percent within two years, reaching up to 5,000 forces.

Pointing to the details of a conflict between the illegal hunters and rangers protecting Golestan National Park, which resulted in the martyrdom of a ranger in the area, he noted that there were 8 poachers in the incident, while only two rangers and two assistants were defending. Thus, the num-



Once spotting a poachers ranges should shoot bullets in the air to warn them and then they can shoot them in the leg, which is not normally possible as things don't usually happen in such order and they have to make a decision in a very short time-span that's why rangers get killed in such armed conflicts.

ber of illegal hunters was considerably higher, so it made the poachers more agile, and such terrible event occurred.

Iranian ranger, Taj Mohammad Bashghareh, lost his life after getting shot in an armed conflict with poachers on Wednesday in Golestan province, northeastern Iran.

Some 123 rangers have gotten killed while protecting the environment sine 1979 in Iran.

As per the proposed bill the rangers would not face charges in case of involuntarily manslaughter while on duty and

would be compensated for the losses they suffer while trying to protect the environment and the biodiversity, the government is required to allocate budget to help those rangers who might be obliged to pay out blood money or other sort of money-penalty compensation for murder or any injuries trespassers may suffer in armed conflicts with them, and the rangers will be provided with regular insurance coverage and are entitled to compensation for the losses they suffer while doing their job.

National family assembly to open within months

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — National **d e s k** family assembly will be launched in the country by the next few months in coordination with the Ministry of Interior, head of the national family foundation has said.

Hojjatoleslam Reza Ro'yat made the remarks at the closing ceremony of the first national conference on importance of family, which started in Tehran on Wednesday, Mehr reported.

The conference attended by representatives of 700 non-governmental groups, aiming at increasing knowledge exchange among NGOs active in such fields in order to investigate and assess vulnerabilities in families.

Some 10,000 related NGOs have been identified in the country, of which, 7,000 have been interviewed and eventually,



some 700 were selected to attend the conference, Ro'yat said.

The event created the opportunity to run well planned panels and exchange views on the status of families in the country from various aspects, he concluded.

The family is the divine building block of society. For one, family is the single most important influence in a child's life. Parents and family form a child's first relationships.

Iran to hold nurse practitioner courses to enhance healthcare services quality

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — In an attempt to in improve **d e s k** the quality of healthcare services Health Ministry is planning on holding nurse practitioner courses, Maryam Hazrati as the deputy health minister for nursing has said.

According to nurse.org nurse practitioners (NPs) can prescribe medication, examine patients, diagnose illnesses, and provide treatment, much like physicians do. In fact, nurse practitioners have what's referred to as “full practice authority”, meaning that they do not have to work under the supervision of a doctor.

Isfahan University of Medical Sciences has led studies to decide the details of the courses for a year and the final findings will be soon published, Hazrati said, IRNA reported on Friday.



ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → €

‘Iranian children grew taller in last 2 decades’

While 20 percent of Iranian children have been shorter than usual, the number has decreased to 4 percent over the past two decades, which indicates that children are currently taller than before, an official with the Ministry of Health has said.

“Since two decades ago, the number of short children have dropped in the country, and Iranian kids have become taller due to a significant improvement in their nutrition,” IRNA quoted Zahra Abdollahi as saying on Tuesday.

PREFIX/SUFFIX

“chiro-, cheiro-”

■ **Meaning:** hand

■ **For example:** Much of the day in the life of a **chiropractor** is spent seeing patients.

PHRASAL VERB

Lay into somebody

■ **Meaning:** to attack or criticize someone or something

■ **For example:** Outside the office, two men were laying into each other.

IDIOM

Chill out

■ **Explanation:** to do something to calm down and relax

for a while after a period of heavy work or nervous tension
■ **For example:** After a week of exams, the students needed to go and chill out.



Imam Hossein (AS).

Every year pilgrims start their walk from various cities to the holy shrine of Imam Hossein (AS) in Karbala days or even weeks before Arbaeen- 40th day of Imam Hossein (AS) martyrdom- to grieve the doleful passing of the Imam and his loyal companions at the Battle of Karbala on Muharram 10 in the year 61 AH (680 CE).

Saudi looking for bin Salman replacement

➔ Last Thursday, Oct. 11, the king dispatched his most trusted aide, Prince Khaled al-Faisal, governor of Mecca, to Istanbul to try to defuse the crisis.

World leaders were demanding an explanation and concern was growing in parts of the royal court that the king's son Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, to whom he has delegated vast powers, was struggling to contain the fallout, the sources said.

During Prince Khaled's visit, Turkey and Saudi Arabia agreed to form a joint working group to investigate Khashoggi's disappearance. The king subsequently ordered the Saudi public prosecutor to open an inquiry based on its findings.

"The selection of Khaled, a senior royal with high status, is telling as he is the king's personal adviser, his right hand man and has had very strong ties and a friendship with (Turkish President) Erdogan," said a Saudi source with links to government circles.

Since the meeting between Prince Khaled and Erdogan, King Salman has been "asserting himself" in managing the affair, according to a different source, a Saudi businessman who lives abroad but is close to royal circles.

Saudi officials did not immediately respond to Reuters questions about the king's involvement in helping to supervise the crisis. A spokesman for Prince Khaled referred Reuters to government representatives in Riyadh.

Khashoggi, a U.S. resident and leading critic of Prince Mohammed, vanished after entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on Oct. 2. Turkish officials say they believe the Saudi journalist was murdered there and his body removed, allegations which Saudi Arabia has strongly denied.

Initially the king, who has handed the day-to-day running of Saudi Arabia to his son, commonly known as MbS, was unaware of the extent of the crisis, according to two of the sources with knowledge of the Saudi royal court. That was partly because MbS aides had been directing the king to glowing news about the country on Saudi TV channels, the sources said.

That changed as the crisis grew. "Even if MbS wanted to keep this away from the king he couldn't because the story about Khashoggi's disappearance was on all the Arab and Saudi TV channels watched by the king," one of the five sources said.

"The king started asking aides and MbS about it. MbS had to tell him and asked him to intervene when Khashoggi's case became a global crisis," this source said.

Since he acceded to the throne in January 2015, the king has given MbS, his favorite son, increasing authority to run Saudi Arabia. But the king's latest intervention reflects growing disquiet among some members of the royal court about MbS's fitness to govern, the five sources said.

MbS, 33, has implemented a series of



high-profile social and economic reforms since his father's accession, including ending a ban on women driving and opening cinemas in the conservative kingdom.

But he has also marginalized senior members of the royal family and consolidated control over Saudi's security and intelligence agencies.

His reforms have been accompanied by a crackdown on dissent, a purge of top royals and businessmen on corruption charges, and a costly war in Yemen.

Khashoggi's disappearance has further tarnished the crown prince's reputation, deepening questions among Western allies and some Saudis about his leadership.

"Even if he is his favorite son, the king needs to have a comprehensive view for his survival and the survival of the royal family," said a fourth Saudi source with links to the royal court.

"In the end it will snowball on all of them." Saudi officials did not immediately respond to Reuters requests for comment.

■ Miscalculation

Saudi Arabia has repeatedly denied any role in Khashoggi's disappearance. But the sources familiar with the royal court said the reaction from the United States, an ally for decades, had contributed to the king's intervention.

"When the situation got out of control and there was an uproar in the United States, MbS informed his father that there was a problem and that they have to face it," another source with knowledge of the royal court said.

The crown prince and his aides had initially thought the crisis would pass but they "miscalculated its repercussions", this source said.

Turkish officials have made clear they believe Khashoggi was killed inside the consulate, and two Turkish sources have told Reuters police have audio recordings to back up that assertion.

U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham, a Republican close to President Donald Trump, on Tuesday accused MbS of ordering Khashoggi's murder and called him a "wrecking ball" who is jeopardizing relations with the United States. He did not say what evidence he was basing the allegation on.

Trump said on Thursday he presumed Khashoggi was dead but that he still wanted to get to the bottom of what exactly happened. Asked what would be the consequences for Saudi Arabia, Trump said: "Well, it'll have to be very severe. I mean, it's bad, bad stuff. But we'll see what happens."

Trump has previously said "rogue killers" may have been responsible and has ruled out cancelling arms deals worth tens of billions of dollars. On Tuesday, Trump said he had spoken with MbS and that the crown prince told him he did not know what had happened in the consulate where Khashoggi went missing.

The case poses a dilemma for the United States, as well as Britain and other Western nations. Saudi Arabia is the world's top oil exporter, spends lavishly on Western arms and is an ally in efforts to contain the influence of Iran.

But in a sign of the damage, a succession of international banking and business chiefs, including IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde, JP Morgan Chief Executive Jamie Dimon and Ford Chairman Bill Ford, have pulled out of a high-profile investment conference in Saudi Arabia this month.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin on Thursday also abandoned plans to attend, as did Britain's trade minister and the French and Dutch finance ministers, putting the event in question.

Saudi officials have said they plan to move forward with the conference, scheduled for Oct. 23-25, despite the wave of cancellations.

Neither JP Morgan nor Ford would elaborate on the reasons for the decision not to attend and did not comment on whether concerns about the disappearance of Khashoggi

were a factor.

Lagarde had previously said she was "horrified" by media reports about Khashoggi's disappearance. An IMF spokesperson did not give a reason for her deferring her trip to the Middle East.

■ Taking control

Before the king's intervention, Saudi authorities had been striking a defiant tone, threatening on Sunday to retaliate with greater action against the U.S. and others if sanctions are imposed over Khashoggi's disappearance. A Saudi-owned media outlet warned the result would be disruption in Saudi oil production and a sharp rise in world oil prices.

"Reaction and threats to the possible sanctions of the last 24 hours were still (coming) from the crown prince," the businessman close to royal circles said on Monday. "The king is now holding the file personally ... and the tone is very different."

The king has spoken directly with Erdogan and Trump in recent days. Both the king and his son met U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo when he visited Riyadh on Tuesday.

King Salman, 82, spent decades as part of the inner circle of the Al Saud dynasty, which long ruled by consensus. In four decades as governor of Riyadh, he earned a reputation as a royal enforcer who punished princes who were out of line.

Whether he is willing or able to resume that role in this crisis remains unclear, palace insiders say. One source with links to the royal court said the king was "captivated" by MbS and ultimately would protect him.

Still, there is precedent for the king's intervention.

He stepped in this year to shelve the planned listing of national oil company Saudi Aramco, the brainchild of MbS and a cornerstone of his economic reforms, three sources with ties to government insiders told Reuters in August. Saudi officials have said the government remains committed to the plans.

And when MbS gave the impression last year that Riyadh endorsed the Trump administration's still nebulous Middle East peace plan, including U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, the king made a public correction, reaffirming Riyadh's commitment to the Arab and Muslim identity of the city.

Despite these rare instances of pushback, several of the sources close to the royal family said that King Salman had grown increasingly detached from decisions taken by MbS.

"He has been living in an artificially-created bubble," said one of the sources. Late-ly, though, the king's advisers have grown frustrated and begun warning him of the risks of leaving the crown prince's power unchecked.

"The people around him are starting to tell him to wake up to what's happening," the source said.

(Source: agencies)

Pope trip to N. Korea serious possibility under right conditions: Vatican

Pope Francis will seriously consider the possibility of an unprecedented visit to North Korea but some conditions will have to be met, a senior Vatican official said.

Such a trip would be a landmark in a nation known for severe restrictions on religious practice. It would be the first by a pope to the reclusive East Asian state, which does not allow priests to be permanently stationed there.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in relayed a verbal invitation from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to the pope during a 35-minute meeting in the Vatican on Thursday.

"The pope expressed his willingness. We have to wait for it [the invitation] to be formalized," Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Holy See's second-ranking official, told reporters on Thursday evening.

Asked if there were conditions that the North would have to meet, Parolin, speaking on the sidelines of a book presentation, said: "This will come later, once we start thinking in earnest about the possibility of making this trip, then we will have to think about conditions in which the trip can take place.

"[The pope] is willing to make the trip but a trip of this

kind will need serious preparation," added Parolin, who met separately with Moon after the South Korean president held talks with the pope.

North Korea's constitution guarantees freedom of religion as long as it does not undermine the state. But beyond a handful of state-controlled places of worship – including a Catholic church in the capital Pyongyang – no open religious activity is allowed and the authorities have repeatedly jailed foreign missionaries.

There is little information on how many of North Korea's citizens are Catholic, or how they practice their faith.

Kim told Moon, a Catholic, of his wish to meet the pontiff during a meeting last month and the South Korean leader announced before his trip to the Vatican that he would be relaying a message.

The pope, who is due to visit nearby Japan next year, told Moon he would "definitely answer" an invitation from Kim if it arrives, according to Moon's office.

A meeting with Pope Francis would be the latest in a string of major diplomatic encounters for Kim this year. The two Koreas have held three summits this year. Kim



also held an unprecedented summit with U.S. President Donald Trump in Singapore in June, where the leaders promised to work toward denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

(Source: Reuters)

Putin: Russia to use nuclear weapons if attacked

Russian President Vladimir Putin has hailed his country's newly-developed hypersonic missiles that gives it a military edge, yet insisted that Moscow would only resort to using nuclear arms if targeted.

"Only when we become convinced that there is an incoming attack on the territory of Russia, and that happens within seconds, only after that we would launch a retaliatory strike," Putin emphasized on Thursday while addressing a panel discussion at an international policy forum in the Black Sea resort city of Sochi.

He also pointed out that Russia's military doctrine does not envision a preventive nuclear strike, underlining that Moscow would only use its nuclear weapons if its early warning systems detected missiles moving towards Russia.

"It would naturally mean a global catastrophe, but I want to emphasize that we can't be those who initiate it because we

don't foresee a preventive strike," said the Russian president in Sochi. "The aggressor should know that retaliation is inevitable, and he will be destroyed."

He then asserted, "We would be victims of an aggression and would get to heaven as martyrs" while those who initiate an aggression would "just die and not even have time to repent."

Earlier this year, Putin also praised Russia's growing hypersonic arsenal as "invincible" during a state of the nation address. The weapons included a nuclear-powered cruise missile, a nuclear-powered underwater drone and a new hypersonic missile.

Putin also said in Sochi: "We have run ahead of the competition. No one has precision hypersonic weapons. Others are planning to start testing them within the next 1½ to 2 years, and we already have them on duty."

■ Blasting U.S. use of sanctions, vowing weakening dollar

The Russian president also slammed

Washington's reliance on sanctions against Moscow and other governments, insisting that such punishment tool "undermines trust in the dollar as a universal payment instrument and the main reserve currency."

"It's a typical mistake made by an empire," Putin emphasized. "An empire always thinks that it's so powerful that it can afford some mistakes and extra costs. But mistakes and costs multiply, and a moment comes when they become overwhelming in both security and economic spheres."

He then expressed confidence that the Kremlin could resist Western pressure and also voiced optimism that U.S. President Donald Trump would ultimately move towards mending broken ties with Moscow.

Moreover, Putin also underlined that Russia had nothing to panic about considering its vast resources, defense capabilities, as well as "people ready to defend our sovereignty and independence."

"Not in every country are people so eager to sacrifice their lives for the Motherland," he boasted.

■ 'Trump desires better U.S.-Russia ties'

Putin, however, went on to reiterate that he was still hopeful that U.S. President Donald Trump would be able to mend relations between the two powers, saying that he believes the American president wants "some sort of stabilization and improvement of U.S.-Russian ties." He then insisted that Moscow was ready for that "at any moment."

He also described his July meeting with Trump in Helsinki as positive, noting that they had a "normal, professional dialogue" even though their exchange led to strong criticism of Trump back in the U.S. The Russian president then rejected the dynamic as the result of "the internal political struggle."

(Source: Press TV)

Indonesia warns Australia against Israel embassy transfer

Indonesia has warned Australia against moving its diplomatic mission to Jerusalem al-Quds after Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison suggested a possible embassy transfer earlier this week.

Indonesian Foreign Ministry spokesman Arrmanatha Nasir underlined the sensitivity of Australia's decision, saying "the issue of Palestine is very important to Indonesia and the people of Indonesia."

"Of course we will adjust our policy or our actions depending on the situation but again, I will not even try to predict what actions we will take," he said in a statement to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

Indonesian Defense Ministry spokesman Brigadier General Totok Sugiharto also warned of a possible revision in military cooperation to see whether its continuation "is beneficial for both parties."

Australia had previously ruled out any prospect of an embassy transfer in June, but Morrison's recent bid to recognize Jerusalem al-Quds as Israel's "capital" may mark a change in Australia's foreign policy that is similar to that of Trump's, according to observers.

The prime minister has also called for a review of the Iran nuclear deal.

Some domestic critics have responded to the decision by describing it as a mere scheme to gain votes in an upcoming by-election for the Australian House of Representatives seat of Wentworth, which is home to a sizable Jewish population.

Former Palestinian foreign minister Nabil Shaath condemned the move as an obstacle to achieving peace in the region, saying Palestinian officials have been lobbying Arab countries to review their trade and political ties with Canberra.

"If this is the way you do politics in the Middle East in order to win a by-election in Australia, then please allow me to be very negative towards the policy of that Australian government, ... we'll do our best that it will cause damage to Australia's relations with the Arab world," added Shaath.

Representatives from 13 Middle Eastern and North African embassies held an emergency meeting on the issue on Tuesday, warning Australian authorities to not make a "fatal mistake".

Morrison, however, brushed aside foreign criticism on Friday, arguing that Australian voters want the country to have "its own voice" on foreign policy and truly care about whether the embassy in Israel is located in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem al-Quds.

"If you are telling me that I'm not allowed to raise a question about an issue as significant as peace in the Middle East ... then that doesn't make us an independent nation."

The anticipated embassy move attracted further scrutiny recently after media reports published a leaked Australia Spy Agency bulletin claiming that Morrison's announcement would "attract international attention" and could cause potentially violent protests.

US President Donald Trump recognized Jerusalem al-Quds as the "capital" of Israel last December and moved the American embassy to the ancient city in May.

The contentious move sparked angry reactions from Palestinians and drew large-scale criticism from the international community.

Israel lays claim to the whole Jerusalem al-Quds, but the international community views the city's eastern sector as occupied territory and Palestinians consider it as the capital of their future state.

(Source: agencies)

Saudi consulate employees in Istanbul give testimony at prosecutor's office

Employees of the Saudi Arabian consulate in Istanbul are giving testimony to at the Turkish prosecutor's office, the state-run Anadolu news agency said Friday, as part of the investigation into the disappearance of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Khashoggi went missing more than two weeks ago after entering the consulate to obtain documents in relation to a forthcoming marriage. Turkish officials believe he was killed in the building, but Riyadh has denied the allegations.

Turkish and Saudi officials this week started conducting joint inspections at the consulate and consul general's residence as part of the investigation.

Separately, the United Arab Emirates warned Friday that the growing controversy over the disappearance of journalist Jamal Khashoggi should not be exploited to "destabilize" Saudi Arabia.

The UAE state minister for foreign affairs, Anwar Gargash, tweeted that Abu Dhabi was "firmly" opposed to "politicization [of the case] and efforts to destabilize Saudi Arabia," its close ally.

(Source: Reuters)

China to hold first naval drill with ASEAN nations in South China Sea

China is preparing to hold its first joint maritime exercise with the navies of ten South Asian nations next week in an effort to ease rising tensions in the disputed South China Sea, Singapore says.

Singapore Defense Minister Ng Eng Hen announced on Friday that the drill will be jointly held by navies of China and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), with whom Beijing is involved in maritime disputes in the strategic waters.

China claims sovereignty over nearly all of the South China Sea, which is also claimed by Vietnam, Taiwan, Brunei, Malaysia and the Philippines.

"As we speak, the navies of ASEAN are en route to Zhanjiang in China for the ASEAN-China Maritime Exercise," said Ng, who also added that the drills would help to "build trust, confidence" in the region.

The announcement was made at a gathering of ASEAN defense ministers in Singapore, which is also attended by Chinese Defense Minister Wei Fenghe and U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis.

The U.S., which has sides with China's rivals in the dispute and constantly accuses China of militarizing the Sea, has sent several of its warships to the disputed waters to protect what it calls "freedom of navigation" there, but Beijing accuses Washington of interfering in the regional issues and deliberately stirring up tensions.

(Source: Xinhua)

Rihanna ‘declined Super Bowl half-time show gig in support of Kaepernick’

The NFL has refused to comment on reports that Barbadian singer Rihanna declined an invitation to headline the Super Bowl half-time show in support of Colin Kaepernick.

Quarterback Kaepernick, 30, was the first player to kneel during the US national anthem. Other players followed suit, leading to criticism from President Donald Trump. A source close to the singer reportedly told US Weekly magazine that Rihanna “does not agree with the NFL’s stance”.

Maroon 5 will now headline the show, which will take place on 3 February in Atlanta, Georgia. Players who refused to stand during The Star-Spangled Banner have said the protests were a reaction to police brutality against African Americans and racial inequality. Kaepernick has been without a team since he opted out of his contract with the San Francisco 49ers in March 2017.

He has filed a grievance against NFL team owners he claims conspired not to hire him because of his protests and has become the face of a new Nike advertising campaign.

(Source: BBC)

Barcelona not considering swoop for Neymar, says vice-president

Barcelona have no plans to re-sign Neymar from Paris St Germain, the club’s vice-president Jordi Cardoner said on Friday, knocking down media reports the La Liga champions were ready to tempt the Brazilian forward back to the Nou Camp.

Neymar won two La Liga titles and the 2015 Champions League in four years with Barca and formed a lethal partnership with Luis Suarez and Lionel Messi, departing in July 2017 after the Paris giants exercised his release clause.

“No-one on the Barca board has talked about the possibility of bringing back Neymar, right now we can’t give an answer because no-one has even mentioned it,” Cardoner told radio station SER Catalunya on Friday. Neymar, 26, helped lead PSG to a domestic treble this year although his first season in France was tarnished by a public dispute with team mate Edinson Cavani over taking penalties and a foot injury sustained in March which forced him out for the rest of the campaign. Spanish newspaper Mundo Deportivo said in a front-page story on Wednesday that the player has told Barca he wants to return after becoming disillusioned with life in Paris. “He was the one who left, it would be different if we hadn’t believed him and now we wanted to bring him back, but that’s not the case,” Cardoner added.

“If we did want to sign him then the board would have to discuss it but until now no-one has talked about it.”

(Source: Goal)

LeBron James impresses but Lakers lose NBA opener



LeBron James scored 26 points on his NBA debut for the LA Lakers who slipped to a 128-119 loss by the Portland Trail Blazers in their season opener. The four-time MVP’s total, the second highest scored by a Lakers debutant, included 12 rebounds and six assists. Damian Lillard scored 28 points for Portland and Nik Stauskas matched his career high with 24, on his debut.

This was Portland’s 16th successive win over the 16-time NBA champions, dating back to 2013.

James, who led Cleveland to their first NBA championship in 2016 after returning to the team from the Miami Heat, is playing for a Western Conference franchise for the first time in his career.

The 33-year-old signed a four-year deal with the Lakers in the summer, earning a reported \$154m (£118.2m) over the term.

(Source: BBC)

Rubin Kazan handed one-year ban for Financial Fair Play breach

UEFA has imposed a one-season European ban on Russian club Rubin Kazan for breaching Financial Fair Play rules. In previous years Rubin have qualified for both the Europa League and the Champions League. European football’s governing body (UEFA) announced on Thursday that it had barred Rubin Kazan from taking part in the Champions League or the Europa League if it qualifies for either in the next two seasons. Without providing further details, the statement posted on UEFA’s website to announce the decision said the Russian club had breached the “Settlement Agreement,” and that Rubin could appeal the decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Rubin had agreed to a settlement with UEFA in the first round of Financial Fair Play (FFP) judgments handed down in 2014, which also included deals with Manchester City and Paris Saint-Germain. At the time, UEFA fined Rubin €3 million (\$3.5 million) in competition prize money. A further €3 million euros was liable if it breached the settlement, as UEFA has ruled that it has now done. Rubin last played in the Europa League in 2015-16 and took part in the Champions League group stage in 2009 and 2010. The club is currently in fifth place in the Russian league, two points off second place, which secures direct qualification for the Champions League group stage.

(Source: DW)

Bayern Munich lash out at ‘disrespectful and disgusting’ media

Three of Bayern Munich’s most senior figures have launched extraordinary attacks against what they call ‘outrageous’ reporting. Speaking at a press conference on Friday, the trio said the club won’t stand for it anymore.

As he laughed off talk of a crisis and re-iterated his faith in his players, Niko Kovac was asked what the assembled journalists could expect from the press conference that followed his: “I would suggest we let them surprise us,” the Bayern coach said.

Surprise was something of an understatement. Almost as soon as Kovac exited the press conference stage, Uli Hoeness (president), Karl-Heinz Rummenigge (CEO) and Hasan Salihamidzic (sporting director) arrived, with teeth gritted and jaws clenched.

Rummenigge opened things up, revealing that Bayern’s top brass had met after Germany’s defeat to the Netherlands and decided their players were receiving undue criticism from sections of the country’s media.

“When I read about Manuel Neuer then I just have no words. I would like to remind you that Manuel was world goalkeeper of the year four times,” Rummenigge said. “The same goes for Jerome Boateng and Mats Hummels.”

■ **Bayern players deserve more respect, say bosses**

The 63-year-old then told reporters to expect “mail from our media lawyer” for any false or inaccurate reports.

“I don’t know if there are special laws for the media but we will not accept this kind of reporting any longer,” Rummenigge said. “Today is an important day as we inform you that we will no longer tolerate this derogatory and derisive reporting. We will protect our coach, players and club. It is outrageous, disrespectful and polemical.”

After Rummenigge had gone on to lambast the “ludicrous” treatment of Bayern veterans Franck Ribery and Arjen Robben, a visibly raging Hoeness took to the microphone.

After echoing Rummenigge’s comments, labelling several reports as “false facts” and stating that criticism of individual players has been unfair, Hoeness singled out a reporter for a story which criticized the sale of backup left back Juan Bernat.

The former West Germany international, who spent 18 months in jail on tax evasion charges, said the Spanish



player almost “singlehandedly cost Bayern their shot at the Champions League” last term in their knockout tie against Sevilla, a match he said convinced the club that Bernat wasn’t good enough.

■ **Former pros also criticized**

Later a reporter questioned whether Hoeness was on shaky ground with his point about criticizing individuals, given his earlier attack on Mesut Özil, who Hoeness said had been “playing s**t for years” and “last won a tackle before the 2014 World Cup.” Hoeness doubled down, saying he regrets his choice of word but not sentiment.

Lastly it was Salihamidzic’s turn. After piling on to the anti-media agenda, describing himself as “horrified” by the coverage, the Bosnian took aim at former Bayern and Germany player turned TV pundit Stefan Effenberg, who had suggested Kovac’s job was on the line.

“Effenberg works for TV, I work for FC Bayern,” Salihamidzic said. “I was accused of not standing behind Niko Kovac. How so? Everyone knows that I stand by him.”

After each man had made his point, the floor was briefly opened up to the stunned journalists, including a reporter from popular tabloid Bild, whose reporting and whose publishing house Axel Springer, had been singled out.

With some of the press pack attempting to defend reputations and question the narrative set by the three men, Bayern’s bosses stayed on the attack, again threatening legal action before shutting down any real attempt at debate of the issues.

With Bayern seeking a first win in two months away at Wolfsburg on Saturday, Kovac may be relieved that the media spotlight isn’t fixed quite so brightly on him.

(Source: Deutsche Welle)

IPC demands more accessible hotels, transport at Tokyo 2020



The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) warned Tokyo 2020 organizers on Friday that more accessible hotels and transport options must be found ahead of the showpiece event. IPC CEO Xavier Gonzalez was critical of the number of hotel rooms that are wheelchair accessible and does not believe there will be enough suitable rooms by the time some teams arrive for pre-Paralympic camps.

“The job to deliver the best Paralympic Games ever becomes much harder from now on,” said Gonzalez following a two-day project review meeting in the Japanese capital.

“As with any Games, there are some issues which need more detailed planning and resolution but we are confident we are heading in the right direction. “They are both somewhat outside the organizing committee’s immediate control,” he said. With an estimated 4,400 Para-athletes, including 1,800 in wheelchairs, expected to descend on the city for the 12-day event, the government announced a law on Wednesday requiring all new hotels with over 50 rooms to provide wheelchair-friendly accommodation.

“Evidently the laws that have been in place, -even if they have been improved - they didn’t create the foundation that we found in other places, where they had better laws in terms of the definition of what an accessible room is and better percentages of rooms in the hotels,” Gonzalez said. “If we come back here in 20 years with a new Olympic and Paralympic Games then I am absolutely sure that we will have a better foundation on which to build.”

The schedule for the 2020 Paralympic Games was also announced on Friday, with a focus on making the events as accessible as possible and to promote sports in which Japan has a medal hope into prime time slots.

The first day of action, coming after the opening ceremony on Aug. 25, will see competition in seven sports, including cycling, swimming and wheelchair rugby.

“The Paralympic Games are an event that the whole family can enjoy and the 2020 Paralympic sports competition schedule has been designed with the family audience very much in mind,” said Gonzalez.

(Source: Reuters)

Tottenham’s Mauricio Pochettino compares Brexit vote to car crash



Mauricio Pochettino has said the decision to hold a Brexit referendum was an abdication of responsibility and compared it to an impending car crash.

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp called for a second vote earlier this year, but Pochettino believes the only solution is for senior politicians to cancel a process he has likened to allowing Tottenham’s fans to choose his starting line-up and then blaming them for a defeat.

“I feel so sorry because it’s a situation that should be dealt with by the people who have all the information, who know the reality,” Pochettino said. “How the people translate the reality is another thing, because if some people are against or for Brexit, they manipulate everything.”

“It’s not fair to put the decision on us, because afterwards there are consequences. But we don’t know [what is going to happen].

“We buy an idea. Someone tells me it would be good for my son, my family,

myself, and then if the consequences are different then you [the voter] are the guilty one. That’s what I don’t like.

“If I am responsible for picking a starting XI, I need to take the responsibility. I cannot ask the fans who we should play. I know the consequences if I don’t pick right and get good results, but it’s so unfair to put the responsibility on the people.

“It’s such an important decision and it’s a very serious problem, that situation. After two and a half years, I think 99 percent of the people of this country still don’t know if it’s good, in or out.”

Pochettino said if another referendum took place, he would not know which way he would vote.

“If I need to vote in or out [again], I still don’t know what the best decision for us will be,” he said. “If you’re going to vote, it’s because you believe it will be good for you and the people you love -- your friends, your country, everyone. But still after two and a half years, we don’t know.

(Source: ESPN)

Moses says he was told to ‘shut up’ at Wada meeting

Two-time Olympic gold medallist Ed Moses says he was told to “shut up” at a World Anti-Doping Agency meeting. Beckie Scott, Wada’s Athlete Committee chair, told the BBC some officials tried to “bully” her over her opposition to Russian reinstatement.

Moses, who is chair of the US Anti-Doping Agency (Usada), backed calls for an investigation into Scott’s claims.

Wada denied Moses or anyone else at the foundation board meeting in May was told to shut up.

“Unfortunately, Scott is not alone in being attacked for wanting to clean things up,” said Moses.

In an article syndicated in various Australian newspapers including the Sydney Morning Herald, the 63-year-old said he was “told bluntly by various individuals not to speak” at the meeting, adding that he was “told to shut up”.

In a statement to BBC Sport, Wada said: “Wada’s Foundation Board meetings are open to the media and members of the public.

“Neither Mr Moses nor anyone else was told to ‘shut up’ at the board meeting in May - had that happened, it would have been reported by media in the room.

“Indeed, during the course of the meeting, Mr Moses did speak. He delivered his report as the chair of the education committee, for which he was thanked and which was duly and officially noted by the board.”

Wada reinstated Russia’s anti-doping agency in September after a three-year suspension which followed a major



scandal over alleged state-sponsored doping.

The move was criticized by many athletes and national anti-doping agencies, with Canadian former Olympic cross-country skiing champion Scott resigning from a Wada panel last month in protest.

She said she was “treated with disrespect” at a recent meeting and faced “inappropriate” comments and gestures from some members of Wada’s executive committee.

Wada has said Scott’s concerns “were being taken seriously”.

“The leadership of Wada are independent and have shown time and time again that they make decisions exclusively

in the best interests of the organization and fight against doping,” it said.

On Monday, the boss of Australia’s anti-doping body (Asada), David Sharpe, said Scott’s allegations should be independently investigated.

Moses, who won 400m hurdles gold at the 1976 and 1984 Olympics, described Sharpe and Scott as “key allies in the relentless and increasingly challenging fight against doping in sport”.

“It’s 2018 - bullying has no place at the board table of sports governance,” he added.

“This inappropriate behavior is long-standing and wholly unacceptable. “The bullying is being perpetrated by sporting officials who want to silence those demanding to know why Russia has not been held to proper account for running the worst doping regime in modern sporting history.”

Moses, who was unbeaten in 122 consecutive 400m hurdles races from 1977 to 1987, said being told to “shut up” would be “offensive if it weren’t so puzzling”.

He added: “Why are some officials who purport to represent clean sport trying to muzzle the interventions of others with whom they disagree at international anti-doping meetings?”

Moses also claimed Wada and the International Olympic Committee had “become virtually joined at the hip” resulting in “wafer thin” confidence in both organizations from athletes and the public.

(Source: BBC)

Iran move 17 spots up at Youth Olympic Games



S P O R T S TEHRAN — Iran delegation moved 17 spots up to seventh at the Youth Olympic Games held in Buenos Aires, Argentina from October 6 to 18. The Iranian sports persons snatched seven gold, three silver and four bronze medals in the 13-day Games held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Russia came first in the Games, winning 29 gold, 18 silver and 12 bronze medals. China finished in second place with 18 gold, nine silver and nine bronze medals. In the previous edition which was held in Nanjing, China, Iran finished in 24th place, winning three gold and three bronze medals.



Taekwondo practitioners Yalda Valinejad in the women's 63kg, Ali Eshkevarian in the men's 73kg and Mohammad Ali Khosravi in the men's +73kg claimed three gold medals. Weightlifter Alireza Yousefi snatched a gold medal in the men's +85 kg. Greco-Roman wrestlers Amir Reza Dehbozorgi in the men's 45kg and Mohammad Nosrati in the men's 92kg earned two gold medals. And, Navid Mohammadi seized Iran's seventh gold medal in the taekwondo boys' +68 kg. Taekwondo athlete Kimia Hemmati won a silver medal in the women's +63 kg, as well as freestyle wrestlers Mohammad Karimi (65kg) and Amir Hossein Zare (110kg)



who claimed two silver medals. Reza Bohloulzadeh made history in the Games and won Iran's first ever medal in gymnastic. He won a bronze in the pommel horse. Fatemeh Khonakdartarsi in the girls' 53kg, Mobina Heydari in the girls' 59kg and Negin Altooni in the girls' +59kg grabbed three bronze medals. A total of 49 athletes represented Iran in 17 sports in the 2018 Youth Olympic Games. The Games, which brought 3,997 athletes from 206 countries together, included many Olympic events and some that are not on the Olympic program, including break dancing.

Para swimmer Shahin Izadyar honored by Persepolis



S P O R T S TEHRAN — Iranian Para swimmer Shahin Izadyar was honored by Persepolis football club in the team's training in Tehran on Friday. Izadyar was given a Persepolis shirt with his name and the number 6, in reference to his six gold medals won by him in the 2018 Asian Para Games. Izadyar made history in Indonesia by winning six gold medals in Para swimming events. Izadyar, known as Persian version of

Michael Phelps, has been invited to attend Persepolis match against Qatar's Al Sadd in the second leg of the AFC Champions League semi-finals, scheduled for Tuesday. Izadyar helped Iran finish historic third place at the Asian Para Games. Iran won 51 gold, 42 silver and 43 bronze medals and were placed third in the overall rankings. Asian heavyweights China came atop of the overall rankings with 172 gold, 88 silver and 59 bronze followed by South Korea (53 gold, 25 silver and 47 bronze).

Iran Professional League: Esteghlal move up to fifth place



S P O R T S TEHRAN — Esteghlal football team defeated Saipa 2-1 to move up to fifth place in the Iran Professional League table. On Friday, the Blues earned their third victory in the current season, beating Saipa 2-1 in Tehran's Takhti Stadium. Ali Dashti put Saipa into the lead just seven minutes into the match after dribbling past four Esteghlal players but Mohammad Daneshgar equalized the match in the 23rd minute. With nine minutes remaining, Vour-

ia Ghafouri found the back of the net for Esteghlal from the penalty spot. Esteghlal moved to fifth place with six points adrift of top. Also, Machine Sazi was held to a 1-1 draw by Naft Masjed Soleyman, Sepidrood Rasht played out a goalless draw against Zob Ahan and Sepahan defeated 3-2 Nassaji. On Thursday IPL leader Padideh beat Foolad 2-0 to cement their place at the top. On Saturday, Sanat Naft will host Tractor Sazi in Abadan.

Nasser Hejazi nominated for best ever AFC Asian Cup goalkeeper

Kuala Lumpur: We are three months away from January's AFC Asian Cup UAE 2019, and the-AFC.com continues its series of articles to determine your all-time best AFC Asian Cup side. In the past few weeks you have been voting for the best forwards, midfielders and defenders. Now it's time to turn our attention to goalkeepers. So, here are six candidates for one spot between the sticks. Review the nominees and then choose your favourite goalkeeper for this all-star XI in the poll below. **■ Mohammed Al Deayea - Saudi Arabia** **■ Best Goalkeeper – 1996 and 2000 AFC Asian Cup** Only one player in world football has ever won more caps than Mohammed Al Deayea's 178. Saudi Arabia's iconic goalkeeper succeeded his older brother Abdullah in becoming the country's number one in 1993. In his 13 years as Saudi Arabia's custodian, Al Deayea helped his team win the AFC Asian Cup in 1996 and finish runners-up four years later. On both occasions he was named the tournament's best goalkeeper. Al Deayea represented Saudi Arabia in three FIFA World Cups; 1994, 1998 and 2002 and was also crowned continental champion at club level with Al Hilal in 2000. **■ Lee Woon-jae - Korea Republic** **■ Team of the Tournament – 2007 AFC Asian Cup** After Al Deayea and Jordan's Amer Shafei, Lee Woon-jae is Asia's third most capped goalkeeper, representing Korea Republic 133 times in his career. Lee was named in the 2007 AFC Asian Cup team of the Tournament after keeping four clean sheets as the Taeguk Warriors won bronze. It was his decisive save in the penalty shootout against Japan that gave Korea Republic third place at the expense of their rivals.



Having represented his country in four FIFA World Cups, Lee was a fundamental part of the team that stunned the world to finish fourth at the 2002 World Cup co-hosted by Korea Republic and Japan. **■ Noor Sabri - Iraq** **■ Best Goalkeeper and Champion – 2007 AFC Asian Cup** Iraq conceded just two goals in their historic run to winning the 2007 AFC Asian Cup, as Sabri helped them record four consecutive clean sheets. In the semi-final, after a goalless draw at the end of 120 minutes, Sabri was Iraq's hero, saving Yeom Ki-hun's effort in the penalty shootout before Kim Jung-woo hit the post sending Iraq into the final for the first time in their history. Sabri was Iraq's number one for 16 years, winning 100 caps and representing the country at the 2004 Olympic Games where the Lions of Mesopotamia finished fourth. **■ Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi - Japan** **■ Champion – 2000 and 2004 AFC Asian Cup, Team of the Tournament - 2004 AFC Asian Cup** Two-time AFC Asian Cup winner Yoshikatsu Kawagu-

chi is Japan's third most capped player, representing the country 116 times between 1997 and 2008. After impressing at the U23 level, keeping a clean sheet for Japan as they defeat Brazil 1-0 at the 1996 Olympic Games, Kawaguchi became the Samurai Blue's undisputed number one for the next decade. Kawaguchi played in Japan's first FIFA World Cup appearance in 1998 and went on to appear in the next two editions of the tournament. **■ Mark Schwarzer - Australia** **■ Runner-up – 2011 AFC Asian Cup** Despite retiring just two years before the Socceroos became Asian champions in 2015, Schwarzer is widely recognized as Australia's finest goalkeeper of all time. In 2011, he helped Australia reach the final, delivering four clean sheets. He also appeared in two FIFA World Cups in 2006 and 2010. The nation's most capped player, with 109 appearances, Schwarzer spent two decades in English football, representing the likes of Chelsea and Leicester City where he won the Premier League title. **■ Nasser Hejazi - IR Iran** **■ Champion – 1972 and 1976 AFC Asian Cup** One of Asia's greatest goalkeepers of the 20th century, Nasser Hejazi (back row, second from left) was Iran's number one as they won back-to-back AFC Asian Cup titles in 1972 and 1976. Hejazi represented IR Iran in the 1972 Olympic Games and was part of the first IR Iran team to qualify to the FIFA World Cup six year later. At club level, Hejazi represented Esteghlal for 16 years, leading the team (then known as Taj) to become the first Iranian side to win the Asian Club Championship in 1970. (Source: the-afc)

Majid Hosseini impressed during international break: AFC

Iran defender Majid Hosseini made an impressive performance in the friendly match against Bolivia, where Team Melli defeated its South American opponent 2-1 in Tehran's Azadi Stadium. The-afc.com picked Hosseini among five players from across the continent who did their chances of locking starting places in UAE 2019 big favors with impressive performances over the past 10 days. Iran coach Carlos Queiroz was left with the prospect of being without Morteza Pouraliganji for the AFC Asian Cup after the KAS Eupen defender suffered an injury earlier this month. On Tuesday, the Portuguese would have felt a bit more at ease with the defensive situation after Majid Hosseini put on an impressive performance in Team Melli's 2-1 win over Bolivia. The Trabzonspor center-back's resolute defending on the night was summed up in a last-ditch tackle, denying Bolivia's Gilbert Alvares a clear-cut scoring chance from inside the six-yard-box. (Source: the-afc)

Persepolis edge past Navad Urmia in Iran's Hazfi Cup

TASNIM — Persepolis defeated Navad Urmia 1-0 on Thursday thanks to a Mohammad Ansari goal. Ansari was on target in just before the hour mark through a long-range shot. The Reds advanced to Iran's Hazfi Cup Round of 16 with this win. Branko Ivankovic's men will play Sepidrood in their next match and the winner of that match meet Padideh. The Hazfi Cup is the Iranian football knockout cup competition, run by the Iranian Football Federation. Esteghlal is the title-holder and most decorated team with seven titles.

Iran's Sports Min. congratulates 7th rank in Youth Olympic Games

IRNA — The Minister of Sports and Youth of Iran has congratulated the youth in Argentina on their seventh place in the Youth Olympic Games 2018. The message of congratulations of Massoud Soltanifar reads, 'The great heroes of Iran created at the Youth Olympic Games an epic to add a golden chapter to the history of Iranian sport.' 'The brave children of Iran, with a unique and brilliant effort, earned valuable honors as the seventh ranks of the Youth Olympic Games, and with a dramatic jump and a 17-rank climb up to the past, they led to the joy of millions of Iranian and outlined a brightening horizons on future of the sport of this land vis-a-vis the eyes of the world'.

Iranians head to Budapest to participate at Wrestling World C'ships

TASNIM — Iran has sent 10 wrestlers to Budapest, Hungary for the 2018 Wrestling World Championships. The Iranian wrestlers traveled to Hungary Thursday morning. Reza Atri (57kg), Mohammadbagher Yakhkeshi (61kg), Amirhossein Maghsoudi (65kg), Younes Emami (70kg), Mostafa Hosseinkhani (74kg), Ezatollah Akbari (79kg), Hassan Yazdani (86kg), Alireza Karimi (92kg), Mojtaba Goleji (97kg) and Parviz Hadi (130kg) will represent Iran in the event. The team will be headed by Rasoul Khadem. The competition officially begins on Sunday with the Opening Ceremony at the Papp László Sportaréna in the Hungarian capital. It is the first senior World Championships to use a ranking system to determine competitive seeds. Previously athletes were put into brackets using a random draw, though the new system was announced at last year's Championships in Paris. Under the new system - set to be applied across all 30 weight categories at this year's event - only wrestlers who finished within the top four of the pre-World Championships competition calendar are eligible to receive a seed.



Hosseini Mahini injury is a blow, admits Hosseini

Persepolis captain Jalal Hosseini believes the absence of injured defender Hossein Mahini will make things difficult in Tuesday's AFC Champions League semi-final second leg against Al Sadd, despite the 1-0 lead on aggregate. Iran giants Persepolis will be just a game away from a first AFC Champions League final when they step out onto the field at Azadi Stadium against Qatar's Al Sadd, but it is one who will not be in their ranks that is a cause of concern. Team Melli international full-back Hossein Mahini suffered a season-ending ACL injury in a league match against city-rivals Esteghlal at the end of last month, forcing Persepolis to put out a makeshift backline in the first leg against Al Sadd in Doha. "Not having such an experienced defender like Hossein Mahini in our ranks is a major blow for our team," Persepolis skipper Hosseini told media. "We are already facing a shortage of players due to the transfer bans in the last two windows, so it makes things tough." (Source: the-afc)

Asghar Farhadi to receive Stockholm Visionary Award

A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** – The two-time Oscar-winning director Asghar Farhadi will be honored with the Stockholm Visionary Award this year at the 29th Stockholm International Film Festival in Sweden, the organizers announced last week.

The organizers called Farhadi “one of world cinema’s greatest masters” and added “He meticulously depicts contemporary issues in his films, and how these are reflected in close relationships.

“His stories subtly move between the sophisticated and the mysterious almost as naturally as they are inimitable.

“Asghar Farhadi has undeniably meant a lot to a new generation of Iranian filmmakers, as well as for film lovers across the world. It is therefore a great honor to present the 2018 Stockholm Visionary Award to Asghar Farhadi.”

Farhadi will be at the Stockholm International Film Festival, which will held from November 7 to 18, to promote his latest film “Everybody Knows” and to accept the Bronze Horse, world’s heaviest film prize that weighs 7.3 kilos.

He will also attend a review session on November 9 for his movie starring Penélope Cruz and Javier Bardem.

Earlier recipients of the Stockholm Visionary Award include Pablo Larraín, Alejandro González Iñárritu, Yorgos Lanthimos and Wes Anderson.



Iranian director Asghar Farhadi attends a photocall for his “The Salesman” at the Cannes Film Festival in France on May 22, 2016. (AFP/Loic Venance)

“Umbra” to compete in two intl. festivals

A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** – “Umbra”, a short film from Iran, will be competing in two international festivals in Ireland and Italy.

The film will go on screen at the 63rd Cork Film Festival, Ireland’s first and largest film festival, running from November 9 to 18, the organizers have announced.

“Umbra” by Saeid Jafarian is about a young woman who realizes a few minutes after midnight that her partner has disappeared. She goes out worriedly to seek her partner in the darkness of streets.

The short film will also be making its Italian premiere at the MedFilm Festival running in Rome from November 9 to 18.

WHAT’S IN ART GALLERIES

Painting

■ Saba Salehi is showcasing her latest collection “Schizotypal” in an exhibition at the Artland Café Gallery.

The paintings will be on view until October 29 at the gallery that can be found at 4 Safa Alley, Kachui St. in the Evin neighborhood.

■ Saye Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Arezu Gholami.

The exhibition titled “Seizure” will run until October 24 at the gallery located at No. 21, 13th Alley, Sanai St. off Karim Khan Ave.

■ An exhibition of paintings by Iman Sobhravan is currently underway in an exhibition at Ariana Gallery.

The exhibit titled “Boundless Blue” will run until October 30 at the gallery located at 9 Fereshteh St., off East Maryam St., in the Elahieh neighborhood.

■ Hamid Hadinejad is displaying his painting collection “Sound of Lines” in an exhibition at Salees Gallery.

The exhibit will continue until October 24 at the gallery that can be found at 148 Karim Khan Ave.

■ An exhibition entitled “Camouflage” is currently displaying paintings by Shokufeh Karimi at White Line Gallery.

The exhibit runs until October 29 at the gallery located at 22 Parvin Alley, off Jame Jam St. off Vali-e Asr Ave.

Calligraphic painting

■ Mohsen Karami is hanging a collection of his calligraphic paintings in an exhibition at Mojdeh Gallery.

The artworks will be on view until October 26 at the gallery, which can be found at 27 North Allameh Blvd., in the Saadatabad neighborhood.

Drawing

■ Fereshteh Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of the latest drawings by Hamid Fam.

The exhibition named “Empty Imagination” will run until October 29 at the gallery located at 1671 near Sadr Bridge, Shariati Ave.

■ Vooria Art is displaying his drawings in an exhibition titled “Today Is Your Day, Tomorrow Another Day” at Tarrahan Azad Gallery.

The exhibit will continue until October 31 at the gallery located at 5 Salmas Square, off Fatemi St.

Photo

■ A group of photographers, including Zahra Musavi, Iman Mahmudian, Fatemeh Samadi, Behnaz Abdollahi, Meisam Seifzadeh and Ali Ahmadi, is hanging their works in an exhibition at Sheis Gallery.

The exhibit runs until October 24 at the gallery located at Shirzad Alley, near Daneshju Park.

Calligraphy

■ An exhibition displaying calligraphy works by Azim Fallah, Shadi Talai, Saeid Naqqashian, Reza Rinei, Omid Khakbaz, Behzad BO-zorgi, Hossein Ehsai and several other artists is currently underway at Shokuh Gallery.

The showcase runs until October 24 at the gallery located at 19 Amir Nuri Alley, North Salimi St. near Andarzgu Blvd.

Sculptor Reza Amir-Yarahmadi dies at 59



Reza Amir-Yarahmadi in an undated photo

A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** – Veteran Iranian sculptor Reza Amir-Yarahmadi has died at the age of 59.

Amir-Yarahmadi was found dead on Thursday at his home in Lavasan, a resort town about 40 kilometers northeast of Tehran. He most likely died of heart failure, the Persian service of Honaronline has announced.

Amir-Yarahmadi was born in Borujerd, Lorestan Province, and moved to Tehran to pursue studies at the Academy of Fine

Arts of the University of Tehran.

He had made sculptures of several great Persian luminaires such as Ferdowsi, Avicenna and Farabi.

He had also collaborated in the renovation of several monuments across the capital Tehran including the building of the Majlis (Iranian parliament).

His funeral procession will begin Sunday at the Iranian Artists Forum and he will be buried in the Artists Section of Behesht Zahra Cemetery in Tehran.

Khayyam Academy mounts artwork to celebrate translators of Persian poetry

A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** – An artwork featuring Persian and English inscriptions of verses from Persian poet Omar Khayyam Neyshaburi was set up at the Khayyam Academy in Tehran on Friday to celebrate translators of works from renowned Persian poets.

The inscriptions have been created by

Iranian calligrapher Mojtaba Karami in the form of paisley-shaped patterns, the academy announced.

The English inscription has been selected from the English version of the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam translated by English writer Edward Fitzgerald in 1859.

Iranian literati, including Soheil Mahmudi

French filmfest honors “Revolt”, “Animal”



A scene from “Revolt” by Kurosh Asgari

A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** – The Iranian films “Revolt” and “Animal” have won awards at the 16th International Festival Signes de Nuit, the organizers have announced.

“Revolt” by Kurosh Asgari won the main award of the short film competition, and the Night Award was given to “Animal” by Bahram and Bahman Ark.

“Revolt” tells the story of a boatwoman who makes a living with carrying passengers on the Anzali Marsh in northern Iran but

she is tired of life and decides to change it in some way.

The Night Award is presented to those films possessing a balance of ambiguity and complexity characterized by enigmatic mysteriousness and subtlety, which keeps the mind moving in contemplation.

“Animal” tells the story of a man who attempts to cross a frontier disguised as a ram.

The 16th International Festival Signes de Nuit ran from October 4 to 14 in Paris.

Paris auction house “would love it” if Banksy pulls another stunt

PARIS (Reuters) — The first auction house to sell prints by Banksy since THAT auction two weeks ago does not anticipate another stunt like the one that shredded half a picture moments after the hammer fell. But, hey, if something were to happen? Great!

“Are we expecting it? Not really. Perhaps we are hoping for it,” said auctioneer Arnaud Oliveux of Artcurial auction house in Paris, which is selling three Banksy prints next week. “I would love it if something happens.”

The British artist has done more to cultivate his mystique in the two weeks since a print of one of his best known works, “Girl with a Balloon”, slid half way through a shredder embedded in its frame moments after it was sold at Sotheby’s in London.

Banksy released a new video this week that suggested the partial-destruction was a malfunction: it showed an identical print in the same frame being entirely shredded, with the caption “in rehearsals it worked every time”.

Oliveux said if Banksy was planning another stunt for the next auction, it probably wouldn’t involve a secret shredder.

“Banksy never repeats himself. Here, you see the frame, there’s nothing at all hidden in the structure. But perhaps we could imagine



Arnaud Oliveux, auctioneer, poses during a press preview ahead of the upcoming auction “Search & Stop” organized by Artcurial in Paris, France, October 18, 2018. (Reuters/Benoit Tessier)

a different stunt.”

The auction house said it cannot predict how high the bidding will go for its three prints, but it expects the extra attention from Banksy’s last stunt will have an impact on prices. All the seats are taken at the auction and the international media are showing up.

Bidding on a print of “Stop and Search”, depicting Dorothy from “The Wizard of Oz” being searched by a policeman, starts at just 30,000 euros (\$35,000), a bargain compared to the million pounds “Girl With a Balloon” fetched moments before it self-destructed.

“After The Screaming Stops” films reunion of 1980s band Bros

LONDON (Reuters) — Last year, 1980s British pop band Bros took to the stage for the first time in more than 25 years, since singing twins Matt and Luke Goss went their separate ways.

Now a new documentary charts that reunion, an experience the brothers say brought them close together again.

“After The Screaming Stops” takes a look at how the duo, who each pursued separate careers after they stopped playing together in 1992, prepared to perform in August 2017, 28 years after performing at Wembley Arena to an audience of 77,000.

Bros, known for songs such as “When Will I Be Famous?” and “I Owe You Nothing”, formed in 1986 with bassist Craig Logan, who left after three years.

“It was definitely a tumultuous experience ... It was also something that I won’t to do again but I am really proud of the result,” Matt Goss told Reuters of the documentary at the BFI London Film Festival on Wednesday. “It’s raw and it’s certainly something that isn’t in any way staged.”

“After The Screaming Stops” looks at the fame the brothers enjoyed in their heyday, when fans waited outside their home for a sight of the heartthrobs, as well as how



Performer Matt Goss arrives for the Universal Pictures movie premiere of “Jason Bourne” at Caesars Palace hotel-casino in Las Vegas, Nevada U.S. July 18, 2016. (Reuters/LE Baskow)

they grew apart after the group separated. Matt Goss carved out a solo career and has performed in Las Vegas, while Luke Goss turned to acting, starring in films such as “Blade II” and “Hellboy II”.

The film shows the two brothers bickering during reunion rehearsals as well as getting emotional as they arrive at their concert venue, London’s O2 arena.

“I think strangely, we confessed a lot of stuff on camera, stuff that we didn’t maybe have the courage or there wasn’t enough mediation to get through,” Matt Goss said.