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Zarif urges Europe to intensify efforts to salvage nuclear deal **2**



'Iran 9th country with lowest maternity death worldwide' **9**



Photos of Iranian historical sites on view at Paris exhibit **16**

Iran: FIFA should prevent politicization of football



Asian Football Confederation President Salman Bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa (L) held talks with Iranian Vice President Es'hag Janghiri in Tehran on Saturday.

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Hezbollah to retaliate against Israeli aggression on Lebanon: Nasrallah

The secretary general of Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement says his fellow fighters will not hesitate to respond proportionately to any Israeli act of aggression against the country.

"We will retaliate against any attack on Lebanon. We will not accept any enemy aggression against our country," Sayyed

Hassan Nasrallah said as he addressed his supporters via a televised speech broadcast live from the Lebanese capital Beirut on Saturday afternoon.

He also praised sacrifices made by resistance fighters, stressing that their heroic actions had helped Hezbollah score glorious victories. **→13**

Amano reconfirms Iran is abiding by the nuclear deal

By staff and agency

Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency Yukio Amano has reiterated that Iran is implementing its nuclear-related commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

"We have continued to verify and monitor the implementation by Iran of

its nuclear-related commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Iran is implementing its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA. It is essential that Iran continues to fully implement those commitments," he said in his statement to the 73rd Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly. **→2**

CBI drafting new foreign currency directive for exports

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Central Bank of Iran (CBI) will soon unveil a directive drafted to help injecting the foreign currency earned from non-oil exports into the country's economic cycle, Mehr news agency reported quoting CBI's governor as saying.

According to Abdolnaser Hemmati, the details regarding the new directive which aims to lead the revenues from the

non-oil exports back into the country's economy through the domestic Forex Management Integrated System [locally known as NIMA] will be announced soon.

During the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21–October 22, 2018), \$31 billion was allocated for importing goods and services into the country, of which less than \$7 billion was supplied from the non-oil export revenues. **→4**



EDITORIAL

Mohammad Ghaderi
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Fukuyama's warning on future of democracy to escape accountability

Francis Fukuyama, is the American political scientist, political economist, and author. Fukuyama is known for his book *The End of History and the Last Man* (1992), which argued that the worldwide spread of liberal democracies and free market capitalism of the West and its lifestyle may signal the end point of humanity's sociocultural evolution and become the final form of human government.

During George W. Bush's presidency, Samuel Huntington's and Francis Fukuyama's views on the "crash of civilizations" and the end of history became the intellectual and theoretical basis for US foreign policy. These theories turned into an intellectual basis to justify American intervention in the international system. The neo-conservative council also strongly welcomed theories of Fukuyama and Huntington. However, after a while, Fukuyama spelled out his previous prediction of the future of the world and the end of history.

In an article by Ishan Tharoor published in the Washington Post we read: "Francis Fukuyama, an acclaimed American political philosopher, entered the global imagination at the end of the Cold War when he prophesied the 'end of history' — a belief that, after the fall of communism, free-market liberal democracy had won out and would become the world's 'final form of human government.'" Now, at a moment when liberal democracy seems to be in crisis across the West, Fukuyama, too, wonders about its future.

"Twenty five years ago, I didn't have a sense or a theory about how democracies can go backward," said Fukuyama in a phone interview. "And I think they clearly can."

But if the havoc of the Great Recession and the growing clout of authoritarian states like China and Russia hadn't already upset the story, Brexit and the election of President Trump last year certainly did. **→13**

Belt and Road Initiative: Contribution by All, Benefits for All

By M.A. Saki
BOAO/BELJING, China — The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the new Silk Road, is a master plan proposed by President Xi Jinping of China in 2013. Hailed as "the project of the century" by Xi, it is a comprehensive project that seeks to embrace all aspects of development.

The BRI is a massive trade and infrastructure project that aims to link China — physically and financially — to dozens of economies across Asia, Europe, Africa, and Oceania.

The primary focuses of the BRI — also known as One Belt One Road (OBOR) — are infrastructure, transportation, and energy.

OBOR consists of two parts: The "Belt," which reinvents the ancient Silk Road land route, and the "Road" which is a route through various oceans. It is the greatest ever project introduced to



Ji Bingxuan, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) the world. Its dimensions are huge.

As Beijing is celebrating the fifth anniversary of the BRI, China has so far invested at least \$900 billion in projects along the

BRI countries, mainly in infrastructure, transport, and energy.

■ Win-win game

Chinese officials insist that the BRI is not a zero-sum strategy. They say it is a win-win game. Chinese have selected the slogan of "Contribution by All, Benefits for All" for the huge BRI project.

Actually, while the project is fully realized it makes the world more interconnected and creates more amity between nations.

Chinese say, "It reinforces people-to-people connectivity" along the Belt and Road.

■ BRI is a road to peace

Quite aware that the United States in opposed to the megaproject and is provoking other countries not to join it, Chinese officials say the BRI seeks "peace", "prosperity" and "integrity" for all. **→7**

Haqqanis- Blue-Eyed of U.S.

mentioned a possible army coup in Pakistan following the U.S. raid in Abbottabad to kill Osama bin Laden.

It further sought assistance from the U.S. for the then Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) government for 'reigning in the military and intelligence agencies'. The scandal, taken to the Supreme Court by then opposition leader and several others, had led to Haqqani's resignation and subsequent exodus from the country as the hearing was still under way.

Besides the re-opening of the megagate case, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) of Pakistan, has also registered a case against Husain Haqqani in reference to a corruption charge in which he has been accused of illegally using a secret fund \$7.2 million, while in office.

By Ishaal Zehra
Daily national herald tribune journalist

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan has been caught in between the two Haqqanis' who are somehow obsessed with this country. One is the notorious Haqqani network and the other is Husain Haqqani — Pakistan's former ambassador to the United States. The Haqqani network has been dealt with well, but how to deal with the America's blue-eyed Husain Haqqani who is tarnishing not the peace but the peaceful image of Pakistan.

Much awaited verdict from the Supreme Court of Pakistan was finally announced in March 2018 when the honorable court issued arrest warrants for the production of former ambassador to the U.S. in relation to the famous Megagate scandal. Sent by Haqqani in 2011 the 'memo' allegedly



Tehran Times/Mohammadreza Abbasi

Persepolis runners up at AFC Champions League

SPORTS **TEHRAN** — Persepolis football team were held to a goalless draw by Kashima Antlers of Japan in the second leg of the AFC Champions League here on Saturday.

The result means Kashima Antlers won the title 2-0 aggregate.

Persepolis started an attacking football but failed to find the back of the net.

Ali Alipour, Godwin Mensha and Bashar Resan had scoring chances in the first half but lacked a cutting edge.

In the second half, the Japanese managed the match and didn't allow Persepolis to threaten their goal. **→15**



ARTICLE

Syed Zafar Mehdi
Journalist
from New Delhi

Saudi regime's war on free speech, free press

A free and independent media is the watchdog of society, custodian of public interest and stimulus of political and social change. For a free and fearless journalist, truth is sacred, even though it may be unpalatable. In our times, to invoke George Orwell, telling a truth has become a revolutionary act, and often it has landed journalists and activists in troubled waters.

The state of independent press in most of the Arab states paints a grim picture. In Saudi Arabia, for example, there are clear-cut 'do's and don'ts' for journalists and a red line they must not breach under any circumstances. The despotic monarchs in Riyadh are extremely sensitive to anything critical of them. Hence, there is massive repression of independent voices and surveillance of journalists.

The cold-blooded murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul has dominated international headlines in recent weeks and shaken people around the world. Khashoggi was a strong critic of the autocratic regime in Riyadh and had extensively written about rampant human rights abuses in the kingdom.

Interestingly, Khashoggi's last column for the Washington Post, which was published after his death, was a passionate call for human rights and press freedom in the Arab world. But, as a report by Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) noted, Saudi Arabia has splurged hundreds of millions of dollars in the last three decades to ensure "that never happens". The House of Saud, the report said, controls the flow of information like the flow of oil upon which it is built.

That is precisely the reason why his brutal murder, which caused unprecedented global outcry, was still not enough to bring Saudi Arabia under the ambit of sanctions or boycott. This 'license to kill and get away with it' has only emboldened the Al-Saud regime to commit horrendous atrocities against its people.

Following the Khashoggi incident, Saudi Arabia's allies shamelessly rallied behind it, most importantly UAE, Egypt, Qatar and Bahrain. Saudi's paid army of trolls swiftly took to Twitter to defend the House of Al-Saud and attack its critics. Even the Western powers led by the U.S. made no secret of their love affair with the Saudi monarchs, as they went out of their way to defend the young crown prince. **→6**

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



14 retired governors to be laid off

POLITICS TEHRAN — Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli said on Saturday that 14 provincial governors will be laid off under the law on prohibition of the employment of retirees.

"We have a number of nominees for the posts, who will be introduced to the administration by Sunday," Rahmani Fazli told reporters after a meeting attended by provincial governors.

He thanked the 14 retired governors and wished them success, saying the meeting was somehow their farewell meeting.

Prohibition of the employment of retirees is part of the plan to employ the younger generations in top state jobs.



Failure of nuclear deal will discredit Europe: Kharrazi

POLITICS TEHRAN — Kamal Kharrazi, head of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, said on Saturday that a failure of the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, will discredit Europe.

"Definitely, it would not have been possible to reach the nuclear deal without Europe's cooperation. In fact, failure of this agreement will discredit Europe," Kharrazi, the former foreign minister in the Khatami administration, said during a speech at a conference in Vienna.

He noted that the Europeans' move in designing mechanisms to save the JCPOA should be viewed as a "strategic and security approach" whose failure will cause many problems.



Navy chief in India for IONS meeting

POLITICS TEHRAN — Chief of the Iranian Navy Rear Admiral Hossein Khanzadi on Saturday left Tehran for India to attend an event marking the 10th anniversary of establishment of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS).

According to Tasnim, Khanzadi is scheduled to participate in a 3-day special meeting of the IONS in the Indian city of Kochi, which is attended by representatives from 32 countries.

Speaking to reporters before leaving Tehran, Khanzadi said the purpose of the IONS is to ensure collective security in the region.

He also said Tehran has devised various plans about enhancing security in the Indian Ocean during its presidency.



Minister: Iran 'highly experienced' in bypassing sanctions

POLITICS TEHRAN — Economy Minister Farhad Dejpasand on Saturday slammed new U.S. sanctions against Iran, saying the Islamic Republic has become "highly experienced" in circumventing the economic sanctions.

Speaking to reporters in Tehran, Dejpasand said "appropriate plans" have been devised to counter Washington's economic sanctions against Tehran, Tasnim reported.

"We will use all opportunities to counter the enemy in the field of economy," he added.

The second batch of U.S. sanctions on Tehran took effect on Monday, months after U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew his country from the 2015 nuclear deal and ordered the reimposition of sanctions against Iran.

Trump seeking to economically squeeze Iranians: Rouhani

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Saturday that the Trump administration has been seeking to economically squeeze the Iranian people and not just the government.

"They seek to negatively influence the people's daily living through wrong sanctions," Rouhani said after a meeting with Judiciary Chief Sadeq Amoli Larijani and Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani.

However, he said that the new round of sanctions which were re-imposed on November 4 have not had any effect on the national economy.

"It is obvious from the way they announced re-imposition of sanctions that they seek to affect the Iranian people psychologically and have no other objective," he said.

Elsewhere, Rouhani said that the U.S. cannot reduce Iranian oil revenues to zero.

Exportation of oil from the region will face problems if Iran's oil sale is stopped, he noted.



Elsewhere, the president said that there is no problem in providing basic commodities in the country.

"We have no problems in producing and importing basic commodities including medicine. Today, the country is in a good

situation. Our exportation has increased compared to the past six or seven months which means increase in production and employment," Rouhani explained.

However, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, in a tweet on Thursday, said sanctions ban Iranians' access to financial services to buy food and medicine.

While humanitarian goods, like medicine, are indeed officially exempt from sanctions, international banks and businesses are hesitant about trading with Iran altogether, even when it comes to food and medicine, out of fear that they will face punishment should they run afoul — even accidentally — of those sanctions.

U.S. President Trump unilaterally pulled Washington out of the 2015 nuclear agreement in May and reintroduced sanctions on Iran. The first batch of sanctions were enacted in August. The second wave of sanctions, which targets Iran's oil exports and central bank, started on November 5.

Amano reconfirms Iran is abiding by the nuclear deal

1 → He added, "The Agency continues to verify the non-diversion of nuclear material declared by Iran under its Safeguards Agreement."

Under the 2015 nuclear agreement Iran was obliged to put limits on its nuclear activities in exchange for

termination of economic and financial sanctions, however, U.S. President Donald Trump officially withdrew Washington from the nuclear deal in May and ordered sanctions on Iran.

The first round of sanctions went into force on August 6

and the second round, which targets Iran's oil exports and banks, were announced on November 4.

It is more than 10 times that the IAEA is confirming that Iran is abiding by the terms of the nuclear agreement endorsed by the UN Security Council resolution 2231.

Zarif urges Europe to intensify efforts to salvage nuclear deal

POLITICS TEHRAN — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has called on European countries to accelerate their efforts to preserve the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal, after the U.S. withdrew from the multilateral deal and ordered sanctions against Iran.

Zarif told Radio Tehran during a live program on Saturday morning that the European parties to the JCPOA have not been able to adequately comply with their commitments to salvage the deal.

"However, the Europeans have politically stood up to their biggest ally. We fully understand America's isolation and are witnessing the American authorities' rage because of this isolation," he said, Tasnim reported.

"It is clear that they have strong disa-

greements about BARJAM (the Persian acronym for the JCPOA), and it doesn't seem they're playing good cop, bad cop [with Iran]," he remarked.

■ Hypocritical policy
Zarif said the U.S. government pretends it favors talks with Tehran but reimposes sanctions against Iran.

Tehran believes that "the Americans pursue a hypocritical policy by trying to say that they are seeking dialogue," he said, adding that since Washington has not abided by its commitments under the nuclear talks, Iran sees no point in entering talks with the U.S.

■ U.S. militarizing its dollar and economy

The chief diplomat went on say that Americans are "militarizing" their economy and dollar.

"If fact, Americans are militarizing the

economy and dollar, and thereby the world has reached this conclusion that it should study this issue," Zarif remarked.

The U.S., by using its military and economic power excessively, has prompted the world to think about a solution to get itself rid of Washington's "imprisonment", the foreign minister noted.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Zarif emphasized that Iran does not shape its policies on the basis of U.S. internal affairs and domestic developments, ruling out the results of the recent U.S. Congressional elections as a crucial factor shaping Iran's foreign policy.

"It is a reality that neither the Republicans nor the Democrats agree with Iran, no doubt about it," the foreign minister explained.

Earlier this week, the U.S. government unleashed a second round of sanctions against Iran. The punitive measures target-

ed 700 individuals, banks, aircraft, ships and companies tied to Iran's energy and financial industries.

They came months after Washington scrapped the JCPOA, which was achieved in Vienna in 2015 after years of negotiations among Iran and six world powers including Russia, China, the U.S., Britain, France, Germany and the European Union.

■ BARJAM has revealed true face of Iran and U.S. to the entire world

Asked whether he would have continued the nuclear talks if he knew the U.S. would pull out of the agreement, Zarif said, "Yes, we would have definitely done so. Because I believe that BARJAM has revealed the true face of Iran and America to the whole world."

"It (BARJAM) has broken the global consensus on Iran, and destroyed the notion that Iran is a security threat in the world," he added.

Khoshroo urges intl. community to stop U.S. unilateralism

POLITICS TEHRAN — Ghola-mali Khoshroo, Iran's ambassador to the UN, said on Friday that the international community should not allow the U.S. to pursue its unilateral policies.

"The world should not allow the United States to pursue its unilateral, arrogant and self-centered policy which focuses on continuing to reorder the world order to be founded on power, not law," he said during his speech at the United Nations Security Council on "Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Strengthening Multilateralism and the Role of the United Nations".

He said that the U.S. withdrawal from

the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, and reimposition of unilateral sanctions on November 4 "appallingly violates resolution 2231 and openly defies international law".

"The world community should strongly condemn and reject the U.S. sanctions, not only in word but also in deed. This will be an action of pragmatic support to international law and multilateralism," he said.

France, Germany, Britain and the European Union issued a joint statement on November 2 condemning the U.S. move in reimposing sanctions on Iran and vowing to protect European companies doing "legitimate" business with Tehran.

Second Announcement

SINGLE- STAGE INTERNATIONAL TENDER GOVERNMENT TRADING CORPORATION OF IRAN



Government Trading Corporation of Iran (hereinafter referred to as GTC), affiliated to the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad of the Islamic Republic of Iran, intends to purchase 2×60,000 M/Ts 10 pct M/L RAW CANE SUGAR on the basis of CFR FREE OUT Bandar Abbas, Chabahar or BIK by vessel, through single stage international tender.

All qualified companies and suppliers who are interested to bid above tender are invited to receive tender documents from 11 November 2018 until 18 November 2018 from Trades & Tenders Committee located on the 4th floor of GTC building no 2 , at No 225 Fatemi Avenue Tehran-Iran. along with an official letter of introduction.

The bidders are required to submit stamped and sealed envelopes containing their offers latest by 13:00 on 18 December 2018 to the Tender secretariat located on the 7th floor. The bid's envelope will be opened at 15:30 By 18 December 2018 in the presents of the bidder's representative on the 2th floor of GTC building no 2, at No 225 Fatemi Avenue Tehran-Iran.

Bid bond: bid bond worth EUR 371,000 or IRR 18,550,000,000 for 60,000 M/T cargo
Bid bonds may be deposited either cash in Rials or through an unconditional bank guarantee issued in INR or in Euros by renowned Iranian bank located in Tehran, with three months validity and extendible for another three months.

Note: participates who wish to bid for more than one cargo are obliged to deposit the above mentioned bid bond for each extra shipment.

For more information, you may refer to our website WWW.GTC-PORTAL.COM or contact us by phone No.00982188957477 (Foreign Trade Department).

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Bid bond: bid bond worth EUR 341,300 or IRR 17,065,000,000 for 30,000 M/T cargo
Bid bonds may be deposited either cash in Rials or through an unconditional bank guarantee issued in INR or in Euros by renowned Iranian bank located in Tehran, with three months validity and extendible for another three months.

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Hudaydah to be ‘graveyard’ for Saudi regime-led militants: Ansarullah

U.S. suspends refueling Saudi jets in deadly bombing campaign on Yemen

A senior Ansarullah (Houthi) movement official has said Yemen will turn into a “graveyard” for aggressors as the House of Saud regime-backed militants and mercenaries continued with a fresh push to occupy the port city of Hudaydah.

“Our people, with their full-scale defense of Hudaydah, once again have proved that Yemen will be a graveyard for the aggressors,” Mohammed Abdulsalam said in a tweet late Friday.

The Saudi regime-backed militants announced on Friday that they had begun a military operation to take over Hudaydah, claiming that they had advanced towards the northern and the western flanks of the port city.

Abdulsalam dismissed the claims, saying the aggressors had already failed to achieve any of their objectives due to the “exemplary steadfastness” of the Yemeni people.

“The American-British-Israeli coalition, along with domestic and foreign mercenaries and terrorists groups, including Daesh (Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant/ISIL) and al-Qaeda ... have failed to achieve any of their objectives after four years of aggression, due to the exemplary steadfastness of the nation,” he tweeted.

A statement by militiamen loyal to Yemen’s former president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi claimed that they were progressing from all fronts. On Saturday, they said they had taken the main hospital in Hudaydah.

Nearly 80 percent of Yemen’s commercial imports and practically all United Nations-supervised humanitarian aid pass through Hudaydah’s port.

Yemeni officials say the extent of the Saudi regime-led military aggression has intensified ever since the United States President Donald Trump’s administration demanded a ceasefire.

Chairman of the Supreme Revolutionary Committee of Yemen Mohammed Ali al-Houthi said in an opinion article in The Washington Post on Saturday that the U.S. call for ceasefire was hollow.

“The continued escalation of attacks against the port city of Hudaydah in Yemen by the U.S.-Saudi-Emirati coalition confirms that the American calls for a ceasefire are nothing but empty talk,” he said.

“The recent statements are trying to mislead the world. The Saudi regime leaders are reckless and have no interest in diplomacy. The United States has the clout to bring an end to the conflict but it has decided to protect a corrupt ally,” he said.

Al-Houthi said, “Trump and his administration clearly prefer to continue this devastating war because of the economic returns it produces — they drool over those arms sales profits.”

Last month, the U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis called for a ceasefire in Yemen



and for all parties to come to the negotiating table within the next 30 days.

Al-Houthi said the Saudi regime-led blockade of Hudaydah is meant to bring the Yemeni people to their knees.

“The coalition is using famine and cholera as weapons of war. It is also extorting the United Nations by threatening to cut their funds as if it were a charity and not a responsibility required under international law and Security Council resolutions.”

He further emphasized that Ansarullah was ready to stop the retaliatory missile attacks if the House of Saud regime stopped its airstrikes against the impoverished nation.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees warned on Friday that many people were trapped in Hudaydah. Other UN bodies have said an all-out attack on Hudaydah could trigger famine in Yemen.

The Saudi regime has responded to calls for a ceasefire in its war on Yemen with a heavy bombing of the capital Sana’a with more than 30 airstrikes.

■ U.S. suspends refueling Saudi regime jets in deadly bombing campaign on Yemen

Meantime, the U.S. and the Saudi regime say they have agreed to end the U.S. refueling of the Saudi regime aircraft bombing Yemen but several officials underlined that American training and military assistance will continue.

The decision was announced by the House of Saud regime on Saturday and confirmed by the U.S., coming at a time of mounting global outcry over the high number of civilian

casualties and the murder of Jamal Khoshoggi.

The official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported that Riyadh had itself demanded to stop inflight refueling services by the U.S. military for its warplanes after “consultation” with Washington.

“Recently the kingdom and the coalition has increased its capability to independently conduct inflight refueling in Yemen. As a result, in consultation with the United States, the coalition has requested cessation of support for it’s operations in Yemen,” the SPA said.

According to Saudi-owned Al Arabiya al-Hadath channel on Saturday, Saudi Arabia has a fleet of 23 planes for refueling operations, including six Airbus 330 MRTT used for Yemen, while the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has six of the Airbus planes.

Riyadh also has nine KC-130 Hercules aircraft that can be used, it added.

The Pentagon chief Jim Mattis confirmed that the decision to stop refueling was taken in consultation with the U.S. government. “We support the decision by the kingdom of Saudi Arabia,” he said.

Several U.S. officials, however, were quick to clarify that the end to refueling would not stop American training and military assistance for the Saudi regime aggression against Yemen.

The House of Saud regime and the UAE have recently launched a new offensive against Hudaydah, which is a lifeline for millions of Yemenis, after seeing several campaigns to occupy the main port city thwarted by Yemen’s Ansarullah and their allies in the army.

The U.S. Representative Ro Khanna, an advocate of barring the U.S. military support

to the Saudi regime war on Yemen, has reportedly introduced a measure in the House to ensure the Trump administration follows through on its decision.

Since the outbreak of the invasion in 2015, the US military has been refueling the Saudi regime aircraft that conduct airstrikes on Yemen.

Senator Chris Murphy emphasized that the Trump administration should cut off all forms of support for the Saudi regime-led coalition, not just refueling.

In January 2016, the House of Saud regime said the U.S. and British military advisers were in the command and control center for strikes on Yemen and had access to lists of targets.

The brutal war was launched in March 2015 in an attempt to reinstall Yemen’s former Riyadh-allied regime and crush the Ansarullah movement, which has been running state affairs in the absence of an effective government. In June, the Saudi regime and the UAE launched an offensive against the port city of Hudaydah despite international warnings that it would compound Yemen’s humanitarian crisis.

The Western-backed imposed war on Yemen, coupled with a naval blockade, has destroyed the country’s infrastructure and led to famine as well as a cholera outbreak. So far, the aggressors have been unable to penetrate the defenses of the Yemeni nation and Ansarullah fighters.

(Source: agencies)

Russian official hints at ‘highly likely’ deal to build nuclear center in Serbia



A senior Russian official has hinted at a “highly likely” agreement to establish a nuclear center in Serbia during an upcoming President Vladimir Putin’s visit to the country’s capital Belgrade.

“Hopefully, it [the agreement] can be inked during our president’s visit, it’s highly likely,” Russia’s Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Borisov announced Friday in a press briefing in Belgrade following a meeting with Serbia’s Foreign Minister and First Deputy Prime Minister Ivica Dacic, Russian state news agency Tass reported. Underlining the high level of readiness for the deal, Borisov added: “If we speak about the essence of cooperation, this is cooperation in the area of peaceful nuclear development and also the use of Russian isotopes for the sake of medical research and medical diagnostics in Serbia.”

“This is a new milestone in our relations,” the Russian official further noted, pointing out that negotiations for the looming agreement with the Serbian side was conducted by deputy CEO of Russia’s state corporation Rosatom, Nikolai Spassky.

The United States President Donald Trump has confirmed reports that his administration plans to abandon a landmark Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) with Russia over claims that Moscow has violated the Cold War era nuclear weapons deal, further vowing American development of such mass-destructive weaponry.

“Russia has not adhered to the agreement. So we are going to terminate the agreement,” Trump claimed last month during a political campaign rally in Nevada.

He further alleged: “Russia has violated the agreement. They’ve been violating it for many years. I don’t know why president (Barack) Obama didn’t negotiate or pull out. And we’re not going to let them violate a nuclear agreement and go out and do weapons (while) we’re not allowed to.”

“We’ll have to develop those weapons,” he then vowed.

The INF, which was signed in 1986 between then U.S. president Ronald Reagan and Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev, allowed the U.S. to counter Chinese moves to build up arms in the Pacific, but prevented Washington from deploying new nuclear armaments in response. Meanwhile, the Trump administration placed a new round of sanctions against 12 Russian individuals and businesses on Thursday. The U.S. Treasury Department said one Russian intelligence officer and another official in eastern Ukraine received sanctions for taking part in what it claimed as “seriously human rights abuses.” It also targeted eight entities for illegally operating on behalf of Russia in Crimea, a territory which rejoined Russia in 2014 following a referendum.

(Source: Press TV)

Second Announcement

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For more information, you may refer to our website **WWW.GTC-PORTAL.COM** or contact us by phone **No.00982188957477** (Foreign Trade Department).



First Announcement

Tender Holder		Security Paper Mill of the Central Bank of I.R. of Iran			
TENDERS NO.	97/K-192		97/k-166	97/k-168	97/k-185
Tender subject	Purchasing of 5,000 kg Security Fibers		Purchasing of 42 items (230 pieces) Spare Parts for Counter Machines	Purchasing of one set Swimming Roll for Calender paper machine	Purchasing of Installation and Setting up one set of Quality Control System for Paper/Board Machines (QCS)
Tender deposit	An unconditional and extendable bank guarantees from Iranian bank for the amount of 21,600 Euro or 2,215,404,000 Iranian Rial.		An unconditional and extendable bank guarantees from Iranian bank for the amount of 10,930 Euro or 1,020,000,000 Iranian Rial.	An unconditional and extendable bank guarantees from Iranian bank for the amount of 8,810 Euro or 822,000,000 Iranian Rial.	An unconditional and extendable bank guarantees from Iranian bank for the amount of 20,000 Euro or 3,000,000,000 Iranian Rial.
Deadline for receiving tender documents		Maximum Ten days after second advertisement			
How to get document		Bidder can receive the tender documents by sending their written inquiry to Fax: +98 11 4313 2566 or sending letter to email address Info@takab-cbi.ir or refer to national basic of tenders of Iran with address http://Iets.mporg.ir			
Deadline for submitting offers		Maximum until dated 22.December.2018 (97/10/01)			
Time of opening of technical offers		Maximum Three week after deadline submitting offer			
Validity period of financial offers	The offers must be valid for 240 days after 22.December.2018 (97/10/01)		The offers must be valid for 90 days after 22.December.2018 (97/10/01)	The offers must be valid for 90 days after 22.December.2018 (97/10/01)	The offers must be valid for 180 days after 22.December.2018 (97/10/01)
Place for receiving and submitting tender documents		7 th km Chamestan Road, Amol, Mazandaran, Iran, Security paper Mill -department of the commercial department building			
Delivery time		6 month after signing the contract			
For further information, prospective bidder may contact us via the info@takab-cbi.ir					

STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	184231.1
IFX	1994.36

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	\$60.19/b
Brent	\$70.18/b
OPEC Basket	\$70.68/b
Gold	\$1,210.50/oz
Silver	\$14.20/oz
Platinum	\$857.80/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

NEWS IN BRIEF



Iran's exports to Kazakhstan up 3.8% in H1

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The Value of Iran's exports to Kazakhstan during the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21–September 21, 2018) increased by 3.8 percent to register a \$19 million positive trade balance for the country.

Iranian exports to Kazakhstan are comprised of over 300 different goods and commodity items, the portal of Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) of Iran reported quoting Iran's commercial attaché to Astana.

Earlier in August, Mojtaba Damirchilu, Iran's ambassador in Astana, announced that the value of trade between Iran and Kazakhstan increased by 77 percent in the first six months of 2018 compared to the same period last year.

According to Damirchilu, the two countries plan for further development of comprehensive cooperation in various areas including trade, economy, investments, industries and commodity and transportation.



CBI drafting new foreign currency directive for exports

1 -> “Over \$23 billion of the needed foreign currency for imports was provided by CBI.” The official said.

Iran exported \$27 billion worth of non-oil commodities in the mentioned time span, up over 13 percent compared to the same period last year.

Considering the U.S.'s re-imposition of sanctions on Iran's oil industry, non-oil exports could be the key for the development of the country's economy in the current situation.

‘Sanctions exception for Chabahar an opportunity to develop transit’

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Chabahar Port's exemption from the new round of the U.S. sanctions on Iran is an opportunity for development of transit via this port, Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) Head Mohammad Rastad told ILNA on Saturday.

The United States said on Tuesday it would grant a sanctions waiver for the Iranian-Indian port project at Chabahar (southeast of Iran).

This port's exemption from the sanctions provides the opportunity for benefitting from the potentials and infrastructures of Chabahar which will definitely boost exports and imports, Rastad said, adding that it would be an achievement for the country's economy.

The Indian operator will start its work in the port soon, the official announced.

On October 23, Iran, India and Afghanistan inked an agreement on transit of goods via Chabahar.

The agreement was signed in Tehran by Rastad, T.S. Tirumurti, the secretary of economic relations in India's Ministry of External Affairs, and Imammohammad Warymoch, Afghanistan's deputy minister of transport, during the first meeting of coordination council of agreement on the establishment of an international transport



A container ship loading cargos at Shahid Beheshti Dock in Iran's southeastern port of Chabahar (Photo by Mahnaz Abdi/Teheran Times)

and transit corridor among Iran, India and Afghanistan (Chabahar Agreement).

These three countries signed a trilateral transit agreement in Tehran in May 2016, which allows them 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).

• Contracts worth \$111m signed for logistic operation in Chabahar since March

• Logistic contracts worth \$111m signed since March

Some investment contracts worth 4.67 trillion rials (about \$111 million) have been singed on logistic operation in Chabahar since the beginning of current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2018). Sistan-Baluchestan Ports and Maritime Department's Director General Behrouz Aghaei told IRNA on Saturday.

Chabahar Port plays a significant role in economic and trade activities of the region and provides an important and low-cost path for transit of commodities for the countries such as Afghanistan which has no access to the free waters, he noted.

Iran's making investment of over \$1 billion for the first development phase of Shahid Beheshti Port in Chabahar shows the significance of this port, the official underlined.

Aghaei had previously announced that five phases have been planned for development of Shahid Beheshti Port to boost its capacity from the current 8.5 million tons (which is capable of reaching 15 million tons) to 82-85 million tons.

985 production units resume activity since March

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Some 985 production units in the country's industrial estates that had stopped their activity have resumed operation since the beginning of current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2018), a deputy director in Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) announced.

Mohammad-Ali Aziz-Mohammadi, the deputy director of ISIPO for planning affairs, said that these units have created jobs for 15,500 persons, IRNA reported on Saturday.

Some 4,600 small and medium-sized units are under construction in industrial estates of the country, Sadeq Najafi, the managing director of the organization, announced in



August.

The official further said that when these units start operation 74,000 new jobs will be created in the industrial estates.

Some 212.552 trillion rials (about \$5.06 billion) of loans has been paid to 29,000 industrial units throughout the country during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), ILNA reported on October 20.

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

Here are the Asian countries that win and lose from the trade war

As trade tensions between the United States and China escalate, short-term but widespread disruption can be expected in Asia — but other regional players may stand to benefit in the long run, said Nick Marro from The Economist Intelligence Unit.

Supply chains in Asia are so “incredibly integrated,” Marro, an analyst at the research firm told CNBC on Thursday.

“As a result of the trade war, in the short term, we are expecting pretty widespread regional disruption.”

Marro identified three major industries he considered “battlegrounds” for the trade war: technology, autos and agriculture.

Countries such as Vietnam, Malaysia and Thailand could see long-term benefits in some of their sectors including information and communications technology (ICT), as well as autos, Marro said.

Winners in tech

Vietnam and Malaysia could benefit the most from the trade escalation particularly in low-end manufacturing of technology products such as “intermediate components and manufacturing of consumer goods like mobile phones and laptops,” according to a report by the EIU. Major electronic companies have existing

operations in the two countries, which would make redeployment of investment and production relatively smoother, the report stated.

The sector that has held the greatest importance in the trade war has been technology, and is expected to intensify, Marro said.

“Most tariffs are already on electronic components and machinery and we expect the tariffs to escalate to ultimately cover final finished goods — such as mobile phones and laptops — and to push the discussion around tech increasingly into the umbrella of national security,” he said.

The tech sector plays a significant role in the trade war because electronics and related components amount to the “biggest category of US imports from China” and Washington wants to hamper Beijing's Made in China 2025 development agenda — an initiative focused on cultivating high-tech sectors.

Winners in automobiles

U.S. tariffs on Chinese auto parts will bring adjustments in supply chains and investments benefiting some regional players such as Thailand and Malaysia.

“The U.S. is the world's largest auto parts consumer and it has already put tariffs on auto parts that will inevitably squeeze Chinese manu-

facturers,” Marro explained.

This will result in “investment re-diversification, supply chain adjustments into some of China's neighbors,” he said.

Thailand's auto space stands to benefit due to its well-diversified trade links with the U.S., Japan and other parts of ASEAN. As such, local parts producers should be able to win market share from Chinese competitors, according to the EIU report.

Malaysia has over 800 auto component manufacturers and a diversified auto component export network, which would be a huge advantage for the sector, the EIU report said.

Losers in Asia

Disruption in Asia as result of the U.S.-China trade war is inevitable, Marro said.

Countries in the region that are heavily dependent on shipments to China — such as Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore — are prone to “feel a bit of the pain in the short term,” he added.

“China is a major destination for intermediate and final ICT goods from all four economies, meaning that companies in that sector will be heavily exposed to the impact of tariffs on demand for these products,” according to the report.

This might have long-term consequences as companies may decide to move towards this position of not being as reliant on China anymore, Marro added.

However, Taiwan and South Korea might be cushioned from the impact as these countries have a secure positioning in the supply chain since they specialize in high precision equipment.

The U.S. and China are currently embroiled in a trade dispute, with both countries slapping additional duties on each other in the past few months. The U.S. has imposed extra tariffs on \$250 billion worth of Chinese imports — with U.S. President Donald Trump threatening to impose levies on all \$500 billion worth of goods from the Asian giant. Beijing has retaliated with additional tariffs on \$110 billion worth of U.S. imports.

A meeting between Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping at the G-20 summit in Argentina this month will be of great significance, China's State Councillor Wang Yi, said on Thursday. But analysts are divided on whether any reprieve can be expected from the escalating tensions between two of the world's economic superpowers.

(Source: CNBC)

Second Announcement

SINGLE- STAGE INTERNATIONAL TENDER
GOVERNMENT TRADING CORPORATION OF IRAN



Government Trading Corporation of Iran (hereinafter referred to as GTC), affiliated to the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad of the Islamic Republic of Iran, intends to purchase 30,000 M/Ts 10 pct M/L Indian 1509 sella rice **on the basis of CFR FREE OUT Bandar Abbas, Chabahar or BIK by vessel**, through single stage international tender.

All qualified companies and suppliers who are interested to bid above tender are invited to receive tender documents from **11 November 2018** until **18 November 2018** from Trades & Tenders Committee located on the 4th floor of GTC building no 2 , at No 225 Fatemi Avenue Tehran-Iran. along with an official letter of introduction.

The bidders are required to submit stamped and sealed envelopes containing their offers latest by **13:00** on **18 December 2018** to the Tender secretariat located on the 7th floor. The bid's envelope will be opened at **14:00** By **18 December 2018** in the presents of the bidder's representative on the 2th floor of GTC building no 2, at No 225 Fatemi Avenue Tehran-Iran.

Bid bond: bid bond worth EUR **404,000** or IRR **20,200,000,000** or INR 33,665,320 for 30,000 M/T cargo

Bid bonds may be deposited either cash in Rials or through an unconditional bank guarantee issued in INR or in Euros by renowned Iranian bank located in Tehran, with three months validity and extendible for another three months.

For more information, you may refer to our website WWW.GTC-PORTAL.COM or contact us by phone No.**00982188957477** (Foreign Trade Department).

Second Announcement

SINGLE- STAGE INTERNATIONAL TENDER
GOVERNMENT TRADING CORPORATION OF IRAN



Government Trading Corporation of Iran (hereinafter referred to as GTC), affiliated to the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad of the Islamic Republic of Iran, intends to purchase 2×30,000 M/Ts 10 pct M/L palm olein oil **on the basis of CFR PUMP OUT Bandar Abbas, Chabahar or BIK by vessel**, through single stage international tender.

All qualified companies and suppliers who are interested to bid above tender are invited to receive tender documents from **11 November 2018** until **18 November 2018** from Trades & Tenders Committee located on the 4th floor of GTC building no 2 , at No 225 Fatemi Avenue Tehran-Iran. along with an official letter of introduction.

The bidders are required to submit stamped and sealed envelopes containing their offers latest by **13:00** on **18 December 2018** to the Tender secretariat located on the 7th floor. The bid's envelope will be opened at **15:00** By **18 December 2018** in the presents of the bidder's representative on the 2th floor of GTC building no 2, at No 225 Fatemi Avenue Tehran-Iran.

Bid bond: bid bond worth EUR **302,690** or IRR **15,134,500,000** for 30,000 M/T cargo
Bid bonds may be deposited either cash in Rials or through an unconditional bank guarantee issued in INR or in Euros by renowned Iranian bank located in Tehran, with three months validity and extendible for another three months.

Note: participates who wish to bid for more than one cargo are obliged to deposit the above mentioned bid bond for each extra shipment.

For more information, you may refer to our website WWW.GTC-PORTAL.COM or contact us by phone No.**00982188957477** (Foreign Trade Department).

There will be an oil shortage in the 2020s, Goldman Sachs says

An oil shortage is coming says Goldman Sachs, because firms cannot fully invest in future production.

Global oil majors are increasingly looking to invest in lower-carbon areas of the energy sector, as they react to pressure for cleaner energy, both from government policy and investors.

"In the 2020's we are going to have a clear physical shortage of oil because nobody is allowed to fully invest in future oil production," Michele Della Vigna, Head of EMEA Natural Resources Research at Goldman Sachs told CNBC Friday.

"The low carbon transition will come through higher, not lower oil prices," he told CNBC's "Squawk Box Europe."

Della Vigna said "Big Oils" are starting to understand that if they want to be widely owned by investors, they need to show that they are serious about minimizing the amount of carbon in the atmosphere.

The Goldman analyst said oil firms only had to look at the steep derating of coal companies over the last 5 years to understand the shift in



investor sentiment.

Della Vigna said until a transition to full renewables is made, the interim battle will be to own a greater market share of gas-based power. The analyst said with a huge capital

cost of gas infrastructure, big state-backed companies looked best placed.

"We talk about the new seven sisters emerging, dominating the global oil and gas market because nobody else can finance these

mega-projects," he said.

The "new Seven Sisters" of oil are considered the most influential firms from countries outside the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

They have been identified as Saudi Aramco, Russia's Gazprom, NIOC of Iran, China National Petroleum Corp, Brazil's Petrobras, Venezuela's PDVSA, and Petronas of Malaysia. The original "Seven Sisters" were firms in the 1950s who would later consolidate to become BP, Chevron, Shell, Exxon Mobil and Royal Dutch Shell.

Della Vigna said European oil companies such as UK firm Shell and French company Total are also ahead of U.S. rivals in making the transition from "big oil" to become "big energy".

Oil markets have been weak in recent days as oversupply concerns and fears of an economic slowdown have pressured prices. Both Brent and WTI contracts entered bear markets this week as prices fell around 20 percent from their most recent highs in October.

(Source: CNBC)

Russia clashes with Western oil buyers over new deals as sanctions loom

Russian energy majors are putting pressure on Western oil buyers to use euros instead of dollars for payments and introducing penalty clauses in contracts as Moscow seeks protection against possible new U.S. sanctions.

Seven industry sources told Reuters that Western oil majors and trading houses have clashed with Russia's third and fourth biggest producers, Gazprom Neft and Surgutneftegaz, over 2019 oil sales contract terms during unusually tough annual renegotiation in recent weeks.

The development mirrors a similar stand-off between Western buyers and Russia's top oil producer, Rosneft.

Earlier this week, trading sources told Reuters that Rosneft wants Western oil buyers to pay penalties from 2019 if they fail to pay for supplies in the event that new U.S. sanctions disrupt sales.

Now sources have told Reuters that Surgutneftegaz and Gazprom Neft have also clashed with their buyers over penalties and the use

of euros and other currencies to replace the dollar in contracts.

"It is part of the same trend - the Russian oil industry is working on mitigating new sanctions risks. The buyers in turn argue they cannot carry those risks so we are trying to find compromises," said one source with a Western buyer involved in negotiations, asking not to be named as the talks are confidential.

Russia has been under U.S. and EU sanctions since 2014 when it invaded Ukraine's Crimean peninsula. The sanctions have been repeatedly widened to include new companies and sectors, making it tough for Russian oil firms to borrow money abroad, raise new capital or develop Arctic and unconventional deposits.

President Vladimir Putin's administration has been hoping for a thaw in relations with the United States since President Donald Trump came to power but Washington has imposed new sanctions instead, including on some of Russia's richest people.

Russian businesses are preparing for a new wave of sanctions expected in the coming weeks. The firms are trying to diversify away from dollar payments and tapping Asia for more of their financing and technology needs.

According to four industry sources, Surgutneftegaz asked buyers to be prepared to switch from dollar to euro payments in contracts, and insisted on buyers being effectively responsible for any losses arising from sanctions.

"They basically said - sanctions don't matter. Buyers have to find a way to pay, or to return purchased goods, or pay penalties," a source with a big trading house said.

Gazprom Neft has also asked buyers to use euros in payments and bear financial responsibility for contract breaches in the case of new sanctions, according to three sources.

Gazprom Neft refused to comment. Surgutneftegaz did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

■ "Just like Iran"

Russia supplies over 10 percent of global oil, so drastic sanctions against it could lead to a steep spike in oil prices.

All global oil majors rely on Russia to feed their refineries, especially in Europe and Asia, and hence they cannot just walk away from annual contract negotiations if they are unhappy with terms.

Talks with both Gazprom Neft and Surgutneftegaz have been progressing slowly and painfully, according to trading sources.

Several Western buyers have managed to agreed compromises with Surgutneftegaz and Gazprom Neft, but others are still in tough talks with the producers, the sources said.

All Surgutneftegaz's contracts are bespoke and are negotiated individually in the Siberian town of Surgut by the firm's management and visiting Western trading bosses.

The sources declined to name companies that have already reached compromise deals.

(Source: Reuters)

Iraq close to deal to restart oil exports from Kirkuk

Iraq is close to securing a deal with the semi-autonomous Kurdistan Regional Government to restart oil exports from the disputed territory of Kirkuk after Washington ramped up pressure to get crude flowing as U.S. sanctions hit Iran's energy sales.

The agreement, which could be reached as early as this month, could add up to 400,000 of barrels of oil a day to international supplies in a move partly designed to stop prices rising as newly-sanctioned Iranian crude exports drop.

Brent crude oil dropped below \$70 a barrel on Friday for the first time since April, officially entering a bear market as losses since last month reached more than 20 percent.



Crude prices have fallen sharply since hitting a four-year peak of \$86 a barrel in early October, as traders have reassessed how much oil will be available in the market. Brent, the international benchmark, lost more than 1.5 percent on Friday to reach a low of \$69.13 a barrel.

Oil from Kirkuk has been largely shut off from international markets for more than a year, since the Iraqi federal government retook the territory from KRG control in October 2017. It remains a flashpoint between Baghdad and the Kurdish capital Erbil.

The only available export outlet for the oil from the giant oilfield, which was discovered in 1927, is the KRG's own pipeline that runs to the northern border with Turkey then on to the Mediterranean port of Ceyhan.

Talks to restart exports have been continuing since last year but have accelerated in recent weeks, according to three people close to the discussions. The U.S. is pushing allies to make every possible barrel of crude available as it seeks to reduce Iran's crude exports without creating a damaging price spike.

U.S. president Donald Trump said this week he was "driving" oil prices down and that he had granted waivers to some of Iran's customers as he did not want to see "\$100 a barrel or \$150 a barrel" crude.

The U.S. this week granted Iraq a waiver to continue trading certain goods with Iran, but is said to be looking for help on oil sales in return.

On Thursday the U.S. State Department said it did not comment on "deliberations occurring between or within other countries" but added "we recognize that Iraq could contribute to increased global oil output". Iraq's oil ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

(Source: Financial Times)

POA Co., Pioneer in Development of Oil Technologies

Foreword:

Development of technology in oil, gas and petrochemical fields has always been considered as one of the most important programs of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the past 30 years.

As one of the most important companies active in the field of oil, Petro Omid Asia Company (POA) has recently managed to assist the Ministry of Oil in increasing the volume of exploitation from this natural resource with constructing oil open-pit tanks in Genaveh. Presently, this company has finalized a contract with the Ministry of Oil for constructing the second largest project in all-time history of the country.

Once the second largest project of the company in the field of construction of tank is commissioned, storage of 10 million barrels of light and heavy-crude oil in Jask will become possible.

To learn more about the details, our correspondent has conducted an interview with the CEO of Petro Omid Asia Company Asghar Gorzin which comes as follows.

Let's review the interview in questions and answers.

■ **Would you mind explaining on the history and field of activity of the company and also projects at hand?**

A: Petro Omid Asia (POA) Company is one of the subsidiaries of OMID Investment Management Company in a way that Bank Sepah is its major shareholders.

OMID Investment Group is composed of various companies including Gol-e Gohar and Chadormalu Mining & Industrial companies and Gohar Zamin Ore Company, Petro Omid Asia Company, Hormozgan Cement Production Company, KAVIR TIRE Company, GOHARAN OMID Company and Bojnourd Cement Production Company. Some of these companies have also composed of subsidiary companies which are administered in the form of holding. The scope of activity of some of these subsidiary companies are changed according to the terms and condi-



tions. Petro Omid Asia Company is a subsidiary of OMID Investment Management Group which started its activity in 2009 with the aim of activating in the field of mine. Afterwards, type of activity of this company changed in its articles of association in a way that the company is now active in the oil, gas and petrochemical fields. As you know, tanks are generally classified into two strategic tanks or underground-, concrete-based, and open-pit or steel-structured tanks.

Construction of Genaveh 10-million oil storage tank has been considered as one of the most important measures taken by the company during these years. As inaugurated about one and a half years ago, this storage tank was rented to the Ministry of Oil within the framework of Build and Operate (BO) contract. In this contract, POA Company bought the land and made huge investment on the condition that these storage tanks will be rented to the Ministry of Oil. Given the above issue, POA Company is currently considered as main manufacturer of open-pit oil storage tanks in the country, licensed by the Ministry of Oil. Of the other subsidiary companies to Petro Omid Asia Company, it should be referred to: DARYAN Company, Tose'eh Tejarat Kish Company, Asmari Energy Company, Zakhireh Sazan Omid Company, etc.

Daryan Company, affiliated to POA, is active in the field of designing and consulting engineering projects

while Tose'eh Tejarat Kish Company is active in the field of commerce.

Management of the company has focused on materializing objectives of the company. For example, when a contract is concluded with the company, one of subsidiary companies undertakes the responsibility.

It should be noted that construction of a storage oil tank in Jask is the most serious and important contract of the company. If finalized, construction of second oil storage tank will start in Petro Omid Asia Company.

■ **Please explain a bit more on this contract.**

A: Given the recommendations of Leader of the Islamic Revolution, the Oil Ministry decided to play a leading role in line with development of MOKRAN region (southeastern country). This activity is defined in a number of important work including construction of 1,000-km oil transmission pipeline, ranging from Goureh oil storage tank to Jask. In case of construction of Goureh oil storage tank as well as construction of oil transmission pipeline to Jask, the Ministry of Oil can transfer oil to the constant terminals or vessels carrying oil through the oil terminals that will be constructed in future. Therefore, 'Jask' contract is embedded inside this giant project. A glance at current situation of Goureh-Jask pipeline project, construction of 'Goureh' tanks is unfinished. However, the pipeline has been put up for tender and its contractors have

almost been specified. In this regard, Jask Oil Storage Tank is constructed by Petro Omid Asia (POA) Company.

In the meantime, Jask project is composed of storing and warehousing 10 million barrels of light- and heavy crude oil. In Genaveh, three types of light-, semi-heavy and heavy oil will be stored while light- and heavy-oil will be stored in Jask project.

Of course, the Ministry of Oil will decide in this regard.

■ **Would you mind explaining more on the details of this project.**

A: These oil storage tanks include 20 500,000-barrels for storing oil. In Genaveh, there are oil storages for storing one million barrels of oil. As mentioned in above, the Ministry of Oil and contracting companies have been tasked with implementing it.

In this regard, Petro Omid Asia Company (POA) is tasked with providing financial resources of this contract within the framework of BOT (Build-Operate and Transfer) basis, costing about 200 million EUR. Also, construction period of this oil storage tanks will be completed for three years while the operation period of these storage tanks has been set for 15 years.

In order to develop MOKRAN region, the Ministry of Oil possessed a parcel of land area as large as 5,000 ha, in which, about 300 ha of which has been delegated by the Oil Ministry to Petro Omid Asia Company.

Under the contract, these oil storage tanks will be rented by the POA to the Ministry of Oil for the next 15 years.

■ **Would you mind explaining about the previous contract in Genaveh?**

A: Genaveh contract has differences with this contract. In that project, both the Ministry of Oil and Petro Omid Asia company did not have any enough experience in this respect. Also, due to the management changes and policymaking of the company, Genaveh project has turned time-consuming.

Therefore, Genaveh project does not have any complexities but in this contract (Jask), the Ministry of Oil

gave us two special suggestions. Of course, the current contract has more strength than the Genaveh contract in legal point of view.

■ **Have you made any decision with regard to entry to other fields of activity or industries?**

A: It is very likely that the Ministry of Oil should cooperate with the responsible organizations in construction of downstream and upstream industries of the Ministry of Oil but this issue depends on the financial situation of the Group.

I believe that Petro Omid Asia Company should be identified as a company with famous and renowned brand. Also, development and participating in international arenas is the next priority.

I am of the opinion that the company has fulfill many projects in foreign countries.

■ **Have you ever had activity in the international arena?**

A: In response to your question, I should say no but effective studies and consultations have been made with target countries in this regard.

■ **Undoubtedly, there are serious problems and challenges while performing these processes. Would you mind explaining a bit more on this?**

A: In response to your question, I should say that doing any activity faces serious problem but it is believed that solution should be found to settle these problems. In this regard, Petro Omid Asia Company has faced many problems during these years. Provision of financial resources for

construction of project is the first and major challenges facing the company. For example, Jask Contract will be launched using foreign exchange and since the country is put under severe sanctions, I think this project will face problem.

Therefore, I am of the opinion that suitable ways should be paved for attraction of both domestic and foreign investors.

■ **If we want to discuss about the problems facing his project clearly, what are the most important challenges you face for operation of these project?**

A: Except the cases I mentioned in above, provision of parts, equipment, machinery for completion of these project is very difficult at the current situation.

■ **Are you satisfied with the services and loans offered by banks?**

In response to your question, I should say that private sector banks are able to pay more facilities to production units and industrialists than public sector banks. However, private sector banks have thrown their heavyweight behind industrialists and producers.

■ **As the last question, what do you expect from the Ministry of Oil as responsible body for launching this giant project?**

A: I seize this opportunity to express my special thanks to the officials at the Ministry of Oil who supported objectives of Petro Omid Asia Company. I request the officials in the ministry to support investment objectives of the company optimally.



NEWS IN BRIEF



India worried over China trade deficit

INTERNATIONAL **TEHRAN** — India has voiced its concern to Beijing over the large trade deficit that has skyrocketed to over USD 51 billion, and underlined the need to boost bilateral trade in various sectors to bring down the deficit.

The bilateral trade between India and China jumped by 18.63 percent year-on-year and reached an all-time high of USD 84.44 billion last year. But the trade deficit continued to remain high at USD 51.75 billion in 2017.

India's commerce secretary Anup Wadhawan, who is visiting Shanghai to attend the China International Import Expo (CIIE), held wide-ranging talks with Wang Shouwen Vice, China's Commerce Minister, to discussed bilateral trade issues. India has been voicing its concern to China over the huge trade deficit for many years and believes that more bilateral trade in IT services, agriculture products, pharmaceuticals and tourism will help bring down the deficit.

New Delhi has been putting pressure on Beijing to take measures to bring down the over USD 51.75 billion trade deficit, which was one of the main focus areas of the informal summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping at Wuhan in April this year.



'Time not ripe for Rohingya repatriation'

INTERNATIONAL **TEHRAN** — Bangladesh and Myanmar should shelve plans of repatriating hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees to Rakhine State as they face a "high risk of persecution", a top United Nations' human rights investigator has warned.

More than 900,000 Rohingya refugees are currently living in Bangladesh under impoverished conditions after being thrown out of their country following a brutal military crackdown in August 2017.

On October 30, Bangladesh and Myanmar agreed to begin the repatriation process in mid-November but the UN refugee agency said conditions in Rakhine State were "not yet conducive for returns".

Lee said Myanmar "failed to provide guarantees they [the Rohingya] would not suffer the same persecution and horrific violence all over again", and said she had received credible information from the refugees in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, that "they are in deep fear of their names being on the list to be repatriated, causing distress and anguish".

Last month, Myanmar officials said they verified 5,000 Rohingya refugees so far, with the "first batch" of 2,000 to be repatriated in November. The UN condemned the repatriation deal, confirming it had not been consulted on the plan.



Pakistan starts talks for IMF bailout

INTERNATIONAL **TEHRAN** — With the economic situation getting grimmer, Pakistan government led by Imran Khan has started talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) over the bailout program to maintain its foreign exchange reserves that have dropped 42 percent since January.

According to a report in The News, the IMF delegation, led by its chief Herald Finger, kicked off nearly two weeks talks with Pakistani team on the formal written request of Islamabad for a possible bailout package, which will be country's 13th bailout.

The size of the IMF program will be determined after finalizing package from China as Pakistan's high powered technical team is scheduled to visit Beijing from November 9, 2018 for finalizing package for a balance of payment support, said the report.

Pakistan is in need of an estimated \$12 billion to support its external account sector for the current fiscal year of 2018/19. The country's foreign reserves have plummeted 42 percent since January to around eight billion dollars, barely sufficient to cover two months of imports, the report added.

Officials quoted in the report said Pakistan and the IMF mission will evolve agreement on memorandum of economic and financial policies and then sign of letter of intent to secure a 36-month extended fund facility loan.



'Casualties in Afghan polls highest ever'

INTERNATIONAL **TEHRAN** — The number of civilian casualties in Afghanistan's parliamentary elections last month was higher than casualties recorded in four previous elections in Afghanistan, the United Nations mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said in a report.

At least 435 civilian casualties were recorded, out of which 56 people were killed and 379 wounded, on the Election Day (October 20), and during days when delayed polling was conducted in some provinces. The numbers do not include casualties from attacks during the three-week election campaign.

The report noted that the attacks by the Taliban were carried out with rockets, grenades, mortars and improvised explosive devices. Some attacks on voter registration centers prior to the Election Day were claimed by the ISIS, also known by its Arabic acronym 'Daesh'.

"The Taliban's actions forced many ordinary Afghans to choose between exercising their right to participate in the political process and risking their own safety," the UNAMA said.

Elections were originally scheduled for 2014 but were delayed multiple times because of the fragile security situation and disagreements over election reforms. The votes are presently being counted and results would be declared later this month.

Moscow talks opportunity to "open a new page" in Afghanistan's history

INTERNATIONAL **TEHRAN** — On Friday, Russia hosted a landmark international meeting on Afghanistan, which saw the participation of representatives from the Taliban, Afghan government and many regional countries, including Iran.

The 'talks' aimed at reviving the peace dialogue after 17 years of war is the first time Moscow has invited the Afghan Taliban. The U.S. government, which has been holding 'peace talks' with the insurgent group separately, is not in favor of Russia leading the initiative. With Friday's talks, experts believe, Russia has seized the opportunity to be at the center stage of Afghan peace process, much to the chagrin of Washington. While the present-day Taliban leaders, backed by the U.S., had fought against Russia in Afghanistan, the dynamics have changed over the years.

Taliban had sent a high-level delegation to the talks, which ended without any sides agreeing on a path to direct dialogue, according to sources. Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai, Taliban spokesman, told journalists that the conference was "not about direct talks", adding that the Taliban does not recognize the present government in Kabul and "therefore we won't hold talks with them".

Stanikzai reiterated that the main demand of the group was "withdrawal of foreign forces" from Afghanistan. The war in Afghanistan has now stretched into its 18th year.

While the Afghan government did not send any delegation at an official level, members of the High Peace Council (HPC) did take part in the talks, representing Ashraf Ghani government at an unofficial level. HPC



representative Eshan Taheri said Kabul was ready for direct talks with the insurgent group.

"We asked them to define a date and place for the direct talks. The meetings in Moscow helped move things in this direction," Taheri was quoted as saying. Pertinently, the Afghan government had refused to send any delegation to the previous talks hosted by Moscow saying the process should be led by Kabul.

More than a dozen countries had sent their representatives to the talks including China, Pakistan, Iran, India and Central Asian states — a massive diplomatic victory for the

Russian government.

Russia said the Moscow talks marked the first time a Taliban-delegation had taken part in such high-level international meeting and said it will "open a new page in Afghanistan's history". In a statement issued late on Friday, Russia's foreign ministry said the participants "agreed to continue consultations within the framework of this mechanism."

The Moscow format was initially scheduled for September but was postponed after the Afghan government insisted that the process should be Afghan-led and Afghan-owned.

Meanwhile, the security situation in Afghanistan continues to deteriorate with the insurgent group launching multi-pronged attacks across the country. In recent weeks, Uruzgan, Faryab and Ghazni have come under attack, resulting in the casualties of Afghan security forces and civilians.

At the time of filing this report, fighting between the Afghan security forces and the Taliban was underway in multiple Shia-populated districts of Ghazni, including Jaghori and Malistan. The clashes have been going on since past one week with little help from the government.

Taliban launch attacks on Hazara Shias in multiple Afghan provinces

By Syed Zafar Mehdi

TEHRAN — While the Afghan government and the Taliban resume 'peace talks' in Moscow, security situation continues to deteriorate in Afghanistan with the insurgent group upping the ante and launching a series of attacks in different parts of the country.

After days of intense fighting in Urzagan and Faryab provinces, during which the Taliban overrun military bases and launched assault on civilian population, especially the Shia-dominated hamlets, the insurgent group has now turned towards the eastern province of Ghazni.

The battle in Ghazni began on Monday, when the insurgents attacked a police checkpoint in Khogyani district near the provincial capital. Afghan authorities said at least 13 security personnel were killed in the ensuing clashes and four others were wounded.

Harun Najafzada, a journalist and researcher, said Taliban had conveyed a message from mosque loudspeakers to people in Shia-populated Jaghori to "disarm and take our side", saying Kabul government was "not reliable".

On Tuesday night, the Taliban insurgents launched vicious attacks on Jaghori. Ehsanullah Amiri, a Kabul-based journalist, wrote on Twitter that the insurgents had attacked the district from two directions, leading to intense fighting in Hotqol, Zirak and Dawood areas with predominantly Shia population.

In the absence of Afghan security forces, the local inhabitants came out in large numbers to repel the attack, said local sources, which led to casualties on both sides. "We are peace loving people and we don't have anything to do with this murky war," said Wahid Haidari, a journalist who hails from Jaghori. "But we also know how to defend ourselves and our district if and when the need arises."

Rohullah Yakobi, a researcher with Human Security Centre, who belongs to Jaghori, said hours after the multi-



pronged attack on Jaghori, people were "resisting on their own" against a "well-armed terrorist group" and there was "no sign of support" from the Kabul government.

Kabul-based journalist Ishaq Anas said fighting was raging on in Jaghori and locals were trying to resist the Taliban assault with little help from the government. "It is worrying if the Taliban break the defensive line, there would be a massacre of civilians," he wrote on Twitter.

Sharif Hassan, a journalist with Washington Post, said the areas known as "islands of peace and prosperity" in the past 17 years, predominantly Hazara Shia areas, were becoming the latest battleground for Taliban insurgents. "Government has done nothing," he tweeted.

Mahdi Mudaber, a journalist with Daily Afghanistan, said the absence of government and security forces in Urzagan, Faryab and Jaghori was "questionable". "Why they send security forces for helping people so late. Is it a strategy," he asked.

Till Saturday, all roads leading to Jaghori remained closed as the fighting continued. People, according to a source, have taken shelter in mosques and makeshift tents far away

from Hotqol — where around a dozen security personnel were killed couple of days ago. Reports said that insurgents have ransacked and burned private properties in the area.

Afghanistan's national security advisor Hamdullah Mohib said he has spoken to security officials in Jaghori and Malistan and fighter jets have also been rushed to these areas, but the fighting between the Taliban and Afghan forces supported by locals raged on until the last reports came in.

The attacks against Hazara Shias have escalated in recent weeks in different parts of the country — Urzagan, Malistan and now Jaghori — creating a sense of fear and panic among them. "If a peaceful and safe district like Jaghori falls to the Taliban, Hazarajat will be the next Helmand or Kunduz (Taliban strongholds)," said Hamed Ahmadi, who hails from Jaghori.

"The Taliban have in recent weeks intensified their attacks on Hazara populated districts in full awareness that (President) Ashraf Ghani won't do much," said Yakobi. "In seeking to diversify areas under their hold, the benefits of hitting the Hazaras outweigh its costs." He said the Afghan government needs to have an "effective counter strategy" to deal with Taliban's "broadening attacks" strategy.

Afghanistan has a grim history of ethnic violence, especially when it comes to targeted killing of Hazara Shias. These attacks have brought back chilling memories of 1990s when the Taliban would raid houses, identify and kill Hazara Shias, mostly in northern provinces. While many Hazara Shias fled to Pakistan and Iran during 1990s, many stayed back to face the specter of unimaginable horror.

Meanwhile, Moscow hosted international talks on Afghanistan on Friday, which saw participation of representatives from the Afghan government, the Taliban and many regional countries including Iran.

Taliban representative at the talks maintained that there would be no direct talks with the Afghan government until the U.S. pulls out of the war-ravaged country.

Saudi regime's war on free speech, free press

1 → As CPJ report noted, the space for critical reporting has shrunk since businessmen close to the Saudi royal family have worked assiduously since the first Gulf War in 1991 to spread Saudi media influence and carry out misinformation campaign on behalf of the Saudi regime across the world.

One example is the London-based Iran International television channel, funded by the Saudi regime. According to a latest report in Guardian, Khashoggi was killed because he had spoken to newspaper's Iran correspondent on September 26 from Istanbul, revealing that Iran International was bankrolled by Mohammad Bin Salman and Saud al-Qahtani.

Saudi regime has many such anti-Iran media projects in the pipeline across the globe, but they should know that this propaganda war fueled by petro-dollars will not unsettle Iranians. It will only backfire.

Beside the misinformation campaign and propaganda war, mainly directed at Iran, the suppression of independent press that seeks to highlight issues of public interest in Saudi Arabia is a matter of grave concern.

Most of the victims in recent years have been Saudi journalists and whistleblowers who dared to speak truth to power, like Khashoggi and several others who were not lucky enough to grab headlines. Dozens of journalists continue to languish behind bars



in Saudi Arabia, without trial, for the crime of speaking against the royals. In Saudi Arabia, what the members of royal family do is legal, even things that are deemed illegal in the international human rights charters.

In his last column, Khashoggi had warned that the arrest of his colleague Saleh al-Shahi, a columnist for Al-Watan newspaper, indicated that the Saudi crown prince had started his campaign against the mainstream Saudi journalists. Only that he didn't know he would be one of his victims.

Just a few days after Khashoggi's horrific murder, another dissident Saudi journalist

paid the ultimate price for speaking about human rights abuses in the kingdom sanctioned by the 'custodians of Islam's holiest shrines'. The rights group 'Prisoners of Conscience' announced that Turki bin Abdulaziz al-Jasser lost his life due to rigorous torture in a Saudi detention facility.

Saudi authorities have reportedly claimed that Jasser administered a page on Twitter that exposed rights abuses committed by high-ranking Saudi authorities and members of the royal family. His identity was discovered after a Saudi cyber team led by Saud Al Qahtani, the former top aide to

Mohammad Bin Salman, headed to Twitter headquarters. Al Qahtani, the brain behind the crackdown on dissident voices, was fired following Khashoggi's killing last month.

After the Khashoggi incident, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) released an 'incident report' on Saudi Arabia's press freedom and threat to the kingdom's already abysmal ranking in the World Press Freedom index. In 2018, Saudi Arabia was ranked 169th out of 180 countries and in 2019, the country is likely to witness a further downslide.

"RSF has noted a steady increase in abuses against journalists since Mohammad bin Salman's appointment as crown prince in June 2017," said a statement by Reporters Without Borders. "Khashoggi's murder in the Saudi consulate on October 2 has shown that despite the façade of modernism, the regime stops at nothing to silence critical journalists."

The statement came as the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) launched a campaign at the United Nations seeking a convention to protect rights of media workers.

It is high time for the international community and the global bodies to exert pressure on the Saudi regime to refrain from its policy of bullying and intimidating independent journalists. Otherwise many more Khashogis and Jassers will have to pay the heavy price for their free and fearless journalism.

Belt and Road Initiative: Contribution by All, Benefits for All

➔ China is inviting nations to “set aside prejudices” and “revive the ancient history”.

The ancient history refers to the Silk Road.

Ji Bingxuan, vice chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, even believes that the BRI sets the stage for promoting global friendship, saying, “BRI will build the road to peace.”

In general, when the BRI project is fully implemented it makes the world safer as the economies of the countries along the Belt and Road will serve as complementary to each other.

■ “China Not First” in BRI

In an open reference to U.S. President Donald Trump who is seeking “America First” policy and officially announced opposition to globalization, Li Baoshan, president of the People’s Daily, says: “We are not putting China First in the BRI project.”

China has emerged as the second largest economy in the world since it opened its arms to market economy under the leadership of Deng Xiaoping, who ruled the People’s Republic of China from 1978 until 1989.

Speaking at a speech at a Shanghai trade fair on November 5, President Xi criticized protectionism under Trump. Xi said, “As globalization deepens, the practices of law of the jungle and winner-take-all are a dead end.” He added, “The Chinese economy is a sea, not a pond. Storms can overturn a pond, but never a sea.”

In their speeches at the 2018 Media Forum on Belt and Road held at Hainan Province in late October, officials at local and national levels as well as senior journalists from the People’s Daily insisted on China’s respect to free trade.

The lecturers said China is ready to share its experiences with the “rest of the world” in upgrading their economy.

They said China is seeking “shared future for humankind”.

■ China says BRI is a green project

As energy is one of the main drivers of the BRI project, sticking to clean energy is of utmost importance. In advancing the project, clean energy should be given high priority as global warming and environmental degradation are causing serious headache for humanity and other species.

Speaking at the media conference, an official from China’s power grid corporation said Beijing attaches great importance to “renewable energy” in implementing the BRI project.

Though China has turned into the biggest polluter in the world in the recent years, superseding the United States, it is now the world leader by investing in renewable energy.

■ Silk Road is a ‘precious legacy’



As the largest project of the century, the BRI links 70 countries across Asia, Europe, and Africa through a network of railroads and shipping lanes. Yet, the Global Times says the BRI is intended to boost China’s trade and infrastructure links with more than 80 countries in Asia, Europe, Africa and South America.

The Silk Road was an ancient land route across Europe and Asia that connected traders and travelers from regions like China, Persia (old Iran), and the Roman Empire. Merchants used to transport silk and other commodities by camel or horse along those roads.

Now proponents say the Silk Road should be cherished as a “precious legacy” for today’s world. Today, modern Iran, due to its geostrategic situation and great size in West Asia, can serve as an important bridge between Asia and Eastern Mediterranean and Europe within the BRI project.

■ Investment in BRI projects

Reportedly, China has so far invested more than \$900 billion in projects in countries partner to the BRI. Examples are a gas pipeline in Pakistan, a 336 kilometer rail line linking Budapest to Belgrade, and a high-speed rail link in Thailand.

In 2016, China established the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), an international development bank to help build infrastructure in BRI countries—almost like the Asia-Pacific equivalent of the IMF.

■ Trade with BRI countries

China’s imports and exports with BRI countries reached \$860 billion over the first three quarters of the current year, a rise of 13.2% from a year earlier, the Xinhua news agency has reported.

Chinese enterprises have injected a total \$10.78 billion of non-financial direct investment in the Belt and Road countries over the same period, a rise of 12.3% from last year, Commerce Ministry spokesman Gao Feng has said, according to Xinhua.

In terms of infrastructure projects, the China-Laos railway and the Hungarian-Serbia railway were steadily advancing.

■ 3,100 BRI projects implemented

Chinese state-owned enterprises (SOEs) have in the past five years carried out a total of 3,116 investment projects in countries covered by the BRI, Global Times reported on Oct. 31.

Weng Jieming, deputy chief of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC), said nearly one hundred SOEs had comparative advantage in building projects such as ports, railways, highways and communication networks.

He lists the Greek port of Piraeus owned and operated by COSCO, as well as the Chinese-built railways in Kenya and Ethiopia as examples of successful logistics and transport projects.

Wang said the SOEs had played a positive role in improving local people’s livelihood.

“Around 85 percent of the employees at the central state-owned enterprises’ overseas branches are local people,” he said, the Global Times reported.



The SOEs would strengthen cooperation with private Chinese companies, local firms in Belt and Road countries and multinational corporations to better protect against risks, he said.

■ BRI states account for a third of global GDP

So far many countries including Pakistan, Russia, Hungary, New Zealand, Poland, and Serbia have joined the project. Together they make up at least a third of the world’s GDP, over 60% of the world’s population and 75 percent of known energy reserves.

The scope of the initiative is still taking shape. More recently the initiative has been interpreted to be open to all countries as well as international and regional organizations.

■ Market rules

From the European perspective, the BRI has the potential to be hugely positive as long as it adheres to EU market rules as well as to international requirements and standards.

Europe is a prime investment destination for the BRI. According to Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, though not all Chinese investments in Europe are strictly BRI-related, Chinese foreign direct investment in Europe has soared from under €1 billion in 2008 to €35 billion in 2016 — more than triple the amount of European financing flowing in the opposite direction.

While certain officials and analysts in the West say that China’s global rise and its BRI project present a challenge to the West, Beijing is insisting that the BRI seeks “mutual understanding” and it “belongs to the world”.

■ BRI not restricted to trade

The BRI has not restricted itself just to trade. It is a comprehensive plan which considers other areas of cooperation between involved countries.

For example, Bai Chunli, president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), said on Nov. 5 that China is willing to strengthen cooperation with BRI countries in scientific research on climate change, biodiversity and epidemics and infectious diseases. Also, President Xi, in a letter to the launching of the Alliance of International Science Organizations (ANSO) in the Belt and Road Region, called for scientific and technological cooperation among BRI countries.

■ BRI offers unique opportunity to Africa

The World Bank says the BRI offers a unique opportunity to address the large infrastructure gap in developing countries that hampers trade and economic development.

Africa has hailed BRI in fostering connectivity and thereby accelerating integration and economic diversification on the continent.

Speaking at the Forum of China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in Beijing in September, Chinese Ambassador to Ethiopia Tan Jian said the BRI is a platform to promote global cooperation and common development based on win-win results.

The ambassador said the initiative is in line with the United Nations sustainable development goals and the African Union’s Agenda 2063 which is a blueprint for African development and prosperity. On the relevance of the initiative to the AU’s Agenda 2063, James Wakiaga, economic advisor at the UN Development Program (UNDP), noted that the BRI is vital to address the infrastructure deficit in Africa.

“The Belt and Road Initiative is very important particularly in terms of closing the infrastructure gap... so we need to look for the different sources of financing to Africa’s infrastructure to be able to accelerate structural transformation and diversification,” Wakiaga told Xinhua.

Professor Kassahun Berhanu from Political Science Department of Addis Ababa University said the initiative is envisioned towards increased understanding, enhanced recognition of multiculturalism and diversity, and peaceful collaboration for achieving mutually rewarding goals and objectives.

In May 2017, Kenya launched its first Chinese built high-speed railway. It connects Nairobi to the major port city of Mombasa. The 290-mile railway was built by the China Road and Bridge Corporation. It was financed almost completely by the China Eximbank. The railway is planned to extend to Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi, South Sudan, and Ethiopia.

■ BRI has turned from vision into reality

Huang Kunming, head of the Publicity Department of the

Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, said on Nov. 2 that the BRI has turned from a vision into a reality and yielded fruitful results.

Huang made the remarks in a meeting with a 256 representatives from 205 media outlets and institutions from 90 countries and international organizations who had attended at the 2018 Media Cooperation Forum on Belt and Road.

■ Giants seem to join hands in BRI

In the rapidly changing world, China’s offer to Japan to be involved in the BRI projects can be highly promising. It is highly important in view of Japan’s high technology and experience in overseas projects.

In meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who visited Beijing on Oct. 25, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said his country would welcome Japan’s involvement in China’s overseas infrastructure projects.

“China welcomes Japan to take part in the Belt and Road Initiative,” Li said, according to the South China Morning Post. Abe also pledged to lift Tokyo’s often-tense relations with Beijing into a “new dimension” in a “new era” of cooperation.

Also, during Abe’s meeting with President Xi, China and Japan announced 50 joint infrastructure projects through the Belt and Road Initiative.

Shiro Armstrong, director of the Australia–Japan Research Centre in the Crawford School of Public Policy at the ANU, says China’s welcoming of Japan to undertake joint projects is a sign of a change in approach to rolling out its BRI.

For Japan it’s a pragmatic way to engage China. As Chinese policymakers search for ways to better deploy the country’s vast sums of capital abroad, Japan has experience of doing just that dating back to the 1970s, notes.

Armstrong says, “Japanese engagement can shape the massive investments and get more business for its companies. It’s also a part of a broader hedge against an increasingly uncertain Japan–U.S. relationship.”

In view of an unpredictable leader at the White House who is undermining world order let alone global trade rules, the BRI presents tremendous opportunities in terms of trade and growth.

The BRI can be the engine of global growth and development if the giant economies of China and Japan — respectively the second and third largest — and other great economies like South Korea join hands to build a better future in cooperation with other countries along the Belt and Road.



The road ahead is bumpy as opponents in the United States and elsewhere accuse China of creating debt traps through its investments in recipient countries. Yet the “project of the century”, as described President Xi, can change the shape of Asia, Africa and parts of Europe by strictly adhering to the principles of open tenders and transparency to reduce the likelihood of failed projects and improve the outcomes for both investors and host communities.



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‘Iran 9th country with lowest maternity death worldwide’

“Choice can change the world”, says UNFPA executive director

By Maryam Qarehgozlou

TEHRAN — Iran achieved MDG 5 [United Nations Millennium Development Goals] by being the 9th country with the lowest maternity death worldwide, the executive director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) said in an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times.

It's a big achievement because to end the death during childbirth is a goal that UNFPA has set for the whole world — or, as we say, zero maternal deaths. There are just a handful of countries who have achieved this milestone, Dr. Natalia Kanem said.

“We have to trust women to make choices in planning their families,” a key message from the Executive Director of UNFPA.

“The woman should be the one to decide, and of course it's natural for the woman to confer. This is the whole point: We have to trust women to make these decisions because the woman is one half of a couple and is the one who bears a child; the woman also understands how many children she already has and she also understands her responsibilities for looking after the next generation,” Dr. Kanem explained.

Dr. Kanem travelled to Iran to attend the HelpAge Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Population Ageing which was held in Tehran from October 23 to 25, with the main theme of “Family, Community and State in Ageing Societies.”

UNFPA is the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency. Its mission is to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

Here is the full text of the interview:

■ Based on the latest census figures in 2016, older persons currently constitute almost 9 percent of the total population in Iran and demography experts predict that by 2050 some 20 to 30 percent of the population will be 60 years or older. How can this inevitable demographic transition be addressed with regard to the Sustainable Development Goals?

Everywhere in the world have demographic challenges that are different from each other, of course. UNFPA is quite convinced that the demographic challenges that the world is facing are really closely linked to the issue of choice. The choices that we are making today are going to influence older people as they age, but they are also linked to the cycle of life. So those same choices have to do with how we deal with young people today. Demographic transition typically refers to the phenomenon that we see in populations. In earlier times, a high birth rate was accompanied by a high death rate. Many countries had the high birth rates, women often had 8, 10, even 15 children. Even in Iran, less than 50 years ago, birth and death rates were much higher than today.

People were dying at the age of 50 or 55 and this was considered normal — something we certainly wouldn't consider normal today. But with development we see that as choices expand typically people would choose to have smaller families so that you can invest more in each child. And as advances in medical care, nutrition and quality of life occur then the death rate also comes down. So this is the demographic transition: you have high birth rate and high death rate and then slowly over time fewer and fewer children, but also people are living much longer. So all of these change the structure of the population.

In less developed countries where UNFPA is working — for example, in parts of Asia and Africa -- the “many children paradigm” is still there. The death rate is still relatively high and so the structure of the population in those countries presents a different challenge.

Iran is a very good example of a country where you've had these advances in development and medical care. People are now living much longer — on average 20 years longer than a few decades ago — and it's a big achievement for Iran and for similar countries. And of course [people are having] fewer children but more children are surviving and you are not having a lot of early deaths. Then when you've got to the stage where Iran is now and as you look to the year 2050, for the first time you are going to have a high proportion of older people.

At the meeting I attended here we joined other partners, including the government, to develop ideas, regionally, as to how we will address some of these challenges. The Sustainable Development Goals have that word “sustainable.” It means that it should be something that is going to endure over time. Sometimes you can fix things quickly but it's not going to last. It's a short-term Band-Aid [solution]. What the Sustainable Development Goals are talking about is prosperity that is going to be long-lasting into the future. So in thinking about the Sustainable Development Goals, there are 17 of them. Of course there are many noble goals of the United Nations embedded in them. Every country wants peace, wants to have productive partnerships, things like health, the end to poverty, the end to hunger, etc. This everyone can agree on. It is not an issue.

But there are some other interesting SDGs which are less known like the SDG 10 which is about an end to inequality; or the SDG 5 which talks about men and women and making sure that the services of the country, of a community and of a family cover both men and women. And as we think about the ideals of climate and the environment there are sustainable goals for water and life in the sea, and there are

sustainable goals for agriculture and life on Earth.

For UNFPA the relevance of all of these goals to an ageing population is that you have to strengthen not just the body and mind but the attitude of everybody to understand the cycle of life. If the baby is healthy in the mother's womb this is a stronger child who is going to be a stronger adult and who is going to avoid some of the health problems when they become 60-70 or 80 years old. But if you have no good nutrition, lots of diseases may occur and if there's not an understanding about the relationship of men, women, older people and younger people in the family then as you get older you are not going to be well integrated into the society. You will suffer great loneliness which is a problem, which can be even a health problem, and you are also not going to be able to be productive. The big point that we make about the demographic transition is that older people can and should continue to contribute to society.

They contribute to their family, of course, because of love. But they can also contribute to their community economically by their wisdom that they have acquired over so much life experience and also to be able to give guidance to the next generation that's coming up.

So in a nutshell we also want to stress that these Sustainable Development Goals stand for having a world that is just, and in that just world women are half the population and therefore women are half the solution. The solution to the economic problems, because prosperity comes with more women contributing and more women in the workforce. More women being supported by childcare and other things that are going to allow them to make

very seriously. Your midwifery programs have been very successful, so you have fewer deaths during childbirth than other areas which had started from the same indicators where Iran did.

Iran achieved MDG 5 [United Nations Millennium Development Goals] by being the 9th country with lowest maternity death worldwide. It's a big achievement because to end the death during childbirth is a goal that UNFPA has set for the whole world — or, as we say, zero maternal deaths. But you are already there. There are just a handful of countries who have achieved this milestone and now we are working feverishly to try to share that example, in particular, the benefits of midwives and safe delivery and antenatal care. All of these are factors that helped Iran to have women survive. No woman should die while giving birth.

Of course there is always more to do and among these is trying to strengthen key policies; we are working with government and together we are encouraging policies that seek to address and end violence against women, for example, and there are other areas that we have been working on very closely with Iran.

■ In the UNFPA State of World Population 2018 report you mention that “choice can change the world”, could you please elaborate on that?

The State of World Population report was published just a few days ago [October 17]. In this report UNFPA analyses choices — including why choices are in short supply everywhere. We looked at every country and we were looking at fertility levels and number of children per woman and we noticed that in the countries that are still very poor



From left to right: Tehran Times chief editor Mohammad Ghaderi, journalist Maryam Qarehgozlou, UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem, and Dr. Leila Joudane, UNFPA Representative in the Islamic Republic of Iran

their contributions all the better. The relationship between healthy old age and providing and planning and protecting women all along a chain makes a difference because women tend to outlive men, so when you look at the population over 60 typically there are more women than men as opposed to half and half. But normally women do not have the chance to have pensions, for example, so poverty among older people tends to have more women represented. These are the type of questions that the Sustainable Development Goals ask us to address and these were some of the things that were discussed in the conference.

■ How does UNFPA evaluate Iran's effort to address population ageing including increased inclusion of the older persons in the community, making cities more accessible for them, and financial support for health services?

UNFPA has worked very closely with some of the ministries that are in the lead on thinking about the family. We were much honored to have with us the Vice President who has taken leadership on some of the issues on family dialogues that you are having in this country. It's a very enlightened way of looking at problems that every society has by trying to encourage dialogue among the generations and also to think about family life and family relationships. Iran is doing well when it comes to concentrating on better health for all, including the challenges that you face because of the migrant population and other factors.

UNFPA's role is to assist governments as we think of what are some of the measures that we can put in place. For example, if something like an earthquake or another type of natural disaster happens, usually women are more affected than men in any country, so UNFPA works with women and girls so that together with government, we can position lifesaving supplies and how we can assure that we are ready to assist the population if, God forbid, something happens in terms of a humanitarian crisis.

We also help government to analyze some of the trends that are happening in the population, not just ageing and but also on the other side of what's happening with the younger people in the country. Iran has a highly educated population, including women who go to school. This is something that is a model for other countries in the region and UNFPA is helping to share the experience that you have had with other countries in the region. We've been very gratified and happy to see that when it comes to women's health issues Iran takes them

and are trying to raise their economic prospects they still have very high fertility. Like I was describing before, women in such countries are having more children that they actually desire. When you have a big family you have big challenges especially in a poor country, so UNFPA is working together with governments to provide contraception and also information. So that women would be aware of the things that they could do safely in order to plan their family.

Now this type of guidance is not ‘one-size-fits-all.’ It has to be done sensitively; you have to work with the culture and religion and social norms of the country and you have to understand what it is that women prefer because it should be their choice. A simple example is if a woman wants to use contraception to plan her family size it should not be just one type of contraception. You should have 5 or 6 or 7 modern methods of contraception for family planning, and she will pick the one that works for her and her husband.

Now on the side of countries where fertility is on average two or three children we've done an analysis to see choices there and choice is relevant because very often a woman does not have a choice to work; she would like to but there is not enough social support. If there is no grandmother to look after the children, for example, what is she going to do? If there is no consideration for all of the different options, she may have the education and she may have the preparation to achieve her potential, but she may not be able to ultimately participate in the economy of her country. And this is going to make sustainable development much more difficult.

And then we also talk about developed countries where the options of not only future income but things like the policy for maternity and paternity leave are discussed. If you have a job and now you have a child will you lose your job because you now have taken leave while you were pregnant and while the child is young? And we are also very bold about saying that fathers should also have adequate paternity leave, so they can bond with the new baby and be a family together when the baby is very young. This is very helpful for the baby as they are growing to have a few weeks or a month, for example, with their father and not just the mother.

So these are some of the things the report is bringing out. And then lastly in some places — many of them in Asia-Pacific, the average fertility rate is very, very low. In Taiwan, for example, it's an average of one child per woman — it's the lowest in the world. In other parts of Asia like Korea and Japan where



UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem

Iran is a very good example of a country where you've had these advances in development and medical care. People are now living much longer — on average 20 years longer than a few decades ago — and it's a big achievement for Iran and for similar countries.

families are very small, or a country like Finland which also has low fertility, the concern is why women are not choosing to have more children. So we did an analysis to look at choices. Sometimes a woman would like to have two children but she is not able to afford. So this is a type of choice which is limited for her. There are other women whose choices are limited because of, I would say, ignorance about transmitted infections that can lead to problems of reproductive health. This is what UNFPA has to work with not just in Iran but in every country where UNFPA works. We attend to these issues of women's health.

The current fertility rate in Iran is 2.01. From our perspective what's normal is what the woman wants, so we don't have targets labelled good or bad. We look at the spectrum and we provide advice based on what it is that any woman in Iran would want. I would observe that many countries see two as the ideal because you have a stable population. It's not growing too fast and it's not shrinking too fast. But again a lot depends on what women themselves want. If a woman wants a bigger family, we should help her to have the support to have the ability to be able to afford more children. If a woman wants a smaller family and that is her choice then we should support that choice. But for Iran your fertility rate of 2 is in balance because that's considered “replacement rate” of the population.

■ Would you please explain why reproductive health and rights remain in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda?

There is no country on earth that can claim that they have made reproductive health and rights a reality for everyone. Even when a country is doing well we see that there are shortfalls, maybe a farmer who is trying to have her farm in a rural area, maybe it's a migrant or refugee etc. We always know that choices can be limited and the goal of UNFPA is to make sure that these millions and millions of people have more choices, not fewer. This is what I said earlier. It's not good to try to tell a woman you must have two-and-a-half children so that the statistics look good. We have to analyze what is happening with your family. Can you afford four or five children if you want that many? Well, this may be a blessing for you. But maybe you cannot afford five children, so maybe you would like contraception because you are afraid everybody will stay in poverty and you won't be able to invest in each child well, so you should receive the help to exercise your choice accordingly.

Ultimately the point about the Sustainable Development Goals is to make sure that women are able to speak and that women are able to understand what is the future for them and for their daughter or for their son for that matter. Because of course the girl is going to marry the boy and we want to make sure the boy knows about the respect for women, we want to make sure that the boy is in good health, and also in every country we face the challenge of domestic violence and this means that raising awareness among men and boys is very important. They are the ones that are also going to share that understanding.

So as we think about the SDGs and the goal of ending poverty, women have to be an integral part of that equation. As we think about the second SDG to end hunger, for example, you know that many times women are active as farmers, women are the ones who are purchasing the food and cooking the food, so understanding about health and nutrition is good for them personally but it's also good for the family and it's good for the community.

And as we go through all of the SDGs, on education for example, I think we want to celebrate examples like Iran where women have achieved and they can finish their education. This is not true in a lot of the world. In a lot of the world girls are discriminated against, they don't get to go to school or they finish half

way and then they would never go to the university. It's not just girls that are in school; for many reasons there are girls that are also out of school, and today I saw a wonderful example in Iran of a community center [called Ofogh for adolescents where they can go and to learn to communicate and acquire life skills] where young girls are being taught through workshops and taught through interacting with each other about good health and how to avoid social problems in the future.

And we were accompanied by Dr. [Mohammad Mehdi] Gouya, Director of the Health Ministry's Communicable Diseases Control Department, who is a brilliant scientist but who is also helping the people in Iran to understand life skills which is so important for their future.

And the last observation I made about Sustainable Development Goals in reproductive health is that it was in Tehran 50 years ago that the first International Conference on Human Rights took place and during this very famous conference that was the first time when the United Nations and all the countries agreed that it is the right of couples to freely and responsibly plan their family. So for UNFPA this was kind of our beginning and we will be 50 years old next year because we were born from this conference so this is why we are very happy to be in Iran and we know it's a historic location for choice, for women and for couples to be able to plan their families.

5) Why has UNFPA put greater emphasis on women's role in planning their families regarding the number of children, spacing, etc.?

The woman should be the one to decide and of course it's natural for the woman to confer. This is the whole point: we have to trust women to make these decisions because the woman is one half of the couple and is the one who bears a child; the woman also understands how many children she already has and she also understands her responsibilities for looking after the next generation, so it's her body and the right of the woman over her body has been established. So the woman always has the good sense to confer with everyone who is involved. Now when you say the couple it becomes a little ambiguous — you cannot dictate to a woman to either have or not have a child. The world at times had got into troubles by trying to force women against their will either to have a child or not to have a child and this is why we say that reproductive health should be women-centered and when we are talking about fertility the woman that carries the child should be the one to decide.

This is getting very interesting in a time of technology, for example with the new technology we have to be very sure to respect the right of the woman, as you know there are possibilities to either carry the baby or to be a surrogate mother. There are many things that are coming on the horizon where we feel that for the community and for the woman, herself, she should be knowing that's her choice if she likes to have contraception it should be available; if she would like to have a baby we should support her with all the good care and support and the aftercare in the aftermath as well.

It's interesting that as we think about the configuration of the family and as we think about the demographic transition — as I have described — the danger when you get into a low fertility environment is that there is a temptation to insist that, “Well, you should have three children — the country needs you.”

Ultimately, if you have a healthy productive ageing population that's contributing, a smaller population can be better than a bigger one. There are many countries that have a big population but they are very poor — they have too much of a population to be able to care for them, so these are the kinds of issues that UNFPA helps to discuss with governments — and in any case I think governments would want to take good decisions based on what's good for women in their country.

Over 260,000 Iranians visit Georgia in 10 months



TOURISM **TEHRAN** — More than 262,000 Iranian nationals traveled to Georgia in the first ten months of 2018, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

Georgia hosted over 7.5 million tourists from March 1 to October 31, said Giorgi Chogovadze, the head of the Georgian National Tourism Administration, adding 262,000 of them came from Iran.

Foreign arrivals in Georgia has risen 11 year-on-year percent in the period, the official stated.

Georgian National Tourism Administration anticipates that the country will attract 8.5 million travelers by the yearend, the report added.

Nationals from Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkey and Iran made the most travels to the country during the ten-month period.

The number of Iranian tourists visiting Georgia in the first 10 months of 2017 escalated by 123 percent in comparison to the same period a year earlier.

Georgia and Iran reached a visa waiver agreement in 2010, based on which their citizens enjoy reciprocal visa-free travel for up to 45 days.

Yazd to highlight traditional floor coverings



HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — A sales exhibition of traditional floor coverings will be running in the UNESCO-registered historical city of Yazd from November 13 to 17.

Titled "The 2nd Specialized Exhibition of Zilou and Traditional Mats", the event will be held concurrent with a national crafts exhibit at Yazd Permanent International Fairground, ILNA reported.

Iran's Cultural Heritage Handicrafts and Tourism Organization has nominated Meybod, a city in Yazd province, for possibly becoming a world city of "Zilou" (traditional hand woven floor-covering).

Several Iranian cities including Isfahan and Tabriz enjoy such a privilege granted by the World Crafts Council.



ROUND THE GLOBE

Urban historic center of Cienfuegos

Cienfuegos was established in 1819 on the Caribbean coast of south central Cuba. Although located in Spanish territory, many of its first settlers were of French origin from Bordeaux and French colonies such as Louisiana.

A commercial port town, located in the heart of a fertile agricultural region producing sugar, cane, mango, tobacco and coffee, its prosperity was primarily linked to the 19th-century sugar boom. By the 1860s, Cienfuegos was the third most important city in Cuba, by economical wealth.



The city's original center was composed of 25 blocks, laid out in a grid plan with absolute geometric regularity, inspired by the Spanish Enlightenment.

As an example of modern urbanism in Spanish American, this planned town reflected new socio-economic and cultural trends related to urban order, the role of public spaces, and public hygiene requirements for natural light and ventilation.

Buildings dating from the early 20th century followed a more eclectic design but maintained certain proportions, construction materials and stylistic features creating harmony. Residential buildings, for example, are one or two storey's in height with plain facades, generally without porches. Masterful metalwork of wrought and cast iron is present in elegant grills, railings and fences.

The inscribed historic center covers 70 hectares surrounded by a buffer zone of 105 hectares that extends south along the eastern side of the port.

(Source: UNESCO)

Iran pavilion exceeds expectations at London Tourism Fair

TOURISM **TEHRAN**

d e s k — Iran pavilion was warmly received at the World Travel Market London, which brought together travel markers and exhibitors from some 180 countries from November 5 to 7.

Foreign tourists and tour operators warmly welcomed Iran's pavilion despite U.S.-led sanctions and its anti-Iran propaganda campaign, IRIB reported on Thursday.

"Political developments have had no bearing on tourism activities, and this year I not only met our old customers, but met new customers as well," Head of Iranian Tour Operators Association Ebrahim Pourfaraj said.

"It's been years that the U.S. has maintained sanctions on Iran, and the world is well familiar with these games. From this perspective, many customers even do not ask about U.S. sanctions and have got along with this issue," he added.

In the face of sanctions, Iran's trying its best to market itself as a major destination for international travelers. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, the country is expecting to increase the number of tourism arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million.

Hospitable people, ancient monuments, bazaars, museums, mosques, gardens, rich natural and rural landscapes and 22 UNESCO World Heritage sites are amongst Iran attractions.



People attend Iran's pavilion at the 2018 World Travel Market London

Intl. conference cements common heritage along Silk Road



HERITAGE **TEHRAN**

d e s k — A recent conference hosted delegations of experts and officials from Iran and other countries with the aim of cementing common heritage along the ancient Silk Road.

"Afghanistan, Central Asia and Iran – Common Heritage along the Silk Roads and corridors to and from Europe" was selected as the theme for the event held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from November 5 and 6.

Organized in cooperation with UNESCO, the European Union and the International Institute for Central Asian Studies, the conference addressed preservation of Silk Road tangible and intangible cultural heritage in order to enhance regional knowledge and to encourage sustainable tourism.

Scholars, orientalist, art historians, historians and experts exchanged views on how to safeguard Silk Road heritage while promoted common understanding about the route which was once a strategic bridge

between the East and the West, the organizers said.

According to the UNESCO, such events aim to contribute to improving livelihoods of the communities in the region, including youth and women, through capacity building and the creation of opportunities for income-generation and jobs.

The Iranian delegation also represented Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, Foreign Ministry, National Museum of Iran, and UNESCO Office in Tehran.

The Silk Road used to be an ancient network of trade routes, formally established during the Han Dynasty of China, which linked East to West by passing through the regions of the ancient world in commerce between 130 BC and 1453 CE.

Culture, art, religion, philosophy, technology, language, science, architecture, and every other element of civilization was exchanged along the Silk Road, carried with the commercial goods the merchants traded from country to country.

Floods kill 9 in Jordan, visitors seek high ground in Petra

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) — Flash floods caused by heavy rain across Jordan killed nine people Friday and forced hundreds of tourists to seek higher ground in the kingdom's ancient city of Petra, the government spokeswoman said.

About two dozen people were hurt and dozens more evacuated from their homes in several locations in the kingdom, as flood waters rose rapidly.

Amateur video posted online showed a powerful torrent rushing through the steep, narrow canyon through which visitors reach the Treasury, the main attraction in Petra, an ancient trading hub carved from rose-colored rock. The video showed several hundred visitors crowded on a patch of higher ground

near the Treasury as local guides helped one woman through surging water toward safety.

"We made it," she shouted as she rejoined her group.

Government spokeswoman Jumana Ghuneimat said two dozen people were injured and dozens more evacuated as homes were flooded in several locations. Elsewhere, rising water levels forced the closure of a desert highway.

Friday's floods came just two weeks after 21 people, many of them middle school students, were killed in a flash flood near the Jordanian shore of the Dead Sea. The education and tourism ministers resigned after the incident.

Torrential rains and flooding began Friday afternoon. In Wadi Musa, the town next to Petra in southern Jordan, water surged from

nearby mountains into a dry riverbed running through the community.

Ahmed Shamaseen, 29, owner of the Petra Harmony guest house, told The Associated Press he heard a thunderous sound, ran outside and saw water carrying tree stumps, rocks and debris rushing through the riverbed toward ancient Petra. He said several shops near the Petra visitors' center were badly damaged by flooding.

Shamaseen said a couple from the Netherlands and their one-year-old child were touring Petra when the flooding began. He says the couple told him after their return to the guesthouse that they had to climb to higher ground to evade the water.

Ghuneimat said more than 3,600 tourists

visited Petra on Friday, and that efforts were continuing to evacuate them.

She said nine people were killed Friday in other areas of Jordan.

In one incident in a village in the Madaba region, south of the capital of Amman, flooding swept away a vehicle carrying members of one family, Civil Defense officials said. An 11-year-old girl was killed, another girl was seriously injured and divers were searching for three other members of the family. One of the divers involved in rescue efforts was killed.

In the Dabaa area, also south of Amman, two women and a girl were killed in the floods which also forced the closure of a desert highway. A large number of cars were stuck, Ghuneimat said.

How to eat safely and travel with an autoimmune disease

By Nora Walsh

Travel is stressful enough without worrying that sampling the local specialties will make you ill or ruin your trip. Here are some tips to help.

Most medical professionals categorize travel as a stressful event, even more so for those suffering from autoimmune diseases like inflammatory bowel, celiac, Hashimoto's or psoriasis. A change of routine, jet lag, and unfamiliar germs or foreign food can exacerbate one's condition.

Plus, since a growing number of people adhere to strict anti-inflammatory diets to manage those illnesses, dining on the road can pose a real challenge. Here, doctors and specialists share some advice on how to stay healthy and eat well while traveling. As always however, talk to your doctor for specific advice related to your condition, depending on where you plan to visit.

■ Prepare your prescriptions before you go

"Make sure your disease is under control before you travel," said Dr. Michael Chiorean, director of the Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Center of Excellence at Virginia Mason. "I encourage my patients to choose destinations where they don't need to get a live vaccine, like yellow fever, because it can lead to other health issues, or where they won't be exposed to deadly organisms."

He also recommends carrying on medications in their original packaging with a copy of prescriptions, as well as a doctor's letter detailing their condition and necessary medications to decrease any chance of confiscation by airport or border security.

"Visiting regions like Western Europe where it's easy to replace medications is also helpful," he added. If specialty drugs are lost or confiscated, patients can contact their health insurance's or drug company's patient support programs, which typically provide a rescue supply of medications



through a local specialty pharmacy or hospital (depending on the country). For generic drugs, patients can usually go to local pharmacies to get a short-term refill.

■ Eat and drink wisely (or do your own cooking)

Supporting the body's immune system is key to staying healthy while traveling. Ryan Warren, a clinical nutritionist at the Jill Roberts Center for Inflammatory Bowel Disease at Weill Cornell Medicine and New York-Presbyterian steers her patients toward local, fresh, seasonal foods while traveling abroad.

"Every patient's dietary needs are different, but I recommend fresh fruits and vegetables (well cooked, skinned

and de-seeded if the patient is avoiding high roughage foods), lean proteins like fish, poultry and eggs, and a variety of whole grains, nuts, nut butters and legumes, as tolerated," she said.

Ms. Warren also suggests staying away from raw foods because they can carry food-borne illnesses, exposing travelers to pathogens that might be problematic for people with compromised immune systems. Avoiding inflammatory triggers like concentrated sweets and fried greasy foods is also beneficial. "Since air travel is inherently dehydrating, drinking plenty of water is key," she adds.

■ Use technology to help you

Smartphones are a useful tool for travelers with a chronic health condition. Travel writer Jodi Ettenberg sells digital gluten-free restaurant cards in 12 languages on her website Legal Nomads, which explain celiac dietary restrictions and cross-contamination concerns using local food names.

Google Translate helps travelers communicate specific medical needs to flight attendants, waiters, hotel staff, and health care professionals. Booking accommodations with a kitchen via apps like Airbnb and VRBO allows travelers to cook suitable meals for themselves rather than relying on restaurants. (And it also gives you, a traveler, the opportunity to really embrace local cuisine and experiment with cooking it yourself.) When dining out, food-related apps such as Yelp, Happy Cow and HealthyOut (U.S. only) help locate restaurants that accommodate specific diets.

Finally, for travelers with digestive issues, finding a bathroom in a pinch is vital. Location-based apps like Charmin's Sit or Squat and Flush Toilet Finder map out the nearest public restrooms in destinations across the world. And to reduce stomach-related stress on the go, travelers can relax a little and practice mindfulness using meditation apps like Calm and Headspace.

(Source: The New York Times)

Harvesting renewable energy from the sun and outer space at the same time

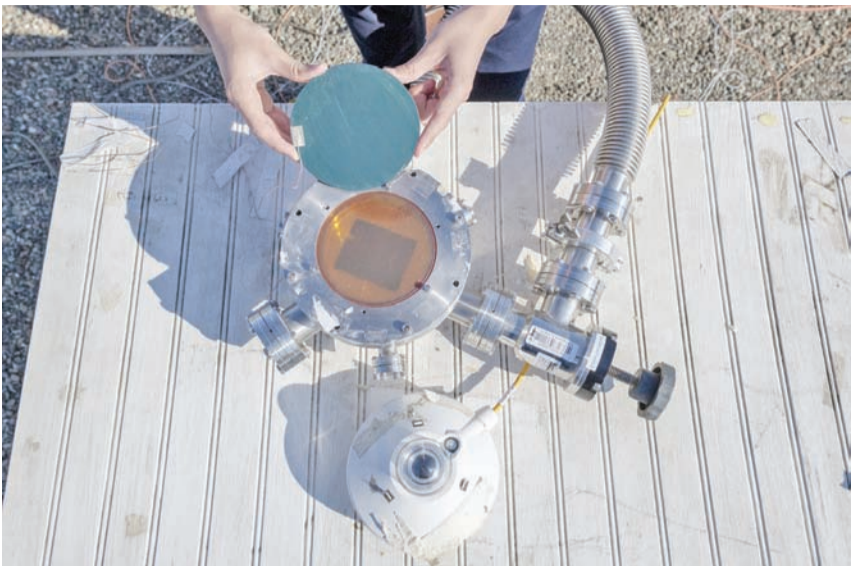
Scientists have demonstrated for the first time that heat from the sun and coldness from outer space can be collected simultaneously with a single device. Their research suggests that devices for harvesting solar and space energy will not compete for land space and can actually help each other function more efficiently.

Scientists at Stanford University have demonstrated for the first time that heat from the sun and coldness from outer space can be collected simultaneously with a single device. Their research suggests that devices for harvesting solar and space energy will not compete for land space and can actually help each other function more efficiently.

Renewable energy is increasingly popular as an economical and efficient alternative to fossil fuels, with solar energy topping charts as the worldwide favorite. But there is another powerful energy source overhead that can perform just the opposite function -- outer space.

Perfect heat source
“It is widely recognized that the sun is a perfect heat source nature offers human beings on Earth,” says Zhen Chen, the first author of the study, who is a former post-doctoral research associate at Stanford in the group of Shanhui Fan and is currently a professor at the Southeast University of China. “It is less widely recognized that nature also offers human beings outer space as a perfect heat sink.”

Objects give off heat as infrared radiation



-- a form of light invisible to the human eye. Most of this radiation is reflected back to Earth by particles in the atmosphere, but some of it escapes into space, allowing surfaces that emit enough radiation within the infrared

range to drop below the temperature of their surroundings.

Radiative cooling technology reflects copious amounts of infrared light, providing an air conditioning alternative that doesn't

Radiative cooling technology reflects copious amounts of infrared light, providing an air conditioning alternative that doesn't emit greenhouse gases.

emit greenhouse gases. It may also help improve solar cell efficiency, which decreases the hotter solar cells become -- if only the two technologies can coexist peacefully on one rooftop.

Radiative cooling
Chen and his colleagues developed a device combining radiative cooling with solar absorption technology. The device consists of a germanium solar absorber on top of a radiative cooler with silicon nitride, silicon, and aluminum layers enclosed in a vacuum to minimize unwanted heat loss.

Both the solar absorber and the atmosphere are transparent in the mid-infrared range of 8-13 microns, offering a channel for infrared radiation from the radiative cooler to pass through to outer space. The team demonstrated that the combined device can simultaneously provide 24C in solar heating and 29C in radiative cooling, with the solar absorber improving the radiative cooler's performance by blocking heat from the sun.

While this technology appears promising, Chen believes there is still plenty of work to do before it can be scaled up for commercial use. While the vacuum enveloping the device could be scaled up with relative ease, the infrared-transparent window made from zinc selenide is still too costly, and the solar absorber and radiative cooler could be designed from cheaper high-performing materials as well.

(Source: Science Daily)

The moon is flipped on the other side of the world, freaking us out



You step off the plane, having traveled across the world to the opposite hemisphere. The seasons are all backwards, and when you look up at the full moon, you realize it's not even the right way up!

Not only is this incredibly weird (mostly because, how did we not realize this before?), but this curious quirk of our round planet actually has surprising implications for researchers trying to investigate the night sky.

“From our perspective, the moon and the night sky, is actually rotated 180 degrees compared to our Northern Hemispherical friends,” Jake Clark, an astronomer from the University of Southern Queensland in Australia, explained to ScienceAlert.

But why does it look like this? Well, because physically, we're actually upside down compared to someone standing in the opposite hemisphere.

A smiling face
“Next time you're planning a holiday travel to a country near the equator during a crescent moon, when the moon sets it will look like a smiling face,” Clark explains.

And it's not just the moon that's prone to changing orientation, all of the stars you can see will be either different or upside down too.

“It depends upon where you're located on Earth but generally the constellations we see in the Southern Hemisphere are rotated again by 180 degrees compared to the Northern Hemisphere,” says Clark.

“In Australia, Orion's leg and belt is commonly known as ‘The Saucepan’, at it looks like a big old cooking pot!”

So how can you see what the other side of the world sees? Jonti Horner, also at the University of Southern Queensland suggests a great approach: simply get upside down.

“I'm from the UK originally, and while I know the night sky really well, I sometimes find flipping my vision over helps me get my bearings!” he explains.

You can do a handstand if you're good at that sort of thing, but an easier way is to lie on the ground facing North and lean your head back until you see the ground at the top of your vision.

“You'll see the sky like I did when I grew up,” he adds.

But this isn't perfect. The Southern Cross (aka the Crux) for instance is visible practically all year in the Southern Hemisphere, but the Northern Hemisphere is lucky to catch a glimpse of it at all.

So what does this all mean for astronomers? Well, for Clark and Horner, not much -- they look for exoplanets by measuring tiny changes in the stars color or light intensity.

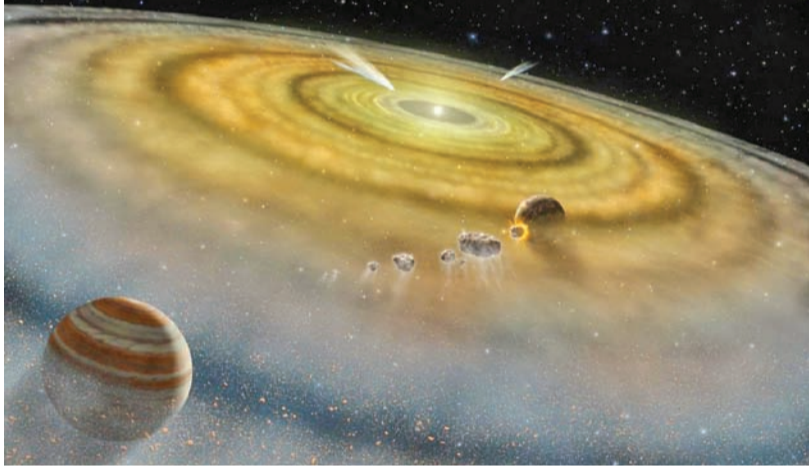
Light years
“These properties wouldn't change considerably if at all on where you observe them, since you're observing these effects tens, hundreds, or sometimes thousands of light years away.”

But if the stars you want to study can't be seen on your side of the world, it can get a bit tricky.

“It makes astronomy hard if you're a northern hemispherical astronomer wanting to work on southern stars you'll never observe from home,” Clark explains.

(Source: sciencealert.com)

Scientists theorize new origin story for Earth's water



Earth's water may have originated from both asteroidal material and gas left over from the formation of the Sun, according to new research. The new finding could give scientists important insights about the development of other planets and their potential to support life.

In a new study researchers proposed a new theory to address the long-standing mystery of where Earth's water came from and how it got here.

The new study challenges widely-accepted ideas about hydrogen in Earth's water by suggesting the element partially came from clouds of dust and gas remaining after the sun's formation, called the solar nebula.

To identify sources of water on Earth, scientists have searched for sources of hydrogen rather than oxygen, because the latter component of water is much more abundant in the Solar System.

Water sources

Many scientists have historically supported a theory that all of Earth's water came from asteroids because of similarities between ocean water and water found on asteroids. The ratio of deuterium, a heavier hydrogen isotope, to normal hydrogen serves as a unique chemical signature of water sources. In the case of Earth's oceans, the deuterium-to-hydrogen ratio is close to what is found in asteroids.

“It's a bit of a blind spot in the community,” said Steven Desch, a professor of astrophysics in the School of Earth and Space Exploration at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona and co-author of the new study, led by Peter Buseck, Regents' Professor

in the School of Earth and Space Exploration and School of Molecular Sciences at Arizona State University. “When people measure the (deuterium-to-hydrogen) ratio in ocean water and they see that it is pretty close to what we see in asteroids, it was always easy to believe it all came from asteroids.”

More recent research suggests hydrogen in Earth's oceans does not represent hydrogen throughout the entire planet, the study's authors said. Samples of hydrogen from deep inside the Earth, close to the boundary between the core and mantle, have notably less deuterium, indicating this hydrogen may not have come from asteroids.

Isotopic signatures

Noble gases helium and neon, with isotopic signatures inherited from the solar nebula, have also been found in the Earth's mantle.

In the new study, researchers developed a new theoretical model of Earth's formation to explain these differences between hydrogen in Earth's oceans and at the core-mantle boundary as well as the presence of noble gases deep inside the planet.

According to their new model, several billion years ago, large waterlogged asteroids began developing into planets while the solar nebula still swirled around the sun. These asteroids, known as planetary embryos, collided and grew rapidly. Eventually, a collision introduced enough energy to melt the surface of the largest embryo into an ocean of magma. This largest embryo would eventually become Earth.

(Source: eurekalert.org)

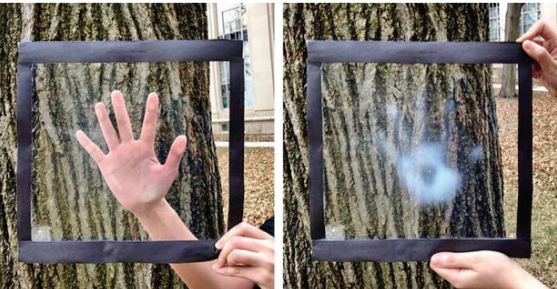
Transparent coating could lessen the load for air conditioners, new study finds

Though winter is approaching for folks living in the northern hemisphere, it's starting to warm up for those south of the equator. As stuffy offices get even stuffier in rising temperatures, aircon units will very likely be switched on to make working a mite more comfortable. But aircons use a lot of power. Engineers have created a see-through coating for windows that's reported to reflect up to 70 percent of heat coming in from the sun.

MIT says that air conditioners account for some 6 percent of all electricity produced in the US, costing billions of dollars. The team estimates that its heat-rejecting film could reduce a building's aircon (and energy) costs by as much as 10 percent if all exterior-facing windows were coated with the film.

Thanks to microparticles embedded within, the film remains pretty much see-through up to temperatures of 32° C (89° F), but anything above that will result in the phase-changing material shrinking to give the film a frosted glass look, limiting the amount of heat allowed through.

Work on the project began last year when MIT's Nicholas Fang started collaborating with researchers from the University of Hong Kong on ways to reduce energy con-



sumption of buildings, particularly during hot and balmy summer months.

“It turns out that for every square meter, about 500 watts of energy in the form of heat are brought in by sunlight through a window,” said Fang.

The film remains transparent at temperatures below 89° F (left), but turns translucent when things get ...

Phase-changing materials

The research team looked at different phase-changing materials as a way to stem incoming heat and settled on a

material made from poly (N-isopropylacrylamide) -2-Aminoethylmethacrylate hydrochloride microparticles, which was modified to more effectively reject heat.

When temperatures reach 85° F (29.4° C) or more, teeny water-filled spheres shrink, effectively squeezing out the liquid to form tight bundles of fibers. In this state, the film turns translucent rather than transparent.

To test the heat-rejecting properties of the film, 12 x 12 inch sheets of glass were coated with a microparticle solution and when light from a solar simulator was shone through, the film changed its state to give a frosty appearance. The researchers measured the heat coming through the other side and found that the film “was able to reject 70 percent of the heat produced by the lamp.”

In another experiment, a small calorimetric chamber was coated with the film. Without the film, temperatures within the chamber can get to 102° F, but that reduced to 93° F with the coating applied.

The research team is looking at adjusting the formula to see if improvements can be gained, as well finding out if applying the coating differently could increase its efficiency.

(Source: newatlas.com)

Scientists capture the sound of sunrise on Mars

Scientists have created the soundtrack of the 5,000th Mars sunrise captured by the robotic exploration rover, Opportunity, using data sonification techniques to create a two-minute piece of music.

Researchers created the piece of music by scanning a picture from left to right, pixel by pixel, and looking at brightness and color information and combining them with terrain elevation. They used algorithms to assign each element a specific pitch and melody.

The quiet, slow harmonies are a consequence of the dark background and the brighter, higher pitched sounds towards the middle of the piece are created by the sonification of the bright sun disk.

Dr. Domenico Vicinanza, of Anglia Ruskin University, and Dr. Genevieve Williams, of the University of Exeter, will present the world premiere of the piece, entitled Mars Soundscapes in the NASA booth at the forthcoming Supercomputing SC18 Conference in Dallas (13 November).

The piece will be presented using both conventional speakers and vibrational transducers so the audience could feel the vibrations with their hands, thus enjoying a first-person experience of a sunrise on Mars.

Opportunity is a robotic rover that has been providing photographic data on Mars for NASA since 2004. Earlier this year, it ceased communications following a dust storm.

Scientists hope that it may resume its function later this year. A piece of music composed using data sonification techniques, based on a photograph of the 5,000th sunrise captured by the Mars rover, Opportunity.

Dr. Vicinanza, Director of the Sound and Game Engineering (SAGE) research group at Anglia Ruskin, said: “We are absolutely thrilled about presenting this work about such a fascinating planet.

“Image sonification is a really flexible technique to explore science and it can be used in several domains, from studying certain characteristics of planet surfaces and atmospheres, to analyzing weather changes or detecting volcanic eruptions.

(Source: phys.org)

Researchers show how the jumping spider sees its prey

If you love spiders, you will really love jumping spiders. (If you hate spiders, try reading this article on dandelions.)

O.K., if you're still here, jumping spiders are predators that stalk their prey and leap on them, like a cat. They are smart, agile and have terrific eyesight.

It has been clear for a long time that their vision is critical to the way they hunt, and to the accuracy of their leaps. But a lot has remained unknown about the way their eyes work together.

To find out more, Elizabeth Jakob, a spider biologist at the University of Massachusetts, led a team of researchers from the United States, Kenya and New Zealand in an investigation of spider vision.

The first step was getting a custom-built spider eye tracker, similar to ones used on humans, to follow a spider's gaze. Actually, Dr. Jakob had two made, probably the only two in the world. She has one and her colleagues in New Zealand have the other.

Jumping spiders have eight eyes. Two big eyes, right in the center of what you might call the spider's forehead, are the principal ones, and they pick up detail and color.

Of the other three pairs, a rear set looks backward, a middle set is as yet a bit of a mystery, and the foremost detect motion.

The lenses of the main eyes are attached by flexible tubes to retinas. A camera was set up to look down those tubes and see the activity of the retinas, which look a bit like boomerangs. The inside of the spider's head was lit by ultraviolet light, which penetrates the outer carapace.

(Source: NYT)

Scientists create 'bionic mushroom' that can generate electricity

Researchers from Stevens Institute of technology have transformed an ordinary button mushroom from the grocery store into something bionic.

The researchers were able to generate electricity by attaching energy-producing cyanobacteria on the button mushroom using 3D printing. An electrode network of graphene nanoribbons was used to collect the current.



“In this case, our system — this bionic mushroom — produces electricity,” stated Manu Mannoor, one of the authors of the study published in the journal Nano Letters. “By integrating cyanobacteria that can produce electricity, with nanoscale materials capable of collecting the current, we were able to better access the unique properties of both, augment them, and create an entirely new functional bionic system.”

Cyanobacteria, which is common on land and oceans, have long been known to produce electricity. The researchers wanted to see if they can manipulate the cyanobacteria to produce electricity for a longer period of time with the right conditions. Meanwhile, regular button mushrooms already have the proper environment to host microbiota.

During the experiment, Mannoor and colleagues found that cyanobacterial cells lasted several days on the cap of a white button mushroom. Sudeep Joshi, also an author of the study, explained that the white button mushroom nourished the cyanobacteria as well, allowing it to generate electricity far longer than if it was cultivated on a silicone.

The next step was to collect the current. The team used a 3D printer with a robotic arm to print the electronic ink that contains the necessary graphene nanoribbons, which they placed them on top of the mushroom cap. The graphene nanoribbons acted like nano-probes that access the bio-electrons from the cyanobacterial cells.

They also printed a spiral pattern using bio-ink that contain cyanobacteria on the cap of the mushroom. The electronic ink and the bio-ink intercept at several points, allowing the transfer of electrons from the cyanobacteria to the nanoribbons.

(Source: Tech Times)

Charity association for entrepreneurship, employment established in Tehran

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — A charity association supporting employment and entrepreneurship have been launched in the capital, Nematollah Torki, chief of the provincial Planning and Budget Organization has said.

"Identifying employment capacities and job opportunities, and presenting creative ideas for employee bonus programs in state run organizations are among the major objectives of the foundation," ISNA quoted Torki as saying on Saturday.

The foundation also aims at providing methods and ideas



for employee's talent assessment, developing small businesses, and cooperating with the national and international sales network to sell products made by charitable organizations and entrepreneurs, he added.

He went on to say that the capital's employment rate is 65 percent in the service-providing sector and 30 percent in the industrial and mining sectors, also agriculture constitute some 5 percent of the total employment rate.

"In addition, there are some 650,000 business units and 5,000 industrial units, which account for 30 percent of employment rate," he stated, adding that most of the unemployed migrates from rural areas to the capital due to having the highest rate of employment in the service sector which requires less expertise.

The foundation can play a significant role in revitalizing industries and promoting employment and entrepreneurship, Torki concluded.

Akashah award to honor top Iranian seismologists

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — An award will be granted to top Iranian professors of seismology annually for the first time in appreciation of Bahram Akashah, Iran's leading expert on earthquakes and seismic activity, ISNA reported on Saturday.



The award ceremony will be held during a ceremony in Tehran on November 12. The event aims to promote the science of seismology in the country, encourage the next generations to continue the way of this outstanding thinker and to open up an opportunity for sharing the results of researches and studies in this field.

Born in 1936, Akashah is the first Iranian geophysicist and seismologist and Professor of Geophysics at University of Tehran.

The ceremony will be held concurrent with the first anniversary of Kermanshah earthquake, appreciating fifty years of compassionate efforts of Akashah, who will attend the ceremony.

LEARN ENGLISH

Taking The GMAT

Ash: I can't seem to progress up the career ladder no matter how hard I try and I have been here for 2 years already!

Mindy: Well, have you thought of getting an **MBA**? I heard it does wonders in getting you to the top.

Ash: An MBA hey... well my degree wasn't in business, the business schools won't be interested in me.

Mindy: Nonsense! The business schools measure your ability through a test called **GMAT**.

Ash: GMAT? What does that stand for and what will the test contain?

Mindy: **Graduate Management** Admission Test, it contains three parts; **Analytical** Writing Assessment, the Quantitative section, and the **verbal** section. Not only does the test mark you on the number of questions answered but also on the difficulty.

Ash: Okay this sounds a little tough, how am I supposed to practice for this?

Mindy: Up to you, you could have a one on one session with a tutor or group sessions, you can also use free or private computer software. Going to church might help as well!

Ash: No matter what I do I'm going to ace this test and go on to become a **corporate fat cat**!

Mindy: Umm... That's the spirit!

■ Key vocabulary

MBA: Master of Business Administration

GMAT: Graduate Management Admissions Test

graduate: person who finished university

management: the action of controlling an area of a business

analytical: pertaining to or proceeding by analysis quantitative

A type of information based in quantities

verbal: consisting of or in the form of words

corporate: related to business

fat cat: a wealthy and privileged person

■ Supplementary vocabulary

Greed: excessive desire, as for wealth or power

wizard: a person of amazing skill or accomplishment

market: the field of trade or business

thesis: a dissertation on a particular subject in which one has done original research

professor: a teacher of the highest academic rank in a college or university

(Source: irlanguage.com)

MAHAK, gold winner of IPMA Global Project Achievement Award

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — HLA (Human leucocyte Antigen) Bank project, designed and implemented by Iranian charity society, MAHAK, was selected as the gold winner of the International Project Management Association's (IPMA) Global Project Achievement Award 2018.

Founded in 1991, Mahak is a Tehran-based non-governmental organization dedicated to treating pediatric cancer in Iran.

In the 16th IPMA Global Award Gala held in Helsinki, Finland, MAHAK's project won the award in the category of Sustainable Development Projects where 17 other organizations had participated.

In 2014, MAHAK had won the IPMA's Global Project Achievement Award in the category of Internationally Funded Humanitarian Aid Project.

IPMA is a federation of about 70 Member Associations (Mas) who develop project management competences in their geographic areas of influence, interacting with thousands of practitioners and developing relationships with corporations, government agencies, universities and colleges, as well as training organizations and consulting companies.

IPMA evaluates the projects based on their sustainability according to United Nations' ten principles of Global Compact.

HLA (Human leucocyte Antigen) Bank project was initiated in 2016 and its first phase was aimed at collection and banking of 5,000 donated samples of hematopoietic stem cells. The project was part of MAHAK's researches on treating cancer with Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT).

In order to meet the cost of the tests on the first 5,000 donated samples, MAHAK signed an MOU with a private sector entity under the rubric of a social responsibility action.

The project was designed to achieve the third principle



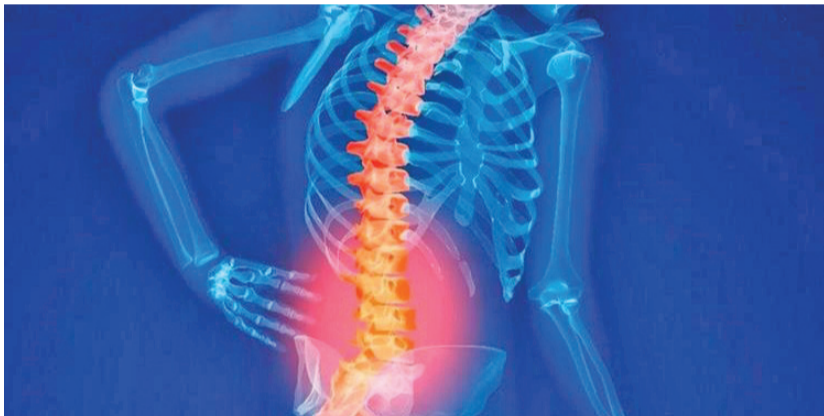
of sustainable development which is 'Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages' and to reduce pre-mature mortality from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) by 2030.

In late September, MAHAK became the top scorer in the

global SGS NGO Benchmark practice with a score of 97.5%.

SGS (formerly Société Générale de Surveillance which is French for General Society of Surveillance) is a multinational company headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland which provides inspection, verification, testing and certification services.

Comprehensive plan devised to curb osteoporosis



SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — The Ministry of Health has devised a plan for the control, prevention and treatment of Osteoporosis, announced Afshin Ostovar, the ministry's director for non-communicable diseases.

According to Ostovar, in Iran, 17 percent of adults have osteoporosis but it is more prevalent in women as 1 in every 2 women and 1 in every 5 men over the age of 50 are suffering from the disease, ISNA reported on November 4.

The aim of the ministry's plan to prevent osteoporosis, he said, is firstly, to prevent the disease by raising awareness about its causes, and secondly, to identify and treat the disease more quickly so that the future fractures are prevented.

For raising awareness, he said, new campaigns and groups are created by universities of medical sciences across the country.

"We want health centers to educate people on osteoporosis causes and risk factors so that they can revise their lifestyle, if necessary," he said.

"Secondly, we want them to closely analyze the patients who come to them and consider the possibility of osteoporosis, so that they are quickly referred to a specialist if osteoporosis symptoms are detected in them."

"In more than 80 percent of patients, the fractures are healed but their osteoporosis is not cured and they are exposed to more fractures; the Health Ministry intends to

cure the disease itself so the future fractures are prevented," he noted.

■ The high cost of osteoporosis

According to Ostovar, the plan also involves providing people with greater access to services and facilities for detection and treatment of osteoporosis; however, the equipment could be expensive.

"The bone densitometer which is the primary machine used for detection of osteoporosis is expensive and not available in all care centers, but we are trying to increase their number," he said.

However, these expenses are justified, he added, as osteoporosis incurs high costs for both the individuals and the society and the patients usually have to undergo surgery and treat several fractures.

"The hip fracture is particularly dangerous as it leads to death in 20 percent of cases. Its death rate is even higher than some cancers. Also, 80 percent of the people who go through this fracture never regain their previous movement ability and quality of life," he said.

Osteoporosis reduces density and quality of bones, so the risk of fracture is greatly increased. The loss of bone occurs silently and progressively. Often there are no symptoms until the first fracture occurs.

According to the International Osteoporosis Foundation, osteoporosis causes more than 8.9 million fractures annually, resulting in an osteoporotic fracture every 3 seconds.

'Post-quake reconstruction in Kermanshah to be done within 4 months'



SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation, which has started rebuilding housing units damaged by earthquake in Kermanshah province for the underprivileged, will complete the process by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2019), Ebrahim Bazian, deputy director for housing department of the Foundation has said.

"Earthquake caused minor to severe damages to 10,000 housing units of the families under the Foundation's coverage," Bazian said, adding, of which, 4,500 residential units which undergone minor damages have been repaired by governmental handouts.

A powerful earthquake of magnitude 7.3 quake rattled parts of the western province of Kermanshah last November, killing at least 620 people and injuring thousands and leaving many displaced.

Also, some 5,500 houses have been seriously damaged, some of which were destroyed in the first phase of the earthquake, while others, which are mostly rural, must be fully reconstructed, Mehr quoted Bazian as saying on Saturday.

He went on to note that Sarpol-e-Zahab, Salas Babajani, Gilan-e-Gharb, Qasr-e-Shirin and Islamabad were among the cities of Kermanshah province where the housing units of the families covered by the Foundation have been built.

In the Iranian calendar month of Khor-

dad (May 22-June 21), some 500 quake-stricken housing units have been rebuilt and provided to the residents and the construction of some 2,500 is completed and they are scheduled to be inaugurated on Saturday on the occasion of the Kermanshah earthquake anniversary (November 12).

"In general, some 3,000 houses are reconstructed so far, and the rest will be completed within next four months," he added.

He went on to note that the housing units provided to the earthquake affected families in Kermanshah province has been rebuilt meeting high quality standards.

Some 4 trillion rials (about \$95 million) has been allocated for the post-quake reconstruction of the 10,000 damaged units, he stated, adding, of which, a total of 2.2 trillion rials (about \$52 million) has been provided as low interest loans, and some 360 billion rials (about \$8 million) have been paid by the government as handouts.

He also added that the Relief Foundation has allocated 660 billion rials (about \$15 million) in the aforesaid process, and the residents has paid some 800 billion rials (about \$19 million) for rebuilding their houses.

The Foundation also help quake victims purchase new furniture by granting facilities, he noted.

He expressed appreciation to the NGOs and philanthropists who have well cooperated with the foundation in the reconstruction process.

ENGLISH IN USE

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'Climate change main cause of recurrent droughts in Iran'

Climatic change along with changes in precipitation patterns are the main reasons behind recurrent droughts haunting different parts of the country, head of National Disaster Management Organization has said. Esmail Najjar, made the remarks on a meeting held on Monday to address the impacts of drought and climate change in order to provide tackling solutions, with the representatives of responsible bodies and governor officials of the drought ridden provinces, in attendance and under the chairmanship of the minister of interior.

PREFIX/SUFFIX

"batho-, bathy-"

■ **Meaning:** deep

■ **For example:** This is a very rare naval diver's watch, **bathometer** and wrist compass set.

PHRASAL VERB

Let on

■ **Meaning:** to tell someone something, especially a secret

■ **For example:** I'm sure he knows more than he's letting on.

IDIOM

Clap eyes on

■ **Explanation:** If you clap eyes on someone or something, you actually see them

■ **For example:** I've heard of him but I've never clapped eyes on him.

تغییرات اقلیمی گسترده موجب خشکسالی های وسیع شده است

معاون وزیر کشور و رئیس سازمان مدیریت بحران کشور گفت: تغییرات اقلیمی گسترده و کاهش و تغییر الگوی بارش، موجب وقوع خشکسالی های وسیع در مناطق مختلف کشور شده است.

به گزارش دوشنبه شب ایرنا، اسماعیل نجار افزود: امروز با حضور دستگاه های متولی به همراه ۱۰ تن از استانداران استان های تحت تاثیر، جلسه بررسی اثرات خشکسالی و تغییر اقلیم به منظور ارائه راهکار های اجرایی به ریاست وزیر کشور برگزار شد.

Erdogan: Turkey shared Khashoggi tapes with Saudi, U.S. and others

House Democrat seeks to ban Saudi development of nukes over Khashoggi murder

Turkey has shared recordings related to the killing of Jamal Khashoggi with the House of Saud regime, the United States, Germany, France and Britain, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Saturday.

Turkish sources have said previously that authorities have an audio recording purportedly documenting the murder of the Saudi journalist.

The existence of such a recording has never been officially confirmed.

Speaking before his departure for France to attend commemorations to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, Erdogan said Saudi Arabia knows Khashoggi's killer is among a group of 15 people who flew into Istanbul hours before the October 2 killing.

"We gave the tapes. We gave them to Saudi Arabia, to the United States, Germans, French and British, all of them. They have listened to all the conversations in them," Erdogan said.

"They know."

Sources told Al Jazeera on Saturday that Turkish police ended the search for Khashoggi's body, but that the criminal investigation into the 59-year-old's murder would continue.

Al Jazeera learned on Friday that traces of acid were found at the Saudi regime consul-general's residence in Istanbul, where the body was believed to be disposed of with the use of chemicals.

The residence is at walking distance from the Saudi consulate, where Khashoggi - a Washington Post columnist critical of the Saudi regime and the all-powerful inexperienced and ambitious Saudi regime Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) - was killed by a team of Saudi regime officers and officials.



Saudi Arabia has changed its narrative about the murder several times amid international outcry and intensifying skepticism over its account.

After insisting for more than two weeks that Khashoggi had left the consulate, it then admitted the journalist had died in a fistfight inside the building. Later, Riyadh conceded Khashoggi was killed in a premeditated murder, but that the murder was an unplanned "rogue operation".

However, Erdogan has accused the "highest levels" of the Saudi regime of ordering the hit, while some officials have pointed the finger at the crown prince MBS - a charge Riyadh denies.

Speaking before his departure, Erdogan also said he might meet with the United States President Donald Trump in Paris during the commemorations.

"When we go to Paris, we will try to secure an opportunity and we will realize a bilateral meeting," Erdogan said.

Turkish and Saudi regime officials have

carried out joint inspections of the consulate and the consul-general's residence, but Erdogan said some Saudi regime officials were still trying to cover up the crime.

Istanbul's chief prosecutor said on October 31 that Khashoggi was strangled as soon as he entered the consulate and that his body was dismembered, in the first official comments on the case.

The House of Saud regime has said it arrested 18 people and dismissed five senior government officials as part of an investigation into Khashoggi's killing.

Ankara also seeks extradition of the suspects.

■ House Democrat seeks to ban Saudi development of nukes over Khashoggi murder

Elsewhere, a Democratic lawmaker at the U.S. House of Representatives is reportedly planning to introduce a bill that bans the Saudi regime from acquiring nuclear weapons in retaliation for the regime's murder of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Representative Brad Sherman's bill, nicknamed "No Nuclear Weapons for Saudi Arabia Act of 2018," would prohibit Saudi Arabia's construction of nuclear weapons from the material it buys from the U.S., Vox reported on Friday.

The bill would also force Riyadh to implement strict regulations in order to ensure that classified material regarding the U.S. nuclear technology won't fall into the wrong hands, the report added.

"I don't think this bill would've passed prior to the events in Istanbul. Now I think we have a chance," Sherman told Vox.

It is not yet clear when Sherman's bill will come up for a vote in Congress but the report said it wasn't going to come to the floor any sooner than January 3, when the new Democratic-controlled House of Representatives convenes.

Although the kingdom insists that bin Salman had nothing to do with the murder, many observers believe he personally ordered the hit job.

MBS said in March that the kingdom would go after nuclear weapons if the regional power house Iran acquires them.

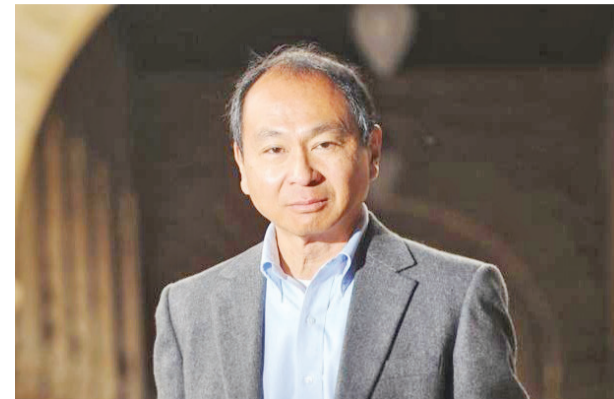
Following Khashoggi's death, Republican U.S. senators wrote President Donald Trump a letter, calling for suspending talks with Saudi Arabia over a civilian nuclear cooperation agreement.

"The ongoing revelations about the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, as well as certain Saudi actions related to Yemen and Lebanon, have raised further serious concerns about the transparency, accountability and judgment of current decision-makers in Saudi Arabia," read the letter, sent on November 1.

(Source: agencies)

Fukuyama's warning on future of democracy to escape accountability

1→ Now the backlash of right-wing nationalism on both sides of the Atlantic is in full swing. This week, French far-right leader Marine Le Pen announced her candidacy for president with a scathing attack on the liberal status quo. "Our leaders chose globalization, which they wanted to be a happy thing. It turned out to be a horrible thing," Le Pen thundered.



Fukuyama recognizes the crisis. "Globalization really does seem to produce these internal tensions within democracies that these institutions have some trouble reconciling," he said. Combined with grievances over immigration and multiculturalism, it created room for the "demagogic populism" that catapulted Trump into the White House. That has Fukuyama deeply concerned.

"I have honestly never encountered anyone in political life who I thought had a less suitable personality to be president," Fukuyama said of the new president. "Trump is so thin-skinned and insecure that he takes any kind of criticism or attack personally and then hits back."

Fukuyama, like many other observers, worries about "a slow erosion of institutions" and a weakening of democratic norms under a president who seems willing to question the legitimacy of anything that may stand in his way — whether it's the judiciary, his political opponents or the mainstream media.

But the problem isn't just Trump and the polarization he stokes, argues Fukuyama. What the scholar finds "most troubling" on the American political scene is the extent to which the Republican Party has gerrymandered districts and established what amounts to de facto one-party rule in parts of the country.

According to the Washington Post, there are some points to explain Fukuyama's views. For a better understanding of Fukuyama's recent speeches, we need to review his remarks in 2014. The famous American theorist raises self-criticisms about his famous theory of "the end of history". Fukuyama addresses his audience is his remarks and says;

"In my opinion, people are mistaken in interpreting the word 'history'. By 'the end of history', I meant the end of history's movement towards a specific direction, not the end of a series of events. The question now is whether history is still moving toward liberal democracy, or is there a replacement system that can improve the situation and that people are willing to move towards? I think the answer to this question is still unclear."

In criticizing Fukuyama's view, he had better criticized himself for not explaining the concept of history (as the most fundamental variable of his theory). Fukuyama said that people misunderstood the concept of "history", but the fact is that he could easily speak his true meaning of this word and thus avoid misunderstanding.

However, Fukuyama did not do this. He did not speak at all during the presidency of President George W. Bush, especially at the beginning of the invasion to Iraq and Afghanistan, and in this way he confirmed Bush's actions with his silence. Hence, Fukuyama's critical views towards his addressees for misunderstanding his theory isn't acceptable!

However, Fukuyama's interpretation on his theory should be taken into consideration:

2014 certainly wasn't a good year for democracy, as China and Russia, as two influential superpowers in Eurasia, are stabilizing their position, and there is a lot of chaos in the Middle East. I do not think that for history is still going towards liberal democracy. Democracy is very fragile, and over the past 25 years, I understood that it's very difficult to create democratic institutions, especially democratic governments that can provide people with facilities without financial corruption. Such systems are rare in the world.

But the climax of Fukuyama's words is where he argues that democracy would be fragile and destructive when it's raised by military force. In this regard, he refers to the wars of Afghanistan and Iraq. According to Fukuyama, the United States is still dependent on its militia, and this is one of the reasons behind the democracy's defeat. Americans thought they could change the world with military strength.

Fukuyama has repeatedly spoken of the fragility of democracy, and that the theory of "the end of history" is practically no longer justified:

We have to take a lesson from Afghanistan and Iraq; that the United States doesn't have the power, capabilities, and thought necessary to establish democracy in the Middle East. It can't even solve the crisis in Syria. "Fukuyama's repeated retreats from the theory of "the end of history", and his significant warning about the growth of nationalism, is synonymous to the destruction of one of the most fundamental theories in U.S. foreign policy views. In such a situation, the U.S. military intervention in the international system and Washington's support for terrorist groups (such as ISIL and al-Nusra), are basically condemned. Obviously, the result of this interventionism is nothing but failure, and the increase of Washington's costs, costs that increase exponentially every day.

Fukuyama recognizes the crisis. "Globalization really does seem to produce these internal tensions within democracies that these institutions have some trouble reconciling," he said. Combined with grievances over immigration and multiculturalism, it created room for the "demagogic populism" that catapulted Trump into the White House.

Hezbollah to retaliate against Israeli aggression on Lebanon: Nasrallah

1→ "Our martyrs' blood protected our land, so did the 'Golden Formula' and Hezbollah's missile capabilities. Our strength point is missile power because the Lebanese army is forbidden from acquiring state-of-the-art missiles and military hardware," Nasrallah pointed out.

The Hezbollah chief then censured attempts by certain regional states to normalize diplomatic relations with the Israeli regime.

"Dear Palestinians, don't grieve at normalization bids! What had been going on behind the scenes for long is now taking place blatantly and unashamedly. The current normalization attempts will put an end to Arab hypocrisy, and will tear off the masks of deceivers and hypocrites," Nasrallah said.

He further noted that demonstrations in the Israeli-besieged Gaza Strip, which are dubbed "The Great March of Return" and demand the right to return for the Palestinians driven out of their homeland, filled our hearts with hope that Palestinians would not give in to pressure at all.

"Had the Syrian people and government not withstood pressure by Tel Aviv, we would have been witness to (Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu marching in Damascus," Nasrallah said.

He also deplored the international community for its outcry over the murder of prominent Saudi dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi, who was killed after visiting the kingdom's consulate in Turkey's largest city of Istanbul on October 2, while turning a blind eye to the Saudi regime crimes and atrocities in neighboring Yemen.

The Hezbollah chief also described a demand by the United States President Donald Trump's administration for a ceasefire in Yemen as a hoax, stating that doubts surrounded the timing of such a call.

He called upon Yemeni people to remain patient and persevere as they are very close to victory.

Nasrallah strongly condemned the recent life sentence handed down to prominent Bahraini Shia cleric and oppo-

sition leader Sheikh Ali Salman, saying the Appeal Court's decision to overturn his acquittal proved the ruling House of Khalifah regime was oppressive.

Turning to the formation of a new national unity government in Lebanon, he said Hezbollah was right to demand 10 ministerial shares, and that its share of six ministers in the next Lebanese administration did not reflect its parliamentary, political and popular size.

Nasrallah then underlined that the six "independent" Sunni lawmakers, who were insisting on being represented in the next government, had prevented the transformation of the political stalemate in Lebanon into a sectarian crisis.

"We told Prime Minister-designate Saad al-Hariri that our demand for their representation is basic, and helps the formation of the new government," Nasrallah concluded.

■ Nasrallah, Bassil discuss representation of Sunni MPs

Elsewhere, Nasrallah and Free Patriotic Movement leader Gebran Bassil met on Saturday to discuss the representation of six so-called independent Sunni lawmakers as the country is struggling to remove remaining barriers to the formation of a new government.

Nasrallah and Bassil, who is also the acting foreign minister, also exchanged views on the deadlocked government formation process as well as other issues, said a statement from Hezbollah. According to the statement, both officials said the cabinet needed to have "clear criteria" for the formation of the government.

The country has currently no formula to decide on the number of parliamentary seats for political parties and their future ministerial posts.

Six months after a parliamentary election in Lebanon, a row over Sunni representation has obstructed the formation of a national unity government which is expected to group most of Lebanon's political parties.

A deal looked close last week when the Christian Lebanese

Haqqanis- Blue-Eyed of U.S.

1→ Haqqani later switched to serve caretaker Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi in 1990, and then switched back again to serve Sharif when he was elected Prime Minister. In 1992, he was sent to Sri Lanka as Pakistan's High Commissioner. On the eve of Nawaz Sharif's dismissal on 18 April 1993, he jumped the sinking ship and joined President Ghulam Ishaq Khan Bandwagon.

Immediately, he was rewarded by being made a special assistant to the caretaker Prime Minister Mir Balakh Sher Mazari with the rank of Minister of State.

Masoor Hallaj writes that Husain Haqqani started his career as an Islami Jamiat-e-Tulba (the student wing of Jamat-e-Islami) at the Karachi University. During that period, a policy of appeasement from the center towards the IJT made matter worse. Guns boomed at the University Campus for the first time in 1979 when, according to Imran Shirvane, Raja Javed used a sten gun 'to tackle the opposition.'

At that time, the IJT was the ruling party in Karachi University politics with Husain Haqqani as leader and Raja Javed was known to be his close aide. The violence at the University and the brutal suppression of free speech that the IJT imposed on the campus in those days was done with Mr Haqqani very much an active player. Many still say that he was the architect of the IJT's policy of using brute force to suppress opposition opinion.

There is another misconception about him being a scholar. He is not a scholar by any measure. There are no scholarly articles

to his credit other than his Pak-American terror books. Fact that he served as Pak ambassador further clouds his image in mind of an average person but the truth is that ambassadors are political appointments in Pakistan and have nothing to do with merit or background. Haqqani is a highly opportunist, cunning and ambitious character who is known for his anti-Pakistan and anti-Army views and being used for this purpose only. He supports anti-Pakistan lobbies through his various assertions while living in the U.S.

Husain Haqqani is considered as a traitor by Pakistani masses for many reasons. While serving as Pakistani ambassador, he is blamed to be protecting U.S. interests rather own country. Many CIA agents like Ramond Davis were issued visas on his directions.

Besides, all of his anti-state and anti-Pakistan books including Magnificent Delusions: Pakistan, the United States, and an Epic History of Misunderstanding, India vs Pakistan: Why can't We Just be Friends?, Pakistan: Between Mosque and Military, Reimagining Pakistan: Transforming a Dysfunctional Nuclear State are published and funded with support of Indian publisher Harper Collins his connections with - RAW, MOSSAD and CIA also substantiates his pro-India/U.S. and MQM affiliation.

Pakistan's Law Enforcement Agencies have registered a number of cases against him on account of committing a criminal breach of trust, misuse of authority, embezzlement of funds, delivering hate speeches, writing books



and articles against the sovereignty of Pakistan.

Chief Justice of Pakistan Mr Justice Saqib Nisar has appointed a celebrated international law expert and former federal law minister Ahmer Bilal Soofi as amicus curiae (friend of the court) in the Memogate case. One can expect things to move fluently further with him as a facilitator of court. As things have become exceptionally doubtful in this case especially after when the Federal Investigation Agency's Director General Bashir Memon informed the court that when he contacted U.S. officials in regard to bring Haqqani back, he was told by the Americans that "you too have our man", without explaining further.

In September last year, Haqqani while talking to the Geo News said that "Memogate was just media noise, which is why the case has never been decided by the Supreme Court.

That it disrupted lives without a conclusion is a sad reflection on how things work in Pakistan. I have moved on". Now when he is been given the chance to be heard by the court he is insisting on not appearing in the court. The former envoy had left Pakistan on the promise that he would return but he is not keeping his promise, he probably never intended to.

If Haqqani is a man of words, he should come back and face the court proceedings. But he will never do so as he has not got the required guts. Haqqani is an absconder and has committed treason. Once asked by BBC if he now deserved a mention in the Guinness Book of Records for switching loyalties so often, his reply was classic: I was always with the President, he said. He still is with the president. Which country? That doesn't matters him much.

Esperance beat Al Ahly to win African Champions League

Saad Bguir was the unlikely two-goal star as Esperance of Tunisia defeated Egyptian side Al Ahly 3-0 to win a third CAF Champions League title. The 24-year-old midfielder, a reserve for most of the campaign, only started in the second leg of the final because of Franck Kom's suspension.

Anice Badri completed the scoring to give Esperance a 4-3 aggregate victory. They had lost the first leg 3-1, with Ahly converting two controversial penalties.

A dominant performance by the 'Blood and Gold' at the Stade Olympique de Rades ended a 10-match winless run against Ahly in CAF competitions that stretched back to July 2011.

Al Ahly's first-leg victory included two penalties that were confirmed with the use of Video Assistant Referee technology.

The Esperance fans were not only angry at both penalties but also with Ahly's Moroccan striker Walid Azaro, who was caught ripping his own shirtby TV cameras.

That incident led to Azaro being banned for both the second leg in Tunis and a further continental match in the future.

Esperance, champions in 1994 and 2011, will now take part in December's Club World Cup in the United Arab Emirates. *(Source: BBC)*

Operation Neymar cost PSG 252 million euros

Neymar's transfer from Barcelona to Paris Saint-Germain is still producing news and on Friday a new chapter was added to the saga.

The Brazilian is the most expensive player in the history of football, but it has transpired that he was even more costly than was originally reported.

Last summer, on August 3rd to be specific, PSG announced the signing of the forward from Barcelona.

They had paid the release clause in the player's contract, a total of 222 million euros.

However, as Football Leaks have now revealed, with the information collected by Mediapart, the transfer was even more expensive than that. PSG also had to pay 10.7 million euros in commission to each of the two agents involved.

One was the ex-Santos man's father Neymar Snr and the other was Israeli intermediary Pini Zahavi.

An additional 8.7 million euros must also be included as part of a solidarity contribution to the club who developed him for a total of 252 million euros. Zahavi, who was the man who acted as the go-between in the deal, along with the player's father, is a heavyweight in such transfers.

This past summer, he also tried to force through a Bayern Munich exit for Robert Lewandowski, whose preferred destination was Real Madrid, but was unsuccessful. *(Source: Marca)*

Djokovic & Nadal call off Saudi match as Spaniard injured

A planned exhibition match between Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal in Saudi Arabia has been called off because of the Spaniard's ankle injury.

The world's top two ranked players were due to meet in Jeddah on 22 December. There had been calls for the match to be cancelled after the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul. The Saudis admit Khashoggi was killed in their consulate, and Turkish officials believe he was choked to death and his body dismembered.

World number one Djokovic said last month that he and Nadal would make a decision "soon" once they had more information about the situation. The Serb told BBC Sport on Friday: "Nadal is injured, so the match is not happening this year."

Nadal pulled out of the ATP Tour finals in London after having surgery on his ankle last week.

Other sports events have taken place in Saudi Arabia since Khashoggi was killed, such as Brazil's football international against Argentina on 16 October. *(Source: BBC)*

Leicester City to honour Vichai with statue outside of stadium

Leicester City will honour their late chairman Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha with a statue outside the Premier League club's King Power Stadium following his death in a helicopter crash last month.

The 60-year-old Thai billionaire died on Oct. 27 with four others when his helicopter crashed next to the stadium after a match.

His son and vice-chairman Aiyawatt confirmed the commissioning of a statue in a personal tribute in a souvenir programme to be given to all fans at Saturday's home Premier League game against Burnley.

"We will never be able to repay what he did for us -- for me as his son, us as his family, everyone connected to Leicester City and beyond -- but we are committed to honouring his memory and upholding his legacy," he wrote.

"Our continued growth as a club, our state-of-the-art new training ground and our planned stadium expansion will help realise his vision for Leicester City.

"I plan to commission a statue of my father, for outside King Power Stadium, as a permanent and fitting tribute to the man that made it all possible. He will forever be in our hearts. He will never be forgotten."

In the eight years of Vichai's ownership, Leicester caused one of football's biggest shocks by winning the Premier League title in 2016.

The club plan to hand out commemorative scarves, pin badges, banners and souvenir programmes at Saturday's game, which has also been designated the club's annual Remembrance Fixture.

A tribute video will be shown on big screens before the match and a two-minute silence will be held to honour the armed services as well as the five victims of last month's accident. *(Source: Soccernet)*

Mourinho fails to match up as Guardiola takes Man City streets ahead

Manchester United turned to Jose Mourinho as the antidote to their "noisy neighbours" Manchester City finally achieving their long-held goal of hiring Pep Guardiola as manager in 2016.

Reunited in England's northwest after two confrontational years on either side of the Barcelona-Real Madrid rivalry, where Mourinho ended Guardiola's three seasons of La Liga dominance, United clearly hoped the feisty Portuguese could again get under the Catalan's skin.

But now in their third seasons in charge, Guardiola and Mourinho's reigns have instead seen a chasm open up with the blue half of Manchester now the dominant side of the city.

Win the Manchester derby on Sunday and City will already be 12 points clear of United just 12 games into the new season, a gap that has gradually widened in each of the past three years.

The season before their arrival, only City's superior goal difference saw them pip United to fourth place in the Premier League and Champions League qualification.

Despite a difficult first season for Guardiola in English football, City finished that campaign nine points ahead of their City rivals.

Last season the gap jumped to a record 19 between first and second place as City romped to the title with 100 points.

"There is a quality of the work, of the organisation, I think that is untouchable," even Mourinho admitted on Friday.

■ Every victory a struggle

City certainly seem untouchable at the moment. Once again on top of the Premier League, a goal difference of plus 29 to United's plus one tells the story of both sides contrasting fortunes so far this season.

United have at least shown some resilience in recent weeks, coming from behind to beat Newcastle, Bournemouth and most



impressively Italian champions Juventus in midweek.

Yet, even then every victory seems a struggle. Only twice have they won by more than one goal all season, to City's 12 multiple-goal victories. Guardiola also boasts an impressive record against Mourinho, losing just five of their 21 meetings.

But that includes the last one when United came from 2-0 down to stun the Etihad in a 3-2 victory that robbed City of the extra satisfaction of sealing the title against their rivals.

"The point is can we improve enough to catch them next season?" an optimistic

Mourinho said at the time.

Fast forward seven months and Mourinho has turned on his superiors at the club for his failure to match City's progression under Guardiola.

"To go to the Juventus level? Barcelona level? Real Madrid level? Manchester City level? How can you reach this level?" he complained after losing the first of United's double header with Juve. "It's not easy. We work with what we have."

Mourinho's argument is that he has not had the backing Guardiola has in the transfer market, despite United spending more than the Abu Dhabi-backed Premier League

champions this summer.

Most of that went on Brazilian midfielder Fred, a player also coveted by City, but who has largely failed to make an impact.

The same can be said for Alexis Sanchez. United beat City to his signature from Arsenal in January to much fanfare at the time.

When legendary United manager Alex Ferguson termed City the "noisy neighbours" over the signing of Carlos Tevez, their spending was cavalier.

Since those deep pockets have been married with Guardiola's coaching, City are getting much more bang for their buck. *(Source: AFP)*

Ronaldo says Manchester United loss came 'at best possible time'



Juventus forward Cristiano Ronaldo put a positive spin on his team's first loss of the season.

Ronaldo, who has been playing and scoring regularly despite facing a rape allegation in the United States, gave his team the lead in a Champions League clash against former club Manchester United on Wednesday, but Juve still dramatically fell 2-1 after late goals handed the Premier League side the points.

The Serie A leaders, who next play at AC Milan on Sunday, had won all three of their previous matches in Europe and 10 of 11 in the league. "It's never nice to lose, but maybe this defeat comes at the best possible time," Ronaldo said. "We have a great team, we're top of the group and I'm sure we'll go through as group winners."

On Wednesday, despite Ronaldo's superb opener to give his team the lead, Juventus again failed to finish off the opposition.

Juve, who have won the past seven Serie A titles, almost conceded a late equaliser

against Cagliari last weekend before scoring again and winning 3-1. And in Manchester two weeks ago, their dominance was not reflected by the 1-0 victory.

"If we want to get to the final in Madrid at the end of the season, we have to learn from tonight because it comes down to the small details," Juventus defender Giorgio Chiellini said. "We should have won this game comfortably."

"We're still in the mix and it's better to lose now than further down the line but we must do better. It will bring us down a peg or two. This sort of thing had been in the air for a few games and we botched up big time tonight."

Milan, who will be missing several players because of injury for Sunday's match, have won their past three league games to move up to fourth in Serie A.

"We need to pick ourselves up right away because we have a massive game in Milan on Sunday," Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri said. "We need to keep working." *(Source: ESPN)*

Kevin Durant tours Warriors' new Chase Center, stays quiet on future



The Golden State Warriors' recruitment of Kevin Durant took another public step on Friday afternoon as the organization gave the All-Star forward a guided tour of Chase Center.

Durant, who is expected to test free agency this summer, toured the Warriors' new facility along with a group of sponsors and media. The Warriors will move into Chase next summer and will begin playing there next season after 47 years at Oracle Arena.

As Durant walked around the construction site, he said he couldn't help but think about what his future may look like if he decides to stay with the Warriors after this season. "My imagination is going wild right now with possibilities," he said at one point.

Several Warriors players have toured the construction site in the past few months, but Durant was the first player to walk on the ground where the playing floor will be laid next year. Construction workers on-site screamed his name around the building as he made his way around the area.

"I'm thinking about a lot of points being

scored," Durant said as he walked around. "The fans are going to love it."

When a reporter asked Durant if he would commit to staying with the Warriors as he considered where his new home would be, Durant smiled and brushed the question aside. "What are we doing?" Durant said, while Warriors staffers tried to move the tour along. "What are we doing?" Warriors officials said they had been trying to set up a time for Durant to tour the new facility for months and were happy that his schedule aligned on Friday.

What started as a celebration for a partnership between the organization and a Silicon Valley tech company turned into another layer in the Durant recruitment process, as the former MVP walked around in a construction hat, shorts with high socks, construction boots and safety goggles. Stephen Collins, the head of construction at Chase Center, led the tour as Durant asked a few questions throughout the 40-minute tour. *(Source: ESPN)*

Double agents - How soccer clubs, players and advisers play the tax game

Behind most millionaire soccer stars stands a successful soccer agent. Except when it comes to filling out a tax return.

Take Manchester City and the French player Gael Clichy, recruited by the club in 2011 for more than 4 million pounds (\$5.2 million) a year. Man City recorded that soccer agent Darren Dein represented it in the negotiations.

Yet British press reports identified Dein as Clichy's agent starting in 2010. And in two emails to officials at a European club in 2013, Dein said he acted for Clichy.

Who Dein represented became the subject of inquiry by UK tax inspectors. It is not the only instance to attract the attention of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

An examination of thousands of documents relating to some of the world's richest soccer clubs shows how clubs and players have repeatedly clashed with the tax authority over the role and pay of agents. At stake are hundreds of millions of pounds in tax revenue.

The "Football Leaks" documents, which include emails and contracts, were obtained by the German publication Der Spiegel and reviewed by Reuters in partnership with European Investigative Collaborations, a consortium of international media.

Agents typically take a cut of at least five percent of a player's wage for negotiating on the player's behalf. In many cases, the club pays, treating this sum as part of the player's

overall remuneration package. Under UK law, this is a taxable "benefit in kind" to the player. The player becomes liable for income tax and sales tax, and the club becomes liable for social security payments. If the player has negotiated a salary net of tax, the club ends up paying all of it.

But if the parties can show that the agent worked for the club, not the player, none of these taxes are due and the agent's fee is treated as a regular business expense. In such cases, clubs benefit, and the tax authorities are the losers.

In the instance of Man City and Dein, tax inspectors challenged the club's account of Dein's role in negotiating that 2011 contract with Clichy, the documents show.

In 2013, the tax authority wrote to Man City about a 1.2 million pound payment it made to Dein in 2011 and asked why the club hadn't reported a "benefit" to Clichy. It noted that "all the information in the public domain shows that Dein is the player's agent." In November 2015, after a meeting with the club, the tax authority wrote, "As stated during our meeting, we do not accept that Darren Dein doesn't act for the player."

Later the same month, Man City's head of finance, Andrew Widdowson, acknowledged in a letter to the tax authority that while Man City had paid Dein "to influence the player into joining us" in 2011, the club also accepted that "as you

point out, Darren Dein is the player's agent and with that in mind we accept that a proportion of the fee should be apportioned as Dein acting for the player."

Man City sought to reach a deal with HMRC over the unpaid tax, exchanges between the club and the tax authority show. Reuters was unable to determine the outcome. Based on the sum involved and the tax rate at the time, the total bill was likely to have been at least one million pounds, if Dein was deemed to have represented Clichy alone, Reuters has calculated.

Man City said it would not comment on "out of context materials purported to have been hacked or stolen from City Football Group and Manchester City personnel and associated people. The attempt to damage the Club's reputation is organised and clear."

A law firm representing Dein and Clichy declined to answer questions about their relationship.

The tax authority said it would not comment on individual cases, but added, "HMRC works closely with football clubs to ensure payments made to their agents during the renegotiation of a contract or club transfer are taxed correctly. We actively challenge any payments we consider not to be realistic and ask for evidence to prove legitimacy of any arrangement."

(Source: Reuters)

Persepolis runners up at AFC Champions League

1-2 Kashima Antlers became the third Japanese team to win the AFC CL after Urawa Red Diamonds (2007, 2017) and Gamba Osaka (2008).

Kashima also became the third different Japanese team to win the AFC CL – only South Korean teams have won more titles in the history of the competition (five different winners, six titles overall).

Iranian teams have been runners up every time they have reached the final round in the AFC CL (Sepahan in 2007 and Zob Ahan in 2010) – only Saudi Arabia and South Korea (three different teams from each) have been runners up on more occasions.

Excluding neutral venues, Persepolis are unbeaten in their last 14 home games in the AFC CL (W10 D4), with five of those in the knockout stages (W3 D2).

Excluding neutral venues, Kashima Antlers are winless in their seven knockout games away from home in the AFC CL (D3 L4), but have lost with a margin of two goals or more only once in that run.



Iran claim title at Intercontinental Beach Soccer Cup

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iran defeated Russia at the final match of the 2018 Intercontinental Beach Soccer Cup on Saturday.

Iran beat Russia 4-2 in the final match held in Dubai's Kite Beach Jumeirah.

Mostafa Kiani, Saeid Piramoun and Hamid Behzadpour gave Iran into the lead and Balzemit pulled a gold back for Russia.

Russian player scored an own goal to make it 4-1. With four minutes remaining, Russia scored the second goal but it was not enough for them.

Earlier on the day, Brazil defeated Egypt 5-3 to finish in third place.

The tournament, which is organized by the Dubai Sports Council (DSC) and Beach Soccer Worldwide (BSWW), was held in Dubai, the UAE from November 6 to 10.

Kawasaki retain J.League title despite loss



TOKYO (Reuters) — Kawasaki Frontale retained the J.League title despite losing 2-1 to Cerezo Osaka on Saturday, the visitors clinching a second top-flight championship when nearest rivals Sanfrecce Hiroshima completed a stunning collapse with another defeat.

Osaka striker Kazuya Yamamura scored the winner in the fourth minute of injury time, but with Hiroshima falling to a 1-0 home defeat to Vegalta Sendai, Toru Oniki's team secured the title with two games to spare.

After Saturday's fixtures, Kawasaki hold an unassailable seven-point lead at the top of the 18-team standings following 32 rounds, ensuring they became the first club since Hiroshima in 2013 to win consecutive titles.

A successful title defence had looked unlikely prior to the mid-season break to coincide with the World Cup in Russia as Hiroshima, winners of three J.League titles since 2012, held a nine-point lead after a strong start to the campaign.

However, Kawasaki continued to pick up points on their rivals when the season resumed and capitalised on a wretched run of form for Hiroshima, who have lost six and drawn one of their last seven games since a last win on Sept. 1.

Despite knowing a victory would guarantee the title regardless of the result in Hiroshima, Oniki's team failed to play with the attacking verve that had carried them to the top of the table.

Kawasaki's negativity was punished when their former striker Kenyu Sugimoto opened the scoring for Osaka on 55 minutes before the game burst into life in the 90th minute when Akihiro Ienaga slotted home a penalty awarded after a foul on Kei Chinen.

As the clock wound down, Yamamura pounced to score with virtually the last kick of the game, but with Hiroshima 1-0 behind to Sendai thanks to Naoki Ishihara's 67th minute effort, Kawasaki were still ready to celebrate a title victory.

Following the final whistle, the Kawasaki players stayed on the pitch to await news from Hiroshima, with Oniki and his squad finally able to savour their triumph with a vocal group of travelling fans once Sendai's victory had been confirmed.

Elsewhere, V-Varen Nagasaki were relegated after losing 1-0 to Yokohama F Marinos with Sho Ito's goal enough to leave the home side stranded at the foot of the table, eight points behind Nagoya Grampus in the 16th-place relegation playoff position.

AFC President praises IR Iran's football commitment



Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) President, had a series of high level meetings in Tehran in the Islamic Republic of Iran ahead of Saturday's 2018 AFC Champions League final, second leg in which he praised the country's commitment to developing football.

The AFC President met Eshaq Jahangiri, the First Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Minister of Sport Masoud Soltani Far, and the Executive Committee of the Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) along with Mehdi Taj, the FFIRI President.

Shaikh Salman was fulsome in his praise of the football development in IR Iran and thanked the Government for their continued support of the sport, particularly at grassroots level.

He said: "The Iranian football teams have always been strong in Asian football. The men's National team reached the FIFA World Cup in Russia in 2018 and IR Iran are champions at futsal in both the men's and women's championships.

"On Saturday, Persepolis faced the Japanese side Kashima Antlers in the final of the AFC Champions League in front of

what we expected to be a record crowd for the competition. It was a clear indication of the passion and interest that exists for football in this country.

"Iranian match officials also set the standard for the Continent with referee Ali Reza Faghani and his colleagues Reza Sokhandan and Mohammad Mansouri as his assistants in charge of the FIFA World Cup Russia 2018 third and fourth place match in St Petersburg.

"At the recent Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires, Iran's Gelareh Nazemi was in charge of the Women's Futsal final between Portugal and Japan. A remarkable achievement for her and for female officials in this country.

"This success has been achieved through the stability that has been evident in the FFIRI, with the support of their Government. The AFC will also continue to help the FFIRI wherever possible to grow the sport in this country."

Mehdi Taj, President of FFIRI, once again thanked the AFC President for his continued backing of the game in IR Iran. He said: "The AFC President has helped the FFIRI achieve so much and we are grateful for that assistance."

(Source: the-afc)

Ansarifard already demonstrating the kind of attitude Nottingham need for success

Karim Ansarifard is already showing exactly the kind of attitude that will be required if Nottingham Forest want to achieve success this season, says Tendayi Darikwa.

The defender believes the striker is equipped to score goals in the Championship – and has already been won round by his team ethos.

Ansarifard had barely two minutes on the pitch at the City Ground last weekend, as he was introduced as a substitute deep into injury time, the day after gaining work permit approval for his move to join the Reds.

The most significant contribution the Iranian was able to make in such a short space of time was to track back half the length of the pitch to make an important challenge, as Sheffield United pushed for an equaliser.

His efforts helped to secure a sixth clean sheet of the season for Forest in the Championship – which is joint-third best in the division, behind Middlesbrough (10), Swansea (seven) and QPR (seven).

And Darikwa believes that is precisely the kind of attitude Forest will need as a team, if they are to keep a seventh, when



Stoke City visit the City Ground this weekend.

"It was his first game and it shows his attitude positively. To show that work-rate and desire, as a striker, to help the

team not concede a goal is important," said Darikwa.

"We need everyone on board, when it comes to what we are trying to do; when it comes to being successful. That kind of defending starts at the front.

"Karim has been good, he has been training with us for a while now, while he waited for the work permit to be approved.

"He has got good qualities. He is quick around the box and is a good finisher. When he gets his chance in the team, he can hopefully score some goals for us."

Darikwa says the back-four took personal pride from keeping a clean sheet, against a side in good form.

But he knows the Reds will need to roll their sleeves up and battle again, as they come up against Gary Rowett's Stoke this weekend.

"It was a pleasing moment to keep a clean sheet. At the end of the day we are in the team to keep the ball out of our net," he said. "Hopefully we can build on that by getting another one on Saturday, against Stoke."

(Source: Nottinghampost.com)

AFC President attends ground-breaking ceremony in Tehran

Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) President, on Friday attended the ground-breaking ceremony for the National Centre for Iranian Football in Tehran, the capital of Iran.

The AFC President visited the new center on his arrival in Tehran where he will also watch the AFC Champions League Final second-leg between Persepolis and Japanese side Kashima Antlers, who hold a 2-0 lead after the first leg a week ago.

Shaikh Salman said: "I am delighted to be at this ground-breaking ceremony for the National Centre for Iranian Football and I hope to return in two years' time to open the completed building.

"Iranian football is consistently the leading force in Asia and this building will help them create even stronger national teams – both men and women – in the future. I am particularly pleased that the AFC President's Infrastructure fund has helped finance a new dormitory for women players."

The National Centre for Iranian Football brings together the Headquarters of the Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI), the Iranian League, the futsal development, women's football and the national academy on one complex close to the Azadi Stadium.

FFIRI President Mehdi Taj thanked the AFC President for attending the ceremony and said: "This centre is extremely important for football in our country. Before all the various offices and centres were scattered across Tehran and now we will all gather in one place.

"I am grateful to Shaikh Salman, who has been a great supporter of the development of football not only in Asia but also here in the Islamic Republic of Iran. With Shaikh Salman's assistance we expect to complete the project within two years."

Under the AFC President's Infrastructure Programme, the women's three-floor dormitory will be built at the National Football Centre which will provide more than 40 rooms and other facilities for around 70 players.

(Source: the-afc)

Iran win three medals at Karate World Championships

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iran snatched three medals at the 2018 Karate World Championships on Saturday.

Bahman Askari claimed a gold medal in the Kumite -75 kg. Askari defeated Italian Luigi Busà in the final match to win the gold medal.

Bronze medal went to Japanese Ken Nishimura and Rafael Aghayev from Azerbaijan.

Sajad Ganjzadeh won the silver after being defeated by Jonathan Horne in the Kumite +84 kg final match.

Bronze medal was won by Spain's Babacar Seck and Alpaslan Yamanoglu from Turkey.

Zabihollah Pourshab seized a bronze after defeating Kazakhstan's Daniel Yuldashev.

The gold medal went to Croatian Ivan Kvesic who defeated Valerii Chobotar from Ukraine in the final.

The 24th Karate World Championships are Karate's biggest event. Held every two years, the Karate Senior World Championships gather athletes from over a hundred countries in a thrilling quest to sports greatness.

The tournament takes place at the WIZink Center sports hall in Madrid, Spain.

The competition acquires even greater importance since the Spanish capital hosts the last World Championships to be held before Karate's debut at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

The championships are the competition providing the highest number of points for athletes to qualify for the Olympic Games.

Yuma Suzuki of Kashima named 2018 MVP

Yuma Suzuki of Kashima Antlers was crowned the 2018 AFC Champions League Most Valuable Player (MVP) in Tehran on Saturday.

Suzuki's performances in the 2018 AFC Champions League played a pivotal role in Kashima's surge to the title/final for the first time, with the 22-year-old striker - with two goals to his name - having developed a solid understanding with Brazilian Serginho.

(Source: the-afc)

Mohammad Ansari misses rest of season due to injury

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Persepolis defender Mohammad Ansari missed the rest of Iran Professional League season due to an injury.

Ansari suffered a knee injury in the match against Kashima Antlers of Japan in the second leg of the AFC Champions League.

Kashima won the AFC Champions League 2-0 on aggregate after they drew Persepolis 0-0 in Tehran.

A MRI scan will show the extent of injury.

Al Sadd's Bounedjah bags Top Scorer Award

Baghdad Bounedjah has won the 2018 AFC Champions League top scorer award after the Algerian's 13 goals saw him finish ahead of Suwon Samsung Bluewings' Dejan Damjanovic and Al Duhail's Yousef El Arabi.

The Al Sadd forward matched the all-time single tournament record held by Muriqui who netted the same tally by the conclusion of Guangzhou Evergrande's 2013 campaign.

(Source: the-afc)

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Resistance festival picks films on Indian nurses in ISIS captivity

A R T **d e s k** **TEHRAN** – “Take Off” and “Tiger Is Alive”, movies by Indian filmmakers that depict the true story of the rescue of 40 Indian nurses held captive by ISIS in 2014, will be competing in the 15th International Resistance

Film Festival (IRFF) in Tehran, the organizers announced on Saturday.

“Take Off” is Mahesh Narayan’s directorial debut starring Kunchacko Boban and Fahadh Faasil.

Starring Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif, “Tiger Is Alive” was directed by Ali Abbas Zafar in 2017.

The Resistance film festival is dedicated to productions on wars and the repercussions of armed conflicts in the world.

It also puts a spotlight on the resistance of the Palestinian people against the Zionist regime, ISIS and their terrorist attacks in the region, and the world’s tyrants and their backing of ISIS.

This year’s festival plans to pay tribute to director Ziauddin Dorri, mostly famous for his popular TV series “The English Briefcase”.

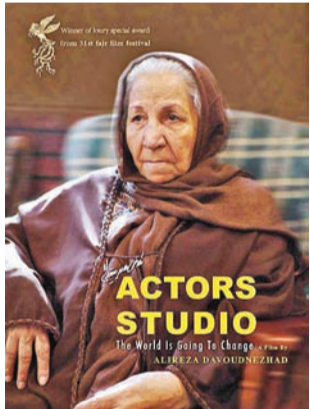
Dorri died of infectious complications resulting from a liver transplant in August.

The festival is being organized every year by the Revayat Cultural Foundation and the Film Association of the Islamic Revolution and the Sacred Defense in collaboration with different cultural organizations.

The 15th edition of the festival will be running at the Felestin Theater Hall in Tehran from November 26 to December 1.

Momma Etti of “Sweet Agony” dies

A R T **d e s k** **TEHRAN** – Actress Ehteram Sadat Habibian who made her debut as Momma Etti in “Sweet Agony”, directed by her son, Alireza Davudnejad, in 1999, died of old age on Saturday.



A poster for “Actors Studio” bearing a picture of actress Ehteram Sadat Habibian.

She passed away at a hospital in Karaj where she was admitted to the ICU two weeks ago, her grandchild, Reza Davudnejad, who co-starred with her in “Sweet Agony” told the Persian news media.

Habibian who was called by her children and grandchildren “Momma Etti” won the Crystal Simorgh for Best Supporting Actress at the Fajr Film Festival for her role in “Sweet Agony”.

She also played a role in a sequel Davudnejad is making to the movie.

She was also the mother of Mohammadreza Davudnejad who is also an actor. Her grandchildren, Mona and Zahra Davudnejad, are also actors.

Her credits include “Paradise for You”, “Bad Guys”, “A Girl in the Cage”, “Salve”, “Rival Wife” and “Actors Studio”, all of which were directed by Davudnejad.

Organizers of Seven Views establish association for gallery owners in Tehran

A R T **d e s k** **TEHRAN** – The organizers of Seven Views, an art expo that is held by seven major galleries in Tehran every year, has established an association for gallery owners in Tehran.



Golestan Gallery owner Lili Golestan.

“The Tehran Gallery Owners Association has been established to avert the chaos facing the galleries in Tehran,” Lili Golestan, the owner of Golestan Gallery, told the Persian service of MNA on Saturday.

The founders, which include the Aria, Elaheh, Dey, Golestan, Haft Samar, Vaali and Mah-e Mehr galleries, will soon recruit members to select the members of the association’s board of directors, she said.

The 10th edition of the Seven Views exhibition was organized at the Niavaran Cultural Center during November 2017.

Photos of Iranian historical sites on view at Paris exhibit

A R T **d e s k** **TEHRAN** – Iran’s Cultural Center in Paris is hanging a selection of photos from Iran’s historical monuments in Isfahan, Yazd, Kashan and several other cities.

The photos have been selected from “Sometimes Look at the Sky with Love”, a collection created by photojournalist Dariush Fardipur who works for the ISNA in Isfahan, the center has announced.

The collection was earlier displayed in an exhibition at the Iranian Artists Forum in Tehran last summer.

The decision to organize the Parisian exhibit was made after Iran’s cultural attaché in Paris paid a visit to the exhibition at the forum.

Among the highlights are photos of the Aali Qapu Palace in Isfahan, Dowlatabad Garden in Yazd, and Abbasiha House in Kashan.



A photo from Dariush Fardipur’s series “Sometimes Look at the Sky with Love” depicts Assarkhaneye Shahi, an oil-extracting house in Isfahan dating back to the early 17th century.

Hollywood stars raise funds for Israel army



Israeli soldiers detain a Palestinian boy during clashes in Hebron. (Reuters/Mussa Qawasma)

A R T **d e s k** **TEHRAN** – A group of B-list Hollywood celebrities has raised a record-breaking \$60 million for the Israeli military that kills hundreds of Palestinian children and civilians every year.

The fundraising was organized during the Friends of the Israel Defence Forces (FIDF) annual gala held in Beverly Hills, California on November 1, the Middle East Monitor announced last week.

Over 1,200 supporters of the Zionist

regime, including actors and singers like Ashton Kutcher, Pharrell Williams, Gerard Butler, and Katharine McPhee, attended the gala.

FIDF raised \$53.8 million at the same event last year. Contributions have been increasing annually for the past three years. In 2015, the gala raised \$31 million, half of this year’s total.

“Standing behind these heroes is one of my greatest honors in my life,” said FIDF National Board member and chairman of the event, Haim Saban.

“Wizard of Oz” draft scripts head for auction block

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) – A collection of draft scripts for “The Wizard of Oz” and other material from the archives of the 1939 film are going up for auction in December and could fetch up to \$1.2 million.

Los Angeles auctioneers Profiles in History said on Thursday four handwritten draft screenplays by Noel Langley were being sold.

Langley, who died in 1980, was one of about a dozen screenwriters who worked on the big screen adaptation of L. Frank Baum’s children’s book that catapulted Judy Garland to fame and became an enduring movie classic.

Langley’s first three original drafts, dated

between April 5 and May 14, 1938, are being sold alongside a fourth draft of the screenplay, written by Florence Ryerson and Edgar Allan Woolf, and a fifth draft from August 1938 by Langley.

“It is the single most important manuscript in Hollywood history,” Brian Chanes, head of consignment at Profiles in History, told Reuters.

Chanes said the more than 150 pages of handwritten manuscript notes and pages were “the genesis of ‘The Wizard of Oz,’” tracing its development and changes from first draft to the final version.

Ed Sheeran, Tim McGraw, Faith Hill settle copyright lawsuit

NEW YORK (Reuters) – Ed Sheeran, Tim McGraw and Faith Hill have settled a copyright lawsuit claiming that their song “The Rest of Our Life” was a “blatant” rip-off of a song by two Australian songwriters, titled “When I Found You.”

A lawyer for the songwriters Sean Carey and Beau Golden said all parties have agreed in principle to settle the case, and have it dismissed in 30 days if all “final issues” are resolved.

The settlement was disclosed in a letter filed on Thursday night with the U.S. District Court in Manhattan.

Sheeran, the English singer and songwriter, had co-written “The Rest of Our Life” for McGraw and Hill, the married U.S. country music stars.

The song was released in 2017, two years after “When I Found You”, which was performed and co-written by Australian country star Jasmine Rae.

Sony Music Entertainment, which released “The Rest of Our Life” through its Arista Nashville label, and Sheeran’s publisher Sony/ATV Songs were among several other defendants.

The lawsuit sought more than \$5 million in damages.

Lawyers for the defendants did not im-



Ed Sheeran poses during a photocall to promote the movie Songwriter at the 68th Berlinale International Film Festival in Berlin, Germany, February 23, 2018. (Reuters/Fabrizio Bensch)

mediately respond on Friday to requests for comment. The plaintiffs’ lawyer did not immediately respond to similar requests.

Sheeran has faced multiple copyright lawsuits, including over his songs “Thinking Out Loud”, “Shape of You” and “Photograph.”

Carey and Golden had contended that “The Rest of Our Life” was “almost a note for note copy” of “When I Found You.”

They sued in January, one month after Rae told them a fan had tweeted her, asking if she had heard McGraw’s and Hill’s song because it sounded “remarkably like” her own.

Iranian cineastes on Malatya festival panels



This combination photo shows Amir-Masud Soheili (L) and Mohammad Atebbai.

A R T **d e s k** **TEHRAN** – Iranian producer Mohammad Atebbai and filmmaker Amir-Masud Soheili are members of the juries at the 8th Malatya International Film Festival underway in the Turkish city.

Atebbai is a member of the International Platform Jury and Soheili is judging the films screening in the short film competition, the organizers have announced.

World-renowned Turkish director Nuri Bilge Ceylan is also serving as president for the jury in the official

competition.

In addition, a number of films from Iran are taking part in the festival.

“Orange Days” by Arash Lahuti is competing in the International Feature-Film Competition.

“The Slaughter”, a co-production of Iran and Spain by Rasul Iranzad Aqamirlu, is an entry to the short film competition.

“Animal” by Bahram and Bahman Ark has been selected to screen in the International Panorama section.

The festival will be running until November 15.

Some 16 photos of special effects, including the tornado sequence that transports Garland’s Dorothy from Kansas to the magical land of Oz, will be included in the single lot.

The archive is being sold by an anonymous private collector who bought it years ago from the late Los Angeles memorabilia collector, Forrest J. Ackerman, Chanes said.

Profiles in History put an estimated sale value of \$800,000 - \$1.2 million on the archival material, which will be auctioned during its Hollywood memorabilia sale in Los Angeles from Dec. 11-14.

Langley, Ryerson and Woolf all received

credits for the screenplay when the movie was released in 1939, but several others also made uncredited revisions and contributions.

“The studio assigned a number of script writers and each scriptwriter did not know the other was working on it. The others kind of fizzled out,” Chanes said. “Noel Langley is the one that really set the stage.”

“The Wizard of Oz” won just two Oscars - for its music - after it was released in 1939 but went on to become one of the best-known musicals in Hollywood history. In 1989, it was among the first to be preserved by the National Film Registry.

“I ignore it”, artist Hockney says on upcoming record-sale hype

LONDON (Reuters) – When David Hockney’s “Portrait of an Artist (Pool with Two Figures)” goes under the hammer next week with an estimate of \$80 million, the sale could set a record for the most expensive work ever sold at auction by a living artist.

But the 81-year-old, known for his colorful depictions of Los Angeles swimming pools and the countryside of his native Yorkshire, is brushing off the attention.

“I ignore it,” Hockney told Reuters on the sidelines of an awards ceremony late on Wednesday. “I have the vanity of an artist, I want my work to be seen, but I don’t have to be seen.”

Set against a lush green landscape, “Portrait of an Artist (Pool with Two Figures)” is one of Hockney’s most famous works, depicting a man in a pink jacket looking down on another figure swimming underwater in a pool.

Composed ahead of an exhibition in New York, the 1972 canvas was inspired by two photographs.

Auction house Christie’s, which says the painting is “poised to become the most valuable work of art by a living artist ever sold at auction”, estimates a price tag “in the range of \$80 million” for its Nov. 15



David Hockney. (Photo Courtesy Hannelore Foerster/Getty Images)

sale in New York.

If it meets that figure, that would smash the price tag of current record holder, Jeff Koons’ stainless steel “Balloon Dog (Orange)” sculpture, which sold for \$58.4 million in 2013.

Hockney, who recently designed a stained glass window in honor of Queen Elizabeth at Westminster Abbey, is considered one of Britain’s most influential artists.

On Wednesday night, he was recognized with an award for his contribution to printmaking by Norway’s Queen Sonja’s art foundation. Asked about future projects, Hockney said he had set his sights on France: “I am planning to travel to Normandy next year to do the arrival of spring.”