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## Iran urges FATF to focus on technical reports

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi said on Friday that the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) should focus on technical reports and avoid any political motivations. "Based on technical reports, Iran has implemented majority of the technical

items and the rest will be implemented after the legal procedure related to the three remaining bills is completed," Qassemi explained. "So, it was expected that the FATF would pay attention to these facts and avoid using some negative phrases in its statement," he added. ➔2

## Expediency Council studies CFT

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — On Saturday, Iran's Expediency Council started deliberations on the bill to join the CFT, a legislation to combat financing of terrorism. The council decided to study conformity of the CFT to the general policies of the Islamic Republic system in the future meeting. The Iranian parliament voted in favor of the CFT on October 7. A total of 143

lawmakers, out of 268 ones present in the 290-seat parliament, voted in favor of the bill. To become a law, however, the oversight Guardian Council should vet the bill for compliance with the Constitution. In certain cases when the Guardian Council rejects a ratification by the parliament (Majlis), the Expediency Council acts as an arbiter between the two bodies.

## More than 130 casualties as violence rocks chaotic Afghan elections

More than 130 Afghans were killed or wounded in poll-related violence on Saturday, officials said, as the legislative election turned chaotic with hundreds of polling centers failing to open and voters queuing for hours. Most of the casualties were in Kabul, where at least four people were killed and 78 wounded in multiple explosions, acting health ministry spokesman Mo-

hibullah Zeer told AFP, after the Taliban warned voters to boycott the ballot "to protect their lives". Election organizers, who have been skewered over their shambolic preparations for the long-delayed ballot, said they would extend voting until Sunday for 360 polling centers after hiccups with voter registration lists and biometric verification devices caused lengthy delays. ➔13

## IRGC commander urges services for Pakistani Arbaeen pilgrims

**TEHRAN** — Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari ordered IRGC forces in the southeastern province of Sistan and Balouchestan to provide services for Pakistani pilgrims passing through Iran to Iraq for Arbaeen pilgrimage, according to Tasnim news agency. In an order on Saturday addressed to Commander of the IRGC's Salman Unit in Sistan and Balouchestan Brigadier General Amanollah Gashtasbi, Major General Jafari called for efforts to provide welfare for Pakistani pilgrims entering Iran on their way to Iraq for Arbaeen pilgrimage. "Given the large number of pilgrims from Pakistan who enter our country from Sistan and



Balouchestan borders in order to participate in the massive Arbaeen marches, it is necessary that appropriate services and welfare facilities be

provided for these dear ones through mobilizing facilities and cooperating with the governmental and popular institutions of the province, as soon as possible," the commander said in the order. Arbaeen, which is one of the largest religious gatherings in the world, comes 40 days after Ashura, the martyrdom anniversary of the third Shiite Imam, Imam Hussein (AS). Each year, a huge crowd of Shiites flock to the Iraqi city of Karbala, where the holy shrine of Imam Hussein (AS) is located, to perform mourning rites. Iranian pilgrims traveling to Iraq by land can choose from three border crossings, Shalamcheh, Chazzebeh and Mehran. This year's Arbaeen falls on October 30.

## Saudi Arabia admits Khashoggi died in consulate

Saudi Arabia said on Saturday that dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi died in a fight inside its Istanbul consulate, its first admission of his death after two weeks of denials that have shaken Western relations with the powerful kingdom. Riyadh provided no evidence to support its account of the circumstances that led to Khashoggi's death and it was still unclear whether other governments would be satisfied with it. Turkish officials suspect Khashoggi, a critic of the powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, was tortured and killed inside the consulate by Saudi agents. His body has yet to be found. Some Western governments and politicians gave guarded or skeptical responses to the Saudi explanation, but Middle Eastern allies closed ranks around the kingdom. U.S. President Donald Trump, who has forged close ties with the world's top oil exporter and made Prince Mohammed a centerpiece of his foreign policy, said the Saudi account was credible.

"I think it's a good first step, it's a big step," Trump said in Arizona. "Saudi Arabia has been a great ally. What happened is unacceptable." Trump said he would speak with the crown prince, the kingdom's de facto ruler. But Trump again emphasized Riyadh's role in countering regional rival Iran and the importance a lucrative U.S. arms sales to Saudi Arabia for American jobs. Khashoggi, a U.S. resident and Washington Post columnist, went missing after entering the consulate on Oct. 2 to obtain documents for his upcoming marriage. Days later, Turkish officials said they believed he was killed in the building and his body cut up, an allegation Saudi Arabia had, until now, strenuously denied. The Saudi public prosecutor said on Saturday that a fight broke out between Khashoggi and people who met him in the consulate, leading to his death. Eighteen Saudi nationals had been arrested, the prosecutor said in a statement. A Saudi official told Reuters separately: "A

group of Saudis had a physical altercation and Jamal died as a result of the chokehold. They were trying to keep him quiet." Turkish investigators, who have been combing a forest and other sites outside Istanbul, are likely to find out what happened to Khashoggi's body "before long", a senior Turkish official told Reuters on Saturday. The state of the body when found, could make it difficult to ascertain whether the Saudi account of the killing is accurate if it has indeed been dismembered. Saudi state media said King Salman had ordered the dismissal of five officials, including Saud al-Qahtani, a royal court adviser seen as the right-hand man to Crown Prince Mohammed, and deputy intelligence chief Ahmed Asiri. Some U.S. lawmakers were unpersuaded by the Saudi account. "To say that I am skeptical of the new Saudi narrative about Mr. Khashoggi is an understatement," Republican U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham said. ➔13



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## New Endowments and Charity Affairs Organization director appointed

The newly appointed director of the Endowments and Charity Affairs Organization Hojatoleslam Seyed Mahdi Khamoushi was inaugurated on Saturday. Khamoushi was the former head of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization who succeeded Hojatoleslam Ali Mohammadi-Sirat at the Endowments and Charity Affairs Organization. The inaugural ceremony was attended by Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Abbas Salehi and Hojatoleslam Mohammad Mohammadi Golpayegani, the chief of staff of the Leader's office.

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

## Top Afghan commander's killing raises questions

The formidable, flamboyant, maverick police chief of southern Afghan province of Kandahar General Abdul Raziq Achakzai was gunned down in a shootout inside the provincial governor's office on Thursday, along with the governor and intelligence chief. The 'insider attack', which wiped out the provincial leadership, was carried out by the governor's bodyguard and claimed by the Taliban, which shows Taliban infiltration of police and army in the war-ravaged country. Gen. Raziq, 39, a bulwark against the Taliban in southern Afghanistan had a larger-than-life persona. To his credit, he had almost wiped off the terrorist group from its traditional stronghold - Kandahar, and was always seen in the thick of things. As the Taliban mounted gruesome attacks to seize other parts of the country, Gen. Raziq's presence in Kandahar ensured peace and stability there. A fierce commander, who was seen as an American ally, was often accused by human rights watchdogs like Human Rights Watch of 'torture, extra-judicial killings and other human rights abuses'. But, his presence was so powerful and domineering in a country where U.S. war has stretched into its 18th year that the government struggled to sideline or ignore him. The social media was inundated with poignant posts on Thursday, with netizens terming his death an "irreparable loss", which could have "far-reaching consequences" for peace and security in southern Afghanistan, where he was a "pillar of stability". Many of them blamed Pakistan while many blamed the U.S. for his violent end. On Friday afternoon, the fallen commander was given a tearful adieu in Kandahar city by the border police he commanded for years. The bustling city was remarkably quiet as his coffin was paraded to the burial ground. The invincible man had met his inevitable death. The enormity of the tragedy can be gauged from the fact that the Afghan government decided to delay the parliamentary elections that were scheduled for October 20. ➔6

**ARTICLE**  
**Martin Love**  
Political analyst from  
North Carolina

## Human pigs find pleasure in fights so avoid them when possible

Oddly enough, but not surprisingly, I had a bit of an altercation this past week with one Josh Block on Twitter. I hurled a condemnation at a post of his, and he hurled one back at me and called me an "anti-Semite" and a bit more. To his invective, I did not respond, recalling British play writer George Bernard Shaw who wrote decades ago that tangling with pigs was bound to be unproductive and that pigs actually LIKE a fight, that fighting with them gives them pleasure. Who is Block, or should I say "Block-head"? Well, he is CEO and president of an organization called The Israel Project, based in Washington and Jerusalem, that is a lobbying organization providing pro-Zionist talking points to the public and to journalists aimed at giving people a "more positive public face" to Israel. Block formerly worked for several hawkish, pro-Zionist lobby groups in the U.S. including AIPAC. Given headlines around the world claiming that Saudi Arabia under Muhammad bin Salman had carried out the grisly murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, a Saudi citizen who was writing for the Washington Post, Block was going whole hog, literally, to try to exonerate the theocratic dictatorship over the apparent murder of Khashoggi. Block tweeted that Khashoggi was "a radical Islamic terrorist who was close to Osama bin Laden, ISIS, and Hamas who wanted to overthrow the Saudi ruling royals who oppose both Sunni terrorists, sponsored by Turkey and Qatar, as well as Iran's Shia terrorist armies and allies." Block is about as twisted as anyone can be, so let's just make a few honest, valid points. First of all, Khashoggi was by all accounts a Saudi patriot and as far as Arab journalists go, which could be debatable as a general matter anyway, a good one for decades. He was quite liked by colleagues at the very "establishment" and largely pro-Israel Washington Post, for one thing. His last column for the paper, printed I think after his disappearance, focused almost exclusively on his insistence that the Arab world, and especially Saudi Arabia, promote a free press, or at least a much freer one than has been witnessed in many years. ➔7



## MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



### Iran asks Pakistan to crush terrorists

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli has asked the Pakistani government to gather intelligence on the terrorists living in its territory in order to track and crush them, voicing Iranian armed forces' readiness to cooperate with Pakistan to achieve that end.

Rahmani Fazli made the remarks during a phone conversation with his Pakistani counterpart Shehryar Khan Afridi on Saturday, IRNA reported.

It comes days after the Jaish ul-Adl terrorist group kidnapped more than 10 Iranian border guards in the Mirjavaveh border region with Pakistan. The border guards were from Basij forces, policemen and IRGC personnel.



### Tehran sympathizes with India over train accident

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi on Friday expressed regret over a train accident in northern India which led to the death and injury of dozens of people.

In a statement, Qassemi also offered sympathy to the Indian nation and government and the bereaved families, the Foreign Ministry website reported.

India's northern state of Punjab's chief minister has said 59 people were killed and 57 injured in a railway accident on Friday in which a train ran over scores of people gathered on the railway tracks for a festival in the city of Amritsar.



### 'History to record Iran's support for Iraq with golden pen'

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Secretary-general of the Harakat Hezbollah al-Nujaba has hailed the role of IRGC Quds Force Commander Major General Qassem Soleimani in fighting the terrorists in Iraq, saying history will register the hardships that Iran endured for helping Iraq in this struggle with a "golden pen".

"These helps were all made with the direct order and direction of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic on all levels and aspects, specifically military advices which played a highly important part in the success of the military operations," Sheikh Akram al-Kaabi said in an interview with ISNA published on Saturday.

"Imam Khamenei and the Islamic Republic were not indifferent about what was happening in Iraq, and supported Iraq so that it could stand against the savage attack made," he added.



### Transport minister's resignation accepted

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Transport and Urban Development Minister Abbas Akhoundi's request for resignation was accepted by President Hassan Rouhani.

It came after on Friday Akhondi published his resignation letter, which had been handed to Rouhani on September 1. In the letter, Akhondi criticized the Rouhani administration's handling of U.S. sanctions for violating the essential rights of ownership and fair competition.

He added that he had resigned on three previous occasions and asked Rouhani to accept his resignation this time.

On Saturday as he attended the unveiling ceremony of smartification projects at Imam Khomeini Airport, Akhondi said it was his last day as minister.



### 'Principlists have written to Rouhani on current issues'

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — The Front for Followers of the Line of the Imam and the Leader and some other factions within the principlist camp have submitted a letter to President Hassan Rouhani with regard to Iran's economic and current issues, to which the president has not responded yet.

On the possibility of a meeting between Rouhani and principlists, the front's spokesman Kamaloddin Sajjadi said he was unaware of such meeting, adding that the front has not received any invitation from the president, ISNA reported on Saturday.



### UK embassy welcomes FATF decision on Iran

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — The British embassy in Tehran on Friday welcomed the Financial Action Task Force's decision to give Iran more time to complete its Action Plan.

"Strong European support for Iran's efforts at FATF meeting. Full FATF compliance is essential for banks to do business with Iran," the official Twitter account for the British embassy in Tehran announced.

The FATF said on Friday Iran had until February to complete reforms that would bring it into line with global norms or face consequences, adding it had decided to continue suspending counter-measures, which can go as far as limiting or even banning transactions with a country.

# Asia-Europe leaders support JCPOA, decry return of sanctions

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Late on Friday, the political leaders attending the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) reaffirmed their "collective support" for a multilateral nuclear agreement Iran signed with major world powers in 2015, saying the lifting of sanctions against Tehran is an essential part of the deal.

In a joint statement issued at the end of their two-day meeting in Brussels, the participants voiced collective support for diplomatic dialogue and the nuclear agreement, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which has been endorsed by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231.

They emphasized that the JCPOA is working and delivering on its goal, namely to ensure the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program.

"Leaders recognized that, alongside full and effective implementation by Iran of its nuclear related commitments, the lifting of sanctions including the consequences arising from it constitutes an essential part of the JCPOA," the joint statement read, according to the Euractive media network website.

The statement added that preserving the nuclear accord "is a matter of respecting international agreements, and promoting international security, peace and stability."

The JCPOA had been signed between Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council -- the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China -- plus Germany in 2015.



U.S. President Donald Trump announced in May that Washington was pulling out of the nuclear agreement, which lifted nuclear-related sanctions against Tehran in exchange for restrictions on Tehran's nuclear program.

A first round of American sanctions took effect in August, targeting Iran's access to the U.S. dollar, metals trading, coal, industrial software, and auto sector. A second round, forthcoming on November 4, will be targeting Iran's energy sector and financial transactions.

Speaking upon her arrival to the Asia-Europe Meeting in Brussels on Thursday, European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said that the 28-nation bloc is

"working on the concrete establishment of" its plan to set up financial channels to preserve business with Iran and circumvent new U.S. sanctions in place after the Trump administration pulled out of the nuclear agreement, the European Union's official website reported.

"This is something that we have presented during the [United Nations] General Assembly ministerial week in New York. The Member States of the European Union have decided to put this system in place, so they are now working on the concrete establishment of this. I am confident that they will continue this work in a successful manner in the coming weeks," Mogherini said.

In a joint statement issued in September, remaining parties to the nuclear deal promised to establish a "special purpose vehicle" to facilitate payments related to Iran's exports as part of efforts to salvage the JCPOA.

"Mindful of the urgency and the need for tangible results, the participants welcomed practical proposals to maintain and develop payment channels, notably the initiative to establish a special purpose vehicle to facilitate payments related to Iran's exports, including oil, and imports, which will assist and reassure economic operators pursuing legitimate business with Iran," the September statement read.

## Baqeri urges Pakistan to immediately arrest kidnappers

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Mohammad Baqeri has urged Pakistan to take immediate action to arrest terrorists who kidnapped more than 10 Iranian border guards last week.

In a phone conversation with Pakistan's army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Friday, Baqeri said, "Based on the agreements between the two countries' armed forces, the Pakistani armed forces should take necessary actions to set free the kidnapped soldiers and guards."

He also attached great importance to deployment of more Pakistani forces in borders with Iran to boost security.

General Bajwa expressed hope that the Pakistani security forces' actions would result in releasing the kidnapped guards.

The Jaish ul-Adl terrorist group kidnapped the Iranian guards in the border region with Pakistan on October 15.

The border guards were from Basij forces, policemen and the Islamic Revolution



Guards Corps personnel.

The abductees were stationed at a border post in Iran's Mirjavah region when they came under attack from the terrorists, the IRGC said at the time.

"The Pakistani government should immediately implement all necessary means and measures to free border guards of the Islamic Republic of Iran and arrest the notorious terrorists," Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qassemi said last week.

## Diplomat says has plans to strengthen Tehran-Seoul ties

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Ambassador to South Korea Saeed Badamchi Shabestari said on Saturday that he has plans to expand ties with Seoul.

He told IRNA that Tehran-Seoul ties are very important and he has "comprehensive plans" for expansion of relations in various areas of politics, economy and culture.

Pointing to the U.S. "hostile" and "illegal" action in withdrawing from the 2015 nuclear deal, Ambassador Shabestari said that Iran-South Korea relations are based on realities and will not be affected by such moves.

"Such temporary issues and problems will not affect the two countries' determination to expand and deepen



cooperation," he stated.

Noting that current interaction between the two countries is at "acceptable level", he said the prospect of relations is promising.

Elsewhere, he said that Iran and South Korea have many capacities to expand cooperation in energy sphere.

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.

## Trump administration is unpredictable, ex-negotiator says

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — A former Iranian diplomat believes the 2015 nuclear agreement can survive U.S. unilateral withdrawal provided that the other signatories to the deal -- Russia, China, France, Britain Germany and the European Union -- show persistence in saving the accord by securing Iran's interests.

In an interview with the Hamshahri newspaper published on Saturday, Ali Asqar Khaji, who attended nuclear talks with American negotiators in Oman during Barack Obama's administration, expressed the hope that the historic pact, also referred to as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), would be saved from U.S. pressure and becomes a successful diplomatic experience in the world.

The JCPOA was a necessity for Iran and the other side, and it took a lot of energy in order to bring all sides together to achieve a win-win game, Khaji stated.

"The reality is that America played an essential role in [achieving] BARJAM (Persian acronym for the JCPOA), but the new U.S. administration's withdrawal from BARJAM created a problem which cannot be denied," he said. "But the question is whether BARJAM can survive without America."

The former diplomat further explained that saving the deal would be difficult for

Europe because its economy is mostly controlled by the private sector, which can be pressured by the U.S. into pulling out of Iran's market.

However, he said he hopes Europe, China and Russia cooperate and provide Iran with a package that secures Iran's interests, so that Iran would be able to pass through such difficult times.

Khaji also pointed to the Trump administration's hostile stance against Iran, saying, "I do not see any sort of good-will in the current U.S. administration to resolve the issue, unless Iran gives up everything and surrenders, which we will never do."

"So, I'm not optimistic about talks," he added.

Khaji who has served as different posts at the foreign ministry also said the Trump administration is "unpredictable" and his call for dialogue with Iran "is not real".

"Today I understand that Trump's slogan for negotiation is not real," he remarked.

He also said if "we do not understand the difference between Obama and Trump we cannot live in this world. There is difference between John Kerry and Pompeo".

Khaji also said though Iran does not trust the U.S., officials in Tehran are so wise "not to close eyes on opportunities" if there would be a chance which would meet national interests.

## Bodies of Iranians from Nazmeh ship still in Baku: embassy

The bodies of the crew members of the Iranian Nazmeh dry cargo ship who died as a result of poisoning are still in Baku, the Iranian embassy in Azerbaijan said on Saturday.

Medical examination of the bodies of Akbar Mansumi Kerim (1989), Seyid Murtuz Mirhuseyn (1986), and Sadzhad Sayad Feriyundur (1990) is underway.

"Due to the medical examination the bodies are still in Baku. After receiving the expert report they will be sent to Iran. Law enforcement agencies are conducting an investigation on the ship," the embassy told the local agency Trend.

A massive poisoning occurred among the crew members of the vessel sailing from Aktau to Baku. The incident occurred at a distance of 21 miles from the island of Pirallahi, in the central part of the Caspian Sea.

According to the preliminary data, the cause of the poisoning was chemical substance, which was processed grain transported by the vessel.

At 03:00, a border patrol vessel approached the Nazmeh cargo ship, taking on board seven crew members. First aid was provided to them on the vessel, after which the patrol vessel

headed for Absheron port.

Doctors were called to provide emergency medical aid. Before their arrival, three members of the Nazmeh crew died.

The rescued crew members were placed in the toxicology department of the Clinical Medical Center No. 1.

Families of those who have died from poisoning on the vessel will receive compensation, Iran's Ambassador to Azerbaijan Javad Jahangirzadeh said.

The ambassador noted that the vessel on which the poisoning occurred was engaged in the transport of goods from Kazakhstan to Azerbaijan.

"The crew of the cargo ship got poisoned on the Kazakh border. They tried to quickly reach the Azerbaijani coast. The forces of the Coast Guard of Azerbaijan came to the rescue and the victims were hospitalized," Jahangirzadeh said.

He added that three Iranian citizens died as a result of the incident.

Presently, the incident is under investigation. The Iranian embassy is also in talks with the company that owns the vessel, Jahangirzadeh said.

The ambassador said the bodies of the dead have not yet been transferred to Iran.



# Assad, Russian officials meet in Damascus

Syrian President Bashar Assad met representatives of Russia's foreign and defense ministries in Damascus Friday, Russia's foreign ministry said in a statement Saturday.

During the meeting, they discussed development of situation in Syria and reaffirmed their commitment to the "destruction of terrorist presence" and advancement towards a long-term political settlement in the interest of all Syrians.

■ **'88,000 terrorists killed in Russian strikes in Syria'**

Meanwhile, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu says almost 88,000 foreign-sponsored Takfiri terrorists have been killed in Syria ever since Moscow launched its counter-terrorism airstrikes against militant redoubts in the Arab country more than three years ago.

"Over the course of the operation, a total of more than 87,500 militants have been eliminated, and 1,411 settlements in addition to more than 95 percent of Syria's territory have been liberated," Shoigu said at the fifth council of defense ministers of ASEAN member states and their dialogue partners in Singapore on Saturday.

"Key settlements have been liberated and main communications have been brought into operation. Syrian armed forces currently control territory, where 90 percent of the population resides," he added.

Russian jets have been carrying out air raids against targets belonging to the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group and those of other terror outfits inside Syria at the Damascus government's formal request since September 2015.

The airstrikes have helped Syrian forces advance against anti-Damascus militants, who have been wreaking havoc in the Arab country since March 2011.

On August 22, Russia's Defense Ministry stated that Moscow had dispatched 63,012 troops to Syria over the course of its involvement in the conflict-plagued Arab country.

The ministry said 25,738 ranking officers and 434 generals as well as 4,349 artillery and rocket specialists were among the troops sent to Syria.

It added that the Russian personnel have "received combat experience" in the war-torn country.

The ministry further noted that its forces had tested 231 types of modern weaponry, including aircraft, surface-to-air systems and cruise missiles, in Syria.

■ **Death toll from U.S.-led airstrikes against Syria's Dayr al-Zawr rises to 62**

Meanwhile, the death toll from separate aerial assaults conducted by the U.S.-led coalition purportedly fighting Daesh



in Syria's eastern province of Dayr al-Zawr has reached 62.

Local sources, requesting not to be named, told Syria's official news agency SANA on Saturday that an airstrike targeted the village of al-Susah on the outskirts of Abu Kamal city, leaving at least 15 civilians, including women and children, dead and many more wounded.

Thirty-seven civilians were also killed and tens of others injured when a U.S.-led aerial attack pounded Osman ibn Affan Mosque.

Separately, at least 10 civilians were killed and many more wounded as U.S.-led military aircraft struck Ammar bin Yasser Mosque in al-Bubadran village.

The military alliance has repeatedly been accused of targeting and killing civilians. It has also been largely incapable of achieving its declared goal of destroying Daesh.

Addressing world leaders at the 73rd session of the United

Nations General Assembly in New York on September 29, Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Muallem said the U.S.-led coalition had been doing everything it could since the onset of its airstrikes but combat terrorism and militant outfits wreaking havoc in the Arab country.

Muallem described the military alliance as "illegitimate" and censured the "hegemonic policies" pursued by certain countries against the Damascus government.

Exposure to white phosphorous can cause extensive and deep second- and third-degree burns, while inhalation of the fume released by it may result in illness or death.

The U.S.-led coalition has been conducting airstrikes against what are said to be Daesh targets inside Syria since September 2014 without any authorization from the Damascus government or a UN mandate.

(Source: agencies)

## Next summit for Trump, North Korea's Kim likely after first of year

The next summit meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is likely to happen early next year, a senior administration official said.

The two sides have been engaged in talks on the leaders' second meeting after the first, unprecedented, one in Singapore in June.

"A meeting is likely sometime after the first of the year," the U.S. official told a small group of reporters.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Friday he hopes to meet his North Korean counterpart soon to lay the groundwork for

a "big step forward" on denuclearization during the next summit.

Pompeo, in an interview with Voice of America on a trip to Mexico City, said Kim told him two weeks ago he was committed to the promises he had made to Trump during their first summit.

"I'm very hopeful we'll have senior leader meetings here in the next week and a half or so between myself and my counterpart to continue this discussion so that when the two of them get together there is real opportunity to make another big step forward

on denuclearization," he told VOA.

Pompeo met North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho at the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September.

A State Department spokeswoman declined to clarify if Pompeo meant he would meet his counterpart in Washington, saying she had no meetings to announce.

The Rodong Sinmun, North Korea's official party newspaper, said the United States should not take an approach with "two faces" as Washington touts progress in denuclearization talks while keeping

sanctions in place.

"We do not want good will and generosity of the U.S. but urge it to act with the elementary give-and-take principle," the Rodong Sinmun said in a commentary on Saturday.

The United States and South Korea on Friday said they had suspended upcoming joint air defense drills in a bid to ease diplomatic efforts with North Korea continue.

The two Koreas have held three summits this year.

(Source: Reuters)

## Thousands take to streets in London demanding second Brexit vote

### London mayor joins march for new vote

Tens of thousands of supporters of the European Union marched through London on Saturday as part of what organizers say will be the largest ever demonstration to demand that the British government holds a public vote on the terms of Brexit.

The protesters waved the blue and gold flag of the EU and held up "Bollocks to Brexit" banners under sunny skies to call for another referendum on the eventual deal on how Britain will leave the world's biggest trading bloc.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan has joined thousands of voters calling for a second Brexit referendum at a major demonstration.

Khan said Saturday's event was a "march for the future" for young Britons, including those who were too young to vote in Britain's 2016 EU membership referendum, when those who favor leaving the bloc won by 52 percent to 48 percent.

The mayor, from the opposition Labour Party, has previously backed mounting calls for a fresh referendum so that the public can have a say on whether they accept Conservative Party Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit deal or choose



to stay in the EU.

He told the BBC that "what's clear is that the only options on the table now from the prime minister are a bad Brexit deal, or no deal whatsoever. That's a million miles away from

what was promised two-and-a-half years ago."

Thousands of protesters are gathering in central London to call for a new referendum on Britain's departure from the European Union.

Organizers want the public to have a final say on the government's Brexit deal with the EU, arguing that new facts have come to light about the costs and complexity of Britain's exit from the bloc since Britons voted to leave in 2016.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan from the opposition Labour Party was among those set to address the People's Vote March on Saturday, which will culminate at a rally in Parliament Square.

Prime Minister Theresa May of the Conservative Party has ruled out another public vote on the subject.

Britain is scheduled to leave the EU on March 29, but negotiations have been plagued by disagreements, particularly over the issue of the land border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland border.

(Source: Reuters)

## Israeli rights group roasts Tel Aviv at UN, hails Palestinians are 'heroes'

A leading Israeli human rights group blasted Tel Aviv in a meeting of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for its "supremacy and oppression" of the Palestinians, whom it described as "heroes".

The group B'Tselem's director Hagai El-Ad delivered a scathing speech against the regime after being invited to the podium by Bolivia, which holds the Council's presidency this month, during a Council meeting.

"You will never silence us, nor the hundreds of thousands of Israelis who reject a present founded on supremacy and oppression and stand for a future built on equality, freedom, and human rights," he said, addressing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the Associated Press reported.

El-Ad decried "the indignity, the outrage, the pain of the people denied human rights for more than 50 years," referring to Palestinians' mistreatment at the hands of Israel since 1948, when the regime proclaimed existence.

He said the regime was fragmenting Palestinian land, separating the Gaza Strip from Tel Aviv-occupied West Bank, walling off East al-Quds (Jerusalem), which the Palestinians

want as their future capital, while its courts were legalizing demolitions of Palestinian homes and the relocation of people.

The Israeli regime is "quite expert at constructing this façade of legality, which has been very successful at allowing us not to have to deal with any international consequences," El-Ad said.

And this has enabled Israel to continue "oppressing millions while it somehow is still being considered a democracy," the group's leader said.

El-Ad finally urged the world to "let Israel know that it will no longer stand idly by, that it will take action against the continued dismantling of the Palestinian people."

The group opposes the settlement construction, which Israel has been undertaking in the West Bank since 1967, when it occupied the territory. It has also documented abuses committed by Israeli forces against the Palestinians, rubbing Israeli officials up the wrong way.

Israel's UN envoy Danny Danon responded, accusing the group's leader of setting up "a circus" at the Council.

He then told him in Hebrew, you "serve our enemies. They use you against us. The IDF (Israeli military) soldiers are guarding you and you are coming here to defame them. Shame on you, you lousy collaborator." Britain's UN Ambassador Karen Pierce objected, saying Council members could not understand Hebrew, which was not the world body's official language.

The outgoing United States Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley called El-Ad's speech "distorted" and "one-sided."

El-Ad responded by saying, "I am not a traitor, nor am I a hero. The heroes are the Palestinians, who endure this occupation with courage and perseverance."

■ **130 Palestinians, including 25 children, injured by Israel amid Amnesty condemnation**

Elsewhere, some 130 Palestinian protesters, including 25 children, have been injured by Israeli fire during anti-occupation protests at the Gaza border, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, amid Amnesty International's condemnation of Israel's newly proclaimed "zero tolerance" towards protesters.

(Source: Press TV)

## U.S., Saudi regime policies stoking tensions in Middle East: Hezbollah leader

The secretary general of Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement says the policies of the United States and the House of Saud regime stoke tensions across the Middle East.

Addressing his supporters via a televised speech broadcast live from the Lebanese capital city of Beirut on Friday, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said the crises gripping the region were the offspring of wrong policies made in Washington and Riyadh.

The Hezbollah leader said the world cannot tolerate the deadly U.S.-backed Saudi campaign against Yemen.

Pointing to the case of missing Saudi dissident Jamal Khashoggi who was apparently been murdered recently, Nasrallah said the disappearance of the journalist had brought new international fallout and scrutiny on the Saudi regime war on Yemen.

"I tell the Saudi rulers that now is the right time to take a bold stance and stop the war on Yemen... The international cover for their military campaign has started to crumble, especially after (Khashoggi's) incident. The kingdom's image in the world has never been worse throughout 100 years."

Nasrallah said the alleged murder had put the White House and its closest ally Riyadh in a very difficult situation. "There is no doubt that the rulers of Saudi Arabia and America are in a difficult situation due to the case of Khashoggi's disappearance."

It has become almost certain, the Hezbollah leader said, that Khashoggi was abducted, tortured, killed and dismembered with a saw inside the Saudi consulate in Turkish coastal city of Istanbul in early October.

The Khashoggi case has rightly generated international backlash against the Saudi regime, the type of reaction that the deaths and starvation in Yemen were unfortunately unable to muster.

Day after day, increasingly gruesome details about the alleged murder are being leaked to the press and media. According to recent reports quoting Turkish officials, the journalist was tortured and cut into pieces with a bone saw while still alive, before a 15-man hit squad took his body away in a black car on October 2.

Since March 2015, thousands of civilians have been killed in the House of Saud regime-led campaign airstrikes on Yemen and nearly 23 million people, about two thirds of the population, rely on humanitarian aid to survive.

According to several observers, the Saudi regime is responsible for the overwhelming majority of civilian deaths.

Hospitals and schools are routinely bombed. Just this August, at least 42 children were killed inside a school bus in the north of the country.

The global charity Save the Children recently said at least 349 civilians had been killed from June to September solely in the city of Hudaydah. The charity describes the campaign as a "war on children."

(Source: Press TV)

## Julian Assange files case against Ecuador for 'violating rights'

Julian Assange has launched a case against the Ecuadorian government for alleged "violation of fundamental rights", the latest episode in an escalating row between the Australian founder of anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks and his host government.

In a statement released on Friday, WikiLeaks said its lawyer Baltasar Garzon arrived in Ecuador on Thursday to file the case.

Assange has been living in Ecuador's embassy in London since 2012 when Swedish prosecutors filed rape charges against him.

The prosecutors have since dropped the charges but Assange faces arrest by British authorities for fleeing justice in the Swedish case.

He fears British authorities will then allow his extradition to the United States where he is wanted for publication by WikiLeaks of classified information in 2010.

"The move comes almost seven months after Ecuador threatened to remove his protection and summarily cut off his access to the outside world, including by refusing to allow journalists and human rights organizations to see him, and installing three signal jammers in the embassy to prevent his phone calls and internet access," the WikiLeaks statement read.

The organization further accused Ecuador of allying itself with the U.S. under President Lenin Moreno.

Assange was given sanctuary in the building by Moreno's predecessor Rafael Correa.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

Second Announcement

شرکت توسعه آهن و فولاد گل گهر

GOLGOHAR IRON & STEEL DEVELOPMENT CO.

### Notice of tender for export sale

No. Ei/97/01

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

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

Hereby interested bidders are invited to the Marketing and sales dept. of the seller located at No.22, 31<sup>th</sup> Alley, Alvand St. Argentina Square, Tehran, Iran, or refer to [www.gisdco.ir](http://www.gisdco.ir) within 10 working days from the date of second announcement with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative to receive the tender documents, fill them out and return.



STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	188575.8
IFX	2089.03

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	\$69.28/b
Brent	\$78.79/b
OPEC Basket	\$78.25/b
Gold	\$1,227.55/oz
Silver	\$14.69/oz
Platinum	\$836.00/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

Over \$5b of loans paid to industrial units in 5 months

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Some 212.552 trillion rials (about \$5.06 billion) of loans has been paid to 29,000 industrial units throughout the country during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), ILNA reported on Saturday.



Of the mentioned amount, some 119.728 trillion rials (about \$2.085 billion) has been paid by the banks and the rest was paid through production flourishing plan. The measure was to support small and medium-sized entrepreneurs (SMEs) and also to help completion of semi-finished projects.

Sadeq Najafi, the managing director of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO), has previously announced that through supportive measures taken by the government, some 201 industrial units that had stopped their activity resumed their operation during the first quarter of current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21).

He also said that there are 84,000 industrial and production units in the country at present.

Referring to the 350 trillion-rial (about \$8.13 billion) facilities with 10-percent interest rate allocated to the SMEs, the official said these facilities should be paid to the units that can continue their activity.

He also announced that 36 Iranian SMEs attracted above \$2.3 billion of foreign investments during the previous Iranian calendar year 1396 (ended on March 20, 2018).

Asia oil buyers said to see more chance for U.S. waivers on Iran

Asian buyers of Iranian oil are gaining confidence they will win U.S. consent for some imports to continue even after American sanctions snap back next month.

Major Iranian customers South Korea, India and Japan are in talks with Washington for waivers, highlighting the specific reasons they need to continue purchases, according to people familiar with the discussions. Despite the upbeat tone, the exemptions from the U.S. haven't been finalized and may not end up being approved, they said, asking not to be identified because the negotiations are confidential.



The U.S. has so far insisted that all purchases from Iran must drop to zero in an effort to put pressure on the Islamic republic to negotiate a new nuclear deal, after President Donald Trump in May walked away from a 2015 pact negotiated by Barack Obama. Even before American sanctions take effect, the oil market has tightened beyond what the White House expected, briefly sending Brent crude to a four-year high over \$85 a barrel.

If South Korea, India and Japan obtain waivers, it's likely to be for lower imports than in the past with a commitment to continue reducing purchases over time.

"We evaluate waivers on a case by case basis," said U.S. State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert. But she cautioned that Washington wasn't planning to provide blanket exemptions to Asian countries.

(Source: Bloomberg)

Private sector from Iran, Syria light the flame

Economic co-op MOU signed between Tehran, Damascus

By Ebrahim Fallahi

**TEHRAN** — Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) and the Federation of Syrian Chambers of Commerce inked a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on Saturday addressing issues regarding long-term cooperation.

The MOU was signed during an Iran-Syria business forum which was held for the first time after over a decade hiatus due to war in the Arab country.

The event was attended by senior officials and businessmen from both sides, including TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari, Mahmoud Hamsho, the secretary general of the Federation of Syrian Chambers of Commerce, Hassan Danaiefar, the senior advisor to Iran's first vice president in Syria and Iraq affairs, Syrian Ambassador to Tehran Adnan Mahmoud and Iran's Ambassador to Damascus Javad Torkabadi.

Signing the MOU the two sides stressed all-out cooperation for development of economic ties and facilitating trade for the two countries' businessmen and companies.

**■ Bilateral trade low despite high political ties**

Addressing the forum, TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari mentioned the good political relations between the two countries and criticized the mismatch between the level of economic ties and political ones.

He called for both sides taking necessary measures in order to fill this gap and escalate the two countries trade ties to the levels of po-



Head of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) Masoud Khansari (L) and Mahmoud Hamsho, the secretary general of the Federation of Syrian Chambers of Commerce attending the Iran-Syria business forum in Tehran on Saturday

litical partnership.

He further voiced Iranian companies and private sector's readiness for cooperation with their Syrian counterparts in reconstruction of Syria noting that Iran is going to have a significant role in Syria's future markets.

Khansari also underlined the strategic and geographical situation of Syria stressing the fact that Syria could be used as a hub for exporting Iranian goods to other countries.

**■ Implementing previous agreements**  
In another part of the event, the secretary general of the Federation of Syrian Chambers of

Commerce expressed his country's gratitude and satisfaction with the Islamic Republic's all-out support and called for further expansion of ties in a variety of areas especially in economic fields.

Mahmoud Hamsho emphasized the need for implementing the previously signed economic agreements between the two sides, reassuring Iranian traders of his country's full support for their activities in Syria.

"We will take all necessary measures to remove any probable issues and barriers in the way of trade between the two countries and to facilitate trade for the two sides' businessmen",

Meeting on trade in national currencies held in Ankara

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — The meeting on Trade in National Currencies' Challenges and Opportunities started work with the attendance of Iran, Turkey, Russia and India at the Center for Iranian Studies in Ankara on Friday, IRNA reported.

The meeting focused on establishing trade using national currencies on the way to decrease trade risks, commercial restrictions as well as crossing out dollar in financial transactions.

During the meeting, Rasoul Khansari, head of Monetary and Banking Research Institute of Iran, named domination of dollar in international trade as a source of concern for many countries.

"Today a large number of trade transactions are done based on U.S. dollar and the American government is taking advantage of the issue as a tool for imposing sanctions against countries," he said, "Thus, central banks of many countries are thinking of minimizing the role of dollar in their foreign

trades."

The U.S. sanctions against Iran, Russia and Turkey and also imposing economic limitations against China, India and the EU has made the importance of using national currencies and replacing other currencies more explicit, Khansari noted.

He underscored that the U.S. sanctions against Iran, Russia, and Turkey and some posed restrictions on China, India, and the EU have highlighted the significance of using national currencies in trade.



‘Pumping foreign currency into secondary market to be accelerated’

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — "Within the next few weeks, the procedure of injecting non-oil exports revenues into the foreign exchange secondary market will be lubricated to supply the required forex sources for imports," the Public Relations Department of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) quoted the bank's Governor Abdolnaser Hemmati as saying on Saturday.



According to Hemmati, €7.3 billion of deals have been done at the secondary market (the Forex Management Integrated System, locally known as NIMA) during the past two months and due to the taken measures including having petrochemical companies supply the required foreign currency of the secondary forex market, injection of foreign currency into the system will be facilitated in near future.

According to the announcement of the Public Relations Office of Iranian Oil Ministry all the foreign currency earned from exports of petrochemical companies' products has been regularly pumped into NIMA, in a bid to address the country's currency needs.

NIMA, which seeks to boost transparency, create competitiveness among exchange shops and a secure environment for traders, is a new chance for importers to supply their required foreign currency without specific problems and for exporters to re-inject their earned foreign currency to domestic forex market.

Secondary foreign exchange market was inaugurated in early July to allow exporters of non-oil commodities to sell their foreign currency earnings to importers of consumer products.

Second 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., 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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



# OPEC, allies struggle to fully deliver pledged oil output boost: internal document

OPEC is struggling to add barrels to the market after agreeing in June to increase output, an internal document seen by Reuters showed, as an increase in Saudi Arabia was offset by declines in Iran, Venezuela and Angola.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies agreed in June to boost supply as U.S. President Donald Trump urged producers to offset losses caused by sanctions on Iran and to dampen rising prices.

Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih said OPEC and non-OPEC would pump roughly an extra 1 million barrels per day (bpd) following the June agreement. The OPEC document seen by Reuters adds to signs they have yet to deliver the full amount.

OPEC says it is on course to do so, although it hasn't given a timeframe. "It is a work in progress," OPEC Secretary General Mohammad Barkindo said earlier this week.

The internal document prepared by OPEC's Vienna headquarters for a technical panel meeting on Friday showed that OPEC members, excluding Nigeria, Libya and Congo pumped an extra 428,000 bpd in



September compared to May.

The OPEC and non-OPEC technical panel called the Joint Technical Committee

reviews producers' compliance with their oil supply pledges.

Top exporter Saudi Arabia pumped most

of the extra oil, raising output by 524,000 bpd in September compared to May, the document showed. Other increases came from Iraq, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

Iran, facing U.S. sanctions on its oil exports from Nov. 4, cut production by 376,000 bpd in September versus May, and has said OPEC and Saudi Arabia are not able to make up for a total loss of its exports.

"There is no spare capacity," Iran's OPEC governor, Hossein Kazempour Ardebili, said last month.

Among other OPEC members, production fell by 189,000 bpd in Venezuela and by 17,000 bpd in Angola.

The non-OPEC nations cooperating with OPEC pumped an extra 296,000 bpd since May, the OPEC document showed. Russia increased output by 389,000 bpd, although Kazakhstan, Mexico and Malaysia posted declines.

Nigeria, Libya and Congo are not included in OPEC's supply-limiting pact. Including them brings the increase in OPEC's output in September to 628,000 bpd.

(Source: Reuters)

## Libya's Hariga oil port operating normally following protest

Libya's eastern oil export port of Hariga was on Friday working normally a day after a protest at its gate, port workers said.

Late on Thursday, dozens of tribesmen staged a demonstration at the port's gate in protest against the appointment by the internationally recognized government in Tripoli of a government minister, a member of the powerful Obeidat tribe told Reuters.

A port worker confirmed the protest at the gate saying the tribesmen had not entered the port compound made up of an export terminal and storages in the eastern city of Tobruk.

Hatem al-Oraibi, spokesman for a parallel government based in eastern Libya, had on Thursday alerted reporters in a news chat room to "reports of a closure of the Hariga oil port by a protest of the Obeidat tribe", according to a screenshot.

State oil firm NOC, to which the port belongs via its AGOCO unit, denied in a statement that a protest had taken place at the port.

The port, which is linked to the Sarir oilfield, has been hit by closures in the past caused by protests such as guards complaining about delays in receiving their pay.

The tribesmen had protested against a decision by Tripoli to appoint Ali Essawi as economy minister, the member of the Obeidat tribe, Tareq Abdel-Fattah, said.

Libyan prosecutors had in 2011 named Essawi as the main suspect of the killing of Abdel Fattah's father, Abdel Fattah Younes,



a former top rebel commander during the uprising against Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

The Obeidat tribe now plans to organize a gathering of tribes to discuss "decisive measures" against Essawi's appointment, Abdel-Fattah said, without giving details.

A Libyan court in 2012 had dropped the case against Essawi and other suspects. But he re-emerged into the spotlight when Tripoli-based Prime Minister Fayez appointed him as economy minister this month.

Khalifa Haftar, a top commander whose troops control the east, this week ordered a new investigation into the killing of Younes which caused deep rifts in the rebel camp which later took over the oil producing country.

Libya is divided into rival governments. The internationally-recognized one is based in Tripoli. The east is run by a parallel administration which set up its own central bank and NOC branch.

(Source: Reuters)

## Scottish Power to invest in solar energy for the first time

Scottish Power, one of Britain's biggest energy companies, has said it will invest in solar power for the first time as part of its move away from fossil fuels.

The big six firm sold off its last gas-fired power stations to Drax Group this week to focus exclusively on renewables, which today consists of onshore and offshore windfarms.

But Keith Anderson, the company's chief executive, told the Guardian he had decided to move into solar, too.

"The solar market has had difficulties over the last week. But you look at where the technology cost is getting to, and the possibilities of integrating it with wind."

Solar farms around the UK have historically been built by smaller energy firms and community groups, so the entrance of such a big player would mark a major shake-up. It could also inject life into a sector that has stalled in the face of subsidy cuts.

Researchers have argued that the comparatively low wind output across Europe this summer because of hot, still weather was a reminder of why energy companies should be investing in solar as well as wind.

Anderson said that Scottish Power had moved to 100% renewables because it was cheaper than other sources.

The world's need to tackle climate change also made it clear that companies needed to embrace green energy wholeheartedly, he said.

Scottish Power would be competing in an auction next summer for a slice of



£557m in government subsidies for offshore windfarms, Anderson confirmed.

The firm hopes to secure a contract for its planned 1,200MW East Anglia Three project, which would be capable of powering nearly 900,000 homes and dwarf the world's current biggest, a 659MW scheme off the Cumbrian coast.

Anderson also expressed confidence that ministers were nearing a rethink on their block on subsidies for onshore windfarms, which the Conservatives barred when they came to power in 2015. "We're closer than we've ever been before," he said.

A poll this week found that two thirds of people living in rural Scottish communities, which are considered to have some of the best sites for prospective sites, support onshore windfarms.

But the prospect for new gas power stations – which companies including Drax and Germany's RWE want to build – were bleak, Anderson said.

(Source: The Guardian)

## Trump administration wants phase-in of UN rules on maritime fuel

The Trump administration wants pollution limits on ship fuels that a United Nations maritime agency will implement in 2020 to be phased in to protect consumers from any price spikes in heating and trucking fuels, a White House spokesman said on Friday.

Under the International Maritime Organization rule, ships cannot use fuels with more than 0.5 percent of sulfur, compared with 3.5 percent now, unless equipped with so-called scrubbers limiting the emissions. The rule will be enforced through fines levied by IMO member states.

The IMO said last month it would not delay implementation after some shipping groups as well as the Bahamas, Panama, Liberia and the Marshall Islands supported a phased-in implementation of the rules.

If refiners are unprepared for the changes, some analysts have said, prices for related fuels, such as diesel and

heating oil, could rise. A spike in fuel prices ahead of the 2020 elections would be a political risk for Trump.

"The United States supports an experience building phase, which has been proposed by several other countries, in IMO 2020 in order to mitigate the impact of precipitous fuel cost increases on consumers," the White House spokesman said.

The administration was not seeking a delay of the rules, the spokesman said. A phase-in would mean that the rule would not have to be fully complied with until a later unspecified date.

Jason Bordoff, founding director of Columbia University's Center on Global Energy policy, and a former White House adviser on energy to former U.S. President Barack Obama, indicated that a phase-in would be unnecessary.

Reducing emissions from ships brings "HUGE" health

benefits and the industry has known about the upcoming rules for "YEARS," Bordoff tweeted. Many U.S. refineries and shippers have already spent billions of dollars on preparing for cleaner fuel, and the rules already have opportunities for waivers, he added.

"The administration wants to ensure that IMO 2020 occurs in a manner that is not harmful to consumers and the global economy," the White House spokesman said. His comments were first reported by the Wall Street Journal.

Analysts at Energy Aspects were skeptical the Trump administration could change the process. "Given that the IMO rulemaking process takes nearly two years to run its course, it is unclear how any proposed phased implementation could be accomplished at an international level," analyst Robert Campbell wrote.

(Source: Reuters)

## Crude oil all set to disturb India's macro maths: How bad can it get?

The unwelcome combination of rising oil price and a weakening rupee is giving a tough time to investors, especially when the whole world is looking towards India as a 'growth engine'. Now the billion dollar question is: will the rally in crude oil prices continue?

Current account deficit is another concern. As per an SBINSE -0.02 percent Economic Research report, India's CAD could cross 2.5 percent of GDP in FY2019 (provided oil prices continue at \$80 a barrel level). Currently CAD is estimated at 1.9 percent for 2017-18.

RBI estimates that for every \$10 a barrel rise in oil price, GDP growth reduces by around 0.15 percent. If fiscal and current deficit widen, it is going to affect macroeconomic mathematics. The strengthening of the dollar index is putting extra pressure on payment bill. In the international markets, crude prices increased by 28 percent, while our weak currency turned crude oil 48 percent dearer.

Production cut by OPEC and some other countries over the past few years has squeezed supplies and an increase in US production has been nullified by the demand growth worldwide. The rise in dollar index has made



crude dearer for importing countries, as they pay in dollar. India's dependence on crude import rose from 77.3 percent in FY2014 to 83.7 percent in FY2018, making the situation more severe. In three years time, crude prices has risen from \$25 a barrel to above \$75 a barrel, and this is seen as a serious threat for India, which is the third oil largest importer

worldwide.

However, it is expected that crude prices will not sustain at higher levels for long, as the market is not so much supply squeezed. The market is overreacting to the imminent sanctions on Iran from the first week of November.

Some countries are prepared to bridge

the supply deficit which will get created after Iran sanction; Iraq is planning to increase oil exports from its southern ports to 4 million barrels a day (bpd) in the first quarter of 2019. Global growth forecast has been cut down to 3.7 percent from 3.9 percent for 2019, which should lower oil demand. The US is pumping more oils, which may calm down the prices to some extent.

On the flip side, a sharp fall is also not expected as there have been supply disruptions in Libya, Venezuela and Iran and OPEC's spare capacity at 2 million barrels a day is not of use because of political dispute. Winter is approaching and heating demand will prevent any sharp drop.

For the Indian government, bringing fuel under the GST will reduce government revenue by nearly Rs 2 lakh crore. If the government goes with this, it would be a courageous haircut. If the Asian premium which India, Japan and China are paying to OPEC reduces, it may save \$3-8. However, it looks difficult at this juncture. The upside is capped at \$85 and once the Iran issue is resolved, prices will come down to \$68-65 levels.

(Source: Economic Times)

## The week in energy: The unusable oil weapon

The death of Jamal Khashoggi, a Saudi journalist with permanent residency in the U.S., is putting to the test one of America's most important international alliances: its friendship with Saudi Arabia. As strains between the two countries have grown this week, President Donald Trump was slow to blame the Saudi government, stressing the need for its support against Iran. On Thursday, however, he toughened his tone, suggesting the consequences for Saudi leaders would be "very severe" if they were found to be responsible for Khashoggi's death.

Members of Congress have raised the prospect of sanctions. A group of senators on Wednesday wrote a letter to the administration, triggering an investigation for human rights violations that could lead to sanctions against Saudi Arabia or Saudi individuals. The Saudi government had already tried to warn the U.S. off making any moves in that direction, promising in a statement on Sunday that "if [the kingdom] receives any action, it will respond with greater action".

That threat was ominous. Anyone who remembers the embargo of 1973-74 will know the power of the "oil weapon", and as the world's largest exporter of crude, Saudi Arabia still wields enormous influence over the global market. Turki Aldakhil, general manager of the Saudi-owned Al Arabiya news channel, warned in an opinion column that the kingdom's exports could be cut, and "no one should rule out the price jumping to \$100, or \$200, or even double that figure".

Other commentators swiftly dismissed that prospect, however, and with good reason. Crude at \$200 a barrel — let alone \$400 — would indeed be disastrous for the U.S., but it would also be a catastrophe for Saudi Arabia. It would certainly tip the world economy into recession, hurting demand for oil and damaging the value of Saudi investments overseas. The only Saudi holdings that might do well in those conditions might be its stakes in Tesla and fellow electric car company Lucid Motors.

Although in the short term those losses might be outweighed by the bump in revenues from higher prices, the long-term damage to Saudi Arabia would be profound: burning relationships with key customers, particularly China, and transforming the debate over energy security in the U.S. As in the 1970s, a surge in prices would be a huge stimulant to oil production in other parts of the world.

And in case Saudi Arabia needed any more reasons to hold back, the short-term revenue surge would also flow to its great rival Iran, bailing out its fragile economy. As Javier Blas observed for Bloomberg, the oil weapon is like the nuclear threat during the Cold War: an attempt to use it would mean mutually assured destruction. John Kemp at Reuters made a similar point, arguing that "Saudi Arabia's oil weapon doesn't work".

Anas Abdoun of Stratas Advisors summed up what seems to be the consensus view of the likely outcome: there will be targeted U.S. sanctions against some Saudi individuals, which are likely to be "enough that the administration can argue they are punishing the bad actors, but not so much that Riyadh will be forced to respond". If that is indeed the



outcome, he added, "crude oil flows should be unscathed". That appears to have been the view in the market: Brent crude drifted downwards during the week from \$81.50 on Monday to about \$80.30 on Friday.

There was one modest indication during the week that Saudi Arabia might be prepared to flex its muscles a little in the oil market, however. Reuters reported that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait had failed to reach agreement on their jointly owned fields in the Neutral Zone between the two countries, meaning that they would "struggle to resume oil production" from the region, which has been shut down for more than three years. The fields could produce about 500,000 barrels per day, or 0.5 percent of global oil supply, and even relatively small adjustments to output have an increased significance today. The U.S. is using sanctions to put pressure on Iran by cutting its oil exports, and buyers such as India are looking for increased imports from Saudi Arabia to fill the gap. The reinstated U.S. sanctions kick in on November 5.

An event that has been affected by the outcry over Khashoggi's death is the Saudi government's Future Investment Initiative conference in Riyadh next week. It had attracted a glittering array of top-level speakers from international finance, business and politics, but many of those planning to attend have cancelled, culminating in the withdrawal of U.S. Treasury secretary Steven Mnuchin on Thursday. Many big international companies, however, are still planning to be represented at the event. Businesses distancing themselves from the Saudi government could face consequences: the Financial Times reported that Saudi Arabia had pulled a planned deal with Virgin Hyperloop One, after Richard Branson said he would freeze ties with the kingdom until more details were known about the disappearance of Khashoggi.

The Trump administration has, since last year, been working on a plan to bail out struggling coal-fired and nuclear power plants, but now appears to have shelved the idea after opposition from economic and security advisers.

Siemens was heading for a big contract win to supply power equipment to Iraq. Then the U.S. government intervened, and now General Electric is poised to win a substantial share of the business.

The EU will offer billions of euros of aid to companies willing to build giant battery factories in Europe.

OPEC has urged its members not to mention prices when talking about policy, to reduce the risk of legal action in the U.S. over market manipulation.

Members of the UK parliament on the business and energy committee have urged the government to ban sales of petrol and diesel cars by 2032.

(Source: Financial Times)



NEWS IN BRIEF



Death toll in  
India train  
tragedy reaches  
60

**INTERNATIONAL** **TEHRAN** — The death toll in a deadly train accident in northern India's Punjab province has crossed 60, with dozens of others injured, according to local officials. The incident took place late on Friday when a speeding train ran over a crowd watching fireworks during a religious festival.

An eye witness told reporters that the train had not even sounded its whistle as it sped past the site, where hundreds were watching the burning of an effigy of the demon king Ravana during the Hindu festival of Dussehra.

The death toll is likely to go up as dozens of critically wounded people are battling for their lives in various hospitals across the state, health officials said.

Punjab government ordered state mourning. All offices and educational institutions remained closed on Saturday in wake of the tragedy. A crisis management group under Punjab health minister Brahm Mohindra has been set up to monitor relief and rehabilitation efforts.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted to express his condolences over the tragic event. "The tragedy is heart-wrenching. My deepest condolences to the families of those who lost their loved ones and I pray that the injured recover quickly. Have asked officials to provide immediate assistance that is required," he wrote.



Pak criticizes  
Indo-Russia  
defence deal

**INTERNATIONAL** **TEHRAN** — Continuing their harangue against each other, Pakistan has criticized and downplayed India's acquisition of the Russian-made S-400 Triumph air defense system, claiming Islamabad can counter the threat.

New Delhi recently signed a \$5.4 billion deal with Moscow to purchase what is believed to be modern ballistic missile defense (BMS) system available. India has said it needs the missile system that provides high-altitude protection from incoming missiles to bolster its defenses against China and Pakistan.

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry, in an official statement on Friday, warned the purchase of the system will "further destabilize strategic stability" and lead to a "renewed" arms race in South Asia.

The Russian weapon system, according to reports, can simultaneously engage and destroy 36 targets, including aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) and ballistic as well as cruise missiles within 400 kilometers at an altitude of 30 kilometer.

"Pakistan remains fully confident of its ability to address threats from any kind of destabilizing weapon system," the ministry noted, in an indirect reference to India.

In January 2017, Islamabad announced the successful flight testing of a surface-to-surface "Ababeel" ballistic missile that it said was capable of carrying multiple nuclear warheads to hit targets with "high precision" as far as 2,200 kilometers, "defeating the enemy's hostile radars."



India among  
top 10 valuable  
nation brands

**INTERNATIONAL** **TEHRAN** — Even though it has slipped one spot, India continues to be ranked one of the 10 most valuable nation brands in the world in Brand Finance's annual Nation Brands report which measures nations' brands based on the country's image and the economy as a whole.

India was ranked 8th in last year's report but slipped by a spot to the 9th rank. Despite its brand value rising 5 percent from last year, India has slipped one rank for the second consecutive year.

India's brand value was \$2,046 billion in 2017 and has increased to \$2,159 billion in 2018, the report mentioned. India is one of the only two countries in the top 10 to have lost a spot. The other country to slip by a rank is Japan.

Topping the list and maintaining its lead is US with a brand value of \$25,899 billion, followed by China in the second spot with a brand value of \$12,779 billion. China's brand value saw an increase of 25% from last year, followed by Germany with \$5,147 billion, UK with \$3,750 billion, Japan with \$3,598 billion and France with \$3,224 billion.

Every country is also given a brand rating. India's brand rating - AA - hasn't changed despite the change in ranks. India has been overtaken by US, China, Germany, UK, Japan, France, Canada and Italy. South Korea, Australia, Spain, Switzerland, Russia, UAE, and Singapore are all ranked below India.



“Break silence  
on Kashmir”:  
Separatists

**INTERNATIONAL** **TEHRAN** — Separatist leadership in Kashmir have urged world bodies to break their "silence"—condemning the civilian killings in Kashmir region, said a report in Greater Kashmir.

The powerful trip of Syed Ali Geelani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, and Mohammad Yasin Malik has called people to register their protest "against civilian killings, and use of pellets and vandalizing properties in Jammu and Kashmir by government forces."

In a statement, the separatist leaders said the killing spree can't deter people from pursuing the movement. "Demanding immediate halt on innocent killings and arbitrary measures, they appealed world human rights organization for their cognizance and impressed to raise their voice and come to the rescue of subjugated people in Kashmir," the statement said.

The leaders unanimously declared that if forces are not restrained, people from all corners of the valley will come up with stiff resistance and India's leadership will be responsible for the situation rising thereof.

Referring to recent killing, they said "Kashmir has been turned into a killing field where the lives of men, women and even children are not safe," the spokesperson said, adding "Killings in Fateh Kadal Srinagar is highly condemnable."

# Despite fears of violence, Afghan parliamentary polls sees high turnout



**INTERNATIONAL** **TEHRAN** — Despite the threats of terrorist groups to disrupt the election, Afghans came out in large numbers on Saturday to cast their votes in the historic parliamentary election.

People lined up for hours to cast their vote in different provinces in what reports claimed was a chaotic start to the elections held after a series of attacks across the country in recent weeks.

Election workers struggled with a new biometric system as they took lot of time to locate names on voter lists. In some polling stations in Kabul, voting started considerably late due to chaos and mayhem.

The new biometric machines are meant to curtail fraud and irregularities. Independent Election Commission chairman, Abdul Badih Sayat, warned ahead of polling that the system might experience glitches and asked for voters' patience.

Meanwhile, the Defense Ministry said it had increased its deployment of security forces to 70,000 from the original 50,000 to protect the country's 21,000 polling stations.

Elections in the two provinces of Kandahar and Ghazni have been delayed as well as in 11 of the 400 districts following Thursday's deadly attack in Kandahar which killed top political and security leadership.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani marked his ballot at the start of voting. In a televised speech afterward, he congratulated Afghans on another election and praised the security forces, particularly the air force, for getting ballots to Afghanistan's remotest corners.

The list of candidates, which has been trimmed to 2,565 after the disqualification of 35, are competing for 249 seats in the lower house of the Afghan parliament. Many former parliamentarians are running again, along with young and educated men and women — journalists, activists, entrepreneurs.

Past elections resulted in deeply contentious results — in 2009, 2010, and 2014 — with candidates accusing each other and the government of that time of manipulation and vote rigging. In 2014 presidential elections, Ashraf Ghani and Dr. Abdullah Abdullah publicly argued over election results, before the compromise formula was worked out to form a coalition government. The election had been repeatedly deferred

due to the fragile security environment and national unity government's lack of preparedness. In the run up to elections, Taliban and ISIS have carried out a series of terrorist attacks. In the latest attack on Thursday in southern province of Kandahar, the entire provincial leadership was wiped out, including a powerful police chief. According to the recent SIGAR report, almost 56.3 percent of Afghanistan's districts are cur-

rently under government control and at least 30 percent of districts are contested, which shows the resurgence of insurgents and helplessness of the Afghan government. Before November's ministerial meeting on Afghanistan in Geneva, which the United Nations has termed "crucial moment" for the Afghan government, successfully parliamentary elections would be ideal.

## Murder most foul: Saudis admit Khashoggi was killed

By Syed Zafar Mehdi

**TEHRAN** — The outpouring of anger and outrage over Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi's disappearance and subsequent killing inside Saudi Arabia's consulate in Turkey is unprecedented. The 60-year-old journalist, who had been critical of Saudi crown prince Mohammad Bin Salman, walked inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2 afternoon to complete paperwork ahead of his marriage. He never came out.

On the same day, two private jets carrying Saudi intelligence sleuths had arrived at Istanbul Airport, and several diplomatic vehicles were seen entering the Saudi consulate carrying Saudi agents. A few hours after Khashoggi went inside the consulate, vehicles quietly came out and both jets left the country.

The mysterious 'disappearance' of Khashoggi was widely reported in the international media. For two weeks, Saudi officials kept denying that the journalist was killed inside the consulate even though the circumstantial evidence suggested so.

The kingdom faced tremendous pressure to explain the Saudi journalist's 'disappearance' after Turkish officials said he had been deliberately killed inside the consulate and his body had been dismembered. Turkish police, as part of their investigation, searched from consulate grounds to a nearby forest, but found no trace of him. The details of an audio were published by Turkish media, included what they described as screams while the journalist was interrogated and tortured inside the Saudi consulate.

U.S. government officials, including Presi-



dent Donald Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, went out of their way to shield their 'blue-eyed boy' MSB and cover up the heinous crime. Jared Kushner reportedly advised Trump to "stand by" the Saudi crown prince, arguing the scandal would "eventually pass".

According to a report in NYT, when Secretary Pompeo flew into Riyadh last week to discuss the issue of Khashoggi, Saudi Arabia quickly transferred \$100m to the U.S. State Department. The timing of the fund transfer did not seem to be just a coincidence. Both parties had agreed to peddle lies.

But, a lie has no legs. After weeks of denial, Saudi officials on Wednesday finally admitted that Khashoggi was killed in the consulate in a "fight". A statement from Saudi public prosecutor said a fight broke out between the

journalist and people who met him inside the consulate — ending with his death.

It is hard to believe a 60-year old man would engage in fist-fight with a 15-member hit squad including a forensic pathologic with a bone saw when he was there merely for his paperwork. The Saudi explanation of Khashoggi's cold-blooded murder is implausible and preposterous.

Bob Corker, the top Republican on Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said the Saudi explanation changed with each passing day so "we should not assume their latest story holds water". Adam Schiff, a senior Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, tweeted that if Khashoggi had been "fighting with those sent to capture or kill him, it was for his life". Senator Chris Coons blasted the Saudi statement about the death

of Khashoggi and called for a classified briefing on the case.

Although Trump has decided to throw his weight behind MBS "to keep the million jobs in the U.S.", the hotheaded crown prince's honeymoon period is virtually over. If he thought he would get away with the murder, he was utterly mistaken.

And the Trump administration also stands exposed in this episode. The way Trump and his cohorts shamelessly rallied in support of MBS following the murder and the way they are backing him now is self-explanatory. Their decline and fall begins now.

A former U.S. government official called for a Congress hearing on how "sprawling conflicts of interest" of Trump and Kushner were influencing the White House's complicity in the cover-up of Khashoggi's murder. Wadah Khanfar, Al Sharq Forum President, in an interview with TRT said there was some communication between the US and Saudi officials "to find a way out of this by putting it on the shoulders of 18 who were arrested and trying to brush it under the carpet."

"The Arab world is facing its own version of an Iron Curtain," Khashoggi wrote in his final column published by Washington Post two weeks after he went missing. His words were powerful and that is what the Saudi rulers feared most. But as his editor at Washington Post Karen Attiah said, they may have silenced Khashoggi, but they cannot kill his words.

Meanwhile, Turkey has vowed to reveal all details about the murder. "Turkey will never allow a cover-up," a ruling party spokesman said after the sham statement by Saudi officials.

## Top Afghan commander's killing raises questions

**1 →** Not the one to mince his words, Gen. Raziq was fiercely critical of Pakistan for providing sanctuary to the militant groups attacking Afghanistan. Over the years, he had survived many bids on his life, including a deadly suicide bombing last year. In an interview once, he said he had lost the count of times when the Taliban tried to exterminate him. A brave young commander and a smart war strategist, he always prevailed because he always had an upper hand and better luck.

However, on Thursday, his luck ran out. The incident took place following a meeting between Afghan and American officials at Kandahar governor's compound in the afternoon. In a statement, Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack and said it was aimed at Gen. Raziq and Gen. Austin Miller, the newly-appointed top U.S. commander in Afghanistan. Miller escaped unhurt.

News reports, quoting eyewitnesses, said the shooting took place when Gen. Raziq was escorting the U.S. officials, including Miller, to their helicopters. How Miller survived the attack, which killed Gen. Raziq, governor Zalmai Wesa and intelligence chief Gen. Abdul Momim, is a great mystery. If the attack was indeed aimed at Gen. Raziq and Miller, then how did latter escape unhurt. Did the Taliban actually not want to kill the top U.S. official in Afghanistan?

There are many questions that may never be answered. Many believe Gen. Raziq, who was not in favor of peace talks with the Taliban, had become a stumbling block in the U.S.-led so-called 'peace efforts'. Notably, the U.S. and



Taliban officials had recently held secret parleys in Doha, in which the U.S. delegation had even proposed a political role for the Taliban leadership in Afghanistan, thereby giving legitimacy to the group they have been claiming to fight for the past 17 years.

Although Gen. Raziq was seen as a staunch U.S. ally in southern Afghanistan, many observers believe he had become a liability because of his dogged opposition to peace talks with the Taliban. For Americans, there can be no permanent friends or foes, and we have examples of Saddam Hussain and Muammar Gaddafi before us. This could well have been an attack orchestrated and executed jointly by the U.S. and

Taliban to get rid of the formidable anti-Taliban commander.

In a statement, the U.S. military said the target of the Thursday attack was Gen. Raziq, not Miller. It is interesting how sure they can be that the attack was not aimed at Miller. As eyewitnesses said, Gen. Raziq was walking alongside Miller and other U.S. officials when the assailant opened fire. Gen. Raziq received four bullets — two in legs, one in abdomen and one in chest. The top U.S. commander safely walked to his helicopter and left the spot.

If the Taliban insurgency is all about the U.S. war crimes in Afghanistan and if all they want is the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the war-torn country, it defies logic why the Taliban fighter masquerading as an Afghan policeman would open fire at Afghan officials and not the U.S. official. There is definitely more to it than meets the eye. The attack proves yet again the duplicitous policies of the U.S. in Afghanistan and its covert support to groups that seek to destabilize the country.

The 'peace talks' between the U.S. and Taliban officials is hogwash. Otherwise how does it make sense that the 'peace talks' would be followed by deadly suicide bombings and targeted attacks. The engagement between the U.S. and its former-allies is basically to prevent any chance for real 'peace'. The idea is to keep the pot boiling so that the U.S. can justify its presence in Afghanistan.

In the process, both friends and foes will have to pay the price; like Gen. Raziq did today and many others did before him. Everything is fair in a dirty war.



# World needs broader and more tolerant interpretation of religion: Jahanpour

## EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

By Javad Heirannia

**TEHRAN** — Professor Farhang Jahanpour, part-time tutor on Middle Eastern affairs in the Department of Continuing Education, University of Oxford, and a member of Kellogg College says that religion has always been associated with politics.

Former Senior Research Scholar at Harvard adds that “What the world needs at the present time is a broader and more tolerant interpretation of religion that would include the whole of humanity, not divide people into various religious sects and groups.”

Following is the full text of the interview: ■ When did scholars first start to associate religion with politics?

A: In a way, religion has always been associated with politics. Even according to the earliest records of ancient Sumerian, Babylonian, Egyptian, Indian, Persian and Jewish histories, religions have always been closely tied up with politics.

The earliest Sumerian Epic of Gilgamesh that dates from the Third Dynasty of Ur (2100-2000 BC) speaks of Gilgamesh as a historical king of Uruk in Babylonia. It portrays him as a divine being who was granted eternal life. Hammurabi (died c. 1750 BC), the first person to provide a detailed codification of 282 laws, was the sixth Amorite king of Babylon (the First Babylonian Dynasty). He talks of himself as the representative of Anu and Bel, the gods of the Babylonians. In the introduction to his famous Code of Laws, he writes: “Anu and Bel called by name me, Hammurabi, the exalted prince, who feared God, to bring about the rule of righteousness in the land, to destroy the wicked and the evil-doers.”

In ancient Egypt, the Pharaohs portrayed themselves as gods or the representatives of the Supreme Being. The famous Book of the Dead coming from the Middle Kingdom period (about 2050-1750 BC) speaks about divine kings. The mythic scene of the book describes the story of the life, death and resurrection of the god Osiris.

Long before Biblical times, we have the Tale of Aqhat (written before 1365 BC when Ugarit where the book was written was destroyed as the result of a major earthquake) whose life story has many resemblances both with the stories about the life of Abraham, as well as of Jesus. The Hebrew kings, Saul, David and Solomon, and others also speak of their intimate relationship with God.

In our own history, both Cyrus and Darius represent themselves as being chosen by Ahura-Mazda. In his famous Behistun Inscription (522 B.C.), Darius the Great, writes: “King Darius says: By the grace of Ahura Mazda am I king. Ahura Mazda has granted unto me this empire. Ahura Mazda brought me help, until I gained the empire; by the grace of Ahura Mazda do I hold this empire.”

In the Hindu Bhagavad Gita (c. fifth century



BC) Krishna reveals himself to Arjuna as a god. So, from the dawn of history, religion and politics have gone hand-in-hand and most rulers have tried to use religion in order to give themselves some element of divine rule and justify their legitimacy.

■ So, on the basis of what you say, is it always the case that religion and politics should go together?

A: It depends on what we mean by religion and politics. Some religions have been completely otherworldly, while others have involved themselves more in the affairs of the world. For instance, the teachings of Buddha in India or Lao-Tzu, the founder of Taoism in China (both of them from 6th century BC), have been more interested in spiritual and mystical issues, rather than material issues. For instance, Lao-Tzu argued that minimizing the role of government and letting individuals develop spontaneously would best achieve social and economic harmony. He was more interested in self-development, rather than in the role of the individual in society. Some have even called Lao-Tzu as one of the first anarchists.

Some scholars argue that even Jesus was more concerned with the affairs of the soul, rather than with material issues, for instance when he said: “My kingdom is not of this world” or “render unto Caesar what is Caesar’s and unto God what is God’s.” In

these verses, one can clearly see a complete separation of spiritual and material issues.

Although ancient Iranian rulers used the name of Ahura Mazda to gain some legitimacy, or towards the end of the Sasanian period Zoroastrian clerics or the Magi achieved great power and interfered in political issues, there is nothing in Zoroaster’s teachings that justified that interpretation. His ethical teachings were summed up in “Good thoughts, good words and good deeds”.

One can even see similar verses in the Qur’an. The Qur’an insists on freedom of belief and condemns coercion of conscience, such as in 2: 256, where the Qur’an says, “There is no compulsion in religion. Certainly, right has become clearly distinct from wrong. Whoever rejects false idols and believes in God has taken hold of the unbreakable, firm handle. God is All-hearing and knowing.”

The Qur’an urges turning the other cheek and wishing peace even on persecutors who orally harass the believers. The verse 43:89 says of the militant pagans who rejected the Prophet’s message, “yet pardon them, and say, ‘Peace!’ Soon they will know.” When the Qur’an speaks about righteousness, it is a general concept of faith that is not limited to Muslims alone. For instance, in 2:62, the Qur’an promises salvation to righteous Jews and Christians, or to whoever lives a good

life: “Those who believed, and the Jews, and the Christians, and the Sabians, and whoever has believed in God and the Last Day and performed good works, they shall have their reward with their Lord.”

■ Some scholars, such as Michael Allen Gillespie in his book “The Theological Origins of Modernity”, believe that modernity was not initially against religion, and in later years, as a result of social, cultural and political conditions, it has led to secularism. So, based on this conception, religion is not in conflict with modernity. Therefore, can it be said that religion is not in conflict with the international relations theory stemming from modernity?

A: There have been many scholars who have argued that religion has played a major role in creating the modern world. The late Professor Owen Chadwick’s important book, called “The Secularization of the European Mind in the Nineteenth Century” (1975), in fact argues that concepts of democracy and human rights emerged out of religious conflicts and disputes of the 16th and 17th centuries.

I believe that he has a point, but of course he did not argue that because of the historical role that religion had played in ushering in modernism it means that religion should now interfere in politics. According to him, at a particular historical phase, religious disputes and conflicts led to the Renaissance and the Reformation, which paved the way for revolutionizing political and social ideas, and therefore played a role in shaping the modern world.

■ If religion can play a role in international relations, can it therefore be effective in resolving all the unresolved political issues and problems?

A: Again, it all depends on how one interprets religion. Various peaceful groups have used religion to advocate peaceful policies and coexistence, while others such as ISIS or some religious radicals and fundamentalists have used religion to justify their intolerant and hateful ideologies. I believe that if one goes to the essence of religions, which preach unity, tolerance, forgiveness, charity and justice, one can argue that religion can play a useful role in bringing peoples and nations closer together. At the same time, if one puts forward a narrow and fanatical interpretation of religion, one can justify disunity, hatred, divisions, violence and wars. After all, many wars have been fought in the course of history and even in our own time in the name of religion.

What the world needs at the present time is a broader and more tolerant interpretation of religion that would include the whole of humanity, not divide people into various religious sects and groups. Religion is a very powerful force both for good or evil. If used correctly, it can be the source of unity and bringing various nations together, but if it is misused and misinterpreted it can be turned into a source of disunity, and even hostility and wars.

## Human pigs find pleasure in fights so avoid them when possible

1 → Another point must be that, even if it has not been trumpeted in the Western media, Saudi Arabia has funded “terrorists”, Sunni terrorists, like no other Arab country, particularly of late in Syria, and Israel (and the U.S.) has also funded and supported terrorists with arms and money, including al-Qaeda (however it may have been renamed) as well as ISIS – all with the aim to topple Assad in Syria and other alleged “enemies” of chaos in the Mideast.



Israel has frequently sheltered ISIS and other terrorists with other organizations near the Golan, and given medical attention to those in need of it. As for the U.S., Trump and even Obama aided ISIS repeatedly in Syria – all the while falsely claiming that the U.S. was in Syria to destroy ISIS. In fact, were it not for Iran and Russia and of course the Syrian army, ISIS would still be rampaging, and what remnants of ISIS that still remain in Syria, well, they are sheltered to some extent near U.S. troops in the east of that country.

In any event, it’s a positive that some in the U.S. Congress are condemning MBS and Saudi Arabia for Khashoggi’s murder, and also at least hinting about a need to cut at least some ties to the Saudis and even, possibly, withdrawing support for the Saudi-led war on Yemen.

One big obstacle is that the Saudis could threaten the so-called “Petrodollar” in retaliation and also dump further arms purchases from the U.S. But don’t expect much from the Trump Administration in this respect unless pressure is augmented by world opinion. Trump has been careening back and forth between condemnation of the current Saudi leadership and trying to cast blame for the murder on some alleged “rogue” Saudi elements or individuals in an effort to exonerate MBS.

As for aggressive Jewish/Zionists lobbyists like Josh Block, their primary concern in trashing Khashoggi and lying about him and virtually suggesting that he deserved to be murdered, is all tied up with the Zionist desire for the U.S. to lead a war on Iran – which could not be started or executed without the full support and participation of Saudi Arabia.

Because, simply, it would hardly look at all good for the Israelis and the U.S. alone to launch a military attack on Iran. World condemnation would be off the charts and could well end U.S. and Zionist aggressions in future. The Khashoggi matter, if it does result in real condemnation of the Saudis and MBS by the U.S., severely disrupts those in Israel and the U.S. Neocons who have been pushing for a war on Iran.

As for MBS himself, he is not and never has been a serious social (or any other kind of) reformer. Anyone who spends a billion dollars on a yacht and a palace or something in Europe is frankly not worthy of respect on that alone. It was almost funny this week to hear New York Times columnist Tom Friedman, who was charmed by MBS and wrote glowingly about alleged “reforms” MBS was going to institute, struggling to defend himself in light of the apparent fact of the murder of a well-known Arab journalist who worked at the primary rival of the New York Times. People like Friedman and others of his ilk, apologists for Israeli criminality, should live in infamy.

# Khashoggi’s fate introduced debate about human rights values in U.S.-Saudi relations: Murphy

## EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

By Javad Heirannia

**TEHRAN** — Richard W. Murphy, the former U.S. ambassador to Syria and Saudi Arabia, says the basic commitment of the United States to Saudi Arabia as assuring its defense against external aggression in exchange for its working to maintain stability in the global oil market.

“Jamal Khashoggi’s fate has introduced a debate about human rights values to a degree not normally the case in U.S.-Saudi relations,” Murphy tells the Tehran Times.

Following is the text of the interview:

■ Due to the relations between the West and the United States in particular with Saudi Arabia, the subject of Jamal khashoggi has become widespread. Usually, in the case of human rights violations, Western countries condoned Saudi

Arabia because of Saudi arms purchases and guarantying oil sales by Saudis. But in this case it is different. What are the reasons?

A: I would describe the basic commitment of the United States to Saudi Arabia as assuring its defense against external aggression in exchange for its working to maintain stability in the global oil market. Jamal Khashoggi’s fate has introduced a debate about human rights values to a degree not normally the case in U.S.-Saudi relations. One can argue why this has been the case. The fact that he has been a U.S. resident and a regular contributor to one of America’s leading newspapers, The Washington Post, have undoubtedly been factors. The brutal details surrounding his death have fed widespread public dismay.

■ Some believe that as Saudi Arabia did not lower the price of oil at request of Trump, the United



States is putting pressure on Saudi Arabia through khashoggi subject. What is your opinion?

A: President Trump has repeatedly spoken about the value of the long term strategic relationship between the Kingdom and the U.S. I do not believe it accurate to state that Khashoggi’s death has been used to put pressure on the price of oil.

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

A: There will be sanctions taken against the kingdom although it is not yet clear how heavy they will be.

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

A: The Saudi leadership is still studying how to reply to the accusation that it directed the killing of Khashoggi. The situation is evolving quickly and some senior Saudi officials have just been dismissed over Khashoggi’s death. Whether this affair will affect the role of Mohammad bin Salman is as yet unclear

## World calling for UN action against Saudi Arabia in Khashoggi case

**TEHRAN (FNA)** — International human rights groups and press freedom organisations, alarmed by signs of backroom deal-making by world powers, are calling for a United Nations probe into the disappearance of Saudi Arabian journalist Jamal Khashoggi, a 60-year-old Washington Post columnist who vanished after entering his nation’s consulate in Istanbul on October 2.

The groups, which include Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Reporters Without Borders, and the Committee to Protect Journalists, are urging Turkey to ask UN Sec-


retary-General Antonio Guterres to launch an investigation to determine who ordered, planned, and carried out what unnamed Turkish and US officials have described to journalists as the extrajudicial killing of Khashoggi.

This is an important development, because the rights groups are concerned about geopolitical machinations and backroom diplomatic meetings between top-ranking U.S., Saudi, and Turkish officials, which they say could undermine justice for the dissident journalist. They say the only chance to fight impunity for the possible crime is to do it through the UN.

Of course, this is not just about justice for Khashoggi. A wave of similar regime-sponsored killings of political enemies and civilians could increase if there are no consequences for Riyadh. Holding the mobster regime to account could change Riyadh’s behaviour and likely discourage future similar behaviours.


The world community is prepared to punish Saudi Arabia over what happened. But for this to happen, the Trump administration needs to stop supporting the Saudis, and must not continue to refuse intelligence access to the world community. ➔13

First Announcement



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Call for public tender (First/Second publish)  
One-Stage (semi-compressed) tender  
Subject of Tender: : Tires & Tube



**National Iranian Drilling Company**

Tender descriptions:

The Tender holder	Registration No. through national electronic tendering system	Tender No. /Indent No.	Estimated value (Rial/Euro)
National Iranian Drilling Company	3,178,002	Tender No. :FP/09-97/032 Indent No.:01-22-9647687	7,333,100,000 (Rial)

Qualitative evaluation of tenderers

Method	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Based on minimum scoring(60) made in award criterion reflected in the tenderers pre-qualification forms.

Purchasing & Submitting

Tender Document Distribution by Company	The distribution of the documents will be started one day after the publishing of second advertisement and ended on the following tenth day thereof.	
Distribution Place	Hall No. 113, 1 <sup>st</sup> floor, Foreign Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN – Tel. 061 34148601	
Submitting Method	Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of 510,000 Iranian Rials under account number 4001114004020491( Shaba No. IR 350100004001114004020491) in name of “NIDC- Incomes Centralized Fund” issued by I.R. of Iran Central Bank. Submitting format Request for the purpose of receiving Tender Documents	
Documents Receiving Method	Closing date	Days after the last time of Purchasing 14
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Tender Guarantee

Value of guarantee	367,000,000 Rials / 7,370 Euro	
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# Antibiotic resistance: Breakthrough study offers solution

Scientists have developed a potential solution to the rising global antibiotic resistance crisis. It lies in rendering bacteria ineffective without killing them, which relieves the selective pressure that drives the growth of resistant strains.

Scientists successfully treated an MRSA sepsis infection without using antibiotics.

When a team at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland, OH, treated mice with specific small molecules that stop bacteria from producing toxins, all the animals survived an MRSA sepsis infection, compared with less than a third of untreated mice.

The finding is significant because if the same is true of humans, then it shows that it may not be necessary to use antibiotics to cure sepsis.

The study, which features in the journal Scientific Reports, also suggests that these small molecules can increase the effectiveness of antibiotics. Mice treated with both had much lower levels of bloodborne bacteria than mice treated only with antibiotics.

“For relatively healthy patients,” says senior author Menachem Shoham, who is an associate professor of biochemistry at Case Western, “such as athletes suffering from a MRSA infection, these molecules may be enough to clear an infection.”

For those with weaker immune systems, then a combination of the small molecules with a low-dose antibiotic might be more effective. Dr. Shoham suggests that this could work in cases where the antibiotic used in the combination is one to which the bacteria have become resistant.

He explains that the “small molecules enhance the activity of conventional antibiotics, such as penicillin.” This could open a route through which antibiotics that have become obsolete can once again be effective in the clinic.

#### ■ Global antimicrobial resistance crisis

A global review that ended in 2016 estimated that 10 million lives per year could be at risk due to the growing worldwide threat of antimicrobial resistance.

It states that if antibiotics are rendered ineffective, then many types of medical procedure and treatments — such as joint replacement, cesarean delivery, bowel surgery, and chemotherapy — “could become too dangerous to perform.”

Locating and inactivating genes that promote resistance in superbugs could be a way to restore their susceptibility to antibiotics, scientists suggest.

Resistance to antibiotics develops because every time someone uses them a small number of microbes survive due to having a natural resistance to the drugs.

Eventually, the resistance spreads, not only because the microbes with natural resistance grow, but also because they share their resistance with others.

The situation has now developed to the point where there are no effective antibiotics left to treat some infections.

In the United States, infections due to antibiotic-resistant



**Small molecules enhance the activity of conventional antibiotics, such as penicillin. This could open a route through which antibiotics that have become obsolete can once again be effective in the clinic.**

bacteria affect around 2 million people per year and account for 23,000 deaths.

#### ■ Small molecules with a big effect

The small molecules that Dr. Shoham and his team have developed can attach themselves to toxin-producing proteins in bacteria belonging to Gram-positive species.

The species include Staphylococcus aureus, the bacterium behind staph infections, and its highly resistant version methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA).

The effect is to stop the bacteria in these strains from being able to make toxins that kill immune cells.

The team treated mice with sepsis caused by S. aureus with the small molecules and found that they all survived, whereas 70 percent of untreated mice died.

The small molecules also appeared to increase the effectiveness of antibiotics.

Mice with S. aureus sepsis that were treated both with antibiotics and the small molecules had ten times lower levels of bacteria in their blood than infected mice that only

received antibiotics.

#### ■ ‘Broad-spectrum efficacy’

The researchers also carried out some preliminary tests that showed that the small molecules had a similar effect in several other strains of Gram-positive bacteria. They stopped them from being able to kill immune cells.

One of the species is well-known for causing catheter infections, and another for causing strep throat.

“These results,” conclude the authors, “indicate broad-spectrum efficacy against Gram-positive pathogens.”

The team is in the process of commercializing two of the small molecules as drugs. Both have shown the ability to boost the effectiveness of antibiotics in mouse models of infection.

The plan is to start clinical trials in people with multidrug-resistant infections.

“This could provide a partial solution to the looming, global threat of antibiotic resistance.”

(Source: Medical News Today)

## Researcher fighting breast cancer with light therapy

When treatment is working for a patient who is fighting cancer, the light at the end of the tunnel is easier to see.

However, with metastatic breast cancer, the prognosis can be a bit disheartening with poor outcomes for patients.

This is why Nalinikanth Kotagiri, MD, Ph.D., assistant professor in the James L. Winkle College of Pharmacy and a cluster hire for the Cincinnati Cancer Center, is hoping to study ways ultraviolet light can activate light-sensitive drugs to treat this invasive breast cancer and provide that light at the end of the tunnel patients yearn for.

“Metastatic breast cancer can be a devastating diagnosis with high rates of relapse and death, and there are currently no effective therapies,” he says. “Despite newer treatments, many patients still succumb to the disease. Major limitations include acquired resistance to therapies and serious side effects from treatment. Due to the widespread location of breast cancer cells, particularly in the bone marrow, which harbors the tumor cells as well as vital stem cells, the risk of toxicity is even higher with conventional therapies. Therefore, new therapeutic strategies that selectively destroy tumor cells, increase treatment efficacy, prevent relapse and reduce side effects by sparing the healthy stem cells are necessary.”

Kotagiri has been awarded the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Breakthrough Award—over \$600,000 for three years—to try to do just that. His project will focus on light-mediated therapies, which could activate light-sensitive drugs to target only the cancerous cells.

“Therapies such as photodynamic therapy (PDT), involving light and a photosensitizing chemical substance, which used in conjunction with molecular oxygen can cause cell death, offer a high degree of control that is effectively used to manage cancer in early to advanced stages,” he says. “It operates on a simple principle where a light-sensitive drug, which is otherwise non-toxic, introduced into certain tissues can cause cell death when activated by light. Despite the promise of PDT, it can’t penetrate tissue deeply so its use is limited. Also, current light-sensitive drugs require oxygen to be effective, but many tumors, including breast tumors, have pockets of low oxygen or grow in regions where oxygen is either low or absent, which could prevent effective application of PDT in cancer treatment.”

However, Kotagiri says recent work in the lab has led his team to a “two-pronged approach” in addressing these issues.

“We’ve been using ultraviolet (UV) light from radionuclides (radioactive nuclide or atom), which are already used to image tumors and tissues, and tried to solve oxygen dependence by using metal-based light-sensitive drugs for depth- and oxygen-independent PDT,” he says. “By replacing the external light source, such as lasers and lamps, with light from radionuclides as an ‘internal’ light source, we’ve been able to better control therapy in the body.”

“This could mean more effective therapies with minimal toxicity to vital organs and tissues. Since radionuclides are used in imaging and locating tumors, we can now simultaneously image and treat breast cancer metastasis using the same radionuclide.”

(Source: Medical express)

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## HERITAGE & TOURISM

### Iranian curator named peace ambassador to ICOM



**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — Sousan Nikzat, the curator of the Peace Mobile Museum, is named Iran's peace ambassador to the International Council of Museums, ISNA reported on Saturday.

Nikzat was inaugurated on the sidelines of the 41st annual symposium of ICOM -- International Committee for Museology -- which was held at the National Museum of Iran from October 15 to 19.

ICOM President Francois Mairesse along with tens of Iranian and foreign experts and academia were attending the event that revolved around "Museology and the Sacred" as its major theme.

In a bid to promote peace, justice, equality and also Iranian culture and arts, Nikzat has held several overseas exhibitions of dolls and puppets crafted by the children from various nationalities.

ICOM is the main forum of ICOM for musicological debate.

### Tehran museum hosting exhibit for the visually impaired



**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — An exhibition of sculptures, crafted by visually-impaired students, on Saturday opened its doors to the public at the National Museum of Iran in downtown Tehran.

Titled "Touching History", the event is aimed to open up an opportunity for other visually impaired people to learning more about Iranian history by touching tens of replicas.

The museum also hosted a specialized conference in the area of museums of sightless people on Saturday on the occasion of the International Archaeological Day, the museum website announce.

However, it didn't mention a date for the duration of the exhibit.

The National Museum of Iran is somewhat chock-full of statutes, ceramics, pottery, stone figures, carvings, metal objects, textile remains, rare books and coins amongst other objects that represent various eras of the colorful Iranian history.

## ROUND THE GLOBE

### Ujung Kulon National Park

Ujung Kulon National Park, located in Banten province on the extreme south-west tip of the highly populated island of Java, Indonesia, has the best and most extensive lowland forest remaining on the island.



The property, including the Ujung Kulon peninsula and several offshore islands retains its natural beauty and possesses a very diverse flora and fauna, demonstrating on-going evolution of geological processes since the Krakatau eruption in 1883.

The Krakatau volcano as part of the formation of the property, is the most well-known and studied of all modern volcanic eruptions, due primarily to the devastating effects (36,000 people killed) registered throughout the northern hemisphere.

The property is globally significant as the last and most important natural habitat of the critically endangered, endemic, single-horned Javan Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) along with several other species of endangered plants and animals.

Ujung Kulon is believed to sustain the last viable natural population of this species, estimated at approximately 60 individuals. It is not known how this compares to historical densities, but is a critically low figure from the point of view of species survival and viable genetic diversity.

Other notable mammals in the property include carnivores, such as leopard, wild dog (dhole), leopard cat, fishing cat, Javan mongoose and several species of civets. It is also home to three endemic primate species; the Javan gibbon, Javan leaf monkey and silvered leaf monkey.

(Source: UNESCO)

# ISCARSAH team of experts to explore monuments across Iran

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — A select of 13 historical monuments across Iran will be investigated by a delegation of international experts affiliated with the International Scientific Committee on the Analysis and Restoration of Structures of Architectural Heritage (ISCARSAH), CHTN reported.

The experts, who are coming from Italy, Turkey, the Czech Republic, Romania, Japan, Poland, Mexico, Greece and the U.S., along with their Iranian fellows will be divided into two groups in order to cover eight provinces in a tight schedule.

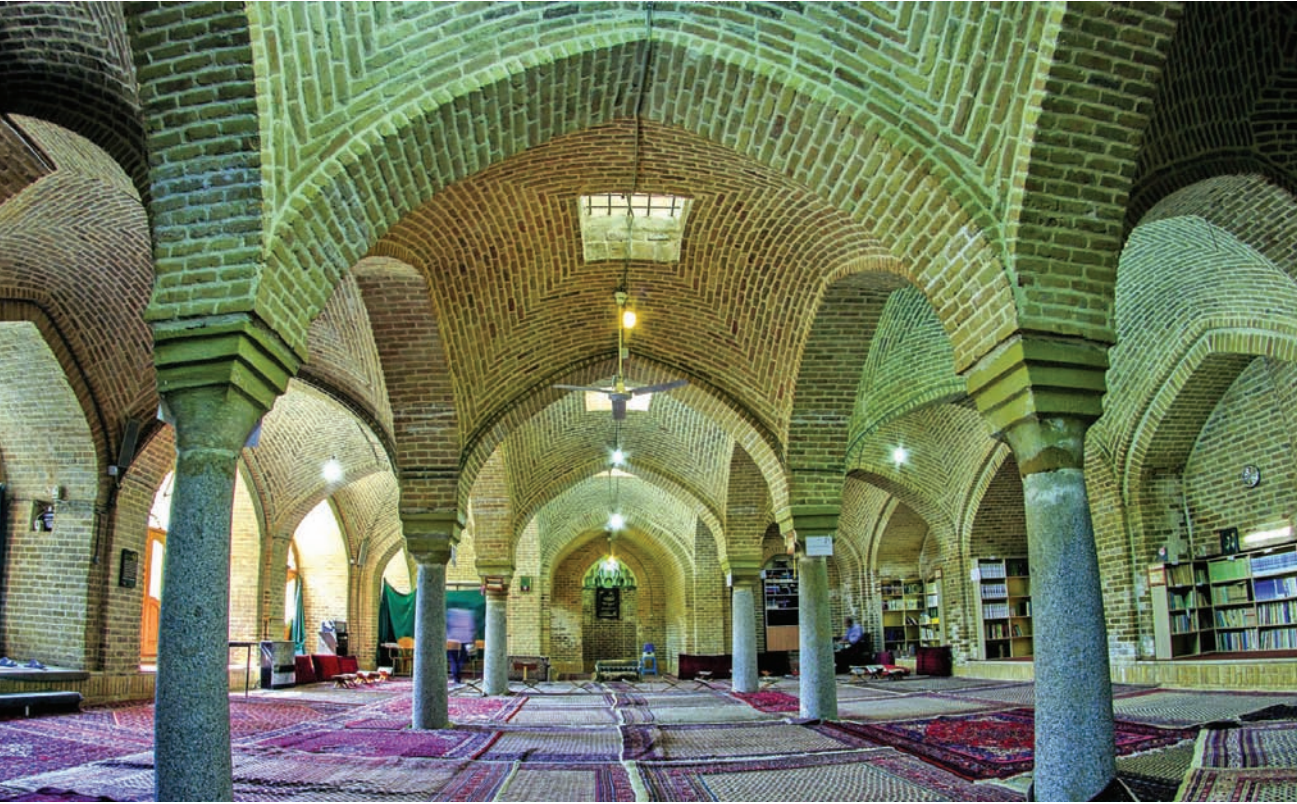
The experts will inspect Mausoleum of Ala al-Doleh Semnani, mausoleum of the biblical prophet Daniel, Firouzabad fire temple, Falak-ol-Aflak fortress, and the ruins of Gavmishan Bridge.

Si-o-Se-Pol which is a 17th-century bridge with 33 arches in Isfahan, Jameh Mosque of Hamedan and the UNESCO-registered sited of Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System and Imam Square are amongst their other destinations.

The tours will be commenced following a three-day workshop and conference on restoration of historical monuments that kicked off in Tehran on Saturday, the report said.

According to the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization, which runs the event, the workshop is aimed to update expertise levels of Iranian attendees with the latest technology and knowledge in terms of solidification and restoration of cultural heritage.

The ISCARSAH was founded by the International Council on Monuments and Sites



An interior view of the Jameh Mosque of Hamedan in central Iran

(ICOMOS), which is a non-governmental organization dedicated to the conservation of the world's monuments and sites.

Members of the ISCARSAH are composed of internationally renowned engineers, sci-

entists, architects, specialists, and educators with representation from Europe, Asia, Australia, North and South America.

Teemed from corner to corner with ancient bazaars, museums, mosques,

monuments, gardens, historical sites, rich natural and rural landscapes, Iran hosts some of the world's oldest cultural monuments, including 22 UNESCO World Heritage sites.

### Bronze-Age wall discovered in northeast Iran

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — Vestiges of a massive wall have recently been unearthed by a team of international archaeologists conducting a stratigraphy survey across the Tape (Hill) Naderi in Shirvan, northeast Iran.

"Based on archaeological evidence, the wall, which is over four meters in width, is most probably part of a defensive wall constructed in the Bronze Age," ILNA quoted Ali-Akbar Vahdati who leads the survey as saying on Saturday.

Parts of the wall, that is almost two meters in height, remain intact, the Iranian archaeologist added.

"Tape Naderi is seemingly flourished on the brink of urbanization and the defensive wall was created to protect its inhabitants around the hill... considering [the fact] that main portions of aged deposits around it is related to the Bronze Age."

Elsewhere in his remarks, Vahdati said the team is composed of experts from various disciplines including archeology, geology, geophysics, restoration, architecture and surveying.

Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization oversees the survey under close collaboration with the Chinese Nanjing University and the French



National Museum of Natural History (Muséum national d'histoire naturelle).

Iran is also home to renowned Sasanian-era (224 to 651 CE) defensive wall, the Great Wall of Gorgan, which the country eyes on its possible inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

### Iranian passport ranks 98th in Henley Passport Index 2018

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — Henley & Partners, a London-based residence and citizenship planning firm, has ranked Iran 98th in terms of visa-free travel among all countries in the world, according to its updated Passport Index data for 2018.

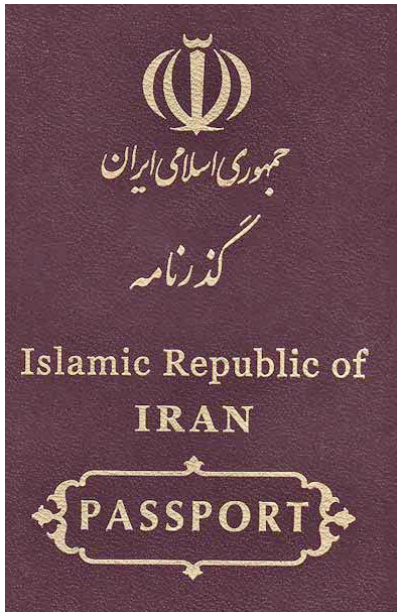
Iranian citizens have been able to visit 43 countries without a visa in 2018 while the index put the number at 38 in 2017 when the country was placed in the 95th position.

Japan now has the most powerful passport on the planet, a key to visa-free travel to more destinations than Singapore and Germany, according to the index.

The United States passport fell to the fifth slot with 186 locations, behind Denmark, Finland, Italy, Sweden and Spain. The U.S. and the UK, now also in fifth, were both the most powerful passports in 2015, according to USA Today.

The United Arab Emirates jumped the most spots on the list in recent years, rising from a ranking of 62 in 2006 to now 21. A UAE passport allows travel to 161 locations.

The Henley Passport Index ranks the travel documents based on data



from the International Air Transport Association, a trade association of international airlines.

Henley & Partners formally announces rankings annually. But, the Index is updated in real-time, reflecting current visa-policy changes.

## Women achieved enormous power in ancient Egypt. What they did with it is a warning for today

Ancient Egypt's female feline goddess had two sides. As Bastet, she could nurture and protect; as Sakhmet she had a propensity to brutally attack and maim without control. But in both forms, she had one raison d'être: to protect and nurture the patriarchy.

Such was the case for strong Egyptian goddesses in general, and for the real female leaders of that time. They weren't in it for themselves, to help a sisterhood rise up, to change the playing field for all women. They used their great and mercurial power to help the men around them — to protect them with their ferocity, to shield them from harm, to keep the same system going.

I study women and power in the ancient world, having just written a book about six queens from ancient Egypt. Their stories reveal a troubling and difficult aspect of female power in history, and one worth keeping in mind today. Though a high number of women in positions of power is often seen as a marker of progress in governments and corporations, history shows that what matters is not how many women rise to that level but what they do once they get there.

In ancient Egypt, at least six women rose up as the highest decision maker in the land, not counting the dozens of others who acted as queen-regents or high priestesses or influential wives. Ancient Egypt allowed more females into power in the ancient world than any other place on earth. Was that society somehow more progressive than we might expect? The answer is a quick and deflating no.

Merneith of Dynasty 1 only ruled to see her young son Den to the throne unmolested, and it's how he ended up becoming his Dynasty's longest-lived and most successful king. Neferusobek of Dynasty 12 ruled only because an anemic and inbred family lineage was withering on the vine; she was the last person standing of her great dynasty, a mere placeholder until another man from another dynasty stepped in. Hatshepsut of Dynasty 18 ruled to maintain the power of her young nephew, only to have her legacy as female king — the word "queen" connoting a mere sexual helpmate,



The Nefertiti Bust, ca 1350 BC. Found in the collection of the Staatliche Museen, Berlin. (Heritage Images/Getty Images)

not a ruler — ripped away from her 20-some years after her death when her names and images were erased and smashed, her great achievements relabeled for her father

or brother instead. (Hatshepsut teaches us all that when women succeed in the workplace, the credit can always be reassigned to the patriarchy.)

Nefertiti of Dynasty 18, if she really ruled at all, knew she had to cloak her ambition and feminine self with new masculine names. (She likely ruled as co-king Ankhkheperre Neferneferuaten and, perhaps later, as sole-king Ankhkheperre Smenkhkare.) Nefertiti must have known she was just paving the path for the next male in line — none other than the young Tutankhamun, so famous to us today for his intact tomb in the Valley of the Kings. Tawosret of Dynasty 19 also found power by ruling on behalf of a boy-king before taking the kingship for herself alone. Tawosret didn't hide her ambition; she had competitors eliminated. But such female ambition would not be tolerated, and Tawosret was removed by a warlord who positioned himself as restoring law and order to an increasingly militaristic Egypt. And then there was Cleopatra, who led insurrections against her own brothers, both of whom were taken out by her ruthless actions, and who used powerful men like Julius Caesar and Marc Antony more as sperm donors than as husbands who could control her. But even Cleopatra, who styled herself after the goddess of love and beauty, Hathor, couldn't stop herself from becoming more of a maternal Isis in the end, paving the path to the kingship for her son Ptolemy XV — better known as Caesarion, the name that, fittingly, emphasizes his father rather than his mother. In the end, if he had lived to rule Egypt rather than being murdered by Octavian, she too would have acted as a mere placeholder in the larger patriarchal system.

Six powerful queens, five of them becoming pharaohs in their own rights — and yet each and every one of them had to fit the patriarchal systems of power around them, rather than fashioning something new. The story of female power in ancient Egypt is a tragedy.

(Source: Time)



# Visualizing specific impacts of climate change could change behavior, research finds

Many people view climate change as a distant, abstract threat. But having them imagine the tangible consequences of resulting droughts or floods may help shift this perception and encourage proenvironmental behavior, a new study suggests.

Researchers asked 93 college students in Taiwan to read a report on temperature anomalies, floods and other climate change-related events that have affected the island. The scientists then asked 62 of the participants to write down three ways in which such phenomena might impact their future lives.

Half the people in that group were instructed to imagine such scenarios in detail, including specific individuals and settings. The remaining 31 students did not complete either the writing or imagining steps, acting as a control group.

**Perceptions of climate change**  
All the participants then rated their perceptions of climate change risks by responding to prompts such as “How likely do you think it is that climate change is having serious impacts on the world?” They used a scale from 1 (“very unlikely”) to 7 (“very likely”).

The average score was higher among subjects who had been asked to envision detailed scenarios than among those who had not. The results were later confirmed in a second experiment involving 102 participants.

Individuals in the first experiment who had visualized the effects of climate change



were subsequently more likely to say they were subsequently more likely to say they would use air conditioning in an energy-saving manner.

**The findings could nonetheless be applied to raise public concern about climate change, Chiou says. For example, he suggests that news reports about the phenomenon could include vivid descriptions of its effects on people’s lives and ask readers to imagine experiencing such impacts.**

thirds of people in the visualizing group signed up to help clean a beach, compared with 43 percent in the nonvisualizing one.

And when offered a choice of a vegetarian or nonvegetarian lunch box, nearly half the visualizers selected the environmentally friendlier meatless option—compared with about 28 percent of the nonvisualizers, the researchers reported online in *July in Environment and Behavior*.

**If they behaved differently**  
The investigators did not track people to see if they behaved differently in their day-to-day lives — something further studies should examine, says study co-author Wen-Bin Chiou, a professor of psychology at Taiwan’s National Sun Yat-sen University. Moreover, the research “should be replicated in other places with other populations,” says Robert Gifford, a professor of psychology at the University of Victoria in British Columbia, who was not involved in the work.

The findings could nonetheless be applied to raise public concern about climate change, Chiou says. For example, he suggests that news reports about the phenomenon could include vivid descriptions of its effects on people’s lives and ask readers to imagine experiencing such impacts.

Having virtual-reality demonstrations in local science museums of the consequences of climate change would be another way of putting the research into practice, Chiou adds. (Source: *Scientific American*)

## BepiColombo spacecraft starts seven-year journey to Mercury

A European-Japanese spacecraft set off on a treacherous seven-year journey to Mercury to probe the Solar System’s smallest and least-explored planet.

The BepiColombo mission, only the third ever to visit Mercury, blasted off from Europe’s spaceport in French Guiana aboard an Ariane 5 rocket at 10:45 P.M. local time on Friday (0145 GMT on Saturday), according to the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

“Launching BepiColombo is a huge milestone for ESA (the European Space Agency) and JAXA, and there will be many great successes to come,” ESA Director General Jan Woerner said in a statement.

“Beyond completing the challenging journey, this mission will return a huge bounty of science.”

Few spacecraft have visited Mercury because of the planet’s proximity to the sun — less than 60 million kilometers (37.3 million miles) away compared with almost Earth’s 150 million kilometers — which makes any trip there challenging.

Surface temperatures on the planet can reach highs of over 400 Celsius (752F) during the day and drop to minus 170C (minus 338F) at night.



NASA’s Mariner 10 probe, launched to Mercury in 1973, mapped around 45 percent of the planet’s surface, and its MESSENGER mission took off over three decades later in 2004 to complete the survey.

BepiColombo, named after 20th century Italian mathematician and Engineer Giuseppe (Bepi) Colombo, will slingshot off the Earth’s gravitational field one-and-a-half years after launch before picking up speed on its journey. It will fly past Venus twice and then fly by Mercury six times before slipping into its orbit around December 2025.

At that point, it will release two separate spacecraft it is carrying, ESA’s Mercury Planetary Orbiter (MPO) and JAXA’s Mercury Magnetospheric Orbiter (MMO).

MPO will then study Mercury’s surface and internal composition, to determine the planet’s iron content and examine why its core is partially liquid. (Source: *Reuters*)

## Dandelion seeds reveal newly discovered form of natural flight

When dandelion seeds fly, a ring-shaped air bubble forms as air moves through the bristles, enhancing the drag that slows their descent.

The extraordinary flying ability of dandelion seeds is possible thanks to a form of flight that has not been seen before in nature, research has revealed.

The discovery, which confirms the common plant among the natural world’s best fliers, shows that movement of air around and within its parachute-shaped bundle of bristles enables seeds to travel great distances -- often a kilometer or more, kept afloat entirely by wind power.

Researchers from the University of Edinburgh carried out experiments to better understand why dandelion seeds fly so well, despite their parachute structure being largely made up of empty space.

Their study revealed that a ring-shaped air bubble forms as air moves through the bristles, enhancing the drag that slows each seed’s descent to the ground.

This newly found form of air bubble -- which the scientists have named the separated vortex ring -- is physically detached from the bristles and is stabilized by air flowing through it.

The amount of air flowing through, which is critical for keeping the bubble stable and directly above the seed in flight, is precisely controlled by the spacing of the bristles.

Researchers suggest that the dandelion’s porous parachute might inspire the development of small-scale drones that require little or no power consumption.

Dr. Cathal Cummins, of the University of Edinburgh’s Schools of Biological Sciences and Engineering, who led the study, said: “Taking a closer look at the ingenious structures in nature -- like the dandelion’s parachute -- can reveal novel insights. We found a natural solution for flight that minimizes the material and energy costs, which can be applied to engineering of sustainable technology.” (Source: *Science Daily*)

## Scientists confirm electrons are round instead of squished

When learning the basics of atomic structure in school, we all pictured electrons as perfectly round. That’s just easier than pondering the ramifications of dark matter on the Standard Model. Scientists have long wondered just how round electrons are, an answer that could affect how we understand subatomic particles. The most precise model of the electron yet has now demonstrated that your science teacher was right — electrons are almost perfectly round, and that’s going to make some physicists very unhappy.

It’s impossible with current technology to image subatomic particles directly, but we can model them by examining indirect evidence. This is important because the shape of electrons can tell us where the Standard Model of physics is lacking.

Some scientists have developed theories based on squished electrons and others on round, but the squished option has been seen as the much more interesting and potentially helpful of the two.

To test the various competing theories, scientists from a project called Advanced Cold Molecule Electron Electric Dipole Moment Search (ACME) went in search of a property called the electric dipole moment. Researchers have theorized the electric dipole moment could deform electrons, leaving a dent on one end and a bulge on the other because of interactions with undiscovered massive particles.

The ACME team used a beam of ultra-cold, thorium-oxide molecules to bombard a test chamber. More than 1 million molecules zipped through the apparatus 50 times per second. At the same time, researchers bounced lasers off the atoms and observed the reflections. A particular bend in the light would confirm the electric dipole moment, but they got nothing. At least for now, we have to conclude electrons are round. (Source: *extremetech.com*)

## Lead researcher reveals clues how baby pterosaurs grew up

In a scientific ode to pterosaurs — the extraordinary, flying reptiles that lived during the dinosaur age — paleontologists have pieced together a biopic of sorts. It details what would happen to a pterosaur from the moment its egg was laid to its last dying breath.

“Some amazing new finds, in China and Argentina, of eggs and embryos over the last 14 years have provided incredible insights into pterosaur reproduction and growth — something that we could never have predicted back in the 20th century,” study lead researcher David Unwin, a reader in paleobiology at the University of Leicester in England, told Live Science.

Each pterosaurs’ story began with its parents; its mother had paired oviducts (just like crocodilians, turtles, lizards and snakes), the tube the egg passes through, which allowed mama pterosaur to lay soft-shelled, oval-shaped, relatively small eggs. These eggs were then likely buried in the moist ground, where they wouldn’t dry out.

**Well-developed skeletons**  
“They incubated for probably a long time,” Unwin told Live Science. Once the babies hatched, they had well-developed

skeletons and flight membranes, as well as skeletal proportions that were similar to those of adult pterosaurs, indicating that the newborns could likely fly right away, he said.

This point, however, is contentious among scientists who study pterosaurs. Some researchers think that the hatchlings needed time to develop their flight muscles before taking to the skies.

It was likely difficult for pterosaur infants to walk on land, because all four of their limbs were connected to the wing membrane, said Edina Prondvai, a postdoctoral student of biology at Ghent University in Belgium, who wasn’t involved with the research. “So, it must have been very important for them to fly off as soon as possible after hatching, because they had to find food [and] they had to avoid predators,” she told Live Science.

Even so, some species of pterosaurs likely needed time to develop before flapping away, although some species may have completed this development sooner than others, Prondvai said.

**Evidence of parental care**  
As for whether mom and pop pterosaurs took care of

their young, the jury is still out. “We have no evidence of parental care, which means they might have received parental care,” but it’s just not preserved in the fossil record, Unwin said.

Regarding pterosaur dinnertime, a new analysis of pterosaur teeth by Jordan Bestwick, a doctoral student of paleontology at the University of Leicester, shows that these beasts ate a medley of snacks. He looked at tooth wear from 13 pterosaur species and compared the wear marks to the chips and scratches on the teeth of modern reptiles. Bestwick found that different species chomped down on different meals, including both vertebrates, such as fish, and invertebrates, such as insects.

One pterosaur in particular, the Jurassic-age, 150-million-year-old Rhamphorhynchus, seems to have preferred invertebrates, such as beetles, in its youth and vertebrates, such as fish, in adulthood, Bestwick found. He presented his research, which is not yet published in a peer-reviewed journal, on October 18 at the conference. (Source: *livescience.com*)

## Estimating the feeding habits of corals may offer new insights on resilient reefs



Researchers at Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California San Diego and colleagues have found that corals living in more productive waters take advantage of the increased food availability. The findings, published in the journal *Current Biology* on October 18, reevaluate scientific understanding of how corals survive and could aid predictions on coral recovery in the face of climate change.

Coral reefs grow in what are considered oceanic deserts where warm, clear waters are generally less nutrient-rich than colder waters. Previously researchers have tied coral survival to symbiotic algae that live within corals. The algae are provided with shelter and nutrients in exchange for carbohydrates. It is estimated that these algae can supply some corals with up to 95 percent of their daily energy needs.

Scripps scientists found, however, that corals living in waters with higher chlorophyll concentrations get more of their energy from feeding on plankton and other microorganisms, suggesting some corals are less reliant on their algae—which could have implications for coral resilience.

**Marine nutrients**  
Chlorophyll concentration is an important proxy for marine nutrients, acting as an indicator for the amount of phytoplankton in the surface waters of the ocean. Phytoplankton are the base of most marine food webs and the prey for zooplankton, a favorite food of corals.

“This paper is the first to provide robust evidence for such a simple premise — that corals eat more where there is more food,” said Michael Fox, a recent PhD graduate of Scripps and lead author of the study. “It’s quite shocking that it’s something research hasn’t focused on, as we tend to think of corals more

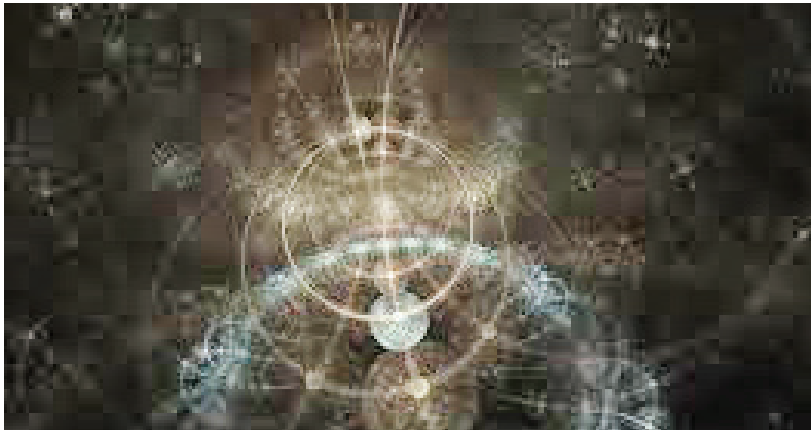
as plants instead of animals.”

As intuitive as it sounds, the scale of coral feeding is something that coral reef ecologists have been unable to examine over the past 30-40 years due to a lack of sufficient data and technology. Fox was able to come to his findings by analyzing differences in isotopic signatures of carbon between corals and their symbiotic algae from coral specimens collected in the central Pacific Ocean. Stable isotopes-variants of chemical elements containing different numbers of neutrons-are commonly used in biological research to track metabolic processes.

**The isotopic composition**  
Fox started by separating coral and algal cells in a laboratory. This allowed him to analyze the isotopic composition of each and compare them. If the coral in question was deriving more of its food from the algae, its isotopic signature would resemble that of its plant tenant. On the other hand, corals that were eating mostly plankton had isotopic values more similar to that of its planktonic prey.

Using satellite measurements of chlorophyll concentrations across the world’s oceans, Fox and his team found that most coral collected from chlorophyll-rich waters were consuming greater proportions of plankton. Across the central Pacific, there is huge variability in nearshore phytoplankton, with concentrations of chlorophyll greatest along the equator and declining to the north and south. Fox then pulled together published satellite measurements and isotopic data from 11 other locations from around the world, finding a strikingly strong relationship between chlorophyll in the ocean and the feeding strategy of reef corals. (Source: *eurekalert.org*)

## Merging mathematical and physical models toward building a more perfect flying vehicle



When designing flying vehicles, there are many aspects of which we can be certain but there are also many uncertainties. Most are random, and others are just not well understood. University of Illinois Professor Harry Hilton brought together several mathematical and physical theories to help look at problems in more unified ways and solve physical engineering problems.

“There are many equations because there are many phenomena. They are an attempt to describe mathematically the physical phenomena so that you can solve these problems. Words alone won’t solve the problem. In this case, the problem is how do to build the perfect flying vehicle for specific missions and purposes,” said Harry Hilton, a professor emeritus in the Department of Aerospace Engineering in the College of Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Hilton looked at models independently of each other, then put them together.

“If you don’t use the right model, the rest becomes an exercise in futility. It may be a model that’s self-consistent but has no reality,” he said. “Of course, the only way you can validate a model is to run experiments and even then, you’re introducing another reality into the picture which is the experiment and not the real airplane. So each one of these is an idealization.”

**Realistic properties**  
Hilton began by analyzing the da Vinci-Euler-Bernoulli theory of elastic bending. “It’s deterministic, that is, determined that it is true with a probability of 1, based on a set of equations that give a set of answers,” Hilton said. Added to that is the Timoshenko theory that takes

load and other realistic properties such as wind shear into consideration. Hilton merges those theories with properties of viscoelastic materials—which includes time dependent material behavior and is of particular importance in modern composite materials and metals at elevated temperatures.

On top of it all, there are probabilities that certain things will happen.

“We may assume that the loads and material properties are certain, but they’re not. Think about wind gusts. They can be sudden and unpredictable in strength and direction,” he said. “It’s the difference between deterministic—which means the probability is one and events are going to happen as opposed to a probability between zero and 1 where zero is never and 1 is always. “Probability happens in the real world. What’s the probability of you getting hit by a car when you cross Green Street? Pretty high. When you cross Wright Street, maybe not as likely,” he said. Hilton’s analysis provides a new model that takes into consideration as many, but still not all, known phenomena. These analyses, while more inclusive, form a linear beginning as a stepping stone to the real nonlinear random world.


“We use both math and physics in engineering, but within limitations. In physics, we don’t always understand what’s going on,” he said. “That’s the case here as well. There are pieces of principles that haven’t been resolved. The mathematics are very exact but we tend to shade the equations in terms of what we can solve, rather than what it should be. (Source: *phys.org*)



# Iranian students come in first in World Mathematics Championships Qualifier

## Flood-stricken families receiving govt. handouts


Heavy rainfall in less than 24 hours has led to devastating floods sweeping Mazandaran province on October 5, claiming 5 lives, which has resulted in damages worth of nearly 7 trillion rials (about \$166 million), destroying infrastructures, residential units, roads and huge tracts of farmlands.



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**National Iranian**  
**Drilling Company**

• Tender descriptions:

The Tender holder	Registration No. through national electronic tendering system	Tender No. /Indent No.	Estimated value (Rial/Euro)
National Iranian Drilling Company	3,178,093	Tender No. :FP/09-97/031 Indent No.:01-22-9646012	69,683,215,000 (Rial)

• Qualitative evaluation of tenderers

Method	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Based on minimum scoring(60) made in award criterion reflected in the tenderers pre-qualification forms.

• Purchasing & Submitting

	The distribution of the documents will be started one day after the publishing of second advertisement and ended on the following tenth day thereof.	
<b>Tender Document Distribution by Company</b>	<b>Distribution Place</b>	Hall No.:113, 1-floor, Foreign Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN Tel:061-34148601
	<b>Submitting Method</b>	Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of 510,000 Iranian Rials under account number 4001114004020491( Shaba No. IR 520100004001114004020491) in name of "NIDC Incomes Centralized Fund" issued by I.R. of Iran Central Bank. Submitting format Request for the purpose of receiving Tender Documents.
<b>Documents Receiving Method</b>	<b>Closing date</b>	Days after the last time of Purchasing 14
	<b>Address</b>	Hall No. 107, 1-floor, Tender Committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. Tel: +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569

• Tender Guarantee

Value of guarantee	59,917 Euro / 2,894,000,000 Rial
<b>Type of guarantee</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt under account number 4001114006376636 ( Shaba No. IR 350100004001114006376636) in name of "NIDC saving account" by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran.
<b>Duration of credit &amp; quotation</b>	Tender Guarantee and quotation should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one time in initial validity duration.

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# More than 130 casualties as violence rocks chaotic Afghan elections

1→ Violence also disrupted voting. In the northern city of Kunduz, three people died and 39 were wounded, hospital director Marzia Yafitali told AFP, after more than 20 rockets rained down on the provincial capital. An Independent Election Commission (IEC) employee was killed and seven others were missing after the Taliban attacked a polling center several kilometers from Kunduz city, destroying ballot boxes, provincial IEC director Mohammad Rasoul Omar said. Eight explosions were recorded in the eastern province of Nangarhar, with two people killed and five wounded, the provincial governor's spokesman said.

Despite the threat of violence, large numbers of voters showed up at polling centers in major cities where they waited hours for them to open. Turnout in rural districts was not clear. Most polling sites opened late after teachers employed to handle the voting process failed to show up on time, said the IEC, which promised to extend voting by four hours. University student Mohammad Alem said he felt "frustrated" after spending more than three hours trying to vote in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, only to discover his name was not on the registration list. "There also were some problems with the biometric devices because they were already running out of charge," he said. After waiting four hours at a polling center, Tabish Forugh tweeted he had not seen "even remotely sim-



ilar... chaos" at previous elections. Almost nine million people registered to vote in the parliamentary election, which is more than three years late. But attacks across the country on Saturday are likely to deter many from turning up at the nearly 5,000 polling centres. Hundreds of people were killed or wounded in the months leading up to the poll. The killing of a powerful police chief in the southern province of Kandahar on Thursday further eroded confidence in the ability of security forces to protect voters. Voting in Kandahar has been delayed

by a week following the attack. The Taliban claimed it carried out 318 attacks on voting locations, checkpoints and military sites throughout Saturday. Despite the risks, President Ashraf Ghani urged "every Afghan, young and old, women and men" to exercise their right to vote, after casting his ballot in Kabul. Photos posted on social media showed scores of men and women clutching their identification documents lining up outside voting centers amid a heavy security presence. A woman dressed in a burqa leaving a polling center in Mazar-i-Sharif told AFP she

had been worried about "security incidents", but decided to vote anyway. "We have to defy the violence," Hafiza, 57, said. "In previous years we were not happy with the elections, our votes were sold out." The Taliban issued several warnings in the days leading up to the poll, calling on candidates to withdraw from the race and for voters to stay home. At least 10 candidates out of more than 2,500 contesting the lower-house election have been killed. Most of those standing are political novices, and include doctors, mullahs and journalists. Those with the deepest pockets are expected to win. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, which has spearheaded international efforts to keep Afghan organizers on track, on Friday called on voters to "exercise their constitutional right to vote". The poll is seen as a crucial test for next year's presidential election and an important milestone ahead of a UN meeting in Geneva in November where Afghanistan is under pressure to show progress on "democratic processes". Preliminary results will be released on November 10 but there are concerns they could be thrown into turmoil if the biometric verification devices are broken, lost or destroyed. Votes cast without the controversial machines will not be counted, the IEC has said. (Source: AFP)

## Migrant caravan stopped on Mexico-Guatemala border

Hundreds of people in a caravan of migrants and refugees that crossed from Honduras into Guatemala staged a dramatic bid to breach the Mexican border on Friday, as local governments began preparing to disperse the convoy under pressure from Washington.



Caravan members poured through Guatemalan border posts in the town of Tecun Uman and onto a bridge leading to Mexico, only to be halted by dozens of Mexican police in riot gear. Mexico's president sharply rebuked the migrants for the border surge. The United States President Donald Trump has warned the Central American caravan must be stopped before it reaches the United States, and Honduras and Guatemala said late on Friday they were mobilizing to assist the return of Honduran migrants to their homeland. Some migrants violently shook fences at the border and police said a few officers were injured in clashes. A handful of people jumped into the Suchiate River below to swim for rafts. Others turned back towards Guatemala. Carrying backpacks and small children, many bedraggled migrants simply sat down on the bridge. Some said that they had been tear-gassed. As the afternoon drew on, a tropical storm, Vicente, formed nearby off the Pacific coast. On Friday evening, Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez said he had spoken to his Guatemalan counterpart Jimmy Morales for clearance to send civil protection personnel to help the Hondurans and to find transport for those wanting to return. "We'll continue this operation for as long as is necessary," Hernandez said in a post on Twitter. Shortly afterwards, Guatemala's government tweeted that Hernandez would meet Morales on Saturday in Guatemala City to implement a strategy for returning the Honduran migrants. Meanwhile, in a late televised address, Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto called the mass rush to penetrate the border "unprecedented", accusing some migrants of attacking police. "Mexico does not and will not allow (people) to enter its territory illegally, let alone violently," he said. A similar caravan of Central Americans that formed in southern Mexico in late March also drew the ire of the U.S. President Donald Trump, who on Thursday threatened to use the military and close the southern border if Mexico did not halt the new march. Such a move would cause chaos on the crossing, one of the world's busiest, and badly disrupt trade. Speaking in Scottsdale, Arizona on Friday, Trump said he "appreciated very much" Mexico's efforts to stop the caravan. "If that doesn't work out, we're calling up the military - not the (National) Guard - we're calling up the military," he told reporters. "They're not coming into this country." Trump has also threatened to cut off aid to Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador - some of the poorest and most violent countries in the Americas - if they fail to prevent undocumented immigrants from heading to the U.S. Their emigrants make up the bulk of people now caught trying to enter the U.S. illegally every year. Several migrants at the Guatemala-Mexico border spoke of entire neighborhoods leaving their homes to join the trek after news circulated on social media of a call for a new "caravan" to Mexico six months after the previous one. Earlier, Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray and the U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met in Mexico City and discussed the caravan, which set off from Honduras last weekend. "It's a challenge that Mexico is facing, and that's how I expressed it to Secretary Pompeo," Videgaray told a joint news conference. Pompeo said he and Videgaray spoke of the importance of stopping the caravan before it reaches the U.S. border. In contrast to the earlier caravan, which had advanced into Mexico before officials began intensive efforts to process the migrants, the Mexican government turned its attention to the new group right on its southern border. Mexico's government has sought assistance from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). On Friday morning, Videgaray said the caravan had close to 4,000 people and that the migrants could individually present their claims to enter Mexico or seek refugee status. "We haven't had a caravan or group of this size seeking refuge at the same time, that's why we've sought the support of the United Nations," he told Mexican television. Mexico says the migrants without a legitimate case to claim refuge in Mexico will be returned to their countries of origin. A Mexican official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the country had the capacity to process around 200 people a day. ■ Police waiting Meantime, hundreds of Mexican police were sent to guard the border between the Guatemalan town of Tecun Uman and Ciudad Hidalgo in Mexico to prepare for the migrant caravan's arrival. Manelich Castilla, the head of Mexico's federal police, said at the scene that his officers had restored order after the rush of migrants towards the border, and would begin allowing people to be processed in an orderly fashion. Six police had been injured, Castilla said. UNHCR spokesman Charlie Yaxley said the agency was reinforcing capacity in southern Mexico to offer counselling, legal assistance and humanitarian aid to asylum seekers. "UNHCR is concerned that the mobilization of such a large number of people in a single group will overwhelm the capacities that exist in the region," he told a news conference. (Source: Reuters)

## Saudi Arabia admits Khashoggi died in consulate

1→ Democrat Senator Jack Reed, said the Saudis were still not forthcoming with the truth. "This appears to have been a deliberate, planned act followed by a cover-up," he said. ■ Audio recording Turkish sources say the authorities have an audio recording purportedly documenting Khashoggi's murder inside the consulate. Pro-government newspaper Yeni Safak, citing the audio, said his torturers cut off his fingers during an interrogation and later beheaded him. The crisis prompted the king to intervene, five sources with links to the Saudi royal family told Reuters. The king also ordered a restructuring of the intelligence, to be led by Prince Mohammed, suggesting the prince still retained wide-ranging authority. Before the Saudi announcements, Trump had said he might consider sanctions although he has also appeared unwilling to distance himself too much from the Saudi leadership. The White House said it would continue to press for "justice that is timely, transparent, and in accordance with all due process". For other Western allies, a main question will be whether they believe Prince Mohammed, who has painted himself as a reformer, has any culpability. King Salman had handed the day-to-day running of Saudi Arabia to his son. Britian said it was considering its "next steps", while

Australia said it pulled out of a planned investment summit in Saudi Arabia in protest at the killing. Amnesty International said the Saudi explanation appeared to be a whitewash of "an appalling assassination". The Saudi findings "marks an abysmal new low to Saudi Arabia's human rights record," its Middle East director said. Regional allies - including Egypt, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates - issued statements in praise of the king. ■ 'No orders to kill him' The dismissed official Qahtani, 40, rose to prominence after latching onto Prince Mohammed, becoming a rare confidante in his inner circle. Sources say Qahtani would regularly speak on behalf of the crown prince and has given direct orders to senior officials including in the security apparatus. People close to Khashoggi and the government said Qahtani had tried to lure the journalist back to Saudi Arabia after he moved to Washington a year ago fearing reprisals for his views. Qahtani wrote on Twitter in August 2017: "Do you think I make decisions without guidance? I am an employee and a faithful executor of the orders of my lord the king and my lord the faithful crown prince." In a tweet on Saturday, he thanked the king and crown prince for the "big confidence" they had in him. Asiri joined the Saudi military in 2002, according to Saudi media reports, serving as spokesman for a coalition

backing Yemen's ousted president after Prince Mohammed led Saudi Arabia into that country's civil war in 2015. He was named deputy chief of foreign intelligence in April 2017. The prince had no knowledge of the specific operation that resulted in Khashoggi's death, a Saudi official familiar with the Saudi investigation said. "There were no orders for them to kill him or even specifically kidnap him," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity. There was a standing order to bring critics of the kingdom back to the country, he added. "MbS had no knowledge of this specific operation and certainly did not order a kidnapping or murder of anybody. He will have been aware of the general instruction to tell people to come back," the official said. The official said the whereabouts of Khashoggi's body were unclear after it was handed over to a local operator but there was no sign of it at the consulate. "We don't know for certain what happened to the body." In Saudi Arabia, there was widespread support for the king and the crown prince on Twitter, with hashtags such as "#I am Saudi and I defend it" and "#Saudi kingdom of justice" trending. For her part, Khashoggi's Turkish fiancée, Hatice Cengiz, tweeted in Arabic: "The heart grieves, the eye tears, and with your separation we are saddened, my dear Jamal," she said, also asking "#where is martyr Khashoggi's body?" (Source: Reuters)

## World calling for UN action against Saudi Arabia in Khashoggi case

7→ U.S. intelligence agencies do have more information on the Khashoggi affair, and reports suggest that they are leaning toward the same conclusion as Turkey, that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman was behind it. This is very bad for President Trump's current policy of inaction. This has to stop, or else the international backlash against the Saudis will only increase. The incident has international consequences. The managing director of the IMF, Christine Lagarde, as well as Western banks, investment companies and major media outlets are not attending the upcoming Future Investment Initiative in Riyadh. The foreign ministers of the G7 have issued a statement demanding an investigation. The scandal has dealt a major blow to the future of Saudi

Arabia's economy. The mood in Washington is similarly fraught. The Washington Post, for which Khashoggi wrote opinion pieces, says it will not let go of the issue. Nor will other international media outlets. Every government but the Trump administration wants to see some change. Even Senator Graham Lindsay, a warmongering ally of Trump, promises to get rid of Mohammad bin Salman - irrespective of his own political motives: "I'm not going back to Saudi Arabia as long as this guy is in charge," Graham said of bin Salman. "I've been their biggest defender on the floor of the United States Senate. This guy is a wrecking ball. He had Khashoggi murdered in a consulate in Turkey and to expect me to ignore it, I feel used and abused.

The MBS figure is to me toxic, he can never be a world leader on the world stage. It's up to the president, but what I would do - well, I know what I'm going to do. I'm gonna sanction the hell out of Saudi Arabia." This is what the international civil society expects from the UN as well: An independent probe and imposition of economic sanctions if Riyadh is found guilty. The UN should also probe and sanction Saudi Arabia over its brutal war on Yemen. There should be no blind spot for the more routine victims of unchecked Saudi aggression. Civilian deaths in Yemen cannot be explained away anymore. Riyadh wants the Yemeni oil fields, and a pipeline from Saudi Arabia through West Yemen, where Saudi oil can be shipped from without passage through the Iran controlled

Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf. Riyadh also wants to control all of the Yemeni coast and all of its islands. Which means the world shouldn't let go of the botched assassination of Khashoggi. The Turkish media have reported on that and the Turkish government has published pictures of 15 men who had come from Saudi Arabia and were in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul shortly before Khashoggi visited it to get his divorce papers. Turkish media say it took them seven minutes to torture and kill Khashoggi. At least 8 of the 15 men have been identified as Saudi royal military. At least three are bodyguards of the Saudi clown prince MBS. It is thereby obvious that the crown prince himself gave the order for the operation. One of the 15 is Dr. Salah Muhammed Al-Tubaigy, the head of forensic evidence at the Saudi General Security Department. It's not that hard to explain that the men are part of MBS' personal entourage. Long story short, Saudi Arabia is America's main ally in the Arab world so when its credibility is damaged so is that of the US - and when it fails so does the US. Saudi Arabia has certainly been weakened and condemned globally by reportedly murdering a critic in cold blood, a mistake that is convincing many governments in the world and intelligence experts in the West that the operational capacity of the regime is even more limited than they had imagined. The Khashoggi saga is only the latest of a series of criminal Saudi ventures since 2015 that have rightly failed to turn out as planned. The list includes a failed war on Yemen that cannot continue without US support; a failed war on Syria by means of ISIL and Al-Qaeda that provoked Iranian-Russian intervention; the blockade of Qatar; and the detention of Lebanese Prime Minister Sa'ad Hariri. As is, the reports on the torture-killing of Khashoggi have unified the world against the brutal regime of Saudi Arabia. It is time for the world to unify and prevent the killing and assassination of other critics as well as hundreds of thousands of Yemenis as well. What the rights groups are demanding now is an international pursuit of justice for all victims of Riyadh's criminal violence at the UN.

First Announcement



Permit No. 1397/3538

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY

TENDER NO.: 01-31-9680007

National Iranian South Oilfields Company(NISOC)intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity.
70	PARTS FOR"G.E.C."GAS TURBINE	1004

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Resume" and "Tendency Letter" via postal services to the following address not later than 14 days after the second announcement. The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 13,662 Euro or 667,306,801 RIAL in favor of NISOC Iranian vendors shall submit their resume according to Quality Assessment Forms available at [www.shana.ir](http://www.shana.ir) and [www.nisoc.ir](http://www.nisoc.ir)

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT  
Bldg NO 104, Material procurement Management Complex  
Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site) Ahvaz, Iran  
Tel. No.: 061-34123589 fax NO.: 061-34457437 Tel. No.: 061-34123229

Public Relations  
[www.shana.ir](http://www.shana.ir) [www.nisoc.ir](http://www.nisoc.ir) <http://iets.mporg.ir>

تهران تایمز نویت اول ۹۷/۰۷/۲۹ نویت دوم ۹۷/۰۸/۰۲



## Maradona has no cartilage left in knees - surgeon

Diego Maradona's orthopedic surgeon says the Argentina football great has no cartilage left in his knees due to severe osteoarthritis and will need prostheses.

German Ochoa also said Friday that the 57-year-old Maradona must decide if he wants to have surgery.

Maradona captained Argentina to the 1986 World Cup title. He became the new coach of Mexican second-tier club Dorados de Sinaloa last month.

He has been recently seen walking with difficulty due to the osteoarthritis which has affected him for several years.

"The bones are rubbing against each other," Ochoa told Argentina's TyC Sports channel. "[The osteoarthritis] is very advanced [and] causes a great amount of swelling and pain."

Ochoa said that an alternative would be to block some knee joint nerves that transmit the sensations to the brain. But he said that this would not be a definitive solution and would only temporarily eliminate the pain.

(Source: ESPN)

## Barcelona reveal plans for 'Espai Barca' project

FC Barcelona have revealed what the construction process of their ambitious 'Espai Barca' project will look like with a video simulation showing the club's plans to revamp and expand their Nou Camp stadium and renovate its other installations.

The video shows how the Nou Camp's capacity will be raised from 99,000 spectators to 105,000 and the installation of a roof covering the whole arena. Currently three sides of the stadium are exposed to the elements.

Building work on the stadium will take place in the post-season over three years, beginning in 2019, so that the team can continue to play at the ground without disruption.

Work on the new stadium is set to be completed by the 2023/24 season, with the club stating it will cost 360 million euros (\$414.47 million).

The club has already begun work on a new stadium for its youth and reserve teams, which is to be named after Dutch great Johan Cruyff and will be at the site of its training ground.

'Espai Barca' will also see the construction of a new arena for the club's basketball team and green spaces around the Nou Camp.

(Source: Reuters)

## Williams says Russell chosen on talent alone

Williams signed Mercedes-backed Briton George Russell for 2019 on talent alone and not for any financial considerations, the Formula One team's deputy principal Claire Williams said on Friday.

Mercedes are the team's engine partners and Russell, the 20-year-old Formula Two championship leader, has a long-term contract with the German manufacturer.

"George has come up through the Mercedes young driver programme but that was not a factor in our decision-making," Williams said at the U.S. Grand Prix when asked whether the team might get a discount on the engines.

"There were no factors around financial considerations with Mercedes on making the decision. It was purely a decision made on the talent that George has."

While Russell has signed a multi-year contract, former champions Williams have yet to confirm who will occupy the second seat.

Canadian Lance Stroll is set to leave for Force India, a team now controlled by his billionaire father Lawrence, while Russian Sergey Sirotkin's future is unclear.

Williams are last in the standings, with little chance of improving on that before the end of the season, and face reduced prize money and revenues as a consequence while title sponsor Martini is also leaving.

Claire Williams said the sponsorship landscape was 'pretty tough', independent teams were also having a hard time competing and finishing 10th also "puts the squeeze on things a little bit."

Despite that, she said Williams should have a similar budget next year to 2018 and the main consideration for the second seat had to be talent.

Esteban Ocon, also backed by Mercedes, could be one option with the Frenchman highly-rated but set to lose his Force India seat to Stroll.

Others are Sirotkin and Polish reserve Robert Kubica, who has not raced since he partially severed his right arm in a rally crash in 2011.

(Source: Reuters)

## Real Madrid on longest goal drought in history

Real Madrid set a club-record goal drought as they fell to their fourth defeat in five games with a 2-1 defeat to Levante at the Bernabeu.

Head coach Julen Lopetegui went into the match with plenty of speculation over his position, and his team were 2-0 down within the first quarter of an hour courtesy of Jose Luis Morales' strike and a penalty from Roger Marti.

Marcelo's strike with 20 minutes remaining kept Madrid's hopes of a recovery alive, and confirmed the club's longest run without a goal in all competitions in their 116-year history at 481 minutes -- surpassing the previous record barren run of 464 minutes set in 1985.

Before Marcelo struck, Real's last goal in any competition had come in a 1-0 win against Espanyol on Sept. 22, with them failing to score in their following games with Sevilla, Atletico Madrid, CSKA Moscow and Alaves.

Karim Benzema then hit the post with an effort from range after coming on as a second-half substitute.

However, the European champions could not rally to rescue a result and confirmed they will finish the weekend behind Barcelona and Atletico Madrid in the table however their rivals get on.

(Source: Soccernet)

# Nobody helps Lopetegui: Neither the players, nor VAR, nor the Real Madrid fans

Julen Lopetegui's Real Madrid are wounded and the first thing you have to say about the coach is that he's had wretched luck.

Nobody is helping him, neither his players, nor VAR nor the boos from the Estadio Santiago Bernabeu.

None of this will help to calm down the Madrid powers that be, who must now be thinking about drastic measures.

Lopetegui is hanging onto his job by a thread but Real Madrid didn't deserve to lose.

Raphael Varane had one of his worst games in the famous white shirt. He endured a miserable opening 15 minutes, making a mistake in Levante's first goal and also gifting the second goal with a handball in the box, leading to a penalty being awarded by VAR. Far from his best, the World Cup seems to have left him low on the energy and the focus that we're used to seeing.

Julen Lopetegui is unlucky. He has made history by recording the club's longest ever goal drought as well as going five consecutive games without a win. This could cost him his job in the coming days. Nobody did well. Varane messed up and once again the forwards weren't clinical enough. That said, Real Madrid did not deserve to lose to Levante. They hit the post three times and had a whole host of chances to score.

The Bernabeu faithful head home very angry with their team and booed them at the end of the match. The fans are now tired of their team's wretched run. They miss Zinedine Zidane, Cristiano Ronaldo and above all a team that puts them on the edge of their seat. Madrid didn't deserve to lose and the crowd know it. But they also know that this season keeps getting worse.

The star of the show was in a blue and scarlet shirt, not white. Jose Luis Morales, who had been compared to Gareth Bale in MARCA's preview, put in a masterclass in Madrid. He caused havoc for the Real defenders and beautifully punished Varane's mistake in the 7th minute, dribbling past Thibaut Courtois and putting the ball in the empty net. The highlights will show his goal and his skill to get past Sergio Ramos, but he was sensational throughout the 90 minutes.

**■ Lopetegui: My job? That's the last thing on my mind**

After Real Madrid's shock defeat to Levante at the Estadio Santiago Bernabeu, Julen Lopetegui admitted that the last thing he's worried about is his job.

The Los Blancos coach was speaking to BeIN LaLiga.

## The Cristiano effect as Serie A ticket prices rise by 30%



Shock waves were sent through the global football eco-system on July 10th when it was confirmed that Portuguese striker Cristiano Ronaldo had signed for Italian giants Juventus. The media circus began in earnest with his unveiling with every detail of his life being scrutinised in both Italian sports and general interest media. A poor personal start for the player saw him failing to find the target in his first three Serie A games despite having more shots than any other player in Europe at the time (61 shots). The goals finally arrived and the Madeira born player has been instrumental in Juventus' fine start to the season as they remain unbeaten in ten games and sit at the summit of the Serie A table.

### ■ Issues

Cristiano's time in Turin has also had its share of polemic. He missed out on the FIFA prize giving with the FIFA "The Best" award going to Real Madrid and Croatia star Luka Modric with the player not attending the award ceremony in London. The striker was also giving his marching orders

in his first Champions League match for Juve against Valencia and the case over the Kathryn Mayorga rape allegation has been reopened. His presence in the Italian game has also seen another wave of detractors coming in the guise of the local "tifosi".

### ■ Hikes

For every Juventus away game this season, the home side takes advantage of the Portuguese player's presence by hiking up the match day tickets. The season opener against Chievo saw the Veronese club increase their average ticket by 50%. Travelling Juve fans are also disgruntled with Udinese increasing prices and now Empoli are planning on charging supporters 60-75 euro for tickets for the visit of Juventus.

Things have changed too at the Allianz Stadium with the "Old Lady" hitching up season ticket prices by 30% which has led to various "silent protests" by members of the hardcore Curva Sud supporters who fear that Italian clubs are becoming greedy and pricing "normal" fans out of the game..

(Source: AS)



"My job? Right now that's the last thing on my mind," he said.

"I have to lift the players for a very important game on Tuesday.

"I believe we clearly deserved to win the match.

"Football is what you make of it, the team who scores the most goals wins.

"We have to sit down and think about what we are doing badly, to change the momentum.

"The goal is not coming. We have to insist and not worry, the team have done many things well.

"My players don't deserve this punishment, we have a Champions League game and we have to recover."

(Source: Marca)

## Drivers sympathize with Vettel over penalty



Pierre Gasly, Brendon Hartley and Romain Grosjean all feel Sebastian Vettel's three-place grid drop is a harsh punishment.

The Ferrari driver was given the penalty by the stewards after they felt he failed to slow down sufficiently enough during a red-flag period caused by Charles Leclerc in FP1 at the Circuit of The Americas.

With World Champion-elect Lewis Hamilton needed to outscore Vettel by eight points or more to clinch a fifth title at the first opportunity, the German's grid drop has made that scenario even more likely.

Vettel was adamant that he slowed down enough and did not deserve the penalty and some other drivers on the grid are in agreement with him.

"It's quite a harsh penalty," Gasly said.

"If you've been really careful when you pass in front of the crash and just after you don't pay attention so much and you get a penalty like this.

"Before, if there's a crash and a red flag you just slow down a lot in the place you had the crash and then after that you drive carefully, and it's not like you need

to respect a certain time.

"It always worked in the past. Now it's quite strict, but at the same time rules are rules and you need to respect them.

"It's a shame, especially looking at the situation, still fighting for the championship, and now he gets a penalty it's not so exciting."

Gasly's team-mate, Brendon Hartley, also thinks Vettel acted in the appropriate manner when the red flags waved.

"I think in wet conditions, when a red flag comes out, it's also potentially dangerous to slam on the brakes," said Hartley.

"If Sebastian backed off straight away as you would in a red flag, I think the penalty is extremely harsh."

Haas' Romain Grosjean also sympathizes with Vettel, saying sometimes it is a case of being in the wrong place at the wrong time to slow down sufficiently.

"You only get a couple of milliseconds to slow down," he said.

"Sometimes you get it in the right place, sometimes you get it in the wrong place.

(Source: Planet F1)

## Agony for Mourinho as Ross Barkley denies Man United in final seconds

Ross Barkley broke Manchester United's hearts, and sparked a touchline melee involving Jose Mourinho, as Chelsea levelled six minutes into injury time to draw 2-2.

The first-half had been a rather even - if not dull - affair, until Chelsea's opener, which came about in the 21st minute when Antonio Rudiger stole a march on Paul Pogba and headed in from Willian's corner. From here, the Blues only grew in confidence and dominated possession the rest of the half, without really creating a clear-cut chance.

United's fightback commenced after the restart though, and they hit the hosts with a sucker-punch with an equalizer in the 55th minute. Juan Mata's volley was parried by Kepa Arrizabalaga, Chelsea failed to clear the danger and Anthony Martial capitalized with a volleyed-finish from the penalty spot.

Mourinho's side then took an unlikely lead in the 73rd minute when Marcus Rashford created an opening for Martial, who curled in an unstoppable effort from the edge of the box.

It looked as if United would be celebrating a second consecutive victory, until substitute Barkley scrambled in a 96th-minute equalizer after David Luiz's header had struck the post. It prompted unsavory scenes on the touch-line as Mourinho appeared to react to wild celebrations from a member of Chelsea's backroom staff.



The draw moves Chelsea to the top of the Premier League, a point ahead of Manchester City and Liverpool, who have yet to play this weekend. Manchester United remain eighth, eight points behind the leaders.

Mourinho issued a riposte after the final whistle by making a three-finger salute to the Chelsea fans in reference to three Premier League titles that he won while with the Blues.

After the game, Mourinho was eager to play down the incident and revealed that both Sarri and Ianni had

apologised to him.

Speaking on Sky Sports, Mourinho said: 'What happened with Sarri's assistant, Sarri was the first one to come to me and say he'd resolve the problem internally and his assistant came to me in Sarri's office and apologised to me.

If you want to apologise I will accept it and forget it because I have made mistakes in my career so I'm not going to kill you because of one.

Chelsea opened the scoring through Antonio Rudiger in the first half before Anthony Martial's second-half brace saw United take control of the game only for Barkley to equalise.

The result means that United have won just one of their last six matches in all competitions, with speculation regarding Mourinho's future at the club refusing to subside.

### ■ TALKING POINT

The drama seems to never end as far as Jose Mourinho is concerned. The Portuguese deserves great credit for his side's second-half performance, but his reaction to the last-gasp equalizer smacks of a man under huge pressure, even if he was provoked. It takes the shine off a fine, spirited display from United, who once again proved they are fully prepared to fight for their manager.

(Source: Staff & agency)



# Persepolis midfielder Kamyabinia fit for Al Sadd match

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Persepolis defensive midfielder Kamal Kamyabinia will be ready for the vital match against Al Sadd of Qatar.

The Iranian giants are to host Al Sadd on Tuesday in the return leg of the AFC Champions League semi-finals.

Kamyabinia suffered a shoulder injury on Thursday in the match against Navad Urmia in Iran's Hazfi Cup and was rushed to the hospital.

Persepolis medical staff had already said Kamyabinia may miss the match against the Qatari football team.

His absence could be a huge blow for Persepolis since the Reds have already missed their experienced defender Hossein Mahini due to a torn ACL suffered in Tehran derby against Esteghlal.

This is the forth meeting between Persepolis and Al Sadd in the AFC CL – Persepolis lost the first meeting back in February, then went on to win the last two, including the first leg of this fixture.

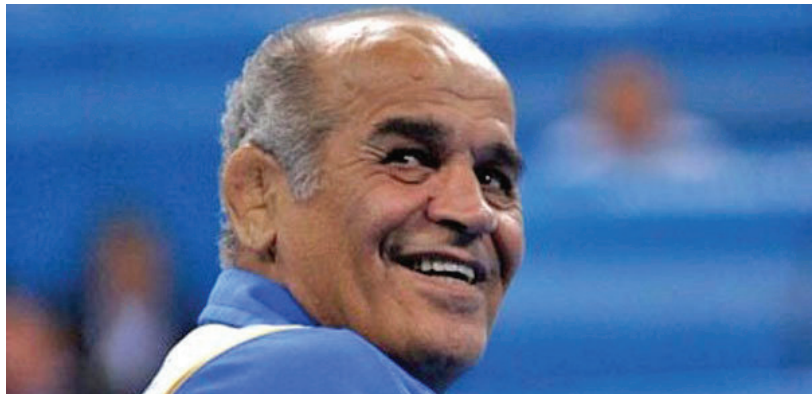
Persepolis are looking to become the third Iranian team to reach the AFC CL finals, after Foolad Mobarakeh Sepahan SC and Zob Ahan.

Their chances look good after winning three of their last four knockout games in the competition.

Al Sadd are looking to reach the AFC CL finals for just the second time after 2011, winning then on penalties after a 2-2 draw against Jeonbuk Hyundai.



## Former Iran wrestling coach Moezzi pour passes away



**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Former Iran freestyle wrestler and wrestling coach Mahmoud Moezzi pour passed away on Saturday.

He died at the age of 66 of heart attack before reaching a hospital.

Moezzi pour will be laid to rest on Sunday. Moezzi pour claimed a silver medal at the men's 87kg in the 1966 Asian Games held in the capital city of Bangkok, Thailand.

He led Iran freestyle wrestling coach at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

It's the second mourning for Iran's wrestling society in a week.

Ex-Greco-Roman wrestler Alireza Ghelichkhani, who won a bronze medal at the 1961 World Championships, died last week.

The Tehran Times staff offer heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family.

## Iranian duo Saberi, Ashofteh join Balikesir volleyball team



**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Iranian international volleyball players Mahsa Saberi and Mona Ashofteh have signed contract with Turkish club Balikesir DSI.

The Iranian duo have joined Balikesir DSI on a one-year contract.

The details of their contracts have not been revealed.

Iran national volleyball team captain

Maedeh Borhani had already Joined Turkey's Kecioren in September.

"It's a whole new experience for me and I can learn lessons from that," Ashofteh said. "Turkey has a high level league. I've joined Balikesir on a one-year contract and I will decide about my team after that."

"I think women's volleyball has progressed in Iran in the recent years and our women can play in the European leagues now," she added.

## Mehran Shahintab - We couldn't control Japan's stars

Iran were hoping to bring home their seventh win at the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2019 Asian Qualifiers when they travelled to Tokyo last month, but Japan had other plans.

Iran started strong in their first Asian Qualifiers meeting with the Japanese, leading by 7 after the first period and by 5 at the half-time break, but the Japanese flipped the script in the second half and eventually cruised to a 70-56 win.

Seasoned point guard Aren Davoudi admits that his team had miscues throughout the match, especially on the defensive end as they allowed Japan to shoot nearly 50% from the 2-point area.

"We played a little bit bad on defense," Davoudi said. "Japan's shooting percentage was just too high. They played great."

Team Melli head coach Mehran Shahintab echoed these sentiments as he expressed his admiration for how the Akatsuki Five played and described their difficulties inside the paint, especially since they were without big man Hamed Haddadi.

"We played against a respectable team," Shahintab said. "We had to change our roster, too, because of injuries and some players leaving. We couldn't control the inside and



had too many turnovers. We had some tactical problems, and we should have scored more."

The 52-year-old bench tactician was all praises for Japan's budding young talents led by recent NBA signee Yuta Watanabe and US NCAA star Rui Hachimura. Shahintab admitted that Japan just had too much firepower in their frontline and that his wards couldn't control their opponents.

"They had great players under the basket - Yuta Watanabe, Rui Hachimura, Ira Brown and also Joji Takeuchi - and they had the advantage inside," he ex-

plained. "We just couldn't control them. Hachimura has a great future. He can improve on some technical things, but he did very well against us."

The 6ft 8in (2.02m) Hachimura torched Iran with 25 points, 7 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 steals and 2 blocks in a scintillating performance. He has been the biggest factor for Japan's current four-game winning run.

As for Iran, Shahintab knows that despite their 6-win, 2-loss record, they still have some ways to go before formally clinching a berth in the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2019 in China. Looking ahead to their next two assignments, the experienced coach is looking at some roster changes in the hopes of matching up better against their prospective opponents.

"We will have two strong games in the our next window against Philippines and Australia," he said. "Maybe we have some opportunity to get some other players and change our roster, but for sure in the window we need to do something to get better."

Iran will next play the Boomers on the road on 30 November before flying to Manila to face the Filipinos on 3 December.

(Source: FIBA)

## Shaikh Salman pays tribute to Dato' Peter Velappan

Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) President, today paid tribute to Dato' Peter Velappan, the former AFC General Secretary, who passed away at the age of 83.

Shaikh Salman said: "On behalf of the entire Asian football family, I send my condolences and heartfelt sympathy to the family of one of the most important architects of growing the game in Asia."

"Peter served Asian football with passion and professionalism and the news of his passing will shock and sadden all those who are involved in our great game on this continent. He deserves immense credit for everything that he achieved with the AFC and beyond."

AFC General Secretary, Dato Windsor John, added: "Dato' Peter's vision for Asian football has been an inspiration to us all and his achievements both here at the AFC and at the Football Association of Malaysia stand as a monument to his love of the game."

"Dato' Peter set the standards to which everyone in Asian football aspires. He was dedicated to grassroots football and the de-



velopment of the game in Asia. It has been an honor to follow in his footsteps."

Born in 1935, he studied in the United Kingdom and Canada before becoming a teacher in Seremban and subsequently became Assistant General Secretary of the

Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) in 1963.

He served as FAM Assistant General Secretary until 1980 as well as being Assistant Team Manager to the national team when it qualified for the Olympic Games in

Munich in 1972.

In 1978, Dato' Peter became the AFC General Secretary during a time of rapid expansion and development for the Confederation and for football on the Continent, which hosted its first FIFA World Cup – in Japan/Korea in 2002 – during his time in office. He was Co-ordination Director for the Organising Committee and received FIFA's distinguished service award for his 30 years of valuable contribution to the beautiful game in 2002.

As the longest serving General Secretary in AFC history, he served under three AFC Presidents – Tan Sri Hamzah Abu Samah (1978-1994) and Sultan Ahmad Shah (1994-2002) both from Malaysia and Qatari Mohammad bin Hamman. Dato' Peter retired in 2007 but remained a strong advocate for grassroots football and a firm supporter of present AFC President Shaikh Salman.

His commitment to grassroots football led to a role at Vision Asia which was devoted to popularizing the sport at grassroots across Asia.

(Source: the-afc)

## Iran football federation sends condolences over the death of Peter Velappan

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — The Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) has expressed condolences over the death of Peter Velappan, former Asian Football Confederation (AFC) general secretary.

FFIRI has expressed condolences and heartfelt sympathy to the family of one of the most important architects of growing the game in Asia.

Velappan, who turned 83 on Oct 1, was survived by wife Datin Pavalam and two daughters.

The Malaysian was the longest-serving general secretary in the confederation's 64-year history, heading up the administrative arm from 1978 until his retirement in 2007.

## Iranian taekwondokas win two medals at World Taekwondo Grand Prix

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Mirhashem Hosseini and Sajad Mardani from Iran won a silver and a bronze medal respectively at the World Taekwondo Grand Prix in Manchester on Friday.

Hosseini defeated Chinese Zhao Shuai 25-16 in his first match in the men's under-68 kg.

He also beat Seok-Bae Kim from South Korea 19-16, Jordan's Ahmad Abughaush 30-27 and Briton Bradly Sinden 19-16.

Hosseini was defeated against South Korean Lee Dae-hoon 11-7 in the final match.

Also, Mardani defeated Brazilian Guilherme Felix 16-11 in the men's over-80kg event.

He also beat Asian champion Smaiyil Duisebay from Kazakhstan 13-7 and Croatian Vedran Golec 8-4.

Mardani lost to Russian Vladislav Larin 15-12 in the semi-final and claimed a bronze medal.

The competition is the last event before next month's World Taekwondo Finals in Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates.

Top competitors are awarded ranking points towards the World Taekwondo world ranking which could help them qualify for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

## ACL: Valentin Kovalenko to officiate Persepolis v Al Sadd

**TASNIM** — Uzbek football referee Valentin Kovalenko has been chosen to officiate the match between Iran's Persepolis and Al Sadd of Qatar.

Persepolis will host the Qatari club in Tehran's Azadi Stadium on Tuesday in the second leg of the AFC Champions League semi-final.

The Iranian team have defeated Al Sadd 1-0 in the first leg in Doha.

The 43-year-old has refereed at the 2011 AFC Asian Cup, 2012 AFC Cup Final and 2014 World Cup qualifiers, beginning with the preliminary-round match between Iraq and Yemen.

During 2006 World Cup qualifying, he also served as an assistant referee.

## Bolt has a 'good chance' for Central Coast Mariners deal – Schwarzer

Usain Bolt has a "good chance" of being signed on a permanent deal by the Central Coast Mariners and the Jamaican's lack of experience could be his key to earning a professional contract, former Australia international Mark Schwarzer has told ESPN.

Bolt's much-publicised efforts to earn a professional football contract are in a state of limbo as the opening weekend of A-League action gets under way, with the Mariners yet to make a decision on his future following his trial.

But a deal in Australia very much remains a possibility.

"I think he's got a good chance, purely because he's been there for so long," Schwarzer, who played 100 times for the Socceroos, told ESPN. "They think he's got something and that's why they've also got him there."

Schwarzer saw Bolt's two-goal showing against Macarthur South West United earlier in October and said while he's "got a lot of work to do still," he's showing "talent" and "promise."

"The big question is at his age and his stage of life, whether he's going to improve enough to warrant a contract in the A-League," Schwarzer said.

ESPN exclusively revealed that the eight-time Olympic champion was offered a lucrative two-year deal by Maltese side Valetta FC earlier this week, funded by the ambitious club's Abu Dhabi-based ownership group.

Bolt's representatives turned down the approach, with his agent Ricky Simms revealing Bolt himself was not interested in moving to Malta -- and this opens up the possibility of him remaining in Australia.

Bolt's pace is clearly one of his greatest strengths and Schwarzer feels it will take time to work on aligning his ball control with his speed, but also working to his advantage is his unpredictability due to his inexperience.

"Sometimes that can be even harder to defend against, to come up against, as there's that unpredictability as they are so raw," Schwarzer said. "They won't do things a normal footballer would have done."

"This is potentially quite exciting. For someone who has only seen snippets, if he can do alright, and if they do sign him and he gets those opportunities and he has that rawness and promise and he's a quick learner then it could be very exciting."

"The other problem is his age [32]. He has to be quick learner otherwise when you get older, your pace gets slower as well so he has to harness it as quickly as possible to utilize it."

(Source: ESPN)



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## Mcgill University displays photos of Arbæen rituals

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — McGill University in Montreal has hosted an exhibition of photos, putting a spotlight on the religious ritual of Arbæen, which is observed at the end of the 40-day mourning period following the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS) and his loyal companions on Ashura.



Entitled “The World’s Largest Annual Peaceful Gathering”, the photos were put on view in the McConnell Engineering Building of the university on October 15.

The photos showed how people of various cultural backgrounds, religions and health conditions stand united for social justice, honor and peace.

The exhibit was organized by the Toheed Society of Montreal in cooperation with the Thaqaalyn Muslim Association (TMA).

## Book City Institute to review “The Book of Light”

**C U L T U R E d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Tehran’s Book City Institute plans to review an Italian version of “The Book of Light”, a book which includes facts and sayings of the 9th century Persian Sufi Bayazid Bastami in a session set for October 23.



The front cover of the Italian version of “The Book of Light”

Nahid Norozi are expected to attend the review session.

## A pity to throw it away: insurer stores damaged art in Germany

**C O L O G N E (Reuters)** — What happens to artworks which are too badly damaged to be restored once the insurer has paid out the claim?

Up to 300 of them - scratched, torn or punctured works by well-known artists including Gerhard Richter, Christo and Giorgio de Chirico - are stored in an AXA warehouse near the western German city of Cologne.

One of the world’s biggest art insurers, AXA receives claims every year for damage to paintings, sculptures and drawings. Some 80 percent of them can be restored.

The rest, which either cannot be or are too expensive to be repaired come to this warehouse.

“We store artworks, objects and collectors items by notable artists for which we have compensated our customers, we take ownership of them and keep them for the future,” said Kai Kuklinkski, head of AXA Art Insurance.

“The main goal is to keep this art as it is too much of a pity to throw it away,” he said.

AXA gives some pieces, which include paintings, collectors items and antiquities, to research projects. Some are auctioned for charity and others kept, in case they can be repaired later, once restoration techniques have improved.

“Otherwise, we keep things for many many years, up to decades, in our warehouse,” said Kuklinkski.

Works in the Cologne warehouse include a damaged offset print of Christo’s “Wrapped Reichstag”.

Another is “Black Red Gold”, a painting by Gerhard Richter which was damaged because of the way it was hung.

One of the most unusual items is a painting by Giorgio de Chirico which was almost destroyed when a wrecking ball from next door ripped through it as it hung on the wall of a house.

# “No Date, No Signature” to go on screen at Asian World Film Festival

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — “No Date, No Signature”, Iran’s submission to the 91st Academy Awards in the best foreign language film category, will go on screen at the Fourth Annual Asian World Film Festival, the organizers have announced.

The film written and directed by Vahid Jalilvand will be screened with 13 other foreign-language Oscar contenders in Culver City, Los Angeles at the event running from October 24 to November 1.

“No Date, No Signature” is about Dr. Nariman, a forensic pathologist who has a car accident with a motorcyclist and injures his 8-year-old son. He offers to take the child to a clinic nearby, but the father refuses his help and money. The next morning, in the hospital where he works, Dr. Nariman finds out that the little boy has been brought for an autopsy after a suspicious death.

The film won Jalilvand the best director award and its star Navid Mohammadzadeh was selected as best actor in the Orizzonti section of the 74th Venice International Film Festival in September 2017.

The festival invites all films chosen by their countries as Oscar or Golden Globe Foreign Film submissions to be part of the selection.

This year, 14 Oscar and 7 Golden Globe submissions are included in the program.

One of the festival’s sponsors, The Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA), recognizes selected showings as the required official screenings for their members who vote on the Golden Globes.

The competition, to be judged by a jury led by actress-producer Vivian Wu, includes Oscar titles “No Date, No Signature”,



Amir Aqai acts in a scene from “No Date, No Signature” by Vahid Jalilvand.

“Sobibor” (Russia), “Cake” (Pakistan), “Buffalo Boys” (Singapore), “Namme” (Georgia), “Ghost Hunting” (Palestine), “The Signal Rock” (Philippines), “The Journey” (Iraq), “Operation Red Sea” (Hong Kong), “Village Rockstars” (India) and “Panchayat” (Nepal).

Out-of-competition titles are Cannes

entry “Burning” (South Korea), “No Bed of Roses” (Bangladesh) and “The Great Buddha” (Taiwan).

The 2018 Golden Globe submissions are “Love Sonia” (India), “The Lord Eagle” (Russia), “Butterflies” (Turkey), “The River” (Kazakhstan), “Night Accident” (Kyrgyzstan), “Million Loves in Me”

(Malaysia/Hong Kong) and “The Road Not Taken” (China).

The AWWF brings a broad selection of Asian cinema – over 50 countries from Turkey, Japan and Russia to India and the Middle East – to Los Angeles to showcase the region’s filmmakers and strengthen ties between Asia’s film industry and Hollywood.

## Three Iranian films win awards at BangkokThai



A scene from “Kupal” by Kazem Mollai

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Three Iranian films have won awards at the 4th BangkokThai International Film Festival, held in Bangkok, Thailand, the organizers have announced.

“No Date, No Signature” by Vahid Jalilvand won the award for best feature film and “Kupal” by Kazem Mollai won the best cinematography award.

“No Date, No Signature” is about Dr. Nariman, a forensic pathologist who has a car accident with a motorcyclist and injures his 8-year-old son.

“Kupal” tells the story of a hunter and

a taxidermist called “Dr. Ahmad Kupal”. On the last day of the year, just moments before the arrival of the New Year, he faces an unexpected challenge.

In the Special Prizes section the award for best direction was given to “Retouch” by Kaveh Mazaheri.

“Retouch” is about a young woman whose husband is trapped under a bar-bell during a workout, but she declines to save him and, consequently, he dies.

The festival ran from October 14 to 17 and the winners were announced on October 18.

## Olivia Colman adds royal touch with “The Favorite” at London Film Festival

**L O N D O N (Reuters)** — The London Film Festival got its one of its starriest red carpets on Thursday when actresses Emma Stone, Rachel Weisz and Olivia Colman premiered “The Favorite”, a costume piece with a difference being billed as an Oscar contender.

With plenty of laugh out loud moments, the movie sees Colman portray Britain’s 18th-century Queen Anne as an insecure, frail, tempestuous, childish royal who is easily influenced by her friend and confidante Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough.

However Sarah, played by Weisz, soon finds herself vying for the queen’s attention as well as affection when maid Abigail, portrayed by Stone, arrives.

“All three of us ... play parts that were filthy and emotional and sad ... which is normal, not just an attempt to be gorgeous all the time and a little bit sort of prettily flawed,” Colman said at the BFI London Film Festival.

The actresses, who have praised by critics, share the spotlight as three central characters, which Weisz described as “very textured and layered and complicated.”

“I suppose I find it sad that we have to bring that up but I suppose we do, it’s still a little bit unusual although I don’t think it was ... back in the Hollywood golden era,” she said.

“There was Katharine Hepburn, Bette Davis, Barbara Stanwyck - the list goes on ... they were women that took the leading roles.”

While set in the 18th century, the film directed by Yorgos Lanthimos, known for



Actors Rachel Weisz, Olivia Colman and Emma Stone pose at the UK Premiere of “The Favorite” during the London Film Festival, in London, Britain October 18, 2018. (Reuters/Peter Nicholls)

“The Lobster” and “The Killing of a Sacred Deer”, has contemporary touches such as in the language used.

“This was such a specific type of period story,” Stone said when asked whether she would do more costume pieces.

“It was kind of filthy and funny and ridiculous and all of it. So (if) there are more like this than then sure, of course.”

“The Favorite” first premiered at the Venice Film Festival, where it won the Grand Jury Prize, and Colman - soon to be seen portraying Britain’s Queen Elizabeth in Netflix series “The Crown” - was named Best Actress, garnering Oscar buzz.

Asked about the Oscar speculation, Lanthimos said: “It matters if you get it.”

“But I think it’s best to not think about it too much and do the work, do the best that you can and then if people appreciate the film that’s great.”

## Roseanne calls TV death ‘morbid’, audience slumps for “The Conners”

**N E W Y O R K (Reuters)** — Roseanne Barr called the way her character was killed off “grim and morbid” and television viewers stayed away in droves from spinoff show “The Conners” without her.

Ratings data on Wednesday showed about a 43 percent drop in viewers for the premiere of “The Conners,” in which the family featured in comedy “Roseanne” carries on without the show’s namesake star and creator.

Some 10.5 million viewers watched Tuesday’s premiere of “The Conners” on Disney-owned ABC, according to Nielsen data, compared with the 18.4 million Americans who tuned into the first episode of the revival of “Roseanne” in March.

“Roseanne”, which was ABC’s biggest hit last season, was canceled in May after Barr posted a racist tweet. Her character was killed off in the first episode of “The Conners” through an accidental opioid overdose.

The way she was written out infuriated Barr and divided fans of the comedy about a blue-collar American family scrambling to get by.

“That is was done though an opioid overdose lent an unnecessary grim and morbid dimension to an otherwise happy family show,” Barr said in a statement.

Bruce Helford, one of “The Conners” executive producers, said writers had not wanted to write out the family’s fierce matriarch in a way that seemed “pathetic or debased.”

“I wanted a respectful sendoff for her,



Actress Roseanne Barr waves on her arrival to the 75th Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, California, U.S., January 7, 2018. (Reuters/Mario Anzuoni)

too: one that was relevant and could inspire discussion for the greater good about the American working class, whose authentic problems are often ignored by broadcast television,” Helford wrote in a column on Wednesday for The Hollywood Reporter.

Opioid addiction has become an epidemic in the United States, killing more than 49,000 people in 2017 according to official figures.

Conservative commentator Laura Ingraham did not agree. “How ABC treated Roseanne’s character is how blue collar voters feel treated by the Dems. Not worth saving,” Ingraham tweeted.

Twitter user @GreenBreny was among many who said they would not watch “The Conners” without Barr, writing, “The show will flop without you. What are they even thinking. YOU ARE THE REAL ROSE-ANNE!!!”

Others did not miss her.