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# Firing last shot

## Erdogan wants Khashoggi killers tried in Istanbul

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© Photo: Received



## Chabahar Transit Agreement signed

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iran, India and Afghanistan inked an agreement on transit of goods via Iran's southeastern port of Chabahar in Tehran on Tuesday, IRIB reported. The agreement was signed by Mohammad Rastad, the head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), T.S. Tirumurti, the secretary of economic

relations in India's Ministry of External Affairs, and Imamohammad Warymoch, Afghanistan's deputy minister of transport, during the first meeting of coordination council of agreement on the establishment of an international transport and transit corridor among Iran, India and Afghanistan (Chabahar Agreement). **→4**

## Terrorists planning suicide attacks on Arbaeen pilgrims detained

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Intelligence Minister Mahmoud Alavi announced on Tuesday that Iranian security forces had arrested three terrorist groups that intended to target Arbaeen pilgrims. "In the last few days, three terrorist groups were identified in Khuzestan Province and their members, who were 15 individuals, were arrested," Alavi said during a visit to the Shalamchah border

crossing, which connects Khuzestan Province to Basra in Iraq. Hundreds of thousands of Iranians flock to the Iraqi city of Kerbala each year for the ritual of Arbaeen, which marks the end of a 40-day mourning period for the grandson of the Prophet Mohammad, Imam Hussein. "The detainees confessed that they had planned to carry out suicide attacks to kill some of the pilgrims," the intelligence chief explained.

## First Iranian maritime accelerator launched

**TECHNOLOGY** **TEHRAN** — The first Iranian maritime accelerator was unveiled and launched during the opening ceremony of the 4th national exhibition of maritime technological achievements on Tuesday, ISNA reported. "Iran has already 50 knowledge-based companies in the field of maritime," an official with the vice

president for science and technology said. By establishment of this accelerator, the maritime market is developed, he added. A startup event on marine apps is also underway on the sidelines of the exhibition, which continues until October 25 at the Sacred Defense Garden Museum in Tehran. **→10**



**EDITORIAL**  
**Mohammad Ghaderi**  
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## Britain's Tricks over Brexit

The Brexit has long been a complicated puzzle in the political and economic equations of Europe and London. The talks between London and Brussels over British exit from the European Union have been halted. On the other hand, we are witnessing widespread protests against the withdrawal of Britain from the European Union (protests raised in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland).

Shortly before, whispers were heard that England wasn't to leave Europe at all. For example, Malta's Prime Minister Joseph Muscat, whom his country's government holds the rotating presidency of the Council of Ministers of the European Union, mentioned that Brexit won't eventually take place!

Previously, former British Prime Minister Tony his country's withdrawal from the EU, stated that it's possible that Britain won't leave the EU! This is while according to a referendum held in 2016, the British citizens voted for leaving the EU.

The European and British authorities seem to be designing a joint project to prevent the realization of Brexit. The British authorities are apparently insisting on the persuasion of the Brexit negotiations, while on the other hand, European officials hope that the decision of British citizens on leaving EU wouldn't come true! The British authorities' insistence and the denial of the European authorities are two big pieces of the same puzzle which its ultimate pictures Britain as part of the European Union.

Although Brexit is quite complicated by nature, many of the complications that have been highlighted by British and European authorities are not real. Indeed, if Britain's withdrawal from the EU and the related negotiations were to fail, then what would be the position of the official and general referendum in which was held in England last year?

Regarding the evidences, we come to conclude that the British and European authorities are preparing the public to change their decision to leave the EU. Well, it should not be forgotten that right now the conservatives are in power in England, and they have always been the main opponents of Britain's withdrawal from the European Union. **→7**

## Khashoggi case won't affect Saudi destructive regional policy: Logoglu

**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW**  
By Payman Yazdani

**TEHRAN** — A senior member of Turkey's CHP says at the end of the day Trump will express his satisfaction with Saudi Arabia over the Khashoggi case and there will be no changes to Saudi destabilizing regional policy led by Prince Bin Salman.

Brutal killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul created a wave of reactions against the young Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's suppressive policies.

Despite early denials, worldwide reactions finally forced the Saudi rulers to acknowledge the death of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, the critic of

the crown prince's policies.

Following the incident over the past two weeks there have been speculations about possible removal of Muhammad bin Salman from power.

To know more about the consequences of the issue, we reached out to Dr. Osman Faruk Logoglu, a senior member of Turkey's Republican People's Party (CHP).

Here is the full text of his interview:

■ How serious and strong do you see President Trump's reaction to savage death of Saudi Journalist Jamal Khashoggi. How should his reaction be to the issue in order to decrease criticizes and not let the issue affect the results of the upcoming congress election?

A: President Trump has wavered, making contradictory statements about the shifting Saudi

narrative on the Khashoggi affair. However, despite all his vacillation about the murder, Trump has been most consistent in his determination — and publicly expressed so — to preserve and protect his ties with the Saudi royal family. He is candid about his views, saying that he cannot afford to dispense with the 110 billion dollars' worth of arms sales to Riyadh and that Saudi Arabia (SA) is a valuable ally against Iran.

As the Saudi narrative comes to an end with perhaps a few more public announcements, basically claiming that those responsible for Khashoggi's death have all been identified and are to be punished, Trump at the end of the day will say "I am satisfied now"! To satisfy the critiques at home and to save face, there may be a few punitive sanctions of marginal value against SA. **→7**

## 'Religion can be important component of restructuring international relations theory'

**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW**  
By Javad Heirannia

**TEHRAN** — Nader Entessar, Professor Emeritus of Political Science from university of South Alabama says that "Religion and religious paradigms may contribute to our understanding of our complex world."

He adds that "Religion can be an important component of the restructuring of international relations theory, but it must remain an integral, and not a separate, part of the theory of international relations."

Following is the full text of the interview:

■ When did the religious issues became a matter of great importance in the theorizing of International Relations?

A: Before the end of the Cold War, only a handful of international relations theorists engaged in a serious discussion of links between such cultural factors as religion and international affairs. But even in the

immediate post-Cold War period, the treatment of cultural factors as main variables affecting global politics remained on the periphery of international relations theory in the West. It wasn't until the events of 9/11 and the subsequent emergence of 'the war on terrorism' that scholars began to analyze the impact of religion and religious movements on world politics. It took some time before serious scholarly publications on this topic began to be published. In 2011, Jack Snyder, a prominent political science professor at Columbia University and a noted international relations theorist, published an impressive edited book titled Religion and International Relations Theory in which the contributors to this volume analyzed how religion can alter the basic pattern of international relations. Similarly, in an article titled "Religion and International Theory" and published in the March 2011 issue of the European Journal of International Relations, scholars Nukhet Sandal and Patrick James analyzed if and under what conditions religion as a variable can be

integrated into mainstream international thinking. More specifically, they looked at three major traditions in international relation theory—classical realism, structural realism, and neoliberalism—to see how religion can contribute to our understanding of international relations within the framework of each of these theories. In short, although theoretical work on the interplay of religion and international affairs is receiving increasing attention in the discipline of international relations, there is still a long way to go before the mainline international relations theories can integrate religion into their body of work.

■ Some argue that if the theory of International Relations means a constitutive and critical theory, then bringing religion into International Relations is possible, but if the theory of International Relations is an explanatory-empirical theory, then theorizing religion in International Relations is not possible and, in fact, there is not theological positivism theory in International Relations. What is your opinion? **→7**



© Tehran Times/ Mohammadreza Abbasi

## Persepolis advance to first ever AFC Champions League final

**SPORTS** **TEHRAN** — Iran popular football team Persepolis advanced to the AFC Champions League final for the first time ever with a 1-1 draw with Al Sadd of Qatar on Tuesday. Persepolis had previously defeated Al Sadd twice and lost to the Qataris once in the current season. Baghdad Bounedjah right footed shot from the center of the box to the bottom right corner put the visiting into the lead in the 17th minute. **→15**



**ARTICLE**  
**Hanif Ghaffari**  
Political analyst

## UN and the puzzle of Cyprus

The "Cyprus file" is still open at the United Nations. UN officials have stated that the perspective of resolving the disputes over this issue remains positive. This is while Greek and Cypriot officials have said that reaching any agreement on this issue requires Turkey's cooperation.

On the other hand, Greece and Cyprus play an important role in the European Union, and Turkey's membership in the EU requires their positive vote. So as long as Turkey does not accompany Nicosia and Athens in resolving the Cyprus case, Turkey doesn't hold a chance to be part of the United Europe. Therefore, Cyprus's case can't be analyzed unilaterally in the international system.

As it has been noted, the two sides emphasized that the resumption of negotiations between Greece and Turkey on Cyprus reunification depends on Ankara. Greek Alternate Foreign Affairs Minister Giorgos Katrougalos told Sputnik in an interview that for the same reason, he can't predict when the talks would be renewed.

"I cannot be positive about [whether the talks will be resumed before the end of the year], it very much depends on how ready is the other side, Turkey, to proceed with that," Katrougalos said on the sidelines of the Rhodes Forum of the Dialogue of Civilizations Research Institute held on October 5-6.

The Greek alternate minister noted, nevertheless, that despite the lack of progress in the talks, there has been progress in the general understanding of the problem. **→7**



I.R. Iran Customs Administration (IRICA)  
Finance and Economic Affairs Ministry  
**International Public Tender**  
**Notice (One Stage)**

**"Purchase spare parts for X-Ray Truck Inspection System with model NUCTECH MB1215"**

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## MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



### Iranian, Omani diplomats hold talks in Tehran

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — A senior Omani diplomat held a meeting on Tuesday with Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in Tehran for talks on a range of bilateral and regional issues.

Deputy Foreign Minister of the Sultanate of Oman Mohammed bin Awadh Al Hassan and Zarif emphasized the need for closer political, economic and cultural cooperation between Tehran and Muscat.

The deputy foreign minister, who headed a diplomatic delegation to Tehran, also attended the 6th session of Iran-Oman strategic consultation committee, which was held on Monday and Tuesday in Tehran.



### Judiciary: 53 more arrested over foreign currency market

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Tehran Prosecutor Abbas Jafari Dolatabadi has said that 53 more people have been arrested over the past 10 days on charges of disrupting the foreign currency market, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

Pointing to one of the cases, the prosecutor said, "An individual has received \$240 billion at official exchange rates and sold the amount in the free market and bought a factory in Tabriz with its profits."

He also said all of the decisions made by the government over the past year regarding the foreign currency market has proven that they could be the root of economic problems.



### Majlis launches group on cyberspace

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Seventy-one members of the Majlis have formed a parliamentary group on cyberspace.

Ehsan Ghazizadeh Hashemi, a member of the Majlis Cultural Affairs Committee, declared the establishment of the group in a news conference after an open session of the Majlis on Tuesday.

"The cyberspace plays a crucial part in economic, social, political, and cultural areas, and even its impact was evident in recent currency crisis," he noted.

Ghazizadeh Hashemi added that this specialized parliamentary body has built strong ties with Supreme Council on Cyberspace and the cyber headquarters of the armed forces.

Regulations are particularly required on financial crimes such as cyber-theft and infiltration into banking networks, he suggested.



### Ex-ambassador predicts U.S. will remove MBS

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — U.S. prefers a calm and stable Saudi Arabia and therefore it will remove Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman from power, a former Iranian ambassador to Riyadh has said.

The mysterious case of the murder of Jamal Khoshoggi has cost the Saudis dearly and has forced them to make serious efforts to save face against the pressure of public opinion, Mehr quoted Ahmad Dastmalchian as saying.

Dastmalchian said Washington has two options, either to choose Mohammad bin Salman over a stable Saudi Arabia or vice versa, predicting that the U.S. would choose the latter.



### Iraq to ask U.S. for Iran sanctions waivers

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — The Iraqi government is planning to officially ask the U.S. to exempt Baghdad from sanctions over continued economic ties with the neighboring Iran, Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman Ahmed Mahjoub has said.

"Iraq may ask Washington to completely exclude it from the sanctions, as Jordan, for example, did in the early 90s, when an embargo was imposed on Iraq," Sputnik on Tuesday quoted Mahjoub as saying.

The official stated that the steps had been taken in this regard, adding that Baghdad hopes Washington would show understanding for Iraq's reliability on economic ties with Iran.



### 'Greater security co-op needed between Iran and Pakistan'

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — A senior Pakistani defense analyst says Iran must rest assured that Pakistan would take all the necessary measures to stop recurrence of terrorist attacks in common borders.

On October 16, terrorists kidnapped over ten Iranian forces, including local Basij forces and border guards, and took them to Pakistan. The incident happened near the Mirjaveh border post.

In an interview with IRNA published on Tuesday, retired Lieutenant General Amjad Shoaib said that there should be greater security cooperation and understanding between Iran and Pakistan to resolve such issues.

# Larijani says 'practical actions' needed to save nuclear deal

## 'MKO presence in France has created negative mentality in Iran'

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani said on Tuesday that the European Union has been backing the nuclear deal politically but what is of utmost importance is "practical actions" by the bloc to keep the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Larijani made the remarks during a meeting in Tehran with French Senator Philippe Bonnecarrere, who heads the France-Iran friendship group in the upper house of parliament.

The parliament speaker said Iran has been committed to its obligations and Europe must take practical steps to preserve the JCPOA.

Larijani also said that presence of the Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) in France has caused a "negative mentality" of the French among the Iranians.

Bonnecarrere said that France does not support the MKO.

The MKO, who sided with Saddam Hussein during Iraq's war against Iran in the 1980s, was removed from the list of terrorist organizations by the European Union and the United States



French Senator Philippe Bonnecarrere (L) shakes hands with Iranian Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani

in 2009 and 2012 respectively.

France hosts annual gathering of the MKO. Maryam Rajavi, who does not tolerate any criticism within her group, has been mock-

ingly portraying herself as the leader of the opposition outside Iran.

■ **'France fully backs JCPOA'**  
Senator Bonnecarrere also said that

France will make any effort to preserve the JCPOA.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran's approach towards the JCPOA has portrayed a good image of the country in the international arena and France will use all of its possibilities to keep the agreement," he said.

Bonnecarrere added that France is determined to expand ties and interaction with Iran.

U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew Washington from the nuclear agreement in May and reintroduced sanctions on Iran in August. The second wave of sanctions, which targets Iran's oil exports and central bank, is due to start in early November.

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

Mogherini's announcement came after a meeting with foreign ministers from Britain, France, Germany, Russia, China, and Iran on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

## Mutual respect, not mutual trust, needed for dialogue, Zarif says of U.S.

### Foreign minister says Iran will overcome sanctions

Iran is open to dialogue with the United States without preconditions, but such talks remain elusive so long as Washington fails to show Tehran respect, its Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Monday.

"We do not have preconditions, but we can say that what is required for dialogue is mutual respect, not mutual confidence," Zarif said in an interview with Kyodo News.

"Usually people (who) engage in negotiation do not necessarily have trust and confidence in each other, but it requires mutual respect," he added.

Zarif said the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump could smoothen the way for dialogue by adhering to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal that it "illegally" pulled out of earlier this year, and by halting its unilateral sanctions imposed since then -- both things that he said Washington is legally obligated to do.

Under the deal struck with six major powers -- Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States -- Iran agreed

to curb its nuclear activities in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

On May 8, Trump withdrew the United States from the accord, struck under his predecessor Barack Obama, and pledged "the highest level of economic sanction" against Iran.

After U.S. withdrawal, Iran has opted to stay in deal, at least for now, and cooperate with Europe to salvage it.

Zarif said if a new administration in Washington can suddenly abandon the fruit of two-and-a-half years of intensive negotiations, it brings into question whether the United States can be relied on to implement other international agreements reached with it.

"The United States has failed to respect its

legal obligations, its treaty obligations," he said. "Unfortunately, the way that the United States has acted...has created conditions that would basically undermine the utility of negotiation."

On whether an Iranian withdrawal remains on the table as an option, Zarif said Tehran must determine for itself whether the economic and political benefits of staying in the deal exceed the costs.

"We will make (that) decision based on our own evaluation of (our) national security and interests," he said. "We are not working against any deadline."

Referring to efforts by Britain, France and Germany to salvage the deal through a mechanism to ensure its oil exports and banking transactions, the foreign minister

said "serious measures" must be taken in that regard before Nov. 5.

That is the date set by the United States for implementation of sanctions targeting Iran's oil exports, critical to its economy.

Zarif said the three European countries that signed the deal have made commitments and proposals, but some technical details still need to be worked out, and unfortunately there has been "U.S. massive illegal interference" in the process.

"For the time being, we are selling our oil (and) we are able to maintain our economy," he said.

Zarif expressed confidence that Iran will be able to overcome sanctions imposed by the United States and its allies, considering that "many countries have shown readiness to do business with Iran."

Besides the three European countries, other countries that attach great importance to the nuclear deal, including Russia, China and Japan, "are ready to implement their part."

(Source: Kyodo News)

## Zarif says "U.S. massive illegal interference" has tried to hamper EU3 efforts to make up for withdrawal from nuclear deal.

## Islamabad firm to rescue abducted Iranian soldiers: ambassador

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Pakistan's Ambassador to Tehran, Rifat Masood, said on Tuesday that Islamabad is determined to rescue Iranian border guards from kidnappers.

"The Pakistani military and government officials are making efforts in this respect and hopefully the Iranian kidnapped guards will be found," she told IRNA.

On October 15, the Jaish ul-Adl terrorist group kidnapped 12 Iranian border guards at the Mirjaveh border post in Sistan-Baluchestan province and took them to Pakistan.

The security personnel were unconscious when they were kidnapped. According to the IRGC, the infiltrators had helped with the abduction of the military staff to Pakistan.

The border guards were from local Basij forces, policemen and the IRGC personnel.

The IRGC Ground Force Commander, Brigadier General Mohammad Pakpour, visited Pakistan on Monday to pursue the



issue.

Shahriar Heydari, the director general of the Interior Ministry department for border affairs, announced on Monday that the border guards are in full health.

"The Pakistani government is determined to cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran in this respect," he said.

The Pakistani Foreign Ministry issued a statement on Tuesday announcing readiness to help liberate the border guards.

## U.S. has faced failure in nuclear deal, Rouhani says

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Tuesday that the U.S. has faced failure in the issue of the 2015 nuclear deal.

U.S. President Donald Trump's defeat at the UN Security Council shows that Iran's foreign policy has "integrity" and enjoys "precise planning", he said during a meeting with researchers and university professors of social sciences.

He also noted that Iran will pass all the problems through unity and integrity.

Rouhani said in September that the U.S. achieved nothing at the UN General Assembly and UN Security Council's meetings.

The U.S. also was isolated at the UN Security Council's meeting, because the member states supported the 2015 nuclear deal, the president said.

Trump chaired the UN Security Council's meeting in September and much of his speech was spent criticizing Iran. However, all the



countries sitting on the council -- permanent and temporary members - backed the nuclear agreement and condemned the U.S. pullout from the international deal backed by the UN Security Council resolution 2231.

"The meeting turned into a meeting to support the JCPOA and Trump was left alone which was a second isolation for the U.S.," Rouhani remarked.

"Today, the U.S. is in a historic political isolation," the president said at the time.

## Rescue of kidnapped border guards the first test for Imran Khan: Iran

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Foreign Minister spokesman Bahram Qassemi has said a rescue of the abducted Iranian border guards could be the first test for Pakistan's newly-elected Prime Minister Imran Khan regarding Tehran-Islamabad ties.

In an interview with ILNA published on Tuesday, Qassemi said Tehran expects the new Pakistani government to successfully deal with the incident and take positive measures toward Iran, which has been Islamabad's "good neighbor".

"We hope the consultations and collaborations between Iran and Pakistan would yield the desired results as soon as possible, while all bodies in Iran are trying their best

to have the abducted soldiers returned to their families," he asserted.

On October 15, the Jaish ul-Adl terrorist group kidnapped 12 Iranian border guards at the Mirjaveh border post in Sistan-Baluchestan province and transferred them to Pakistan.

The spokesman said immediately after the tragic event, the Foreign Ministry voiced its concerns to the Pakistani ambassador to Tehran and called on Islamabad to take serious measures about the issue.

Qassemi also referred to Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif's visit to Islamabad last year, saying, "During the trip, several committees were set up on various topics,

including border issues, in order to lay the ground for boosting the security of the common borders through bilateral cooperation."

"Eventually, Iran and Pakistan were largely successful in this regard, and relative calm was restored until this recent incident happened," he added.

He also defended the Foreign Ministry against accusations of incompetence in dealing with the incident, saying, "Such criticisms are unfair, because the Foreign Ministry has used all the means at its disposal, which are nothing but diplomatic and political measures in Tehran and Islamabad to resolve the issue."

## FM believes Europeans have done well to keep nuclear deal: MP

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif believes that Europeans have done well in resisting the U.S. and preserving the 2015 nuclear deal, spokesman for the Parliament presiding board told reporters on Tuesday.

Behrouz Nemati said Zarif told the closed session of parliament that despite pressure by the U.S. and Israel, Europeans have stood

by Iran.

Nemati also cited Zarif as saying it is an "illusion" that Iran will collapse under pressure.

In May Donald Trump withdrew Washington from the nuclear agreement, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and reintroduced sanctions on Iran in August. The second wave of sanctions, which targets Iran's oil exports and central bank, is due to start in early November.

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

Mogherini's announcement came after a meeting with foreign ministers from Britain, France, Germany, Russia, China, and Iran on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.





# Khashoggi's body parts 'found in well at Saudi consul general's home in Istanbul'

## Saudi to hold to account all those behind Khashoggi killing

Parts of murdered journalist Jamal Khashoggi's body have been found at the Saudi consul general's home in Istanbul, a Turkish opposition leader claims.

Dogu Perincek, leader of Turkey's Rodina party, claimed in an interview that body parts were discovered in a well in the garden, Haberler reported.

Another report in Turkey claimed remains were found at the home of the Saudi consul general.

Sky News said its sources revealed the writer's body had been "cut up" and his face "disfigured", with remains found in the garden of the Saudi consul general's home.

They emerged before Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, promising to reveal the "naked truth" behind the killing, told lawmakers on Tuesday that a plot to murder Khashoggi began days in advance, and his body was still missing.

It's emerged this lunchtime that Saudi king Salman received family members of murdered journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Riyadh, state news agency SPA reported.

They included his son, Salah bin Jamal Khashoggi, and the meeting was also attended by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, SPA said.

Earlier Erdogan said 15 Saudi nationals, "intelligence, security and forensic" officials including generals, entered the consulate the day of the murder and emerged hours later before boarding flights back to Riyadh.

The hard drive for the consulate's CCTV system was removed just hours before the "gruesome" murder, the president added.

Consular officials went on a "mission" to the Belgrade Forest and the city of Yalova the day before the killing, Erdogan said, referring to sites that are being searched.

He said Khashoggi was the victim of a "savage" and "planned" murder, and there can be no cover up, as he called on Saudi Arabia to reveal more details, including where Mr Khashoggi's body is. He said he doesn't question the honesty of Saudi King Salman, but he does not accept the kingdom's explanation that the journalist was killed by a "rogue" team.

The president called for an independent commission to probe the killing, and said criminal trials should be held in Istanbul.

Afterwards, the Saudi cabinet said the kingdom will hold to account those responsible for the killing and those who failed in their duties, whoever they are.

Earlier, it was claimed that Khashoggi's severed fingers were taken back to Saudi Arabia and presented to the kingdom's ruling crown prince after the murder.

A hit squad that assassinated the Washington Post columnist chopped off his fingers when he was still alive and kept them as a macabre trophy, according to reports.

Dissident Khashoggi's chopped-off digits were put in a bag and flown to Riyadh on a private jet as proof of the mission's success, it was said.

Khashoggi, 59, was tortured and murdered by a hit squad, known as the Firqat el-Nemr, or Tiger Squad, that operates under the guidance and supervision of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS), the Middle East Eye claimed.

It said the team of 50 highly skilled intelligence and military operatives was formed more than a year ago and is well-known to foreign intelligence services.



When the killers returned to Riyadh, it is claimed, they brought Khashoggi's fingers with them and presented them to the young heir to the Saudi throne, the Eye reported.

A source told the publication: "MBS always said that he will cut off the fingers of every writer who criticizes him."

Sources also told the Eye that Prince Mohammed's bodyguard, intelligence officer Maher Abdulaziz Mutrib, is alleged to have taken part of the journalist's body out of Turkey in a large bag.

He left on a private jet the day of the murder and his bags were not checked as the plane left Ataturk airport, it was reported.

Mutrib, a former diplomat once posted to Saudi Arabia's embassy in London, is alleged to have placed seven calls to the crown prince's private office the day of the murder.

Khashoggi had written a number of articles critical of Saudi Arabia for the Middle East Eye under an anonymous byline because he feared for his life. Until his death, he wrote under his own name in the Washington Post.

The 33-year-old crown prince allegedly called Mr Khashoggi, a Saudi national who had been living near Washington, DC, shortly before the murder in a bid to convince him to return to the Middle Eastern country.

But the journalist refused over fears he would be killed, it was reported.

Saudi officials have claimed that Prince Mohammed had no knowledge of the operation and did not order it. The country has denied claims that the killing was planned.

Months before the murder, Mr Khashoggi met with the crown prince's brother, Prince Khalid bin Salman, the Saudi ambassador to the U.S., in what was described as a friendly meeting at the Saudi Embassy in Washington, sources told NBC News.

Khashoggi was visiting on a routine consular matter when he was summoned to Prince Khalid's top-floor office, where

the pair spent roughly half an hour together in late 2017 or early 2018, it was reported.

Prince Khalid was among the Saudi officials who had been contacting Khashoggi for at least a year in a bid to persuade him to return, claiming he would be given a warm return and a high-level job, the sources said.

But Mr Khashoggi feared he was being lured into a trap and would be imprisoned or worse, and decided not to return, two friends told NBC News.

Reports claim Saud al-Qahtani, a top aide to Mohammed bin Salman, oversaw the torture and murder by giving orders over Skype.

He allegedly ordered the operatives to bring him "the head of the dog".

Khashoggi was killed at Saudi Arabia's consulate in Istanbul on October 2 after he arrived to get documents for his upcoming marriage.

His Turkish fiancée, Hatice Cengiz, was waiting for him outside and reported him missing after he failed to emerge.

It is claimed that he was murdered and dismembered, and his body parts were removed from the building as part of a cover-up before the hit squad left the country on private jets.

Sources have told the Middle East Eye that Khashoggi was killed by an injection of drugs, likely morphine, after being tortured.

Turkish authorities have been searching a farm and a number of other sites, including a holiday home allegedly belonging to one of the suspects, for the journalist's remains.

In his address, Erdogan confirmed reports that one of the suspected killers left the consulate in Mr Khashoggi's clothes to make it look like he was still alive and he had left on his own.

(Source: Mirror)

## Kremlin says U.S. plan to quit flawed nuclear pact is dangerous

The Kremlin said on Tuesday that a landmark nuclear arms treaty Washington says it wants to quit had its weak points, but that the U.S. approach of talking about leaving it without proposing a replacement was dangerous.

President Vladimir Putin was due to discuss the matter in Moscow later on Tuesday with U.S. President Donald Trump's national security advisor, John Bolton.

Bolton visited Moscow a day after Russia said it would be forced to respond in kind to restore the military balance with the United States if Trump followed through on his threat to quit the treaty and began developing new missiles. Signed by then-U.S. President Ronald

Reagan and reformist Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in 1987, the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty required elimination of all short- and intermediate-range land-based nuclear and conventional missiles held by both countries in Europe.

Its demise could raise the prospect of a new arms race, and Gorbachev, now 87, has warned that unraveling it could have catastrophic consequences.

Bolton has said he thinks the treaty is outdated because it binds only Russia and the United States and does not cover countries such as China, Iran and North Korea which he says remain free to make intermediate-range

ballistic missiles and cruise missiles.

"We have this very unusual circumstance where the United States and Russia are in a bilateral treaty, whereas other countries in the world are not bound by it," Bolton told the Ekho Moskvyy radio station on Monday.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said he expected Bolton to explain the U.S. stance to Putin. "Of course there are weak points (in the treaty), but tearing up the agreement without plans for anything new is what we don't welcome," Peskov told reporters on a conference call. "To first reject the document and then (talk of) ephemeral possibilities to conclude a new one is a dangerous stance."

Russia and the United States have long accused each other of violating the terms of the treaty, something they both deny.

Trump's withdrawal announcement is causing concern among German lawmakers, who are keenly aware that Berlin would be within strike-range of any intermediate-range ballistic missiles deployed in Russia's Kaliningrad exclave on the Baltic Sea.

Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said on Tuesday that Germany would seek NATO's help to maintain the treaty between Russia and the United States, and was ready to take action to force Moscow to comply with the pact.

(Source: Reuters)

## China slams Trump nuclear treaty 'blackmail'

China warned Tuesday it would "never accept any form of blackmail" after U.S. President Donald Trump said his decision to withdraw from a nuclear pact with Russia was also linked to Beijing's arsenal.

China is not a signatory to the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF), which the United States signed with the then-Soviet Union in the 1980s, but Trump said Monday that Beijing should be included in the accord.

"Now that the United States want to unilaterally withdraw from the treaty, they start to inappropriately speak about other countries," Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a regular press briefing.

"This approach of shifting the blame on others is utterly unjustifiable and unreasonable," Hua said.

She said China had always pursued a defensive national defense policy.

"We will never accept any form of blackmail," Hua said.

The landmark treaty was signed by Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev and led to nearly 2,700 short- and medium-range missiles being eliminated.

It put an end to a mini-arms race in the 1980s triggered by the Soviet Union's deployment of SS-20 nuclear missiles targeting Western European capitals.

"Until people come to their senses, we will build it up," Trump told reporters Monday at the White House, referring to the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

"It's a threat to whoever you want. And it includes China. And it includes Russia. And it includes anybody else that wants to play that game," he said, adding that China "should be included in the agreement."

(Source: AFP)

## Canada ready to halt \$13bn arms deal with Saudi Arabia: PM

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says Ottawa is ready to halt a \$13 billion arms deal with Riyadh if it concludes the weapons have been misused.

"We strongly demand and expect that Canadian exports are used in a way that fully respects human rights," Trudeau said in the Parliament on Monday.

"We have frozen export permits before when we had concerns about their potential misuse and we will not hesitate to do so again," he added.

Canada has been exporting arms to Saudi Arabia based on a 2014 contract, which is worth up to \$13 billion. The contract, won by the Canadian unit of U.S. weapons maker General Dynamics Corp, allows Canada to supply Saudis with light-armored vehicles.

Trudeau's comments on halting the huge arms deal came amid increasing pressure to punish Riyadh for the killing of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul.

The Canadian PM condemned the journalist's death and said Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland had been talking to allies to discuss the next steps.

Back on Saturday, Freeland had noted that the Saudi explanations on the death of Khashoggi at its consulate in Istanbul lacked credibility and consistency.

"There are very important questions about the entire relationship with Saudi Arabia that need to be asked," she told reporters on Monday.

The Khashoggi case has fanned the flames of a dispute between Saudi Arabia and Canada, which escalated to new levels after Riyadh abruptly cut ties with Ottawa over its criticism of the Saudi crackdown on dissent.

The dispute broke out in August after the Canadian Embassy in Riyadh tweeted that it was "gravely concerned" over a spike in the arrests of human rights campaigners in the kingdom, including gender rights activist Samar Badawi, and called on "Saudi authorities to immediately release them and all other peaceful #humanrights activists."

Following the move, Saudi Arabia expelled the Canadian ambassador and recalled its envoy after severing business ties with Ottawa over claims of interference in its internal affairs.

(Source: Press TV)

## Turkey says it will not tolerate shift in Greek maritime border

Turkey warned Greece Tuesday it would not tolerate a shift in the Greek maritime border, a few days after Athens said it planned to extend its territorial waters to 19 km to the west of the country.

Territorial waters are a sensitive issue between the two neighbors, who are separated by the Aegean Sea. Turkey and Greece have been at odds over their respective continental shelves for decades. Turkey has previously warned it could not preclude military action to defend its interests.

Former Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Kotzias, who resigned last week, said Saturday that Athens planned to extend its territorial waters in the Ionian Sea, which flanks the west coast of the country. The planned measure would not affect the Aegean region, off Greece's eastern and southern coasts.

Turkey's foreign ministry, however, said that it had noted statements from Athens of plans for the gradual expansion of Greek territorial waters.

"It is not possible to tolerate steps where there is no bilateral agreement on the Aegean where the two countries have mutual shores," Foreign Ministry spokesman Hami Aksoy said in a statement.

The statement recalled a 1995 declaration of Turkey's parliament which had authorized action, not excluding military action, to safeguard Turkish



interests.

"[Parliament's] declaration...dated 8 June 1995 has the necessary political warning in this context and it still maintains its validity today," the statement added.

That view had been conveyed to Greece's ambassador in Turkey, it said.

As a signatory to the U.N. Convention of the Law of the Sea, Greece has said it can extend its territorial waters to 19 km from its coast from nine kilometers at present, though it has not sought to do so in waters stretching towards Turkey.

Greece and Turkey are at loggerheads over matters ranging from sea boundaries to air space jurisdiction and the ethnically-divided eastern Mediterranean island of Cyprus.

The long frozen Cypriot conflict has

come into sharper focus after the discovery of natural gas in the sea around Cyprus, and attempts by its internationally-recognized government to license oil majors for exploration. Verbal sparring over jurisdiction is common; last week, Turkey accused Greece of harassing a Turkish research vessel in the area. Greece denied this.

The leaders of the two Cypriot sides, Greek Cypriot Nicos Anastasiades and Turkish Cypriot Mustafa Akinci, are due to have talks in Nicosia, Cyprus's partitioned capital, on Oct. 26.

It will be their second meeting since the collapse in July 2017 of negotiations to end a conflict dating to Turkey's 1974 occupation of northern Cyprus in response to a brief Greek-inspired military coup.

(Source: Reuters)

Second Announcement

IN THE NAME OF GOD

**International Public Tender Notice (One Stage)**  
**"Purchase spare parts for X-Ray Truck Inspection System**  
**with model NUCTECH MB1215 "**



I.R Iran Customs Administration (IRICA)  
Finance and Economic Affairs Ministry

Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) intends to purchase spare parts for X-Ray Truck Inspection System with model NUCTECH MB1215 through international Public tender (One stage) according to the following conditions.

Therefore, all eligible Iranian or foreign company agencies are requested to refer to

mentioned below address for obtain the tender documents:

1) **Tender Participation:** International Public Tender Notice (One Stage)

2) The amount of Participation Guarantee Bank shall be either 8 '000'000'000Iranian Rials or 160'000 Euros

3) **Tender Participation Guarantee:** As a Bank Guarantee issued by one of the Iranian

banks. (acc, edited by Central Bank of I.R.I) or be deposited to account No.4001001106370306 in the name of IRICA at the Central bank of I.R.I and submit the receipt

4) **Deadline for obtaining tender documents:** Oct22,2018-Oct31,2018

5) **The address for obtaining tender documents and submitting bid envelopes:** Tenders & Contracts Bureau, Room No.109, Development & Equipment Dept. 1st floor Iran Customs Administration Bldg. Next to Nasser Alley, upper than Valiasr Sq. Tehran, Iran.

6) **Deadline for submitting bids:** Dec1,2018

7) **Send packets of bids:** to the address mentioned in article5

8) **Opening bid envelopes:** Dec2,2018

Further information would be available at [www.irica.gov.ir](http://www.irica.gov.ir) also "National Database Portal of Iran Tenders Information" or Tel: +98 21 82992254

Development and Equipment Dept  
of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Tendency & Contracts Bureau



STOCK MARKET	
TEDPIX	185318.7
IFX	2105.2

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	\$67.34/b
Brent	\$77.54/b
OPEC Basket	\$78.68/b
Gold	\$1,234.00/oz
Silver	\$14.80/oz
Platinum	\$834.75/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

## NEWS IN BRIEF



### Tehran hosting 2 intl. exhibitions

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — The 5th International Exhibition of Bag, Footwear, Leather and Related Industries (MPEX 2018) and the 17th International Exhibition of Installation, Heating, Cooling, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration (IHE 2018) became operational at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds on Tuesday, IRIB reported.

As reported, some 90 Iranian and foreign companies from countries like Turkey, India and China are taking part in MPEX 2018 to showcase their latest achievements and products in leather, bag and footwear industry.

As for the IHE 2018, over 439 companies are participating in the event of which 76 are from different foreign countries.

Germany, Turkey, Finland, China, the United Kingdom, Poland, South Korea, Malaysia, France, India, Spain and Italy are among the countries participating in IHE 2018 and along with Iranian companies, the exhibitors are showcasing their latest products and services.

Both international events will wrap up on Friday.

## 598MW of new renewable power plants to go on stream by June 2019

**ENERGY** **TEHRAN** — Iran's Energy Ministry plans to add 598 megawatts (MW) of new renewable power plants to the country's current 650MW by the beginning of Iranian calendar's next summer (June 21, 2019), IRNA reported on Tuesday.



As planned, 102.4 megawatts capacity of wind power plants, 437 megawatts of solar power plants, 14.4 megawatts of biomass plants, 32.6 megawatts of small hydroelectric power plants, as well as 11.4 megawatts of waste heat recovery plants will be constructed within the mentioned time span, adding 598 megawatts of new capacity to the country's current power generation capacity.

Earlier this month, Iran's Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian said the country's renewable capacity is going to reach 1100MW by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2019).

Of the country's current active renewable power plants 65 units are big-scale power plants while over 2000 small-scale ones comprise the rest.

Overall, in the next five years, Iran is aiming for a 5,000 MW increase in renewable capacity to meet growing domestic demand and expand its presence in the regional electricity market.

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

## Italy ready to adjust budget if markets disapprove: Il Messaggero

Italy's coalition government is prepared to adjust its contested 2019 budget should markets react negatively and the spread between 10-year government bond yields and German yields spike, the newspaper Il Messaggero reported on Tuesday.

On Monday, the government said it would stick to its plans, though acknowledging that its budget, which would raise next year's deficit to 2.4 percent of gross domestic product, was not in line with the EU Stability and Growth Pact.

The newspaper did not say whether the alternative budget would lower the deficit to less than 2.4 percent of GDP. It did say the alternative would not entail an exit from the euro.

The European Commission had already sent Rome a warning letter about the budget last week, the first formal step that could lead to Brussels rejecting the measures and imposing fines. The Commission is expected to decide its next step on Tuesday.

(Source: Reuters)

# Chabahar Transit Agreement signed

## Iran, India, Afghanistan to start development work within two weeks

**1 →** Iran, India and Afghanistan signed a trilateral transit agreement in Tehran in May 2016, which allows the three countries open new routes to connect among themselves via converting Chabahar Port into a transit hub bypassing Pakistan.

Accordingly, through Chabahar Port India can bypass Pakistan and transport goods to Afghanistan and Central Asia, while Afghanistan can get linked to India via sea.

The document was signed in the presence of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani.

At the time, Modi announced that New Delhi would be investing \$500 million in the strategic port.

Then during the visit of the Iranian president to India in mid-February, the lease contract for Shahid Beheshti Port-Phase 1 of Chabahar was signed between Iran's PMO and India's Ports Global Limited (IPGL).

Addressing the reporters and journalists on the sidelines of the first meeting of coordination council of agreement, Rastad announced that IPGL has made some investment for installation of equipment in the port and will start the task of equipping and operating in Chabahar by the next two weeks.

He also said that the next meeting of the coordination council of Chabahar Agreement will be held by the next two months.

Implementing the trilateral agreement, the three countries' potential will be used for exports to the Central Asian countries, the PMO head noted.

"We are seeking more share of India's cargo transport via Chabahar in a bid to promote competitive advantage of this port in the north-south corridor," Rastad underscored.

### 'A trilateral transport union necessary'

Addressing the Tuesday gathering, PMO Head Mohammad Rastad said establishment of a regional transport union between Iran, India and Afghanistan is necessary for the implementation of Chabahar Agreement and it will pave the way for development of multilateral transit in the region.

He mentioned multilateral investment making and contribution to development of transit infrastructures in the region and supporting private sector for the expansion of cooperation as some major suggestions by Iran for the



The first meeting of coordination council of agreement on the establishment of an international transport and transit corridor among Iran, India and Afghanistan (Chabahar Agreement) was held in Tehran on Tuesday.

better implementation of Chabahar Agreement.

Reducing transit tariffs and setting the same insurance and banking regulations for the tree parties will help economic and transit development in the three regional countries, the official opined.

### 'Chabahar is transit hub of region'

Addressing the same gathering, T.S. Tirumurti, the secretary of economic relations in India's Ministry of External Affairs, said Chabahar is the transit hub of region.

Chabahar Port is in the road that links India to Central Asia; so we can make this port a hub of our transit activities and we are eagerly waiting for the inauguration of Chabahar-Zahedan and Khaf-Herat railway projects.

Trilateral transit cooperation will lead to flourishing the region, he noted and said that India believes that Iran's suggestions for facilitating and improving transit via Chabahar are acceptable and can be carried out.

At the end of his speech, the Indian official announced his country's full commitment to the Chabahar Agreement.

Answering the reporters on the sidelines of the event, he referred to the strategic status of Chabahar and said: "Through development of railways, we can transit millions of tons of commodities from Mumbai to Chabahar every year and then from this port to the Central Asian countries and European ones via railways."

### 'Chabahar a priority for Afghanistan'

Afghanistan's Deputy Minister of Transport Imam-mohammad Warymoch, for his part, said promotion of transit via Chabahar Port is a priority for his country and it requires cooperation and investment making by Iran, India and Afghanistan.

"We see development projects in this due necessary and our focus is on cooperation for implementing them", he underlined.

Everybody knows that economic cooperation brings sustainable development for the region and it is why Afghanistan has brought regional economic cooperation under the spotlight over the past 16 years, the Afghan official noted.

## Nominated fin. min. briefs private sector on future programs

### ECONOMY

**TEHRAN** — In a meeting with members of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), President Hassan Rouhani's nominated Minister of Economy and Finance Farhad Dejjasand elaborated his future plans for the ministry.

Naming establishment of "House of Economists" as one of his main targets,

Dejjasand underlined that on the way to reach stable economic conditions, government's interference in the economic affairs should be minimized and it should become smaller and swift.

"In case of forming an electronic market and an intelligent economy, it is possible to create a competitive domestic market, which is also transparent", he added.

Underlining the role of private sector in improving domestic production and exports of non-oil products, the probable future finance minister vowed that he will order formation of a council for dialogue between the private sector and the government.

Dejjasand also expressed his tendency towards increasing the government's tax income instead of relying on oil revenues.

Regarding the old and unpractical structure of Iranian banking system, Dejjasand pointed to banking reformations as one of his main targets.

As reported, Mohammad Shariatmadari, the nominated minister of cooperatives, labor, and social welfare; and Reza Rahmani, the nominated minister of industry, mining and trade were also present in this meeting.

Second Announcement

IN THE NAME OF GOD

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING

EXTENSION OF INTERNATIONAL TENDER NO. 97-05/161

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

**Subject of Two-Stage Tender:**  
Technical Proposal Document for Preparation, Installation and Setting up of LV Panels (Low Voltage Power Panels) (Tehran IRIB Center) according to the tender documents

**Deadline of Receiving Documents:**  
As of publishing second announcement of advertisement latest by the business hour dated on **Monday October 29, 2018.**

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

**Type and Amount of Guarantee for Participating in Tender:**  
The amount of **USD 54,229** which should be in the form of extendable bank guarantee

**Time and Place of Delivering Priced Bid:**  
The sealed A, B & C packages/envelopes should be submitted within one main envelope marked with tender number no later than **15 p.m. on Wednesday November 28, 2018** and submitted to the Secretariat of Commission of Tenders.

**Time and Place of Opening Envelopes**  
The date of opening envelopes A&B is at **8:30 a.m. on Sunday December 02, 2018** in the office of Vice President of IRIB Planning and Financial Resources and opening of envelope C will be after technical evaluation.  
It should be noted that bidders should hold license from the authorized bodies.

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

Public Relations Dept. of IRIB

(Source: Reuters)



# Oil falls as Saudi Arabia reassures market on supply

Oil prices fell on Tuesday after Saudi Arabia said it could supply more crude quickly if needed, reassuring investors ahead of U.S. sanctions on Iran's crude exports that start next month.

Benchmark Brent crude oil fell \$1.51 a barrel to a low of \$78.32, down 1.9 percent and below its 50-day moving average for the first time in two months, before recovering a little to around \$78.35 by 1050 GMT.

U.S. light crude dropped \$1.27 a barrel to a low of \$68.09 and then recovered to trade around \$68.26, down \$1.10.

U.S. sanctions on Iranian oil begin on Nov. 4 and Washington has said it wants to stop all of Tehran's fuel exports, but other oil producers are pumping more to fill any supply gaps.

Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih told a conference in Riyadh on Tuesday the oil market was in a "good place" and he hoped oil producers would sign a deal in December to extend cooperation to monitor and stabilize the market.

"We will decide if there are any disruptions from supply, especially with the Iran sanctions looming," Falih said. "Then we will continue with the mindset we have now, which is to



meet any demand that materializes to ensure customers are satisfied."

Falih said he would not rule out the possibility that Saudi Arabia would produce between 1 and 2 million barrels per day (bpd) more than current levels in future.

The chief executive of Saudi Aramco, Amin Nasser, said it would take the kingdom only three months to reach its maximum production capacity of 12 million bpd if needed.

The statements followed concerns that Saudi Arabia might cut crude supply in retaliation

for potential sanctions over the Khashoggi killing. Falih said on Monday there was no intention of doing that.

Economist Intelligence Unit energy analyst Peter Kiernan said it would be self-defeating for Saudi Arabia to cut oil supply, as it would risk losing market share to other exporters while losing its reputation as a stable player in the market.

Despite this, Sukrit Vijayakar, director of energy consultancy Trifecta, said markets were wary of the impact of U.S. sanctions on Iran's oil sector, estimating sanctions could impact up to 1.5 million barrels per day of supply.

South Korea's crude imports from Iran fell to zero in September, data from state-run Korea National Oil Corp showed on Tuesday.

U.S. crude oil production has climbed by almost a third since mid-2016 to around 11 million barrels per day, and rising drilling activity points to further increases.

Investors have been curbing their exposure to oil markets by shutting long positions in crude futures, with fund managers cutting their combined positions by 187 million barrels in the last three weeks, according to exchange and regulatory data.

(Source: Reuters)

## China's LNG import tariff s could hinder U.S. projects: LNG Canada

LNG Canada challenged competing U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects on Monday, saying many could end up "dead in the water" as long as China keeps its tariff on U.S. imports of the fuel as part of the trade war between the countries.

China in September announced a 10 percent tariff on U.S. LNG imports as part of an escalating trade war between the world's two biggest economies.

This month, Royal Dutch Shell said it received a final investment decision (FID) for its US\$31 billion LNG Canada project, which is expected to start exporting in 2025.

Speaking at an industry event in Nagoya on Monday, LNG Canada Chief Executive Andy Calitz said the FID "was irrespective" of Chinese tariffs on U.S. LNG, but added such measures would make U.S. LNG less competitive.

"The world has become so competitive that if we are to face a 10 percent surcharge tariff on LNG, then as far as I'm concerned, you're dead in the water. So I'm very happy to be in Canada," he told Reuters.

Current U.S. LNG exports remain competitive despite the 10 percent surcharge into China, as U.S. natural

gas is cheap thanks to booming shale output, allowing exporters to offer LNG at competitive rates.

Once operational, LNG Canada will have the advantage of being closer to Asia's North Asian consumer hubs than U.S. facilities, saving freight costs, while also avoiding fees for using the Panama Canal that current U.S. LNG exporters must pay since they are located on the Gulf of Mexico.

Several U.S. projects are still vying for financing and they must compete with rising output elsewhere, including from top producers Australia and Qatar.

Being competitive in China is key as it is the world's fastest growing LNG import market.

Calitz said China would overtake Japan as the world's biggest LNG importer "within the next 24 months."

China's natural gas consumption in 2017 rose 14.8 percent from the previous year to 238.6 billion cubic meters, and is expected to reach 270 billion cubic meters in 2018 and 320 billion cubic meters in 2020, Guo Zhi, general economist at China's National Energy Administration, said at the event.

(Source: Financial Post)

## India will miss its target of 175 gigawatts solar and wind by 2022

India is going to fall short of its ambitious 2022 renewable energy target.

But even getting three-quarters of the way there would be a noteworthy achievement, say analysts at Wood Mackenzie Power & Renewables.

India is aiming to install 100 gigawatts of solar and 75 gigawatts of wind by 2022. Despite significant cost reductions in both technologies and strong government support in the country, Wood Mackenzie only expects India to get to 76 percent of this target, the firm said this month.

Wood Mackenzie solar analyst Rishab Shrestha said recent auction cancellations in India risk jeopardizing investor confidence, while the imposition of various duties on equipment are bumping up solar prices.

As a result, he said, cash-strapped state distribution companies are dragging their feet over approving new solar projects. The Wood Mackenzie forecast echoed views among Indian analysts.

In a note published this month, India Ratings & Research said: "The recent scrapping of solar auctions around tariff concerns can derail the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy target to achieve 100 gigawatts of solar

capacity by FY22."

India's solar auction target for the 2019 financial year may also be missed on account of frequent changes in the implementation of safeguard duties, apprehensions about grid connectivity, and land-acquisition-related bottlenecks, the analyst firm said.

Finally, it noted, the depreciation of the rupee against the dollar could pose a threat to the economic viability of Indian solar tariffs. These headwinds follow a period of galloping growth for renewables in India.

Since 2014, India's wind and solar capacity has almost doubled, topping 61 gigawatts this year. Growth has been driven by auctions that have forced costs down.

Over the next half decade, Shrestha said, capital costs for solar are expected to fall by a further 31 percent, while wind could see a 23 percent drop. "This trend will only continue as new generation technologies replace old ones."

Wood Mackenzie forecasts that non-hydro renewables will make up 13 percent of India's generation mix by 2023, mostly taking market share from coal. And although the country will likely miss its 2022 renewables target, the mid- to long-term outlook remains good.

(Source: greentechmedia.com)

## Can the U.S. make oil sanctions on Iran work?

With two weeks to go until U.S. sanctions officially take aim at Iran's oil exports, it's not at all clear how much crude Iran is still selling—or which countries will keep buying it—raising questions about the effectiveness of the main thrust of Washington's pressure campaign against Tehran.

Since Washington announced a resumption of U.S. sanctions on Iranian oil exports this spring, after President Donald Trump pulled out of the Iran nuclear deal, Iran has scrambled to salvage one of its main sources of revenue—with some apparent success. While the Trump administration says it hopes to drive Iran's oil exports to zero, that hasn't come close to happening yet.

It's hard to get a clear picture of exactly how much the looming sanctions have impacted Iran's exports. Most estimates—from the International Energy Agency, the U.S. Energy Information Administration, and independent consultants—peg Iran's current oil exports at 1.6 million to 1.7 million barrels a day, down from 2.5 million barrels a day before sanctions were announced. That would be a significant drop—close to the total impact on Iranian exports from Obama administration sanctions—and more than many observers initially expected.

But there's plenty of confusion as to what's really happening with Iran's crude shipments. Tanker Trackers, using satellite data to track physical shipments, suggested late last week that Iranian exports have dropped only a tiny bit, to about 2.2 million barrels per day. Those higher numbers seem to be backed up by reports of increasing amounts of Iranian oil heading to India and China, two of Tehran's biggest customers.



India had indicated that it would stop importing Iranian oil altogether by November but is now studying ways to keep buying. And China appears to be importing "unprecedented" amounts of Iranian oil ahead of the official imposition of sanctions. Even countries such as South Korea that seemed to be quickly and completely complying with U.S. demands to stop buying Iranian oil now seem to be seeking waivers from the Trump administration to keep doing some business with Tehran. Turkey, a big European customer for Iranian oil, is also trying to get a waiver to keep buying some Iranian oil after sanctions take effect.

Even the best-informed people in the energy world are uncertain about what will ultimately happen when U.S. sanctions take effect in early November, given continued appetite in parts of Europe and Asia for Iranian crude. Saudi Arabia, which has pledged (but struggled) to help make up for missing Iranian barrels to stabilize the oil market, throws up its hands when trying to figure out the ultimate impact of U.S. sanctions.

"We have sanctions on Iran, and nobody has a clue what Iranian exports will be," Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih told Tass in a recent interview. For Saudi Arabia and for the global economy, it's an important question. Falih says that the Saudis can make up some of the shortfall if Iranian exports fall sharply, but only up to a point, since it now has limited spare capacity to pump more oil.

"This is the messy picture that everybody was expecting—it was entirely foreseen," said Elizabeth Rosenberg, a former Treasury Department official in the Obama administration now at the Center for a New American Security.

Unlike the previous round of U.S. sanctions on Iranian oil exports from 2012 to 2015, which had buy-in from most of the world and clearly stated, gradual reductions in purchases by Iran's top customers, the Trump administration simply told all countries to reduce their purchases to zero.

"Because the United States hasn't adopted any standard that can be applied equally across the board, every purchaser is measuring itself against others to see who's getting the most," Rosenberg said.

The reports late last week that Iran could be exporting a lot more oil than expected raised plenty of eyebrows, but some energy experts caution against reading too much into those numbers. When Iran faced oil sanctions previously, it diverted to storage some of the oil it pumped but couldn't sell. Something similar appears to be happening this time, said Sara Vakhshouri, a former Iranian oil executive who is now the president of SVB Energy International, an energy consultancy.

(Source: Foreign Policy)

## U.S. Gulf Coast crude oil exports dwindle on soaring freight costs

Crude oil exports out of the U.S. Gulf Coast have shrunk on soaring freight rates in recent weeks, with market participants pegging volumes around 1.7 million to 1.8 million b/d in November—including about 600,000 b/d destined for the European market.

U.S. crude exports had topped 2 million b/d on average between May and July, according to the latest data from the US Energy Information Agency.

"The local demand in the U.S. remains strong, margins are OK, but clearly arbitrage demand isn't as good," a trader said.

Freight rates rose across all ship classes in the Americas dirty tanker market, recently. Aframax rates were boosted by weather-delayed itineraries,

increased lightering activity and export demand as well as an uptick in movement between the East Coast of Mexico and the USGC.

The combination of these factors moved rates for the USGC-UKC route Friday well above the highest level since S&P Global Platts began assessing the route in March 2018. Freight moved 45 worldscale points higher to w200 Friday, rising for the ninth consecutive session and over 110% higher from October 5, the day before rates began their climb upwards.

Arbitrage flows from the U.S. Gulf Coast to Asia were also heard to be constrained by elevated freight rates, with traders talking of a closed arbitrage of late, despite healthy appetite for both sweet and sour slates overall, and as

Asian refiners showed willingness to pay up for crude oil.

"[The Chinese] market is hot, even for January arrival, but since U.S. crudes are not being brought here anymore there is demand for [South American] or WAF etc." said an arbitrage crude seller.

Sources active in Asia however said that reluctance to import U.S. crude may also be attributed to higher financing costs incurred by rising outright prices, rather than solely due to expensive freight rates.

On Friday afternoon however, a U.S.-based crude trader suggested that falling MEH differentials (ie, for WTI Midland at the Magellan East Houston Terminal) could give U.S. crude

exports a fresh boost, going forward.

"MEH versus Brent corrected significantly and as a result the market is pricing exports favorably again. This is bad news for the North Sea," the trader said, referring to looming pressure on BFOE differentials.

The North Sea crude market has fared relatively well of late despite competition from other parts of the Atlantic Basin. BFOE grades performed particularly well thanks to a supportive arbitrage east.

North Sea Forties was assessed at a 97.5 cents/b premium to Dated Brent Friday, having slipped just below the \$1/b bar reached Tuesday and Wednesday.

(Source: Platts)

## American LNG will meet Europe's urgent need for gas

That the Nord Stream 2 pipeline will increase Europe's dependence on Russian natural gas is a geographic and rhetorical fact. But buried in the heated rhetoric — now rising to U.S. sanction threats — over how much that matters, is just how inexpensive it would be for Europe to purchase supply diversity with liquefied natural gas from the U.S.

Of course gas-by-ship costs more than gas-by-pipe. But at today's prices and the spread between gas from Russia's Gazprom and U.S. LNG, the EU's total annual energy import bill would rise by less than 5 percent — or around \$20 per head of population annually — by purchasing a volume of U.S. gas equal to both the existing Nord Stream 1 and the planned second pipeline.

Critically, Europe would also need to spend nothing to build LNG import terminals because the two-dozen that exist already are running, collectively, at barely one-fourth capacity. Operating all those terminals at full tilt could bring in triple the supply the Nord Stream 2 pipe will if it is ever completed.

Essentially, the growth in U.S. gas output has converted LNG from being a high-cost infrastructure-centric energy source into a bargain commodity at less than half the average price that's been common for decades.

The clear signal of a new era for LNG

occurred this past March when, for the first time, an LNG cargo ship was resold en route and redirected to a new destination — the hallmark of a mature commodity market.

That cargo, the first to depart America's second LNG export terminal at Cove Point, Maryland, was originally destined for Asia but instead diverted to the UK after the 'Beast from the East' cold snap boosted both demand and prices of gas in Europe.

We're still in early days of LNG commoditization. Over the coming decade, global LNG trade will grow more than it has over the past half-century. By one estimate, within a couple of years the number of LNG cargoes trading on the spot market could reach some 5,000 a year.

The commoditization of LNG emerged from the U.S. shale gas revolution. With the U.S. now the world's biggest and fastest growing natural gas producer, there's no possibility its domestic markets can absorb existing, never mind future, output.

In fact, at the wellhead in some U.S. shale basins, natural gas is often negatively priced creating a huge advantage for keeping future LNG costs down. Notably, that supply glut did not come from a handful of oligarchs seeking to capture markets, but from myriad shale entrepreneurs engaging in capitalism.

Up until now, Russia and the Middle

East were Europe's primary options for gas imports; neither has the incentive nor capability to create a price-driven commodity market.

Of course there are other new players in global LNG markets. Rising Canadian production is on track, in due course, to join the export melee. And Western Australia's gargantuan \$50bn offshore Gorgon project has vaulted that free-market nation into the LNG supply mix. But U.S. export capacity, with only two LNG terminals operating so far, is already nearly 50 percent greater than the Gorgon.

The big question now is whether the U.S. merely expands its current export capacity by three-fold as currently planned, or by as much as six-fold, as is possible. If the latter happens, the U.S. becomes the world's biggest LNG exporter and really upsets the apple cart.

This new reality accrues to the benefit of Europe with its urgent need for massive new quantities of natural gas.

North Sea production is declining and is creating a supply vacuum greater than what the Nord Stream pipelines can fill. At the same time, EU policies to electrify transportation, and to promote wind and solar, are both increasing the need for gas-fired power plants to meet 24/7 demand.

(Source: Financial Times)

### Second 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 ۰۷/۲۹/۰۷ نویت دوم ۰۸/۰۲/۰۷



## Hope for Central America



By Richard W. Rahn

As I write this, there is a caravan of several thousand people coming north, primarily from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, with the intent of illegally entering into the United States.

Honduras has roughly a tenth of the per capita income of the United States, with few jobs and very limited economic opportunity.

Despite 200 years of independence, these three countries never developed the institutions and policies to give them prosperity and liberty. (Note the attached table.) They are functioning democracies, but with considerable corruption.

The United States, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other foreign and multilateral institutions have provided considerable foreign aid to these countries for decades, with the goal of making them sufficiently prosperous so their citizens would no longer desire to flee to the United States.

These programs have not only failed but many times actually led to more corruption.

There now appears to be a way out that is not dependent on enlightened and competent leadership or traditional foreign aid programs.

The solution may well be in new technologies that enable people and businesses to do for themselves without the support or permission of their governments.

### ■ The e-governments

Specifically, the Internet, smartphones, cryptocurrencies, blockchains, self-enforcing contracts, and e-government are allowing people to bypass the traditional heavy foot of government on their throats.

Many in Venezuela are now using cryptocurrencies to make payments and move money both within the country and internationally. The government destroyed the value of the official currency, but the people are finding ways to cope in part due to the development of cryptocurrencies.

Schools are lacking or failing to perform in many places; but now, with development of the Internet and the smartphone, anyone can have access to all of the world's knowledge.

Blockchains enable people to have secure records of land and other property ownership that cannot be stolen by others.

The Internet also makes it feasible to have private courts or arbitration organizations operating in a foreign country to rule on contract disputes and help ensure justice, no matter where a person may physically live.

The rise of e-government systems (initially largely developed by the Estonians) empowers and protects people and businesses from corrupt government officials.

Even though it is still very poor, Guatemala now has a per capita income a third greater than Honduras, largely because it has more economic freedom.

My bet is that Guatemala is likely to show even greater relative improvement in the coming years, in part, because of one unique individual who made a difference — Manuel Ayau. As a young man, he had been sent from his native Guatemala to study engineering in the United States.

Years ago, he told me that during his time in the United States he kept trying to understand why his country was so poor and the United States so rich. After his return to Guatemala, he not only became a successful businessman, but also started his country's first free-market think tank. Mr. Ayau had become a serious student of economics and concluded that the "Austrian School," with F.A. Hayek as its de-facto leader at the time, had it right.

Mr. Ayau soon recognized that more than a think tank was needed, and he and some of colleagues created a remarkable university, Francisco Marroquin. The school opened its doors in 1971, with Mr. Ayau as its first president, during the long-running civil war in Guatemala. The university is named after a Spanish bishop who became a tireless advocate for Guatemalan freedom in the 16th century. The university was founded on the principles of individual rights, truth, justice, pluralism, and democracy. It has not only prospered, but now "tops the worldwide list of the fifty best places to study classical economics."

### ■ The best country in CA

Guatemala privatized its state-run dysfunctional telephone system and now is the best-connected country in Central America (CA) with more mobile lines than population.

Under Francisco Marroquin University's previous president, the far-sighted Giancarlo Ibarra, it became the first university in the world to be fully connected by WiFi.

The current president, Gabriel Calzada, just expanded the university by opening an additional campus in Spain — and made it the first university in the Americas to accept bitcoins for payment.

Francisco Marroquin has been in existence sufficiently long, with enough graduates to increasingly populate the leadership ranks in business, law and technology in Guatemala, to make the necessary changes to create a high-growth economy.

The United States and other countries could help the reform process in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, by making financial support conditional on policy changes, rather than funding infrastructure projects that are too often corrupted. Specifically, the aid donors should require much greater e-government, the temporary use of foreign judges, and an end to needless bureaucracy.

It requires at least a book to do justice to this topic and to lay out the opportunity for fundamental change. Fortunately, my old colleague, George Gilder, the economic and technological visionary, has done just that in his great new book, "Life After Google."

(Source: The Washington Times)

# Trump withdrawal from Russia nuclear pact plays into Putin's hands

By David A. Andelman

It may be the highest-stakes move for Donald Trump in his entire presidency — unilaterally removing the United States from yet another international treaty, this time with immediate and potentially existential consequences.

Trump's Oct. 20 announcement that Washington would withdraw from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) with Russia, a landmark 1987 agreement signed by Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev to remove nuclear weapons from Europe, eliminates whatever curbs may be left on the development and deployment of a whole new generation of lethal and more readily deployable nuclear arms.

Gone will be any restraints on Russian President Vladimir Putin from modernizing and updating his nuclear arsenal, thereby reviving the nuclear arms race at a time when a new round of nuclear forces threaten the world and new missile technologies are proliferating.

Trump's ill-conceived and poorly thought-out action plays directly into Putin's hands. As much as the Russian leader may already be flouting the principles and provisions of that treaty, he can now do so with impunity and none of the consequences of being labeled the transgressor.

Fortunately, since this was a treaty ratified by a two-thirds vote of the Senate on May 27, 1988, it cannot be formally ended without a similar two-thirds vote, which seems most improbable in today's divided political environment.

### ■ Violating the treaty's provisions

Still, Trump can, in theory, begin violating the provisions of the treaty without any Senate action, which — if Russia keeps its threats to match tit-for-tat — will have the equivalent impact of tearing up the document.

And the costs of a new nuclear arms race could be astronomical. The nonpartisan Arms Control Association has estimated that updates to the U.S. nuclear arsenal would cost U.S. taxpayers upwards of \$1.2 trillion over the next 30 years. Trump's withdrawal from the INF treaty can only send chills up the spines of the Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, as well as Ukraine and Georgia, all former Soviet republics which Putin would love to reel back into some newly constituted Russian empire. Europeans who will suddenly find themselves within range of the weapons previously banned by the treaty can only be equally concerned.

The weapons in question include all shorter-range missiles with ranges of 500 to 1,000 kilometers (310 to 620 miles) and intermediate-range missiles capabilities of



U.S. President Donald Trump and Russia's President Vladimir Putin shake hands as they meet in Helsinki, Finland July 16, 2018.

## Still, Trump can, in theory, begin violating the provisions of the treaty without any Senate action, which — if Russia keeps its threats to match tit-for-tat — will have the equivalent impact of tearing up the document

1,000 to 5,500 kilometers, (620 to 3,420 miles), both nuclear- and conventional-armed. Some 2,692 were eliminated by 1991.

The origins of the INF treaty can be traced to the two-day Reagan-Gorbachev summit held in Reykjavik, Iceland in October 1986. As it happens, I am the translator of a remarkable book by French journalist-historian Guillaume Serina on that meeting: "An Impossible Dream: Reagan, Gorbachev and a World Without the Bomb." To be published next year, it includes an introduction by Gorbachev and material obtained from the opening of a number of Kremlin archives as well as the assistance of several of the surviving aides from both delegations, including the former Soviet leader himself.

### ■ Elimination of nuclear arms

At the time, Gorbachev surprised and stunned the Americans when he proposed a total elimination of all nuclear arms by both super-powers. It was a daring and unprecedented Hail Mary move. But it would have required Reagan to give up his beloved Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), the ill-fated and ill-conceived space weapons defense system that never really worked. Reagan declined, but agreed to the more limited INF pact.

(Gorbachev, now 87, has condemned the

U.S. withdrawal, with Russia's Interfax news agency quoting him as saying, "Do they not understand in Washington what this could lead to?")

Inspections under this treaty were guaranteed for 10 years and ended officially in 2001. Both sides largely respected its provisions in the years after, but in July 2014, the Obama administration accused Russia of testing a prohibited ground-launched cruise missile capable of carrying a nuclear warhead with a range of some 1,240 miles.

When I visited the Baltic republics two years later, leading defense officials told me that while they had been aware of Russia's capacities they relied on its adherence to the INF's treaty provisions to guarantee their security. Still, last year, the Pentagon publicly accused Russia for the first time of deploying the Novator 9M729 — referred to by NATO as an SSC-8 missile. This led last December to a series of sanctions against Russian companies that had been involved in the development and production of the weapon.

### ■ Serious issues raised

The Russians insisted the missile's range and fixed-base deployment in Kaliningrad did not breach the treaty. Still, with the Russian enclave nestled between NATO members

Lithuania and Poland, the development of the SSC-8 did raise some serious issues. None of these are solved by Trump's threatened unilateral withdrawal from the INF treaty.

What the world needs now is more, not less, arms control. China, not a signatory of the INF treaty, has a range of missiles that would be banned under its provisions; U.S. officials cited China's arms build-up in the Pacific as a central reason for scuttling the Russia pact and pressing ahead with expanding the American arsenal.

This is a terrible, potentially lethal idea. Trump needs to find a way to reel in these nations to such an agreement, not just arbitrarily pull out and torpedo it.

U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton is currently on a visit to Moscow, where he formally told his Russian counterpart of Trump's plans on Monday. A diplomat who has rarely seen a treaty he does not want to scuttle or a battle he is not prepared to fight, Bolton is unlikely to consider any discussion with Russia of the sort that launched the INF accord three decades ago. Yet that sort of deft and intelligent diplomacy may be the only real route to security in this increasingly unstable world we live in.

(Source: Reuters)

# The power of Ethiopia's gender-balanced cabinet

By Awol K Allo

Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed is drawing admiration from all corners for his transformative leadership. Since coming to power six months ago, he has released political prisoners, widened the democratic space, ended the military stalemate with Eritrea, and averted a looming financial crisis. In short, his dynamic leadership, energy, and enthusiasm have pulled off what a Washington Post editorial described as an "astonishing turnaround" for the country.

Ahmed's latest decision to fill 50 percent of his cabinet with female ministers is an integral part of the transformative agenda he has set out during his inaugural speech on April 2. It is easy to dismiss this move as a token gesture or a mere publicity stunt, but in a highly patriarchal society such as Ethiopia where public discourse about gender equality is non-existent or confined to the margins, the mere existence of a gender-balanced cabinet can have a transformative effect.

Ethiopia's prime minister brought youthful vigor and bold confidence to the masculine, patriarchal, and archaic traditions of the Ethiopian state. During his inaugural address, he broke with tradition and acknowledged his mother and wife. Towards the end of his speech, he said, "in a manner that is not customary in this house, ... I would like to politely ask you to thank one Ethiopian mother who ... planted this distant and deep and elaborate vision in me, who raised me, and brought me to fruition."

He went on to say that "My mother is counted among the many kind, innocent, and hardworking Ethiopian mothers ... in thanking my mother, I consider it equivalent to extending thanks to all Ethiopian mothers." Given his numerous policy statements and his commitment to liberal ideas of equality, fairness, and representation visible in these policies, there is no reason to believe that these announcements had ulterior motives.

### ■ Old aphorisms disproved

In announcing the line-up of his new cabinet, Prime Minister Ahmed told the Ethiopian Parliament: "Our women ministers will disprove the old aphorism that women can't lead." Contrary to this old aphorism, he argued, women can help fight corruption, reduce inefficiency, and bring accountability and fairness to government - and that is leadership.

Linguists define aphorisms as cultural heritages that capture society's "gravest concerns and strongest commitments".

Aphorisms condense within themselves some of the most defining values and perspectives of a given society on a range of social and cultural issues. In Ethiopia, there are a significant number of widely and openly used sexist and dehumanizing expressions that illustrate the place of women in Ethiopian society.

Recent scholarly work that reviewed the representation of woman in Afaan Oromo and Amharic aphorisms, two of the most widely spoken languages in Ethiopia, depict a shock-



ing portrait of a deeply rotten culture that casts women in a degrading and dehumanizing light. A widely used Oromo proverb states "A woman can be tall but not knowledgeable". An Amharic proverb states: "A woman does not know anything, but gives birth to a knowledgeable child."

The patriarchal tradition that establishes the basic background narrative about the place of women in society and the incorrigibly masculine standards that shape our emotional and cognitive structures subordinate women while relentlessly upholding male privilege. Indeed, the entire cognitive, emotional, and linguistic landscape is permeated with languages, ideas, and perceptions that belittle, dehumanize, and marginalize women while at the same time presenting men as capable, competent, credible, authoritative, and knowledgeable.

These unexamined prejudices distort society's perceptions and judgments about women. They enable various forms of violence against women, from domestic violence to sexual harassment, and rape. They impose what Miranda Fricker, presidential professor of philosophy at the City University of New York, calls "pre-emptive silences" that prevent women from having a voice, and from sharing her experiences, rendering her a political subject whose perspectives and experiences are deemed irrelevant to public policy. In Ethiopia, women's knowledge, expertise or opinions are rarely, if at all, solicited, both in private and public realms.

### ■ Enshrining principles of equality

If we are to change these practices, we have to go beyond enshrining principles of equality in the constitution and deal

with the structural dimensions of gender inequality that are stubborn, resistant, and unyielding. We must understand how these structural inequalities impede the race for equality by preventing women from entering the race in the first place, let alone win it. We have to acknowledge the invisible brick walls, barriers, debris, and roadblocks a woman must pass through to enter the race.

However, while it is important to understand the basic background narrative and the cultural norms that pre-emptively silence women and deprive them of voice and visibility in the public sphere, it is critical that we also start building pathways through our institutions to genuinely and visibly recognize the contribution of women to society.

That is why these appointments, rather than being token gestures, have a tremendous transformative potential to end Ethiopian women's experience of invisibility and the silencing of their voice and capacity. By intervening in this way, at the highest level, and increasing the visibility of women in public life, these appointments will disrupt Ethiopian society's highly problematic beliefs about women's capacity to lead.

In a culture where gender inequality is so deeply entrenched and public discourse on gender equality is almost non-existent or confined to the margins, these appointments send a powerful message to young girls that the status quo is not inevitable, that things could be and should be different and that they too, could one day, assume a position of influence, or even become a Minister.

(Source: aljazeera.com)



# Khashoggi case won't affect Saudi destructive regional policy: Logoglu

**1 →** The impact of the Khashoggi affair on the upcoming midterm elections on 6 November is likely to be minimal. The Democrats may win a few more votes but the Republican base will solidly stand behind Trump. Trump heads to the elections with a strong economic performance and the victories of Brett Kavanaugh and Pastor Brunson. But Trump's weak point is Trump himself and his volatile ups and downs. The Democrats have a good chance of winning the House and are looking at a close race in the Senate.

■ Will international pressures result in changes to power structure of the Saudi Arabia?

A: No, most unlikely. The Saudi royal family's top priority is always to preserve and maintain its total control of the society and the country. Though full of irony because most still suspect that MBS actually planned and gave orders for Khashoggi's execution, it was no surprise that the first act of King Salman was to mandate Crown Prince MBS to restructure Saudi intelligence. This indicates that the position of MBS is safe for the time being, even if some of his powers may over time be transferred to other more senior members of the royal family.

■ Will Khashoggi brutal death impose changes to destructive Saudi regional policies led by Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman particularly in Syria and Iraq which has been a source of threat against national security of countries like Turkey?

A: Trump's Iran-fixation continues unabated. Therefore, I estimate that the SA stance vis a vis Iran will not change because the U.S. approach toward Iran will not change. I



think we might see a slight recalibration of Saudi policies toward Iraq and Syria. In particular, SA might reduce or end its support to PYD/YPG in Syria regarded by Turkey as

a terrorist organization, given the pressure created on MBS by Turkey's investigation of the Khashoggi affair. All in all it is hard to expect any major changes in SA foreign policy.

## UN and the puzzle of Cyprus

**1 →** "[It happened] exactly because it has been reconfirmed and accepted in the so-called Guterres' framework ... that the Cyprus issue is not an issue between two communities, it is an issue of international law," Katrougalos indicated.

The reality is that regarding Cyprus membership in the European Union and its active membership in the United Nations and other international organizations, Turkey faces a difficult and complicated situation in the

case. If the Cyprus case isn't settled and the United Nations doesn't approve the Cyprus settlement process, there will be virtually no prospect for Turkey joining the European Union.

Although Turkey's membership in the European Union is affected by many factors, including the severe opposition of some European countries, and negotiations between Ankara and Brussels are slowly taking place, but Erdogan and other Turkish authorities

know well that one of the most important prerequisites for Turkey's membership in the EU is about solving the Cyprus conflict.

The Cyprus issue has deep historical roots and various internal and international dimensions. Cyprus has been divided since 1974 when Turkish troops entered the island. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus was declared in 1983 and is recognized only by Turkey while the international community considers it as a part of the Republic of Cyprus.

However, since the time of Secretary General Kofi Annan (when a referendum was held in Cyprus), the UN suggested numerous solutions, but the disputes have not yet come to an end. For example, some former United Nations officials have expressed hope that the Cyprus case would be resolved by the end of 2010. We are now in 2018, and this case has yet to be closed! Will the international players be finally able to resolve the puzzle of Cyprus in the near future?

# Religion can be important component of restructuring of international relations theory: Entessar

**1 →** A: International relations theory and the academic field of international relations in the West, especially in the United States, have been heavily influenced by empirical and quantitative methodologies. As such, issues like religion that don't lend themselves to easy quantification, have until recently remained outside the mainstream academic studies of international relations. In my opinion, as long as empirical-quantitative methodologies dominate academic research and publishing in the discipline of international relations, we will have difficulty highlighting religion as a building block of its theories.

■ Some scholars such as "Michael Allen Gillespie" in the 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, so can it be said that religion is not in conflict with the International Relations theory stemming from modernity?

A: Prior to the European Enlightenment, the concepts of modernity and religion were not generally viewed in conflictual terms. However, many assumptions of Enlightenment and its secularist thesis changed this. In general, scientific thinking emanating from Enlightenment affected academic



thinking and academic reasoning in the West. As a result, secularism became a sine qua non for modernity, and contemporary international relations theory has generally followed this trend.

■ Some argue that the current International Relations theory cannot explain some of the current phenomena of

international relations and we need a religious theory of International Relations, especially with regard to religious issues. What is your opinion? In general, theorizing Religion in International Relations is feasible?

A: As I alluded to in my previous answers, religion is a relatively new variable in the study of international relations. What is needed today is not a separate religious theory of international relations. Rather, scholars and theorists of international relations need to acknowledge that religion plays an important part in the 21st-century world, and there is a need to operationalize and develop new paradigms within the existing frameworks of international relations theory that recognizes the inherent role religion plays in our broader world. In other words, there is a need for a post-Enlightenment paradigm.

■ If theorizing Religion in International Relations is possible, can this religious theory in International Relations explain all the unresolved issues and problems?

A: No single phenomenon can explain the multifaceted nature of international relations. Religion and religious paradigms may contribute to our understanding of our complex world. In other words, religion can be an important component of the restructuring of international relations theory, but it must remain an integral, and not a separate, part of the theory of international relations.

# Khashoggi's Murder: We don't want culprits to investigate themselves

**TEHRAN (FNA)** — Human rights groups, activists and world governments continue to dismiss Saudi Arabia's explanation for the execution of journalist Jamal Khashoggi at its consulate in Istanbul on October 2.

Activists and human rights groups have even delivered a petition to the U.S. State Department demanding justice for the Saudi journalist. They say Khashoggi was killed in the Saudi consulate not in a "fistfight" that went wrong (chokehold) rather in a grisly torture and assassination by a hit team acting on orders from the highest levels of Saudi leadership.

They point to the fact that Turkish officials have alleged to the press that a team of Saudi agents - including a doctor specializing in autopsies - brought a bone saw into the consulate, where they tortured, killed, and dismembered Khashoggi, who was a U.S. resident and Washington Post columnist.

Meaning, Saudi Arabia's explanation for the arbitrary execution of Khashoggi is just not plausible. No government should ever accept it or the pretense at investigation. The world community wants a trustworthy, impartial, and transparent investigation by the United Nations that will actually identify the killers and the mastermind, and bring them to justice.

The good news is that Human Rights Watch's UN Director Louis Charbonneau has echoed similar sentiments, stating: "We need accountability and in order to have accountability, we need credible information and an investigation."

Without a doubt, the Saudi explanation is ridiculous on its face. An investigation by the Saudis is equally ridiculous. This was in no way an accident. Jamal didn't



just die during a struggle. He was killed by a Saudi team of assassins in the Saudi consulate.

More so, the Trump administration's response to the latest developments was in no way satisfactory, and the U.S. is not fit to carry out an investigation either. President Donald Trump has been ridiculed for accepting denials of any wrongdoing by Saudi authorities and ignoring mounting evidence that a team of Saudis murdered Khashoggi. Asked about Saudi Arabia's new claims, Trump told reporters he has confidence in the "fistfight" explanation and called the supposed findings a "good first step."

Trump - who also rebuffed demands that the U.S. cut off arms sales to the regime and military assistance for the war on Yemen in light of Khashoggi's killing - even has been accused of conspiring with Saudi officials to obstruct justice.

Nevertheless, Riyadh's admission that Khashoggi is dead and that it "has taken action against the suspects," or that it has fired five top officials and taken 18 people in custody is not enough.

These men didn't act alone. They took direct orders from the Saudi leadership. Audio and visual recordings have also suggested that Saudi officials close to the crown prince Mohammed bin Salman are

the perpetrators.

This didn't happen in a vacuum. It happened in a context of an increased crackdown on dissent since June 2017 when MBS took his position. Since he took power, the detention of dissidents has increased including human rights defenders. The Saudi-led war on Yemen also has escalated with huge humanitarian consequences. The regime has now set up a commission that is reportedly being led by MBS - an accused war criminal for killing thousands of civilians in Yemen - to overhaul the Saudi intelligence operation! Lest we forget, shortly after Khashoggi disappeared, he told the media that the journalist had left the consulate unharmed!

At any rate, the international civil society should denounce the Saudi explanation and demand UN action in response to the initial lie that the journalist hadn't been killed. The admission by Saudi authorities that Khashoggi was murdered in their custody plainly exposes all their previous claims and lies. The mobster regime must not be allowed to get away with murder.

The world community should also join efforts to call for a UN investigation into the torture and murder of Khashoggi to avoid a whitewash. Any inaction sends an incredibly chilling signal to journalists around the world that their lives don't matter and that the Saudis can have them murdered with impunity.

The only way to ensure that there is no whitewash in the case of Khashoggi is that the UN takes on an independent, transparent and international investigation. This is what the world body was created for. We don't want the culprits investigating themselves.

## Global oil prices likely to rise after Iran sanctions



**TEHRAN (Tasnim)** — A noted British analyst specializing in the geopolitics of energy and Middle East energy affairs said Washington's bid to sanction Iranian crude exports could trigger a dramatic shortfall in global supply, adding that the move could push oil prices up after sanctions kick in.

"I expect Iranian exports to fall below 1 mb/d before the end of the year, but it would be much harder for the U.S. to reduce them to zero," Richard Mallinson told Tasnim when asked about the U.S. President Donald Trump's attempts to cut Iran's oil to zero.

He added, "The oil market is likely to struggle for supplies through 2019, which means prices are likely to go rise further."

Richard Mallinson is a senior policy professional and works with the Energy Aspects. A member of the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House), he has published analytical papers and articles on international affairs and energy policies in such outlets as MEES and the Oxford Energy Forum.

Following is the full text of the interview:

■ 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. The U.S. administration reintroduced the previous sanctions while imposing new ones on the Islamic Republic. 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 oil sales and its Central Bank. How much and in what way do you think the sanctions will affect Iran's economy after Nov. 4?

A: We are already starting to see a significant impact from the U.S. sanctions on the oil sector. Many buyers of Iranian oil are entirely halting purchases ahead of the deadline and others are scaling back volumes significantly. We expect exports to fall below 1 mb/d in the coming months. Even at higher international oil prices this means significantly lower revenues for Iran.

■ How can Iran evade the sanctions this time? Do you believe that forging closer ties with China and Russia could help?

A: I expect Iran will find it difficult to circumvent sanctions with significant volumes of oil because of the tough approach to implementation that the U.S. administration is taking. While many governments have criticized President Trump's decision to withdraw from the JCPOA, the risks of U.S. secondary sanctions are too large for most companies to be willing to continue handling Iranian oil. Some in the oil market expected China to increase purchases of Iranian oil, but the latest indications from Chinese buyers are that even they will scale back, but not stop buying entirely. Meanwhile there are practical challenges that would make it very hard for Russia to help move large volumes of Iranian oil.

■ On Sept. 25, the European Union, in a major snub to the United States, decided to set up a new mechanism to enable legal trade with Iran without encountering U.S. sanctions. How much do you think this new system could work?

A: European governments have been working hard to try and persuade Iran to remain in the JCPOA after the U.S. withdrew, but they will struggle to protect European companies from the reach of U.S. secondary sanctions. Those companies have already largely stopped buying Iranian oil, to avoid being sanctioned themselves and because the banks and insurers they use are unwilling to continue working with them unless they stop processing Iranian oil. At least for the oil sector the EU payment mechanism looks like a diplomatic gesture that will not work in practice.

■ Do you think that the U.S. could cut Iran's oil to zero? Should we expect a global energy insecurity after Nov. 4?

A: I expect Iranian exports to fall below 1 mb/d before the end of the year, but it would be much harder for the U.S. to reduce them to zero. I still expect some volumes to head to China and India and we are likely to see the U.S. grant some waivers to mitigate the risks to oil supply, particularly because there will be some delays before other producers can raise production further.

But these waivers are likely to be more limited than the ones granted by the Obama administration in 2012-15. The oil market is likely to struggle for supplies through 2019, which means prices are likely to go rise further

## Britain's Tricks over Brexit

**1 →** The current British Prime Minister, Theresa May, tried her best to prevent the realization of Brexit at the time she served in David Cameron's cabinet. Meanwhile, the only proponent of Brexit was the former British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson who agreed with England's withdrawal from the EU. However, Johnson is no longer in his previous position.

In any case, we should expect fresh conflicts in the case of the British withdrawal from the European Union. These conflicts will take a more serious strike by the British public and, in particular, supporters of Brexit in the future

Finally, we should say that the British citizen's vote was thwarted by the British and European leaders' decision. British citizens are now pursuing the official and informal positions of their authorities in this regard while they're utterly confused. Is Brexit really going to take place? Will the decision of British citizens be recognized in this regard? These are the unanswered questions that are in the minds of the supporters of Brexit.



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# Immunotherapy successful against deadly breast cancer

A recent clinical trial could change the face of therapy for a very aggressive and stubborn form of breast cancer: triple-negative. A combination of chemotherapy and immunotherapy boosts survival rates, the scientists found.

A new clinical trial confirms that immunotherapy can help prolong the life of people with triple-negative breast cancer.

Triple-negative breast cancer is so called since its cells lack receptors for two hormones (estrogen and progesterone) and one protein (HER2).

While this cancer is uncommon, it is one of the most aggressive and deadly.

In the majority of cases, it quickly becomes resistant to chemotherapy and continues to spread through the body.

According to existing research, triple-negative breast cancer makes up about 10–15 percent of diagnosed breast cancers. This form of cancer is also more likely to affect younger women in their 40s or 50s.

Recently, immunotherapy — a type of treatment that boosts the body's defenses against disease — has been gaining ground as a potent cancer therapy.

Now, for the first time ever, a clinical trial has demonstrated that immunotherapy, when delivered alongside chemotherapy, can boost survival and halt tumor growth in people with triple-negative breast cancer.

## ■ Potent drug combo tested in a clinical trial

Researchers at Queen Mary University of London and St Bartholomew's Hospital, both in London, United Kingdom, conducted the trial.

Its success is reported in the New England Journal of Medicine and was also outlined at the European Society for Medical Oncology 2018 Congress, held in Munich, Germany.

Researchers report that they are working on a new treatment for metastatic breast cancer.

"Triple-negative breast cancer is an aggressive form of breast cancer; we have been desperately looking for better treatment options," says study co-author Prof. Peter Schmid.

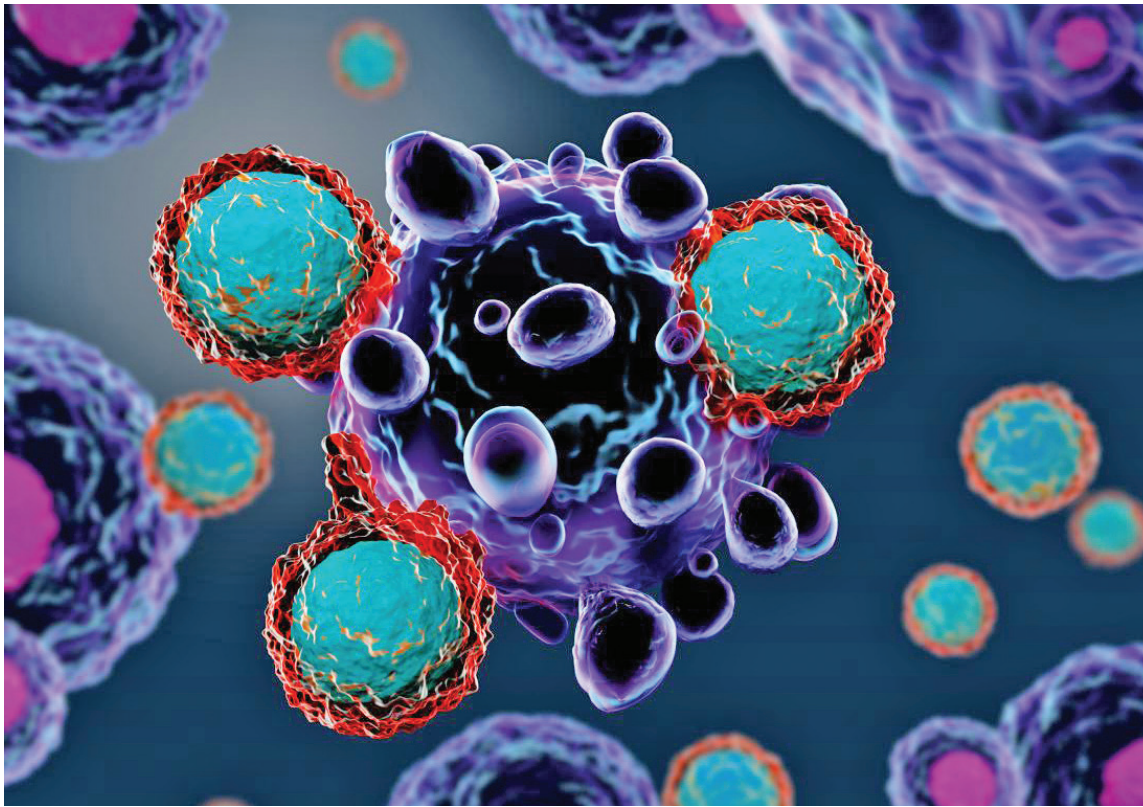
"It is particularly tragic that those affected are often young, with many themselves having young families," he continues.

"I'm thrilled that by using a combination of immunotherapy and chemotherapy we are able to significantly extend lives compared to the standard treatment of chemotherapy alone," he continues.

## ■ Survival extended by up to 10 months

The team tested the effectiveness of a combined immunotherapy and chemotherapy treatment for triple-negative breast cancer. More specifically, they used Atezolizumab, a monoclonal antibody (immunotherapy drug), and the chemotherapeutic agent Nab-paclitaxel.

According to the normal guidelines, the scientists gave the participants Nab-paclitaxel on a weekly basis. To this, however, they added an Atezolizumab dose once every other week.



**Triple-negative breast cancer is an aggressive form of breast cancer. It is particularly tragic that those affected are often young, with many themselves having young families.**

In this approach, the immunotherapy drug boosts the responsiveness of the immune system, while the chemotherapy drug "marks" the surface of cancer cells, which then allows the immune system to find and attack them.

They discovered that this powerful combination is able to extend a person's survival by up to 10 months, reducing their risk of death or disease progression by up to 40 percent.

"These results are a massive step forward," notes Prof. Schmid. The trial's success, he believes, will be a game changer when it comes to treating aggressive forms of breast cancer.

"We are changing," he goes on to say, "how triple-negative breast cancer is treated in proving for the first time that immune therapy has a substantial survival benefit."

"In a combined treatment approach, we are using chemotherapy to tear away the tumour's 'immune-protective cloak' to expose it as well as enabling people's own immune system to get at it."

Following the trial, the relevant authorities in the United Kingdom are currently reviewing a new treatment, which may soon become available in their National Health Service (NHS).

Until the treatment option becomes available at a national level, the scientists are offering it to individuals with triple-negative breast cancer within the frame of ongoing clinical trials at St Bartholomew's Hospital.

(Source: sgstalk.org)

## Fitness and lifespan: Is too much exercise harmful?

A new, large-scale study finds that even extreme levels of fitness increase lifespan — particularly in older people.

A new study finds that exercise, even at extreme levels, prolongs life for seniors.

Exercise is widely considered to benefit health, but is there such a thing as too much exercise? Some recent studies suggest so.

For instance, 90 minutes of exercise every day improves mental health, but anything over this threshold is actually worse for mental health than no exercise at all, a recent paper found.

Other research has suggested that there might be cardiovascular disadvantages to excessive amounts of physical exercise.

One study found higher calcification in the arteries of athletes and men who routinely engaged in sports.

So, researchers from the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio set out to investigate whether large amounts of exercise have any bearing on how long a person will live.

To this end, a team led by Dr. Wael Jaber — a cardiologist at the Cleveland Clinic — analyzed the link between aerobic fitness and lifespan in 122,007 people.

"We were particularly interested in the relationship between extremely high fitness and mortality," explains first study author Dr. Kyle Mandsager, an electrophysiology fellow from the Cleveland Clinic.

"This relationship has never been looked at using objectively measured fitness, and on such a large scale."

The scientists published their results in the Journal of the American Medical Association Network Open.

## ■ Even extreme levels of exercise prolong life

Dr. Jaber and his team retrospectively studied the data from a cohort study of 122,007 people who participated in exercise treadmill testing between January 1, 1991, and December 31, 2014.

The researchers divided the people "by age- and sex-matched cardiorespiratory fitness" into five performance groups: low performance, below average, above average, high, and elite. They determined the aerobic fitness of the participants by administering a stress test.

A short bout of exercise can do wonders for your brain.

The fitness levels of people in the elite group were comparable with those of professional athletes, and they were situated at the 97.7th percentile and above.

Their lifespans were adjusted according to their age, sex, and body mass index (BMI), as well as according to the medication they were taking or other conditions that they had.

Overall, higher cardiorespiratory fitness correlated directly with a reduced risk of long-term mortality. Furthermore, the researchers found "no observed upper limit" of the benefits of aerobic fitness.

Also, "Extremely high aerobic fitness was associated with the greatest survival and was associated with benefit in older patients and those with hypertension," write the researchers.

People ages 70 and above benefited the most from being in the elite group of cardiorespiratory fitness.

By contrast, poor aerobic fitness was just as strong a predictor of early death as smoking, heart disease, or diabetes.

(Source: Medical News Today)

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nice cases ready to move in.



## First Iranian maritime accelerator launched

1→ Sponsored by the science and technology vice presidency, the event aims to attract capital for startups active in the field of marine innovation. The investors hold meetings with startups in order to support them during the event.



As Startup Wharf, the first Accelerator specific to the Maritime sector, wrote on its website, maritime was dubbed by TechCrunch as the hidden Trillion Dollar sector, with huge opportunities to improve and disrupt the current business models with digital technologies.

### SOCIALLY SAFE

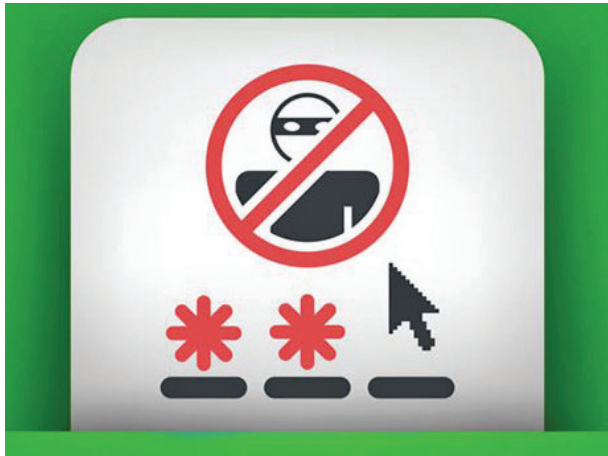
## Safety tips for subscription traps

Subscription traps take place when you sign up online or on the phone for free or low-cost trials of products, only to find that you have been unwittingly locked into costly repeat payments. Typically, these products are slimming pills, health foods, pharmaceuticals and anti-aging products but, increasingly, attractive consumer durable products such as the latest mobile phone are being featured.

It's vital to be certain that online pharmacies are authentic and registered.

The perpetrators of subscription traps exploit a 'continuous payment authority', normally by requesting your payment card details as proof of identity and age, then retaining those details to draw monthly payments from your account. Details of this ongoing commitment are generally buried in the terms & conditions and are missed by many people, eager instead to take advantage of the 'fantastic offer' being advertised.

- **The risks**
- Taking advantage of a free or low-cost offer, only to find that it ends up costing you hundreds or even thousands of pounds.



- Not being able to cancel an agreement or stop payments being taken from your account.
- **Avoiding subscription traps**
- Read the small print (terms & conditions) carefully before entering into any agreement or making a purchase, however long this may take.
- Make sure the terms & conditions box has not been pre-ticked.
- If you make a purchase of this kind that gives you a limited timescale to cancel the agreement, make sure you do so before the due date if you want to cancel it.
- Never provide bank details to companies without doing some prior research beforehand.
- Keep a copy of any advertisement (print it or take a screenshot) that you reply to, and to keep a note of the webpage.
- Remember that you will have more chance of cancelling agreements or obtaining a refund if the company is UK-based. Even those with UK addresses are often just fulfilment companies who are contracted to send out the goods. The companies themselves often have no physical presence in the UK.
- Check your bank/payment card statements regularly for unexpected payments.
- **If you are the victim of a subscription trap**
- Make every effort to contact the company concerned to cancel the agreement.
- Contact your bank to cancel future payments.
- Ascertain with your bank whether a new card is needed.
- Request reimbursement from the supplier if the advertisement did not explain the charges, but be aware that without a copy, your claim may fail. If the website has changed in the meantime, try accessing your internet browser's cache or the internet archive.
- Refer a complaint about the bank to the Financial Ombudsman Service. If the bank refuses to stop the charges or reimburse charges that have been made, consider referring the issue to the Financial Ombudsman.
- Contact your local Trading Standards.

(Source: getsafeonline.org)

# Pardis Technology Park embraces busts of Mustafa Prize laureates

**TECHNOLOGY** **TEHRAN** — The busts of the 2017 Mustafa Prize laureates – the Iranian Professor Mohammad Amin Shokrollahi and the Turkish-French academic Sami Erol Gelenbe – were set up at the Pardis Technology Park in Tehran on Monday.

Held biennially, the Mustafa Prize is a science and technology award, granted to top researchers and scientists from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member states.

The award is presented in the fields of life and medical science and technology, information and communication science and technology, nanoscience and nanotechnology.

Several officials including Pardis Technology Park Director Mehdi Saffarnia, deputy vice president for international and technological affairs Ali Morteza Birang attended the event, Mehr reported.

The Mustafa Prize eyes peace, prosperity and safety and plans to develop science and technology between Islamic countries, Saffarnia who doubles as the managing director of Mustafa Foundation said during the ceremony.

“We plan to boost the relation between researchers in the Islamic countries and create a synergy in the field of science between the countries,” he explained.

The Information and Communications Technology (ICT) award was given to Professor Gelenbe, a computer scientist, electronic engineer and applied mathematician for his pioneering research on “Modeling and Performance Evaluation of Computer Systems”.

Professor Shokrollahi, an Iranian professor of math and computer science, who worked on a variety of topics including coding theory and algebraic complexity theory, was honored for his “Technology and Information Theory”.

The first two previous rewards in 2015 were in nanotechnologies, health sciences and drug delivery and the two this year were in the field of securing networks and mathematics.

The first round of the Mustafa Prize awards occurred in 2015 in Tehran in which Professor Omar Yaghi from Jordan, a specialist in nanosciences, and Professor Jackie Ying from Singapore in bio-nanotechnology category, were the recipients.



© Tehran Times/ Maryam Kanyab

The Turkish-French academic Sami Erol Gelenbe (r) and the Iranian Professor M. Amin Shokrollahi pose with their awards they won at the Mustafa Prize 2017 on December 3, 2017

## Iran to attend Bakutel 2018 expo



**TECHNOLOGY** **TEHRAN** — Iranian telecom products and services will be offered at the Bakutel 2018 exhibit, which will be held from December 4 to 7 at the Baku Expo Center, Azerbaijan, Fars News Agency reported.

Supported by the Information Technology Organization, the Iranian knowledge-based companies and telecom firms can submit their CVs to the ICT Ministry

until October 29.

The 24th Azerbaijan International Telecommunications, Innovations and High Technologies Exhibition and Conference, known as Bakutel 2018, is an opportunity for participants to demonstrate their achievements to end users and colleagues, to establish new business relations and to listen to the speeches of leading ICT experts.

## Iranian, Kyrgyz firms to boost technological ties



**TECHNOLOGY** **TEHRAN** — A delegation of Iranian knowledge-based trade companies will travel to Kyrgyzstan from November 12 to 15, Mehr reported on Monday.

The delegation is scheduled to attend meetings with Kyrgyz companies and visit some industrial and commercial organizations of the country.

The head of management development

department of the vice presidency for science and technology Alireza Daliri will accompany the delegation.

Meanwhile, a permanent exhibition of Iranian technological products will be set up at the Grand Comfort Shopping Center in Bishkek.

A total of 67 Iranian companies will introduce their products and achievements during the event.

## Financial aspects of startup that may crush your dreams

There are cost involved starting a startup and this is no rocket science to understand that if you don't prepare yourself then you will fall hard but it seems like there are some that may hide behind the shadows to jump out and surprise you when you least expect. But a great business man should always be ready to face them. So in order to make yourself prepare for the tide of storm, you should first know what you should expect and today we will give you an article about Financial aspects of startup that can be fatal if you are not ready for them. These expenses may cost you your business and that's why we will remind you of their existence so you won't forget about them and prepare yourself for them to handle these things like a boss.

If you need evidence to show that you are in desire need to take care of these things then we will provide you with statistics that was published by analytic agencies. Based on these statistics, after 5 years of starting new businesses, 50 percent of them seize to exist and this means that the risk is big and amazingly underestimated and this means that you should take this article serious. So here we go with the main article.

### ■ A little forgettable thing called tax

Tax is not a simple thing that we usually ignore and tend to forget but there are a lot more to taxes than what it seems. We have multiple types of taxes for different experiences and this means that we have to get extra cautious methods when it comes to tax.

The best way to tackle this is trying to hire some people with law background. If you cannot hire then you can use financial advisors as a resort. There are even some tools and websites that can give you things you need and these are amazing ways to get things done with minimum cost.

In order to avoid these financial aspects of startup get problematic, we suggest you to add everything you do to your accounting books and never spend anything without registering it and having solid file and evidence to support it when you have to give answer to authorities.

Another point which has importance is that you should always go to legal authorities and ask them about what is new and what should be done in order to avoid tax violations. So technically speaking, we all have to be extremely clear when it comes to income and expenses and then we will have no problem taking care of tax.

If you get the information which we have asked then you can prepare yourself for tax in time and it won't get you off guard. Since this one is a very technical aspect then we suggest you to have your financial and legal advisor on speed dial and call them frequently to match the requirements. Governments have no means to spare tax violation and it's not that hard to avoid trouble by taking safety measures.



### ■ Inventory shrinkage, a hidden threat for all

To start with shrinkage, we have to say what this term is first. Shrinkage happens in a company when products are reduces in quantity without getting any sale or other reason behind this reduction of existing. In other words, your product is vanished with no trace. So what might be the reason behind this problem? In traditional companies and shops, we see shoplifting as a main reason behind shrinkage but when it is considered as one of financial aspects of startup then we have to say that shop lifting is not in the way that other aspects are.

As the matter of fact, shoplifting can still happen but not by customers but by your own employees. In order to get things done in a way that you can avoid shrinkage then you can add RFID tags to products. You can install security cameras all over your go down and even try your best to register and check everything that goes out of your storage.

Another cause of shrinkage in ecommerce section is human error. People may send wrong number of products to customers and even lose the track of numbers in the process of fleet management. In order to avoid such this problem, you have to train your team and help them with right tools that reduce human errors to minimum. There are a lot of other reasons behind the shrinkage problem and we will soon give you a full article to learn more about it but for the time being, we suggest you to study more about it and use other references.

These things can be costly to begin with but they sure will help you control things a little bit quicker. The impact of shrinkage is much greater than you can think of and based on reports, US businesses are losing around 45 billion worth of goods duo to shrinkage and this number alone is more than enough to get your attention.

### ■ Legal fees, another tiny forgettable big thing

There are a huge amount of rivals for every startup and people are more than ready to take down a serious rival. So if you are going forward then get ready to get sued over anything you can think of. There are many ways that legal

fees will crush you and most of them happen when you don't have any idea what you should do at the time of crisis.

In order to get yourself ready for this type of financial aspects of startup then we suggest you to have a lawyer by your side. Lawyers need some spending and there is no denying that this can be hard for you to manage this extra cost but it's more important to survive than having a fraction of percent, extra profit. So if you spend on lawyers, they may even save your whole business someday.

They know how to handle different situation and how to get the best out of every situation without wasting any time so you can count on them on legal fees handling. They will tell you which certificates you must get in order to avoid trouble with authorities. This expense has some other benefits as well and you can handle the tax problem using the same lawyer so its two birds with one stone.

But leaving everything to lawyers can be too costly for you and you have to take care of some parts to maintain your financial statues well. Search in the web and you will find hundreds of websites that can give you insight on legal problems. You can download templates of forms and stuff like that to make yourself prepared doing them in time. So the best way to reduce legal fees is educating yourself in time. Invest time and energy into this and you will get a lot in return and make sure to continue research and learning because things can change fast when it comes to legal procedures.

### ■ Interest and funding

So you get money from investors, you get loans from bank and you gather money from crowd funding and other similar methods which is good but how did you calculate the return in your plans? It's a little bit tricky to handle this without professional help. So if you slip a little bit then the angle can be steeper than what you can recover from. So if you need any investment then prepare to return it with a plan.

The same goes for interests on loans. If you can repay it then bank will get you and take over your business. In order to get this one done, you either should take care of things by hiring a professional person to work for you or getting consult from advisors. Another way is leaving this part to professional service providers and use their services as a tool to manage your repay with relatively easy approach.

If you want to manage crowd funding and investors then we suggest you to read our previous articles and tools to get more information and get better results in the process. So if you want to make life easier then try one of these three and be ready to pay back what you have already got. There are a lot of startup companies that met their demise this way so avoid them at all cost.

(Source: startupik.com)



# New material could up efficiency of concentrated solar power, research team finds

Solar is likely to become a major contributor to the electrical generating mix in many countries. But the intermittent nature of photovoltaics could put a limit on how much they contribute to future grids or force us to develop massive storage capabilities.

But photovoltaics aren't the only solar technology out there. Concentrated solar power uses mirrors to focus the Sun's light, providing heat that can be used to drive turbines. Advances in heat storage mean that the technology can now generate power around the clock, essentially integrating storage into the process of producing energy. Unfortunately, the price of concentrated solar hasn't budged much, and photovoltaics have left it in the dust.

But some materials scientists may have figured out a way to boost concentrated solar's efficiency considerably, clawing back some of photovoltaics' advantage.

Solar thermal revolves around transfers of heat. Sunlight is used to heat up a working fluid at the mirrors' focus. That then transfers the heat either to a storage system or directly to another fluid that is used to drive a turbine—typically steam. Higher temperatures typically mean more work can be extracted, making the efficiency of these transfers critical.

## ■ Supercritical carbon dioxide

Above a certain temperature, it becomes possible to replace the steam with supercritical carbon dioxide. This works more efficiently,



potentially providing a boost of more than 20 percent, but it requires temperatures in excess of 1,000K. That makes things a bit more challenging, given that many metals will melt at such temperatures; others will react with carbon dioxide under these conditions.

Finding a material that could work involves balancing a lot of factors, including heat and chemical resistance, ease of manufacture, and high heat transfer rates.

The researchers involved in the new work, a large U.S.-based collaboration, focus on a

composite material: tungsten and zirconium carbide. These have extremely high melting points: 3,700K for both materials. Both of them conduct heat extremely well, and neither of them expands or softens much under these conditions, meaning they would hold up better to the mechanical stresses.

## ■ How material is fabricated

While the stats are impressive, the amazing part of this is how the material is fabricated. The researchers started with tungsten carbide, a ceramic that can be formed into a porous material simply by pouring it as a powder into a mold and heating it. At this point, the ceramic can be further machined to produce a final shape.

Once in its final form, the ceramic was placed in a bath of a molten mixture of copper and zirconium. The molten mixture filled the pores, and the zirconium reacted with the tungsten carbide, replacing the tungsten. The copper in the molten material formed a thin film on the surface of the solid.

The tungsten then filled the pores in the resulting material, allowing it to retain the same shape and size despite the chemical changes. The zircon carbide ends up providing the material with a stiffness even at high temperatures, while the tungsten is flexible enough to keep the whole thing from being brittle. And the whole thing conducted heat better than the metals currently in use.

(Source: arstechnica.com)

**Some materials scientists may have figured out a way to boost concentrated solar's efficiency considerably, clawing back some of photovoltaics' advantage.**

## Mars: Oxygen-rich, life-supporting liquid water?



Given the right circumstances, water on Mars could hold more oxygen than previously believed, theoretically enough to support aerobic respiration, new research suggests.

A team led by scientists at Caltech and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), which Caltech manages for NASA, has calculated that if liquid water exists on Mars, it could -- under specific conditions -- contain more oxygen than previously thought possible. According to the model, the levels could even theoretically exceed the threshold needed to support simple aerobic life.

That finding runs contrary to the current, accepted view of Mars and its potential for hosting habitable environments. The existence of liquid water on Mars is not a given. Even if it is there, researchers have long dismissed the idea that it might be oxygenated, given that Mars's atmosphere is about 160 times thinner than that of Earth and is mostly carbon dioxide.

## ■ Oxygen the key ingredient

"Oxygen is a key ingredient when determining the habitability of an environment, but it is relatively scarce on Mars," says Woody Fischer, professor of geobiology at Caltech and a co-author of a Nature Geoscience paper on the findings, which were published on October 22.

"Nobody ever thought that the concentrations of dissolved oxygen needed for aerobic respiration could theoretically exist on Mars," adds JPL's Vlada Stamenkovi, lead author of the Nature Geoscience paper.

Finding liquid water on Mars is one of the major goals of NASA's Mars program. In recent months, data from

a European spacecraft have suggested that liquid water may lie beneath a layer of ice at Mars's south pole. It has also been hypothesized that water could exist in salty subsurface pools, because perchlorate salts (compounds of chlorine and oxygen) have been detected at various places on Mars.

## ■ Freezing temperature on Mars

Salt lowers the freezing point of water, which means that water with perchlorate in it could potentially stay liquid despite the freezing temperatures on Mars, where summer nights on the equator can still dip down to -100 degrees Fahrenheit.

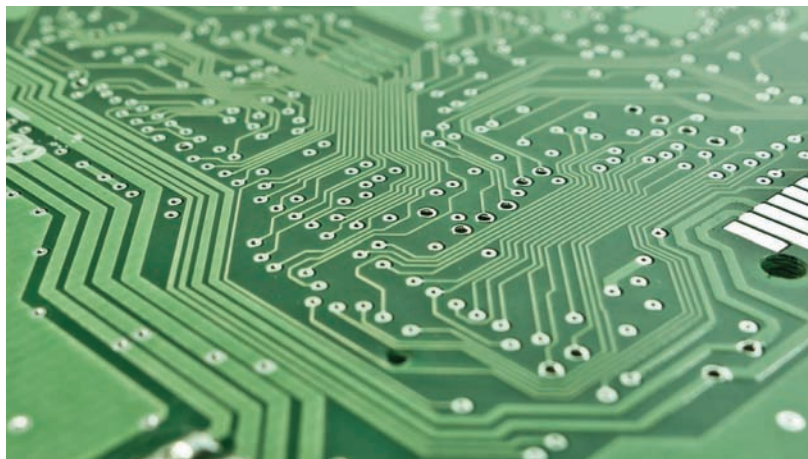
That hypothetical salty water is what interested Fischer and Stamenkovi. Oxygen enters water from the atmosphere, diffusing into the liquid to maintain an equilibrium between the water and the air.

To find out just how much oxygen could be absorbed, Stamenkovi<sup>2</sup>, Fischer, and their colleagues Michael Mischna at JPL and Lewis Ward (MS '14, Ph.D. '17) at Harvard, did two things: First, they developed a chemical model describing how oxygen dissolves in salty water at temperatures below the freezing point of water.

Second, they examined the global climate of Mars and how it has changed over the past 20 million years, during which time the tilt of the axis of the planet shifted, altering regional climates. The solubility and climate models together allowed the researchers to infer which regions on Mars are most capable of sustaining high oxygen solubilities, both today and in the planet's geologically recent past.

(Source: sciencedaily.com)

## Scientists make new 'green' electronic polymer-based films with protein nanowires



An interdisciplinary team of scientists at the University of Massachusetts Amherst has produced a new class of electronic materials that may lead to a "green," more sustainable future in biomedical and environmental sensing, say research leaders, microbiologist Derek Lovley and polymer scientist Todd Emrick.

They say their new work shows it is possible to combine protein nanowires with a polymer to produce a flexible electronic composite material that retains the electrical conductivity and unique sensing capabilities of protein nanowires. Results appear in the journal Small.

Protein nanowires have many advantages over the silicon nanowires and carbon nanotubes in terms of their biocompatibility, stability, and potential to be modified to sense a wide range of biomolecules and chemicals of medical or environmental interest, says Lovley.

## ■ Biological function

As Lovley explains, "We have been studying the biological function of protein nanowires for over a decade, but it is only now that we can see a path forward for their use in practical fabrication of electronic devices." Postdoctoral research Yun-Lu Sun, now at the University of Texas at Austin, discovered the proper conditions for mixing protein nanowires with a non-conductive polymer to yield the electrically conductive composite material. He demonstrated that although the wires are made of protein, they are very durable and easy to process into new materials.

An "additional advantage is that protein nanowires are a truly 'green,' sustainable material," Lovley adds. "We can mass-produce protein nanowires with microbes grown with renewable

feedstocks.

The manufacture of more traditional nanowire materials requires high energy inputs and some really nasty chemicals." By contrast, he says, "Protein nanowires are thinner than silicon wires, and unlike silicon are stable in water, which is very important for biomedical applications, such as detecting metabolites in sweat."

Emrick adds, "These electronic protein nanowires bear surprising resemblance to polymer fibers and we're trying to figure out how to combine the two most effectively."

## ■ Electrically conductive network

In their proof-of-concept study, the protein nanowires formed an electrically conductive network when introduced into the polymer polyvinyl alcohol. The material can be treated with harsh conditions, such as heat, or extreme pH such as high acidity, that might be expected to ruin a protein-based composite, but it continued to work well.

The conductivity of the protein nanowires embedded in the polymer changed dramatically in response to pH. "This is an important biomedical parameter diagnostic of some serious medical conditions," Lovley explains. "We can also genetically modify the structure of the protein nanowires in ways that we expect will enable detection of a wide range of other molecules of biomedical significance."

He points out, "Materials scientists need a lot more nanowires than we're used to making. We're were making thimblefuls for our biological studies. They need buckets full, so we are now concentrating on producing larger amounts and on tailoring the nanowires so they'll respond to other molecules."

(Source: phys.org)

## Electron microscope provided look inside the organic chemical reaction

Scientists from Zelinsky Institute of Organic Chemistry of Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow managed to look inside an organic chemical reaction with electron microscope and recorded the occurred transformation in real time. The team from the laboratory of Prof. Ananikov applied combined nano-scale and molecular-scale approaches to the study of chemical transformation in catalytic cross-coupling reaction. The study is published in Nature Communications.

Electron microscopy is a unique method to study the structure of matter, providing images of various objects with magnifications up to the level of individual atoms by probing the samples with electron beam. The key feature of this method is providing an image of the object that is straightforward to analyze.

However, so far that advantage has been actively used to study exclusively the solid objects. The reason for this lays in harsh conditions inside an electron microscope, in particular, extremely low pressure in the specimen chamber, which can reach one billionth of the atmospheric pressure, thus only solid nonvolatile samples can survive.

But the majority of the chemical processes occur in liquid medium and the challenge for the electron microscopy is in situ monitoring of the chemical transformations. The interest in usage of electron microscopy to observe chemical reactions in liquid media has led to the emergence of methods that allow preserving samples in their native state even in high vacuum.

Researchers at Zelinsky Institute used special capsules protecting samples from the high vacuum. The chemical processes inside these capsules were observed through a thin window that was transparent to the electron beam.

The object of the study was very important cross-coupling reaction of carbon-sulfur bond formation. The desired products were synthesized from nickel thiolates, which represent the nano-structured reagents composed of nickel atoms and organosulfur moieties.

(Source: eurekalert.org)

## Massive sinkhole in China has led to the discovery of a 'world class' geological wonder

An expedition to explore a giant sinkhole in the forest of Guangxi, China has resulted in the discovery of a tremendous cave hall complex under the ground.

At 6.7 million cubic meters (236 million cubic feet), the cave's volume is of a rare enormity, making it 'world class,' geological experts are reported as saying.

The expedition was a joint venture between China and the UK, led by Zhang Yuanhai of the Institute of Karst Geology of the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, and British Caving Association chairman Andy Eavis.

From 4 to 8 October, the 19-member team lowered themselves into the tiangkeng - the Chinese name given to this type of unusually large sinkhole - using just a single rope. Once inside, they set about mapping the interior.

"This giant cave hall was actually discovered by the Hong Kong expedition last year, so it was named Hong Kong-Haiting Hall," Zhang Yuanhai explained to Chinese news website Science and Technology Daily.

They discovered that the sinkhole pit is 100 meters (328 ft) wide and nearly 200 meters (656 ft) long, with a maximum depth of 118 meters (387 ft). Towards the southeast end, the slope collapses into a huge cave complex.

It contains corridors, halls, craters, collapsed rocks, stone pillars and a type of formation called cave pearls - small, round stones polished smooth by water and deposited in cave crannies, where they sit undisturbed.

"Three-dimensional scanning found that Hong Kong-Haiting Hall has retained a lot of evidence of the collapse of the crater evolution, especially the traces of rock mechanics produced after the collapse, which are clearly visible, demonstrating the evolutionary characteristics of this tiangkeng," Zhang Yuanhai said.

(Source: sciencealert.com)

## NASA looking for tech and science payloads to go on commercial lunar landers

NASA is looking for technology and instrument payloads as part of the planned robotic and manned missions to the surface of the Moon.

The U.S. space agency officially has announced a call for small payloads that will be ready to be launched no later than December 2021. Submissions are open until Nov. 19, but the agency assures that another round of proposals will be selected some time next year and then at regular intervals.



The call is part of the plan to send humans back to the surface of the Moon in 2020s — 50 years after Apollo 17. NASA is also planning to launch a Lunar Gateway to orbit the Moon to house astronauts and experiments, as well as become the jump off point for future missions into deep space.

The space agency is specifically looking for instruments and technologies that could advance science and exploration on the surface of the Moon. The ideal payload will gather data on solar wind, atmosphere, the heat flow in the interior of the Moon, etc. ahead of manned missions.

The "strategy is that these early missions will help us prepare for more complex future missions such as searching for useable resources, building up a seismic network to understand the Moon's internal structure, and studying the lunar mineralogy and chemistry to understand the Moon's origins," explained NASA Deputy Associate Administrator for Exploration, Steve Clarke.

The space agency also hopes that the selected instruments and technologies will be of use during future missions, including robotic and manned missions to the surface of Mars. Selected technologies can use the surface of the Moon as a "testbed" for Mars, according to the press release.

(Source: techtimes.com)

## BMI CEO Expounds on Latest Situation of Currency Payment in Arbaeen

Member of the Board of Directors and Deputy CEO of Bank Melli Iran (BMI) for IT and Communications Network Department Masoud Khatouni elaborated on the latest situation of delivery of currency to pilgrims in border point during Arbaeen ceremonies, the Public Relations Dept. of the bank reported.

Presently, 3,000 pilgrims are receiving their currencies from 20 bank booths stationed in Mehran border, he maintained.

He assured pilgrims not to worry for receiving currency during these days due to the climatic conditions and severe rainfall last day in the border city.

In a short period, necessary infrastructures were provided in Mehran border for payment of currency to pilgrims, he said, adding, "severe storm and rainfall in Mehran border city caused serious damage to infrastructures in a way that



some installations faced breakdown."

On the other hand, disorder in entry gates of Mehran border created many problems for pilgrims in order to receive their currency at this border point, he emphasized.

Khatouni added, "place of deployment and increase in the number of booths for the delivery of currency should first be licensed by Iraqi side.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Khatouni pointed to the terms and conditions for payment of currency in Arbaeen in Shalamchah border and added, "cooperation and interaction among colleagues of Bank Melli Iran between Iran and Iraq for offering necessary services to the respected pilgrims are underway."

Khatouni added, "according to the predictions, more than 60 percent of pilgrims had announced their readiness to receive their currency from Mehran border."



## CVDs major leading cause of death in Iran

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) are the leading cause of death among Iranians claiming 38% of the annual death rate, spokesman of the Iranian National Organization for Civil Registration has said.

Cancer with 11.5 percent, respiratory diseases with 9.4 percent, and fatal unintentional injuries with 6 percent are the three top causes of mortality in the country, proceeding cardiovascular disease, IRNA quoted Seifollah Aboutorabi as saying on Tuesday.



During first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22), a total of 182,389 people died in the country, 102,000 of whom were male and 79,209 were female, he further stated.

He went on to say that the most important cause of death in the country is cardiovascular diseases which account for 38.2 percent of annual deaths.

The total mortality rate is 4.7 per 1,000 population in the country, he concluded.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), CVDs take the lives of 17.9 million people every year, 31% of all global deaths. Triggering these diseases, which manifest primarily as heart attacks and strokes, are tobacco use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and the harmful use of alcohol. These in turn show up in people as raised blood pressure, elevated blood glucose and overweight and obesity, risks detrimental to good heart health.

The good news, however, is that 80% of premature heart attacks and strokes are preventable.

WHO explained that tobacco use, an unhealthy diet, and physical inactivity increase the risk of heart attacks and strokes. Engaging in physical activity for at least 30 minutes every day of the week will help to prevent heart attacks and strokes. Additionally eating at least five servings of fruit and vegetables a day, and limiting your salt intake to less than one teaspoon a day, also helps to prevent heart attacks and strokes.

Check and control your overall cardiovascular risk. An important aspect of preventing heart attacks and strokes is by providing treatment and counselling to individuals at high risk (those with a 10 year cardiovascular risk equal to or above 30%) and reducing their cardiovascular risk. A health worker can estimate your cardiovascular risk using simple risk charts and provide the appropriate advice for managing your risk factors such as blood pressure, blood lipids and blood sugar.

## LEARN ENGLISH

### Sending A Quote Via

Tracy: Melanie, can you help me with something? We need to finalize the account with the Mexican Embassy and, I need some advice on phrasing this letter correctly in English.  
Melanie: Sure Tracy, let me just get my laptop. all set.  
Tracy: Okay, so... to Whom It May Concern, I am writing.  
Melanie: Um, Tracy? I think that's a little too formal. I know you want to be polite but you've already made contact with them, so in English you can be more relaxed in the opening. ...  
Tracy: Okay, more relaxed. Got it... Hey Sally, what's up? It's Tracy here, just.  
Melanie: Okay Tracy, now it's too relaxed! You've still got to show some respect. How about starting with "Dear Ms. Cooper, I'm writing to confirm...?"  
Tracy: Great, okay. "Dear Miss Cooper, I'm writing to confirm the final **quotation** for the full page back cover color advertisement you requested for the spring issue of Voila magazine.  
Melanie: That's great...  
Tracy: "The final **costing**, including advert design and production, comes to forty-five thousand six hundred RMB. We want payment ten working days before publication or we will cancel the ad. Thanks for..."  
Melanie: Woo, okay back up a second Tracy. That's too direct. Can I suggest you say, "**please note that** final payment is due two working weeks before publication? You don't want to offend her.  
Tracy: Oops okay. You are right. Then I can just end with "All the best, Tracy"  
Melanie: Hmmm, maybe, but I'd **play it safe** and just finish with "Yours Sincerely". That's more professional.  
Tracy: Oh, Melanie you are a life saver, thank you!

■ **Key vocabulary**  
**I am writing to:** introduction  
**quotation:** a statement of the price of an item or service  
**costing:** charge, make someone pay  
**please note that:** being informed of something  
**play it safe:** go with the safest option  
■ **Supplementary vocabulary**  
**cargo:** freight of a ship, airplane  
**link:** a word icon, etc., on which a user may click to move to another part of or different website, document  
**attachment:** something attached, as a document added to a letter, or a picture in an email etc.  
**etiquette:** conventional requirements as to social behavior; proprieties of conduct as established in any class or community or for any occasion

Without water, everything withers



# Asia-Pacific conference on population aging opens in Tehran

By Maryam Qarehgozlou

**TEHRAN** — HelpAge Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Population Ageing kicked off in Tehran on Tuesday, with a main theme of "Family, Community and State in Ageing Societies".

The three-day event is mainly focused on exchanging knowledge and experiences among countries to better grasp potential solutions to the issues related to population ageing and the needs of older persons.

The event is coordinated in a collaboration among the Ministry of Cooperative, Labor and Welfare, the State Welfare Organization of Islamic Republic of Iran, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Asia and Pacific Regional Office of the HelpAge International.

The conference was attended by Iranian Health Minister Hassan Qazizadeh Hashemi, Anoushirvan Mohseni-Bandpey, Caretaker Minister of Cooperative, Labor and Welfare and director of the State Welfare Organization of Iran, as well as First Vice-President Eshaq Jahangiri.

Moreover other high level Iranian officials, foreign missions representatives as well as 121 delegates from 28 countries including government ministers, non-government and civil society organizations, academics and researchers, and members of the media also attend the conference.

Various panels, plenary session, side events and parallel sessions are scheduled to be held over the three-day conference on issues such as the effects of the demographic change on older people and their families, finding ways to keep older persons at the center of the discussion, income sources, social inclusion and healthcare services for older persons, development of age-friendly societies, reducing loneliness for seniors, etc.

■ **'Older persons can facilitate sustainable development'**

Mohseni-Bandpey, Caretaker Minister of Cooperative, Labor and Welfare and director of the State Welfare Organization of Iran in his welcome remarks explained that older persons can play a key role in facilitating



First Vice-President Eshaq Jahangiri is delivering his opening speech at the conference

sustainable development of the country.

"The conference will hopefully set the scene for taking advantage of international experience in collaboration with HelpAge International and United Nations Population Fund, to manage the future of the ageing population and use the older persons' support to accelerate development," Mohseni-Bandpey restated.

A survey on aging population is underway in Iran under the auspices of the UNFPA, which can be effective in planning for and serving the elderly, he highlighted.

The National Secretariat Council of the Elderly, Farzanegan Foundation [an organization supporting older persons' social and civil participation] are also cultivating the relation between the elderly and the government, he added.

He went on to say that the national document on older persons is also the roadmap showing the way for better planning for the elderly in the near future.

■ **'Time to implement clear, effective and long-term policies to address population aging'**

## Second phase of Tehran's LEZ scheme comes into force

**ENVIRONMENT** **TEHRAN** — The second phase of low emission zone (LEZ) scheme aiming at reducing traffic emissions, went into effect on Tuesday running for 24 hours a day, head of the national working group for reducing air pollution has announced.

LEZ is a defined area where access by certain polluting vehicles is restricted or deterred with the aim of improving the air quality. This may favor vehicles such as hybrid electric vehicles, or zero-emission vehicles such as all-electric vehicles.

To bring LEZ scheme into effect all the vehicles in Tehran are required to get inspection stickers indicating the level of emission they produce which are easy to track down by the traffic cameras thanks to the newly integrated vehicle inspection system.

First phase of the scheme was set up in Tehran on September 5, 2016, aiming to mitigate air pollution in the metropolis, which was running from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day except for holidays, ISNA quoted Vahid Hosseini as saying.

The scheme replaced the odd-even number license plate scheme (where depending on the weekday the cars with only odd or even number plate were allowed to drive) in a zone stretching over 80 kilometers of the central Tehran, he added.

The inspection certificate is a label, which all vehicles must carry at any time or places, he said, adding, so limiting the inspection certificate to a small area of the city or limited hours does not make sense.

The main advantage of the first phase of the scheme was mandating the inspection certificate for the first time in the country and imposing fines on vehicles not undergoing an annual quality inspection, which must have been come into force in [the Iranian calendar year of] 1353 (March 1974-March 1975), he further explained.

He went on to note that before the obligatory vehicle inspection scheme was implemented, police officers would randomly check on drivers to see whether or not they had the needed documents only in case of spotting any violations, including, driving an unsafe speed, running in the wrong lane or passing the red light.

Tracking inspection labels through traffic cameras is surely a positive step taken by the implementation of the scheme, which has led to a dramatic rise in the number of drivers referring to vehicle inspection centers, last year (March 2017- March 2018), Hosseini stated.

Due to the implantation of the scheme, over a year, 300,000 vehicles have been rejected to receive an inspection certificate and were forced to eliminate emission producing, he also added.

In the first phase of the scheme, a number of cars have entered the zone outside the designated hours (8 p.m. to 5 a.m.). Also, diesel-powered vehicles were not subject to inspection certificate check, as these vehicles are not essentially running in the traffic zone, or mostly moving during the night.

Therefore, in the second phase of the LEZ, the inspection certificate is obligatory for the whole vehicles moving through each area of the capital, running for 24 hours a day and 365 days a year.

The law must have been implemented over the past 40 years, while the Municipality now has decided to expand the scheme which has been successful to some extent on its first phase.

Currently, only vehicles that display an up-to-date sticker are allowed to enter the zone, he highlighted.

While new cars under four years of age are exempted from the vehicle inspection law, through the second phase of LEZ, a suggestion for new car owners was proposed by the Municipality, which offers the cars with premium vehicle inspection certificates a 20 percent discount on permit license for authorizing them to enter the zone all year round.

The experience on implementing LEZ in the world demonstrates that the scheme will have a positive impact on the reduction of air pollution in the long run, while it cannot have a tangible effect in the short run, he noted.

Countries succeeded in solving the air pollution problem have certainly been rigorous in enforcing air pollution abatement rules and vehicle inspections, he noted, explaining, "in our country, over the past five years, the inspection cer-

society can play an important role in establishing ties between older persons and governmental bodies.

The political system and civil society power lies with the inclusion of the older persons in the community as the older persons have reached "perfection" and can be pretty much beneficial to the development of the society, Jahangiri suggested.

"While now the population of senior citizens stand at 7.4 million in Iran the number is projected to increase to 30 million by 2050 and this is something new for Iran and now it's a good to for formulating policies to plan a better future."

In the near future the government will face serious challenges for paying pension for the elderly, he noted.

Jahangiri went on to say that "accordingly in the seventh development plan we will be planning for the requirements of the older persons in depth from various social, cultural and political aspects."

The conference can be a step for drawing up a more ambitious plan, he concluded.

■ **Aging worldwide**

According to the World Health Organization between 2015 and 2050, the proportion of the world's population over 60 years will nearly double from 12% to 22%. By 2020, the number of people aged 60 years and older will outnumber children younger than 5 years old.

The pace of population ageing is much faster than in the past. In 2050, 80% of older people will be living in low- and middle-income countries.

All countries face major challenges to ensure that their health and social systems are ready to make the most of this demographic shift.

Unfortunately older people are often assumed to be frail or dependent, and a burden to society. Public health, and society as a whole, need to address these and other ageist attitudes, which can lead to discrimination, affect the way policies are developed and the opportunities older people have to experience healthy aging.

tificates have been taken into consideration implementing within a specific time and area (first phase), and now it gets mandatory for all vehicles during the whole days (second phase) and must be done more intransigent."

Policies similar to LEZ, do not eradicate pollutants suddenly, however in the long run, will drive out polluting cars from the consumption cycle and results in the improvement of air quality, he concluded.

World Health Organization (WHO) asserts that Tehran is one of the most air polluted cities in the world. Tehran is ranked 12th among 26 megacities in terms of ambient PM10 levels. After Cairo, Tehran is the most polluted non-Asian megacity. In 2016, the annual ambient level of PM10 was estimated at 77 micrograms per cubic meter. This is almost four times the WHO's recommended threshold of 20 micrograms per cubic meter.

According to a report by World Bank published in April 2018 there are about 4.24 million vehicles in Tehran. Cars are the largest vehicle type, with a total fleet of 3.37 million, or 80 percent of all vehicles. The second largest category, in terms of sheer numbers, are motorcycles, amounting to a total of 0.76 million, or 18 percent of total vehicles. The smallest category is heavy-duty vehicles, with a total of 0.1 million vehicles, or about 2 percent of total vehicles in the streets of Tehran.

Even though cars are the most abundant and the most congestion-causing vehicle type on the streets of the capital, they only contribute about 3 percent of the city's mobile PM pollution. Similarly, despite motorcycles being the most pollution intensive vehicle per passenger, they only contribute to about 12 percent of the total mobile PM emissions. In turn, heavy-duty vehicles contribute about 85 percent to mobile PM emissions. Amongst heavy-duty vehicles, private sector buses (35 percent), followed by Tehran municipal buses (28 percent), and trucks (28 percent), contribute the largest shares to the pollution load. Heavy-duty vehicles mostly run on diesel, which has a much higher PM emissions factor than petroleum or natural gas.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ع

## National document on disabled-accessible cities approved

A national document which assigns all responsible organizations related tasks on improving accessibility in cities for persons with disabilities, has been approved, an official with the Welfare Organization has said. The national strategic document will be unveiled next month (September 23-October 22) by the head of the Welfare Organization, IRNA quoted Ebrahim Kazemi Momen Saraei as saying on Tuesday.

### PREFIX/SUFFIX

#### “-derm, -derma, -dermis”

■ **Meaning:** skin  
■ **For example:** In animal embryos, the **ectoderm** is the outer germ layer of the embryo.

### PHRASAL VERB

#### Lay somebody off

■ **Meaning:** to stop employing someone because there is no work for them to do  
■ **For example:** Millions of people have been laid off in the steel industry.

### IDIOM

#### Chinese arithmetic

■ **Explanation:** very complicated or difficult to understand  
■ **For example:** When he tried to explain the rules of the game to me, it was like Chinese arithmetic

## سند ملی مناسب سازی محیط برای معلولان تصویب شد

رئیس دبیرخانه ستاد هماهنگی و پیگیری مناسب سازی سازمان بهزیستی کشور از تصویب سند ملی راهبردی ستاد مناسب سازی کشور برای معلولان خبر داد و گفت: در این سند وظایف تمام دستگاه ها در رابطه با مناسب سازی مشخص تر و شفاف شده است. ابراهیم کاظمی مومن سرایی روز سه شنبه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار ایرنا افزود: سند ملی راهبردی مناسب سازی تا یک ماه آینده با حضور رئیس سازمان بهزیستی کشور رونمایی خواهد شد.



# Erdogan wants Saudi suspects in murder case tried in Istanbul

'Savage' Khashoggi killing was planned: Erdogan

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan says all those behind the murder of dissident Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi should be brought to justice, calling for all suspects in the case to stand trial in Istanbul.

"My demand is that 18 people be tried in Istanbul," Erdogan said in an address to lawmakers from his ruling party at the parliament in Ankara on Tuesday on the case of Khashoggi, who was murdered after entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2.

Erdogan also noted that "all those who played a role in the murder" have to face punishment.

The "very savage murder" had been "planned" days in advance and there was a roadmap to perpetrate the killing, Erdogan pointed out.

He further criticized Riyadh's contradictory reports in the days following his disappearance, saying Ankara will not stop its investigation until all major questions in the case are answered.

"Why did these 15 men meet in Istanbul on the day of the murder? Who ordered them to do so? Why did they open the consulate building to investigation not immediately, but days later?" asked Erdogan.

"Why don't they still produce the body of the person after their admission? Who is the 'local cooperator' that a Saudi official pointed at as the person who took the body? You should reveal who this local cooperator is," he added.

Elsewhere in his address, the Turkish president called for an independent commission to be set up to probe the murder.

Moreover, Erdogan questioned the Vienna Convention and the immunity it affords diplomats.

"The Vienna Convention would not allow such a brutal murder to happen," he said. "Diplomatic immunity, which is a part of the Vienna Convention, will be debated."

Erdogan had earlier promised to reveal the "naked truth" about the murder within days. During his speech, He gave a series of new details on the case.

On the day of the murder, he said, the surveillance system at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul had been deactivated on purpose.

Khashoggi first came to the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on September 28 to get his marriage documents, said Erdogan, adding that the "roadmap" to kill him started with that visit.

"On Oct. 1, a team of three (Saudis) landed in Istanbul and went to the consulate. Another consulate team went to Istanbul's Belgrad Forest and the [neighboring] Yalova province," he added. "Then another group came and this 15-member team went to the consulate on Oct. 2 morning and removed the hard disks of security cameras there."

**■ Bin Salman's aide ordered the killing on Skype**

Earlier, Reuters reported that a top aide to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has ordered the killing of Khashoggi via a Skype call to the kingdom's Istanbul consulate.

Arab and Turkish intelligence sources told Reuters on Monday that Saud al-Qahntani, who was dismissed last week as the



kingdom's royal court adviser, had hurled insults at Khashoggi via Skype as the critic was being interrogated by a 15-man team.

Khashoggi answered Qahtani's insults with those of his own, the sources added.

A Turkish intelligence source said that Qahtani had instructed his men to dispose of Khashoggi, saying, "Bring me the head of the dog."

However, it was not clear if Qahtani had watched the entire proceedings, which a high-ranking Arab intelligence source described as a "bungled and botched operation."

According to the sources, Erdogan is in possession of the audio of the Skype call but is refusing to release it to American officials.

After long insisting that Khashoggi had exited the consulate alive, Riyadh finally admitted on October 20th that he had been murdered inside the mission, blaming the killing on a "rogue operation." Saudi officials alleged that "discussions" at the mission had turned into "a brawl," resulting in the journalist's murder.

Speaking on the case in Indonesia, Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeiri promised a "thorough and complete" investigation into the death. He added that, "Mechanism and procedures are put in place to ensure that something like this can never happen again."

Eight Saudi, Arab and Western diplomatic sources also confirmed to Reuters that Qahtani is the same person who led the interrogation of Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri during his last year's reported detention in Saudi Arabia.

Hariri stunned Lebanon on November 4, 2017 by announcing his resignation in a live television broadcast from Saudi Arabia. He, however, managed to get out of the kingdom amid international pressure on Riyadh and rescinded his resignation.

Three Arab sources familiar with the

incident said that upon arrival in Riyadh, Hariri had been ushered into a room where Qahtani was waiting for him with a security team.

"He (Qahtani) told him you have no choice but to resign and read this statement," one of the sources said. "Qahtani oversaw the interrogation and ill-treatment of Hariri."

Qahtani was also said to have played a role in the Saudi-led boycott of Qatar and the alleged "anti-corruption campaign" spearheaded by bin Salman last November.

**■ Saudis burn documents at Istanbul mission**

Separately on Monday, Turkish broadcaster A Haber released footage showing Saudi consular personnel burning documents a day after Khashoggi's disappearance.

The video purportedly recorded from a nearby high-rise in Istanbul shows two men burning papers in a trash container.

Additionally, CNN published surveillance footage that showed a member of the Saudi hit squad leaving the Saudi consulate by the back door, wearing Khashoggi's clothes, a fake beard and glasses on the day he was killed.

A Turkish official identified the man as Mustafa al-Madani and said that he was a "body double."

"You don't need a body double for a rendition or an interrogation," the official said. "Our assessment has not changed since October 6. This was a premeditated murder and the body was moved out of the consulate."

Turkish police on Monday found an abandoned car bearing a diplomatic plate in a private Istanbul parking lot, matching a car seen outside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, Turkish media reported.

Another vehicle, carrying no license plate, was removed from the consulate with a tow

truck, according to the Hurriyet Daily News.

**■ CIA chief heads to Turkey**

In another development, a source familiar with the plans of CIA Director Gina Haspel said that she was traveling to Turkey to address a probe into Khashoggi's murder.

U.S. President Donald Trump had initially said that the Saudi account of Khashoggi's death was "credible," but later noted that he was "not satisfied" by the narrative.

**■ Mnuchin meets bin Salman as Riyadh confab boycott widens**

Meanwhile, U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has arrived in Riyadh, where he met with bin Salman.

The U.S. official has, however, said that he would not attend the Future Investment Initiative conference, which opened earlier on Tuesday amid an international boycott of the event.

Many high-ranking figures and companies have dropped their plans to take part in the three-day event amid an international outcry over Riyadh's admission of Khashoggi's murder.

The CEOs of Siemens, Total and French state-owned utility EDF are the latest to pull out of the summit.

"Siemens is a reliable and committed partner of the kingdom and its VISION 2030. But for now, truth needs to be found out and justice applied," Siemens CEO Joe Kaeser said in a statement on his LinkedIn account.

**■ Summit website hacked**

Separately, hackers briefly defaced the website of the Riyadh investment conference on Monday.

Visitors to the site on Monday saw a picture of bin Salman holding a curved sword over the head of Khashoggi, as a masked figure in the background waved the black flag of the Daesh terrorist group.

(Source: agencies)

## Israel urged to drop plans for Khan Ahmar demolition

**■ 20 Gazans injured at Israeli naval blockade protest**

The French Foreign Ministry has called on Israeli officials to "permanently abandon their plans to demolish Khan al-Ahmar and to remove the uncertainty surrounding the fate of the village" as the Tel Aviv regime presses ahead with its land expropriation policies in the occupied territories irrespective of great international outcry.

The ministry said in a statement that France takes note of the decision by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to postpone the demolition of Khan al-Ahmar for the time being, stressing that the Bedouin village is "located in an area that is key to the contiguity of a future Palestinian state and therefore the viability of the two-state solution."

"France, in collaboration with its European partners, has repeatedly called on Israeli authorities not to proceed with the destruction of Khan al-Ahmar and the forced evacuation of its inhabitants," the statement pointed out.

Some 180 residents of Khan-al Ahmar village face being forcibly evicted and transferred by the Israeli army.

Israeli authorities have reportedly offered the villagers a choice of two possible destinations: a site near the former Jerusalem al-Quds municipal garbage dump, near the village of Abu Dis, or a site in the vicinity of a sewage plant close to the city of Ariha (Jericho).

Israel's Supreme Court has twice ruled in favor of demolishing the entire

village of Khan al-Ahmar, first on May 24 and again on September 5 this year.

The demolition order includes the village's school, which is constructed from rubber tires and provides education for some 170 children from five different Bedouin communities.

Israeli officials allege that Palestinian structures there have been built without the relevant building permits and pose a threat to residents because of their proximity to a highway.

Critics, on the other hand, maintain that building permits are nearly impossible to obtain for Palestinians in Israeli-controlled areas of the West Bank and the demolition is meant to clear the way for new settlements.

The Ramallah-based Palestinian Authority has submitted a new complaint over the Israeli "war crime" against Khan al-Ahmar village at the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Saeb Erekat, Secretary General of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), said on September 11 that the dossier "included a focus on the war crimes facing Khan al-Ahmar, specifically the crimes of forcible displacement, ethnic cleansing and the destruction of civilian property."

He added that the PLO had also asked ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda to expedite a preliminary probe into other Israeli war crimes.

"We hope that an official judicial investigation can be opened as soon as possible," Erekat noted.

(Source: agencies)

## UN: 8.4 million war-hit Yemenis need urgent food aid

The United Nations humanitarian chief says the war on Yemen has left as many as 8.4 million people in the Arab world's already poorest nation in need of urgent food aid.

In all, 75 percent of Yemen's 22-million-strong population needed some sort of assistance, said the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock.

Remarking in an analysis obtained by the Associated Press (AP) on Monday, he said three

million Yemenis were malnourished, including 1.1 million pregnant women, "and more than 400,000 severely acutely malnourished children."

Humanitarian officials "estimate that 3.5 million to four million more people could become severely food insecure in the months ahead," the report noted.

If current trends continued, food needs could increase "by as much as 62 percent," it said.

The UN Security Council is to address the report on Tuesday.

According to AP, more than 10,000 people have died since Saudi Arabia led many of its allies into the war on Yemen to reinstall the country's former Riyadh-allied officials. Yemen's Health Ministry, however, puts the number at above 15,000.

The United States, and major European countries, including the UK and France, provide the war with various types of support, most importantly unstinting arms sales.

Lowcock urged easier access for aid operations and an expansion of commercial imports.

The Saudi-led coalition enforces an all-out embargo on Yemen. It claims the siege helps stem arms transfers to the country's Army and popular Houthi Ansarullah movement, which is defending the country against the invaders.

Since June, the coalition has been engaged in a military operation to seize al-Hudaydah, Yemen's most vital port.

Back in September, the humanitarian chief said Yemen was being tipped over the edge of famine.

"We may now be approaching a tipping point, beyond which it will be impossible to prevent massive loss of life as a result of widespread famine across the country," he said. "We are already seeing pockets of famine-like conditions, including cases where people are eating leaves," Lowcock added.

Yemen's economy has contracted 50 percent since the start of the war, said the official.

(Source: Press TV)

## Syria never used chemical weapons: Deputy FM

Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal al-Mikdad says Damascus has never used chemical weapons in its war against foreign-backed terrorists and it will never use any such banned munitions in the future.

The high-ranking Syrian official made the remarks at the signing ceremony of a book at the al-Assad National Library in capital Damascus on Sunday evening. The book's title in English is "Syria and the Chemicals with Facts and Documents," which has been written in Arabic by lawmaker, Dr. Ahmad Abdul-Salam Mar'ai.

Mikdad, who heads the National Committee on Implementing Syria's Commitments according to Convention on Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, affirmed that his country's decision to join the convention was made "freely and willfully within framework of its sovereignty, independence and response to the developments of situations in Syria, the region and the world."

Syria surrendered its stockpiles of chemical weapons in 2013 to a joint mission led by the US and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which oversaw the destruction of the weaponry. Damascus has consistently denied using chemical weapons over the past years of conflict in the country.

Western governments and their allies, however, have never stopped pointing the finger at Damascus whenever an apparent chemical attack takes place.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Mikdad said using banned white phosphorus munitions by the US-led military coalition in Syria's troubled eastern province of Dayr al-Zawr earlier this month was another evidence showing that the current US administration and the previous administrations resort to use any weapon that might serve their interests.

For his part, Dr. Mar'ai said his book, which is in fact his PhD thesis, came as a modest contribution to disclosing the facts in the face of a misleading campaign that targets Syria, accusing it of using chemical weapons during its seven-year-long war against terrorists.

He added that the book, which covers both theoretical and legal aspects of the subject, concluded that the Arab country had fully adhered to the obligations of the Convention on Prohibition of Chemical Weapons due to its belief in the equality in sovereignty for the states and in the support and respect for the joint collective values of the international community, including the international peace and security.

In April 2017, a suspected sarin gas attack hit the Syrian town of Khan Shaykhun in the northwestern province of Idlib, killing at least 80 people. Accusing Damascus, the US then launched nearly 60 Tomahawk cruise missiles at a Syrian air base, taking the lives of about 20 people including both Syrian soldiers and civilians.

On April 14, the US, Britain and France launched a coordinated missile attack against sites and research facilities near Damascus and Homs with the purported goal of paralyzing the Syrian government's capability to produce chemical arms. The strike came one week after an alleged gas attack on the Damascus suburb town of Douma.

Western countries have blamed the incident on the Syrian government. Damascus rejected the accusations as "chemical fabrications," which were made by the terrorists themselves in a bid to halt pro-government forces' advances.

Damascus said that the so-called Jaish al-Islam Takfiri terrorist group, which has dominant presence in Douma, was repeating the accusations "in order to accuse the Syrian Arab army in a blatant attempt to hinder the Army's advance."

(Source: Press TV)

## France's ban on full-body Islamic veil violates human rights: UN rights panel

The UN Human Rights Committee said on Tuesday that France's ban on the niqab, the full-body Islamic veil, was a violation of human rights and called on it to review the legislation.

France had failed to make the case for its ban, the committee said, giving Paris 180 days to report back to say what actions it had taken. The panel's findings are not legally binding but could influence French courts.

"In particular, the Committee was not persuaded by France's claim that a ban on face covering was necessary and proportionate from a security standpoint or for attaining the goal of 'living together' in society," it said.

The panel of 18 independent experts oversees compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Implementation of its decisions is not mandatory, but under an optional protocol of the treaty, France has an international legal obligation to comply "in good faith".

There was no immediate reaction from French authorities.

The same committee came to similar conclusions on the 2008 case of a woman sacked by a creche for wearing a veil. In September, a top French judge was quoted by newspaper Le Monde as saying that while not binding, the panel's decisions might still influence French case law.

**■ Risk of marginalization**

In 2014, the European Court of Human Rights, whose rulings are binding, upheld France's ban on full-face veils in public, saying it did not violate religious freedom.

But the UN Human Rights Committee disagreed with this in its statement on Tuesday, saying the ban disproportionately harmed the right of women to manifest their religious beliefs and could lead to them being confined at home and marginalized.

The committee's findings come after complaints by two French women convicted in 2012 under a 2010 law stipulating that "No one may, in a public space, wear any article of clothing intended to conceal the face."

In its findings the panel said the ban had violated the two women's human rights and called on France to pay them compensation.

Under the ban, anyone wearing the full-face veil in public is liable to a fine of 150 euros or lessons in French citizenship.

The committee's chair Yuval Shany said that he and several others on the 18-member panel considered it a form of oppression.

Several countries in Europe have introduced legislation on Islamic dress. Denmark's parliament enacted a ban on wearing of face veils in public in May. Belgium, the Netherlands, Bulgaria and the German state of Bavaria have also imposed some restrictions on full-face veils in public places.

France has the largest Muslim minority in Europe, estimated at 5 million or more out of a population of 67 million. The place of religion and religious symbols worn in public can be a matter of controversy in the staunchly secular country.

According to French media Metronews, some 223 fines were handed out in 2015 for wearing a full veil in public.

(Source: Reuters)



## Chinese women golfers told to pull out of Taiwan event

Chinese players on the elite U.S. professional women’s golf tour have pulled out of this week’s tournament in Taiwan at the 11th hour, after being told by someone “high up” in China to skip the event, sources familiar with the situation told Reuters.

They said world number nine Shanshan Feng and rookie Yu Liu were told during last weekend’s event in Shanghai that they should not play in the Swinging Skirts LPGA Taiwan Championship, which starts in Taipei on Thursday.

China, which views self-ruled Taiwan as a wayward province, has ramped up pressure to assert its sovereignty. Ties have deteriorated since 2016, when President Tsai Ing-wen of the independence-leaning Democratic Progressive Party came to power.

The United States sent two warships through the Taiwan Strait on Monday in its second such operation this year, as its military steps up the frequency of transits through the busy strategic waterway, despite opposition from China.

Sometimes the ill-feeling between China and Taiwan engulfs sporting events.

In July, for example, China blamed “independence activists” for the cancellation of an Olympic event in Taiwan, shrugging off Taipei’s accusation that Beijing’s “political bullying” was behind the revocation of its right to host a youth game.

It is unclear who told Feng and Yu, the only two Chinese golfers confirmed for the event in Taiwan, not to attend, but, barring injury, it is highly unusual for players to withdraw at such a late stage.

One source at the tournament said officials there had no plans to fine the players for withdrawing so late in the day, “given the circumstances”.

A media officer for the LPGA at the tournament told Reuters he was aware the two players had pulled out, but did not elaborate on the reason.

(Source: Reuters)

## Naomi Kawase named to direct 2020 Tokyo Olympic documentary



**TOKYO (AP)** — Japanese director Naomi Kawase, named Tuesday to make a documentary film about the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, said she hopes to focus on reconstruction efforts in the northern Fukushima region of the country.

The area was devastated in 2011 by an earthquake and tsunami and a resulting nuclear disaster. The Japanese government hopes the Olympics will show the region is recovering and that products made there are safe. Some Olympic softball and baseball games will be played there to showcase the region. “This will be an opportunity for me to show the world where Japan stands and what kind of changes Japan will be undergoing,” Kawase said through an interpreter. She said she also hoped to focus on volunteers at the Olympics. “I think this really fits with the Japanese spirit of giving and contributing,” she said. Kawase is highly acclaimed and became the youngest director to receive the Camera d’Or prize at the Cannes Film Festival with her 1997 film “Suzaku.”

Her best known recent films are “Sweet Bean” and “Still the Water.”

The Tokyo documentary will be financed by the International Olympic Committee and the local organizing committee, and is a requirement under the hosting contract.

Toshiro Muto, the CEO of the Tokyo organizing committee, said the IOC owns the copyright to the film and “has the right to make key decisions in the creation of the film.”

The documentary of the 1964 Tokyo Olympics by Kon Ichikawa, titled “Tokyo Olympiad,” is generally regarded as one of the most important in the genre, along with Leni Riefenstahl’s “Olympia” from the 1936 Berlin Games. Ichikawa’s film was controversial at the time and unsettled organizers who wanted a more traditional treatment of the Olympics rather than Ichikawa’s more poetic view

## Kimi Raikkonen reveals reasons for moving to Sauber

Kimi Raikkonen says “people don’t understand I’m actually very happy” to be moving to Sauber.

The 39-year-old Finn, victorious in Sunday’s US GP to become the oldest driver to win an F1 race since Nigel Mansell in 1994, will leave Ferrari at the end of the season for Sauber.

Raikkonen, told he was being dropped by Ferrari at the team’s home race at Monza in September, has previously been reluctant to discuss his motivation in signing a two-year deal with Sauber.

“I think people don’t understand I’m actually very happy where I’m going,” said Raikkonen. “I had my time with Ferrari, I won the championship with them. I won many races with them and for me, as a driver, I want different challenges, I want different things and I’m actually very happy to go there.”

Raikkonen is, like Sauber, a resident of Switzerland and confirmed the importance of a balanced family life - Raikkonen has two young children - was a factor in his decision to join Sauber.

“It’s roughly 40 minutes from my home,” he said of Sauber’s Hinwil base in the north of Switzerland. “My family will be happy, I’m happy to be with my family.”

Raikkonen has had two spells at Ferrari, the highlight being his 2007 title triumph, and says he will depart the Scuderia with no hard feelings - and no regrets about his ousting in favour of Charles Leclerc.

“I think it’s probably the best thing. I wasn’t really disappointed with the decision at any point. The only thing that I was interested in was to know what was going to happen. It doesn’t matter if you have contracts or not, things happen for different reasons but I think the end result is that I’m very excited about it.”

(Source: Sky Sports)

# Mesut Ozil’s moment of magic



A backheel, body feint and a flicked, outside-of-the-boot assist so outrageously filthy its parents told it to stay outside so they could attack it with a hosepipe. Most players would be happy if they achieved each of those mesmer- istic touches over the course of a season. Monday night, Mesut Ozil managed it in the space of 20 seconds.

But let’s rewind. Arsenal are leading Leicester 2-1: Ozil has already scored one sublime goal and helped to set up another. The game is becoming increasingly stretched, when Bernd Leno plays a simple sideways pass to Rob Holding, under pressure from Jamie Vardy. Holding gives it to Granit Khaka who lays off Lucas Torreira — which is where Ozil comes in.

So far, so conventional. And there is precious little out of the ordinary about Torreira’s driven pass, with Ozil flanked in the center of the pitch by Alex Iwobi and Alexandre Lacazette like sentries. And so the simple course of action for Ozil is to play a square pass, or to allow the ball to run onto Hector Bellerin beyond him.

But when has there been a player as singularly disinterested in the simple course of action as Mesut Ozil?

Instead, with Mattéo Guendouzi and his marker straying just outside of his peripheral vision, Ozil makes the decision to elaborately drag the ball back behind him, at an angle just about acute enough for the teenager to run onto. Iwobi doesn’t anticipate it. Lacazette doesn’t anticipate it. Even Guendouzi doesn’t anticipate it, needing to check his run ever so slightly to ensure that he is in the correct position to trap the ball.

Only it takes a few more precious nano-seconds for the true brilliance of Ozil’s touch to become clear. Us mere mortals need time to catch-up and compute the brilliance of the position Ozil has choreographed. Because, in ignoring Iwobi and Lacazette, he has ensured Leicester’s center-backs are unable to attack the ball. And in flicking it onto Guendouzi,

he has ensured Bellerin is free to run into space down the right wing.

Bellerin duly receives the ball. Naturally, he instinctively looks to return it to Ozil. But Ozil is now encircled by five blue shirts having hared powerfully downfield.

He knows he is not in a position to help, but hinder. And so he allows it to run between his legs knowing that sometimes, inaction is the greatest action of all.

Lacazette collects the ball and quickly prods it forward. By this point, Ozil is ready for his second touch.

It is here, having orchestrated this entire attack and with Kasper Schmeichel at his mercy, that just about any other player would have looked to squeeze their shot in at the

## Infantino plans for new global tournaments back on FIFA agenda



MANCHESTER, England (Reuters) - FIFA president Gianni Infantino’s plans for two new global tournaments are back on the agenda at the governing body with soccer officials set to discuss the proposals on Friday.

FIFA’s ruling council meets in Kigali, Rwanda and Infantino’s plan for a new ‘mini World Cup’ and an expanded Club World Cup feature among the items for discussion according to the agenda document.

FIFA did not immediately respond to a request for comment and it was not clear if the plans will be put to a vote.

Infantino wrote to FIFA Council members in May outlining his plans which he says are backed by a ‘solid and serious’ group of investors willing to spend \$25 billion over a 12-year cycle starting in 2021.

The letter did not outline the identity of the investors but several media reports have stated that Japanese conglomerate SoftBank Group is heading the consortium.

However, the plans were strongly opposed by clubs and leagues in Europe

and UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin said the plans were ‘highly cynical and ruthless mercantilism’ and accused FIFA of selling the soul of the game.

The plans did not feature on the agenda of FIFA’s congress in Moscow in June.

Infantino’s proposals would bring about major changes to the international calendar.

The proposals outline what would effectively be a mini-World Cup, featuring eight international teams, every two years in addition to the traditional event.

The tournament, known as the ‘Final 8’, would be the climax of a proposed global Nations League competition.

In the May letter, it was suggested that the new tournament would take place every October and/or November of every odd year starting from 2021. The Confederations Cup, currently staged every four years in a year before the World Cup, would be abolished.

The annual Club World Cup, which currently features seven teams, would be expanded to 24 teams and moved to once every four years, according to the proposals.

near post. Of course then, Ozil insouciantly wafts it back across the face of goal with an artful swish of his left boot, for Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang to gratefully stab home.

Two touches. Twenty seconds. Game over. “I think we played some beautiful football tonight,” Ozil tweeted almost immediately after stepping off the pitch.

Beautiful football. That’s what Ozil should be doing. Forget cramming him onto the right side of a three-man midfield and asking him to focus on pressing first and passing second. Or pouring over his sprint speed statistics and KM-run record. Judging Ozil on that sort of stuff is like Jackson Pollock on his ability to color in between the lines. Ozil is an artist — not a tradesman.

And so perhaps the most encouraging thing about Arsenal’s performance was the very fact that Emery saw fit to move Ozil back into the middle, back into his favored position, where he can be accommodated by his team-mates and in turn help raise their game to new heights.

Emery has been honest about wanting more from Ozil this season, but it is only reasonable to expect a career-best performance from the playmaker if he is being regularly deployed in his best position. Ozil does not need to be a conundrum. Rein-stated into the heart of Arsenal’s starting XI with the captain’s armband strapped to his arm, he delivered.

(Source: Independent.co.uk)

## Ex-MLB player Dykstra arraigned on drug, threat charges



Retired baseball player Lenny Dykstra was arraigned Monday in a New Jersey courtroom on two drug charges and for allegedly threatening an Uber driver, with his attorney entering a not guilty plea on Dykstra’s behalf.

Dykstra didn’t say anything during the hearing in the courtroom of Union County Superior Court Judge Lisa Miralles Walsh. He is scheduled to return on Dec. 3.

Outside the courtroom, a group of reporters followed him as he walked away.

“I’m a man of the people,” Dykstra said. “We’ll let the process handle itself and the truth will come out.”

Dykstra, 55, played 12 seasons with the Philadelphia Phillies and New York Mets. A three-time All-Star, he was a member of the Mets’ 1986 championship team.

David S. Bahuriak, Dykstra’s attorney, told reporters his client is innocent.

“This has been an overblown incident from the very beginning,” Bahuriak said. “He is not guilty, he did not commit a crime and the evidence is going to show that.”

Dykstra was arrested May 23 after an alleged confrontation with the Uber driver. The driver told police that Dykstra was

picked up at Crescent Circle in Linden, N.J., with a listed destination in nearby Clark Township, but changed his mind and wanted to go to Staten Island.

Dykstra would need to use his phone to change the trip, the driver says he told him, sparking the trouble.

The driver pulled up in front of the Linden police station and fled the vehicle “screaming for help,” according to the report. An officer patted down Dykstra, who claimed he had no gun and that the driver had kidnapped him.

Police said that when the officer searched Dykstra’s bags, he allegedly found a pill bottle containing a leafy green substance suspected to be marijuana, a glass pipe with suspected marijuana residue and a yellow straw with suspected powder cocaine residue. Also allegedly found were two pills suspected to be MDMA, a baggie containing suspected marijuana and a clear vial containing suspected cocaine.

If convicted, Dykstra could face up to 10 years in prison. He has two previous convictions, including a federal fraud conviction.

(Source: Reuters)

## Bolt unlikely to agree deal with Central Coast Mariners



A-League squad in preparing for this weekend’s match vs. Melbourne City, Usain Bolt will not attend team training this week, until and if, the club and Usain Bolt can agree to terms and formalise an arrangement,” the Mariners said in a statement Tuesday.

The statement confirmed that a third-party commercial partner would be required for both parties to agree to terms, as FFA stand firm in their refusal to dip into the marquee fund.

The clock is ticking on Usain Bolt’s race to extend his stay in the A-League, with sources telling ESPN that a contract with the Central Coast Mariners is looking unlikely.

While negotiations with Bolt’s agent Ricky Simms continue, the offer made by the Mariners is estimated by the Sydney Morning Herald to be in the region of \$150,000 -- well short of the \$3 million the sprint legend is requesting.

Bolt has since been excluded from team practice with the Mariners.

“To ensure that there is no distraction to the A-League squad in preparing for this weekend’s match vs. Melbourne City, Usain Bolt will not attend team training this week, until and if, the club and Usain Bolt can agree to terms and formalize an arrangement,” the Mariners said in a statement Tuesday.

Sources have told ESPN that Bolt is due to be in London in four weeks for a promotional engagement and is currently holding a one-way ticket in the event that no contract is forthcoming. However, following the news that he is no longer training alongside the A-League players, that four-week timeline looks to have shortened considerably.

“To ensure that there is no distraction to the Hyundai

With actual game time not the main driver in contract discussions and an appearance in an A-League match unlikely, sources have told ESPN that Mariners owner Mike Charlesworth might be the only one at the club keen to see a deal struck.

The British entrepreneur flew to Australia last month to watch Bolt’s 20-minute debut on the Central Coast, and despite an underwhelming first outing from the Jamaican superstar, Charlesworth seemed more than convinced by the hype in the stands.

“I don’t know if anyone could tell me a Central Coast player who has ever sold almost 10,000 tickets before,” Charlesworth told the Daily Telegraph at the time.

“I mean, what effect has Keisuke Honda made on ticket sales with Melbourne Victory. So while this is a risk, it’s a calculated risk”

That was almost two months ago, and since then, Mariners head coach Mike Mulvey has had plenty of time to assess Bolt’s capabilities and was honest about his chances when talking to Fox Sports at the Mariners opening match on the weekend.

“Do you think he’ll get in our front three?” Mulvey asked. “We’ve got a very good front third.”

(Source: ESPN)



# Persepolis advance to first ever AFC Champions League final

1 → Siamak Nemati equalized the match four minutes into the match from Godwin Mensha's cross.

Persepolis goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand shone in this match as he saved Hassan Al-Haidos's shot in the first half and Xavi Hernandez's header in the injury time.

Persepolis, who appeared in their second successive semi-final, had already defeated the UAE's Al Jazira and Al Duhail of Qatar in the last 16 and quarter-finals respectively.

No side from Iran have ever won the title, meanwhile, with runners-up finishes for Sepahan in 2007 and Zob Ahan in 2010 the closest the country has come to continental glory.

The Iranian Reds will meet the winner of South Korean Suwon Samsung Bluewings and Kashima Antlers from Japan in the two-leg final match.

The 2018 AFC Champions League is the 37th edition of Asia's premier club football tournament organized by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), and the 16th under the current AFC Champions League title.

The winners of the 2018 AFC Champions League will qualify as the AFC representative at the 2018 FIFA Club World Cup in the United Arab Emirates.



© Tehran Times/ Mohammad Reza Abbasi

## Karimi seizes bronze at Wrestling World C'ships



**S P O R T S   TEHRAN** — Alireza Karimi Machiani d e s k from Iran won a bronze medal at the men's senior freestyle Wrestling World Championships in Budapest, Hungary on Monday.

He beat his Georgian rival Dato Marsagishvili 12-1 at the 92kg.

The other bronze at this category was snatched by Japan's Atsushi Matsumoto, edging Mongolian Turtogtokh Luvsandorj 6-5.

J'den Cox from the U.S., a bronze medalist at the Rio Olympics and Paris World Championships while competing at 86kg, defeated Ivan Yankouski from Belarus 4-1 at 92kg.

Hassan Yazdani Charati and Parviz Hadi Basmanj had already two bronze medals this competition.

The competition is the first senior World Championships to use a ranking system to determine competitive seeds.

Previously athletes were put into brackets using a random draw, though the new system was announced at last year's Championships in Paris.

Under the new system - set to be applied across all 30 weight categories at this year's event - only wrestlers who finished within the top four of the pre-World Championships competition calendar are eligible to receive a seed.

The seed is non-transferable to another wrestler from the same National Federation, while if the seeded athlete does not enter their designated weight, then the seed moves to the next highest ranked wrestler.

Wrestlers may not carry their seed from one weight class to another.

The rankings on which the seeds are based, were determined by tallying points acquired at Continental Championships and several ranking series tournaments.

## Paco Alcacer: Playing against Atletico Madrid is like a toothache

With seven goals in four league matches, Paco Alcacer has certainly settled in quickly at Borussia Dortmund.

He moved from Barcelona in the summer and is thriving with his new team, who take on Atletico Madrid in the Champions League this Wednesday evening. He spoke to MARCA about that match, about his move to Germany and about much more.

■ Have you stopped to consider this start to the season that you're having?

"I've not stopped to think. In the end, this is the work that you have to do every day for the team. It's clear that all of the goals the strikers score are thanks to the players behind, and this is something you think about."

■ All you've touched has gone in. You've scored seven goals with 13 shots in the Bundesliga and in just 126 minutes. There was also a goal in the Champions League and three with Spain. This is something else...

"It's a matter of playing and of having a good run like I am having. When I joined Barcelona no goals were going in and I had a bad run, but now it's the opposite and everything is working out very well. This, though, won't change me as a person."

■ Would you have believed this a couple of months ago?



"I could have believed it or not. In the end, it's a matter of looking at the work you do each week so that when you have an opportunity you can do things well. In this case, things are working out well."

■ Has your form made you think you might have lost the past two years?

"Some may want to think that I might have lost the past two years from their viewpoint, I don't think I've lost two years. In terms of the number of minutes I had it's clear that I'd have liked to play more, but I have improved a lot as a footballer and as a person."

■ But how can you go from being a star at Valencia to being a backup at Barcelona?

"You do so with the day to day work. That's what there is. There is a coach who decides who plays and who doesn't and you have to adapt to that. The thing that is in your control is training well, improving each day and being prepared for when the person who decides things needs you to be ready to do things well."

■ Did you feel free upon switching Barcelona for Dortmund?

"The freedom is playing, having minutes and enjoying the profession. I didn't have the minutes at Barcelona that we all

want and now I am having them and things are going well."

■ Does Lionel Messi make those who play alongside him seem less important?

"He may capture the attention, but I also think he makes you a better footballer. In fact, many of the goals I scored at Barcelona were from his passes. He gives you passes that leave you alone in front of the goalkeeper and all you have to do is score. So yes, he does capture the attention, but he makes you a better player."

■ This isn't the first time you've overcome obstacles. At Valencia it was tough to make a name for yourself and you went on loan to Getafe without managing to start. Then there was the secondary role at Barcelona...

"I come from a family that looks at each day as if it were the last, making sure to enjoy to the maximum and to overcome all obstacles put in your way. It's been like that all my life and I hope it stays like that for the rest of it."

■ Are we viewing the best Alcacer?

"It's possible, the numbers would say so. But I am clear that I cannot relax at any point. I need to keep getting better alongside the great players that we have here."

■ Borussia Dortmund have expressed their intention to pay 23 million euros to Barcelona to sign you on a permanent deal. Are you already preparing to settle in Germany?

"My idea is to keep improving footballistically and to keep this season going as it has been so far. It's obvious that tough times will come, as well as simpler ones, but these shouldn't change the idea that is in my head."

■ You are the top scorer and your team lead the Bundesliga, while having won two out of two in the Champions League. Is Atletico Madrid the big test for you now?

"This is clearly a quite important test to see where we can place ourselves. Things are going well in the league and in the Champions League and now there is a top-level team coming that will demand a lot. We'll try to take as much from this game as possible."

■ Does it feel like this is the first leg of a two-legged

contest to see who tops the group?

"First place in the group will be decided in the final game because this is a competitive group, with major teams and you never know what could happen at any moment of any game. Look at what happened to Atletico last season."

■ What's more improbable, that you don't score or that Jan Oblak concedes a goal?

"I don't know, we'll see. All that is clear is that each match is its own and anything can happen. There can be a bad bounce from the pitch that is bad for the goalkeeper and it goes in as an own goal or it could happen in front of me and I end up shooting into row Z. You don't know what'll happen in any match."

■ Having seen Oblak's performance last weekend, does it motivate you?

"There is an extra motivation to try to make sure he doesn't keep this up. There is no doubt that Oblak is a great goalkeeper who hasn't only been great this season, but who has been for several years."

■ You've played against Atletico Madrid nine times but only won once. Is it like a toothache to play against them?

"A toothache to play against Atletico? Well, yes, totally. They are a team that concede very few goals and they leave few spaces, while they're always very aware of everything. For a striker it's frustrating."

■ Would you give the Ballon d'Or to Antoine Griezmann?

"The Ballon d'Or has to be for the best player at this moment and it's clear that Messi is the best player in the world."

■ With the squad Atletico have assembled, there's a debate about whether or not they should be more attacking. How do you see it?

"I think we already have enough to think about when it comes to our own things. We need to focus on ourselves."

■ Who would you consider to be favorites?

"It's clear that Atletico are a great team and a great club, a top club. But we need to make things difficult for them and go from there."

## Iranian referee invited to Luxembourg Archery World Cup

**IRNA** — The World Archery has invited an Iranian to arbitrate the coming archery tournament in Luxembourg as assistant referee.

Hossein Nassirinejad has been invited by the referee committee of the World Archery to arbitrate the Luxembourg archery world cup known as GT Open to be held in Strassen on November 24-25.

The position has been given to Nassirinejad for his numerous successful job as archery referee. He has been the assistant referee at indoor world cups of the US Las Vegas, France's Nims, Thailand's Bangkok, outdoor world cup of the US Utah and a number of other competitions.

He has also passed the latest examination of the referee committee with a total score of 94 out of 100.

## Iran U23 kayakers win two gold medals at Asian paracanoe golds

**IRNA** — Iranian kayakers won another two gold medals on Tuesday in 2018 U23 Asian Championships underway in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

Elnaz Shafieian won the 200m 1x kayak gold medal, and Pourya Sharifi and Alireza Jahannama snatched the 200m 2x kayak gold medal. Also another Iranian representative Pourya Sharifi bagged 200m 1x kayak's bronze.

Iranian kayakers and canoers won six golds and two silvers in different categories in the first day of the tournament.

Paracanoe is canoeing for athletes with a range of physical disabilities.

## Oksana Masters wins Sportswoman of the Year

US Nordic skier Oksana Masters has become just the second Paralympian to win the prestigious Individual Sportswoman of the Year award from the Women's Sports Foundation in New York City.

Masters won four medals at the PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games, including her first golds. Despite battling an elbow injury sustained prior to the Games, she took gold in the 1.5 km and 5 km cross-country sitting events. Masters also captured silver in both the 6 km and 12.5 km sitting events in biathlon.

"Aaahhhhh I'm still freaking out thank you @WomensSportsFdn for this insanely amazing honor!!!!" Masters wrote on Twitter.

"I'm speechless I don't know what to say."

The four-time Paralympian is a multi-talented athlete, having competed in rowing and cycling at London 2012 and Rio 2016, respectively; and biathlon and cross-country at Sochi 2014.

The Foundation annually recognises one individual athlete and one team athlete of the USA whose performances over the past year have been exceptional. Last year's individual winner was Olympic swimming champion Katie Ledecky. Tennis superstar Serena Williams and US gymnast Simone Biles are also among the previous winners. Swimmer Erin Popovich is the only other Paralympic athlete to receive the honour, having won in 2005. Para snowboarder Brenna Huckaby was among the previous nominees for Sportswoman of the Year accolade.

The award has been given out every year since 1993, and winners are determined by public vote and a vote of the WSF awards committee.

(Source: Paralympic.org)



## Wozniacki stands firm to stay alive in Singapore

**SINGAPORE (Reuters)** — Caroline Wozniacki overcame a mid-match wobble and withstood a barrage of big hitting to get her WTA Finals title defense back on track with a 7-5 3-6 6-2 victory over Petra Kvitova at the Singapore Indoor Stadium on Tuesday.

Both players came into the contest on the back of opening defeats in round robin play but the Danish world number three ended a run of four straight defeats to the Czech to stay alive in the eight-woman tournament for at least one more match.

Wozniacki, who started her White Group campaign with a 6-2 6-4 loss to Karolina Pliskova on Sunday, spent most of the match against Kvitova pinned on the baseline but her consistency and patience proved vital as she pulled away in the final set.

"I played much better today. I served and returned pretty well, and moved really well against a player who is so powerful that you have to stay on your game," Wozniacki said

"You never know what is going to happen against Petra, so I just stayed focused and got a lot of balls back."

The match was a cagey affair from the outset with seven holds of serve in a row. But after they traded breaks as the intensity levels picked up, Wozniacki broke again to seal the opener when Kvitova blasted a forehand into the net.

Kvitova took control of the second set with an early break, then lost momentum when Wozniacki took a timeout for treatment on her knee, before she regained the upper hand to level the match with a sliced backhand winner on her third set point.

Sensing her title defence was in tatters, Wozniacki regrouped to break at the start of the decider when she put away a backhand to win the longest rally of the match, and ran away with the contest as Kvitova wilted in the final set.

The 28-year-old Wozniacki sealed victory on her first match point with a big serve that Kvitova sent long, and will hope to win her final match of round robin play against Elina Svitolina to secure a semi-final berth.



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## Scholar Sadreddin Zahed to examine Sadeq Hedayat's impacts on Iranian theater

**A R T** **TEHRAN** – Actor and director Sadreddin Zahed who is also an expert on theater is scheduled to scrutinize the impacts of Iran's foremost short story writer Sadeq Hedayat on theater in the country during a session in Tehran on Saturday.



A poster for a session that will be held by Actor and director Sadreddin Zahed at the Iranian Theater Forum in Tehran.

The session consists of five parts, the first of which will focus on Hedayat's life, announced the Iranian Theater Forum that will host the session.

The second part will review his plays and the third part will provide an analysis of why those people active in theater showed regard for Hedayat's works.

In the fourth part, 72 illustrations created by Hushang Pezeshknia for Hedayat's short story "Laleh" will be showcased by projection.

His short story "The Legalizer" ("Mohallel") will be read in the final part.

## NEWS IN BRIEF



### "The Dark Room" to compete in HANIFF

**A R T** **TEHRAN** – "The Dark Room" by Ruhollah Hejazi from Iran will be competing in the Hanoi Film Festival (HANIFF) in Vietnam, the organizers have announced.

"The Dark Room" tells the story of a married couple named Farhad and Halleh.

Iranian director Shahram Mokri is a member of the jury for the official competition of the festival, which will be held in the capital of Vietnam from October 27 to 31. Japanese filmmaker Oguri Kohei will preside over the jury.

## Actress Amber Heard says birth on U.S.-Mexico border sparked rights activism

**GENEVA (Reuters)** - U.S. actress Amber Heard, a star of the upcoming "Aquaman" superhero movie and a U.N. human rights champion, said on Monday her childhood in Texas near the Mexican border helped spark her activism.

Her father, a Texas construction worker, accrued more and more godchildren on the Mexican side of the border, and young Amber considered many of them as friends and family.



American actress Amber Heard speaks about her human rights experiences on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, October 22, 2018. (Reuters/Pierre Albouy)

Going home in his pickup truck, there was an "indelible impression left on my soul", a recognition of injustice and unfairness for children on the Mexican side.

"Simply due to where I was born, a few miles north of this line, I was free to travel back and forth as I saw fit," she told an audience at the United Nations in Geneva on Monday.

Thousands of others would risk everything "for a mere shot and an opportunity to have that which I was just awarded due to this accidental luck of my birth on the other side. That was when I first started to pick up on the sensation."

Social media now gives everybody the chance to change things, with online campaigns like #MeToo, Time's Up, and Black Lives Matter, and while Hollywood had a responsibility to lead, it had failed to do so, she said.

"There is a certain amount of irony in the sense that Hollywood is often held up as some sort of bastion of progressive ideals, yet is actually in reality the exact opposite.

"On some of the most basic rights that we are starting, thank goodness, to take for granted in other disciplines, in other businesses, whether it is inclusion, pay equality, representation, diversity, you name it, we fall way behind."

# Photo exhibit promotes Hyrcanian Forest

**A R T** **TEHRAN** – "Hyrcanians, d e s k Eternally Green", an exhibition of photos of the Hyrcanian Forest in northern Iran, opened at Tehran's Niavaran Cultural Historical Complex on Monday.

The exhibition is being co-organized by the Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization (CHTHO) and the Iranian Youth Cinema Society to promote the ecoregion that is seeking registration on the UNESCO World Heritage List, the organizers announced on Tuesday.

Babak Borzuyeh is the curator of the exhibition, which is displaying 23 photos selected from hundreds of submissions from Iranian photographers.

German expert on the Hyrcanian Forest Hans-Dieter Knapp, UNESCO World Heritage Coordinator Susanna Lindeman, CHTHO deputy director Mohammad-Hassan Talebian, Iranian National Commission for UNESCO director Hojjatollah Ayyubi and numerous cultural figures attended the opening ceremony of the showcase.

Speaking at the ceremony, Talebian said, "Organizing this exhibition with such a powerful quality is a major cultural movement that represents the great capacity of photography."

"I'm really happy that Mrs. Susanna Lindeman is attending the ceremony and sees the forest's capacity for registration on the World Heritage List," he added.

Professor Knapp, who is known as "Mr. Hyrcanian" due to his lengthy, extensive research on the region, also delivered a short speech and said, "The photos on display at the exhibit present the grandeur and high value of the Hyrcanian Forest."

He called the vegetation in the Hyrcanian



Photos are on display at the Hyrcanians, Eternally Green exhibition at Tehran's Niavaran Cultural Historical Complex on October 22, 2018. (IRIB)

Forest unique and said, "I'm really happy that I've spent two decades of life researching the forest."

"Part of the beauty of the forest has been showcased at the exhibition," he added. He expressed his hope that the exhibition

would help UNESCO World Heritage Coordinator Lindeman adopt a positive view towards the Hyrcanian Forest file.

## Kashan to host children's book festival



Organizers unveil a poster for the 1st Festival of Books for Children and Young Adults at the Iranian Association of Writers for Children and Youth in Tehran on October 22, 2018. (IBNA/Reza Dashedi)

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** – The central Iranian city of Kashan, Iran's Book Capital of the Year, will host the First Festival of Books for Children and Young Adults opening on December 13.

40 writers and 10 book illustrators have been invited to attend the three-day event, the organizers announced in a press conference held on Monday at the Iranian Association of Writers for Children and Youth.

Due to the concurrent drought and rainfall shortages in the country especially in

the region of Kashan, books promoting the culture of decreasing water consumption will be selected to be introduced at the festival.

Books published since 2011 on the topic of water conservation can enter the competition.

Several workshops on poetry and storytelling and several meetings with literati will be organized on the sidelines of the festival.

A number of puppet theater troupes and several bands are also scheduled to give performances during the festival. The invited writers will also hold meetings with schoolchildren in schools across the city.

## Tallinn festival picks films from Iran



"Sheeple" by Hooman Seyyedi.

**A R T** **TEHRAN** – The Iranian films "Sheeple" and "Kejal" will be competing in the Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival running in the Estonian capital city of Tallinn from November 16 to December 2, the organizers have announced.

"Sheeple" by Hooman Seyyedi will be screened in the official competition, while Nima Yar's debut "Kejal" will go on screen in the First Feature Competition.

"Sheeple" is about Shahin, a loud-mouthed fellow adopted years ago, who tries to establish his authority in a family run by the iron hand of his drug lord brother.

The film grabbed the audience Crystal Simorgh at the 36th Fajr Film Festival in February.

"Kejal" is a thrilling drama about a 26-year-old Kurdish woman, a student from Tehran, who takes on what is traditionally considered as a "man's job" after his brother has been killed in a smuggling operation on the dangerous Iraq-Iran border.

The Greece-France-Latvia co-production "Still River" by director Angelos Frantzis, "Sunburn", a Portuguese film by director Vicente Alves and "Winter's Night" by South Korean director Jang Woo-jin are among the films competing in the event.

## Vue puts Saudi cinema deal on hold after Khashoggi death

**LONDON (The Guardian)** -- Vue, one of the world's largest cinema operators, has put plans to open dozens of film theatres in Saudi Arabia on hold as a result of the murder of Jamal Khashoggi.

In February, British-headquartered Vue International signed an exclusive memorandum of understanding with the Abdulmohsin al-Hokair property group to jointly build up to 30 cinema sites.

The deal was seen as groundbreaking, coming just months after the crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, lifted a 35-year ban on cinemas in Saudi Arabia.

The agreement would have seen Vue, the largest movie exhibitor outside of the U.S. and among the top five globally, be among the first to open cinemas in the country since the ban was lifted in December 2017.

"We have delayed, but not pulled out," said Tim Richards, the chief executive and founder of Vue, speaking to the Guardian. "We are like a lot of leading companies around the world; we are watching and share the concerns that others do. This has all happened very quickly. We want to see what happens in the next few weeks and don't want to make any kneejerk reactions."

Richards said he would also now no longer be attending a major economic forum in Saudi



Vue's boss also said he would no longer attend a major economic forum in Saudi Arabia. (Photograph: Alamy)

Arabia on Tuesday, dubbed "Davos in the desert", and currently has no further trips planned.

The kingdom also has a similar agreement in place with the U.S. cinema operator AMC and Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, which was announced in December.

The position of AMC is not known. AMC hopes to open 40 cinemas in the next five years.

Last week, it was reported that Endeavor, the media and entertainment group founded by Ari Emanuel, the Hollywood agent who was the inspiration behind Jeremy Piven's character in hit TV series Entourage, was attempting to terminate a \$400m (£308m) investment by Saudi Arabia following the death of Khashoggi.

## Julia Louis-Dreyfus, star of Seinfeld and Veep, awarded U.S. humor prize

**WASHINGTON (Reuters)** — Julia Louis-Dreyfus, an American comedian whose career on the improv stage led to iconic roles on shows such as Seinfeld, was honored on Sunday for contributing to the national culture.

Louis-Dreyfus gained fame as Elaine - the perpetually single neurotic in Jerry Seinfeld's ensemble sitcom - but her role as a blundering politician on the HBO show Veep has brought more acclaim.

On Sunday evening, Louis-Dreyfus was awarded the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor at the Kennedy Center, the national showcase for arts. Dreyfus, 57, was praised as an actor who could nail a farcical role and then deliver a satire with smarts.

Sunday night's ceremony will be broadcast on PBS on Nov. 19.

Louis-Dreyfus has earned six consecutive Emmy awards portraying Vice President Selina Meyer - a haul that surpassed that of past female comedy icons like Mary Tyler Moore or Lucille Ball.

A send-up of Washington power-brokers, Veep has aired on HBO since 2012 but the show took a hiatus when Louis-Dreyfus was diagnosed with breast



Comedian and actor Julia Louis-Dreyfus acknowledges applause as she arrives to be awarded the Kennedy Center's 21st annual Mark Twain Prize for American Humor, in Washington, U.S., October 21, 2018. (Reuters/Mike Theiler)

cancer last year. Last week, Louis-Dreyfus said she is cancer free and is wrapping up the last season of Veep.

Louis-Dreyfus has earned the most professional renown with Veep but the actress became a national celebrity two decades earlier as Elaine on Seinfeld - a show that was a cultural touchstone during a nine-year run that ended in 1998.

For Jerry Seinfeld, it took less than a minute of an audition reading two pages of script for him to cast Louis-Dreyfus as the main female lead in his eponymous show.