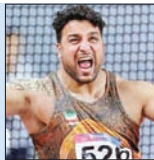




IRGC: Iran to close Hormuz Strait if it is barred to use it **2**



Nasrallah denounces Sri Lanka blasts **13**



Thrower Hadadi wins gold at Asian Athletics Championships **15**



Iranian cinema captures reality of life: Italian cinematographer Luca Bigazzi **16**

Iran, Pakistan should boost ties against enemies' will



Trade at TSE, IFB up 80% in a year

TEHRAN — The value of trades at Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) and Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known also as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), rose 80 percent during the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20, 2019), head of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) announced. Shapour Mohammadi made the remarks in the inaugural ceremony of 12th Interna-

tional Exhibition of Exchange, Banks and Insurance of Iran (IRAN FINEX 2019) which kicked off at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds on Monday, IRIB reported. Referring to 80 percent growth of financing in the country's capital market during the past year, the official also noted that it indicates the good status of this market. **→4**

Knowledge-based companies create 140,000 jobs: official

TEHRAN — Iranian knowledge-based companies have created job opportunities for 140,000 applicants until the end of the Iranian calendar year 1397 (March 20, 2019), an official with the vice presidency for science and technology announced, IRNA reported on Wednesday. Seyyed Mohammad Sahebkar Khorasani said that the knowledge-based

companies focused on the job creation for young generation. "125,000 individuals were employed in knowledge-based manufacturing companies and the rest were attracted to emerging knowledge-based firms," he said. Over 4,200 knowledge-based companies are now active in Iran, of which 2,400 are manufacturing firms, he added. **→11**

'Stab in the back': Hamas blasts UAE, Israel joint drills

TEHRAN — Palestinian resistance movement Hamas has blasted the United Arab Emirates for sending its pilots to train together with Israeli air force, calling the move a "stab in the back" for Palestine and the Islamic world.

Earlier this month, Emirati pilots traveled to Greece to partake in a military exercise that also featured Israeli fighter jets. The Persian Gulf sheikhdom has been testing the waters for official

ties with Tel Aviv after years of secretive dealings, Press TV reported.

"The joint drills in Greece between Emirati and Israeli forces are painful, hard-hitting and a great disgrace," Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said.

"This move encourages Israel to continue its atrocities against Palestinians and amounts to a stab in the back of the nation of Islam as well the Palestinian people." **→3**

The fears and hops of emancipation in the West: Prof. Stephen Eric Bronner

By Rooholamin Saeidi

TEHRAN — Professor Stephen Eric Bronner is a noted political theorist and Distinguished Professor of Political Science, Comparative Literature, and German Studies at Rutgers University in New Brunswick.

Currently, he is Director of Global Relations at the Center for the Study of Genocide, Conflict Resolution, and Human Rights at Rutgers University, and member of Executive Committee of the UNESCO Chair for Genocide Prevention. Professor Bronner is the Executive Chair of U.S. Academics for Peace and an advisor to Conscience International. His activities in civic diplomacy

led him to visit Iran, Iraq, Palestine, Syria, Sudan, and Darfur.

Following is the text of his interview with Asre-Andisheh Magazine:

■ 'Emancipation' plays an important part in Critical Theory of international relations. But it is said that this concept is somehow vague and ambiguous. How do you define emancipation and how do you evaluate its role in Critical Theory?

A: Emancipation can never be complete: no system can ever actualize all the possibilities of freedom. As such, emancipation is a regulative ideal that has different dimen-

sions: Kant put it best, perhaps, when he called for the abolition of those self-created "artifices" that keep humanity in a subaltern state. Another way of saying the same thing is the abolition of reification and the myriad ways in which people are turned into things—whether by capitalists treating workers as a mere "cost of production;" or authoritarian political systems treating people as subordinate to the state; or religious institutions imposing dogma upon them. Any meaningful understanding of "critique" needs a positive purpose. Such is the legacy of Kant Hegel and Marx for critical theory. **→6**

'Google's move to shut press TV's YouTube channels overt, blatant act of censorship'

TEHRAN (FNA) — Steven Sahiounie, author and political commentator, says Google's refusal to explain why it shuts Press TV's account proves the move was not based on legal basis, indicating a censorship policy pursued by the American tech giant.

In an exclusive interview with FNA, Sahiounie outlined the Google's motive, saying "The Google ban seems to be in line with the U.S.

government's stepped-up pressure on Iran and an all-out propaganda campaign against the country, which includes targeting Iranian media."

Steven Sahiounie is an independent Syrian American political analyst and writer based in Lebanon. He has been covering the Middle East cruises since 2011 and has published several articles in numerous media outlets.

Below is the full text of the interview:
■ How do you assess Google's move to shut Press TV's YouTube channels?

A: Google has blocked Press TV and Hispan TV's access to their official accounts on the technology company's platforms, including YouTube and Gmail, without prior notice, citing "violation of policies". Certainly, this is an overt and blatant act of censorship. **→13**

Traditional European parties are worried

By Mohammad Nazemi

TEHRAN — There is not much time left until the European Parliamentary elections. Meanwhile, traditional European parties are concerned about the decline in political participation in the election and the victory of nationalist parties: parties whose presence in the European Parliament can threaten the existence of the European Union and the Eurozone.

During the European Parliamentary elections

in 2014, a small contribution of European citizens has allowed nationalist movements throughout Europe to conquer more than 100 seats in the European Parliament. Many experts and analysts of European affairs believe that nationalist parties will also have a strong presence in the European Parliament this time.

Although, depending on the number of seats in the European Parliament, power will remain in the hands of the traditional parties, but nationalist

movements in Europe can stand More and more influential in the European Parliament. This could be an introduction to serious challenges in the Eurozone and the European Union.

It should not be forgotten that the White House will directly and indirectly support nationalist parties in this election. People like US President Donald Trump and US National Security Advisor John Bolton are calling for the collapse of the euro area and the weakening of the European Union. **→13**



Easter Sunday celebrated at Tehran's Saint Gregory Church

TEHRAN — The Saint Gregory the Illuminator (Surp Grigor Lusavoritch) Church in Tehran hosted hundreds of Iranian Christians on Sunday for the Easter celebrations.

This year the Orthodox churches celebrate Easter on the same Sunday when Roman Catholics and Protestants mark the holy festival.



ARTICLE

Rooholamin Saeidi
Researcher and writer

Reproduction of racism in the West

The terrorist attack which took place in New Zealand was a tragedy that unfortunately has been epidemic in the world and we witness different examples of it all over the globe occasionally. But once again it revealed the hypocritical, discriminatory and unfair Western governments' treatment of other nations.

Without a doubt, if such an attack had happened in a Western country or if the lifeless bodies in those two mosques had belonged to the Europeans or the Christians, Western politicians would have reacted more firmly and decisively. But since those innocent people who were killed in Christchurch were Muslims, Western politicians and western media just expressed cold condolences and tried to ignore the incident.

They even intentionally refrained from referring to it as a terrorist attack because from their viewpoints, terrorism is only associated with Islam and Muslim Jihadists. No one will forget that many of world leaders participated side by side in the Rally for unity against terrorism in Paris after those bloody terrorist attacks in 2015 among them was Netanyahu whose government is a real perpetrator of State terrorism.

Taking the Christchurch tragedy into consideration, we should admit regretfully that even in 21st century the life of people who live in developed western countries seem more valuable and more precious than those of others. For example, the murder of Jamal Khashoggi was represented as a catastrophe by western media so public opinions all over the world especially in western countries paid remarkable attention to it.

But no one sympathizes with Yemeni people who have been killed innocently since Saudi Arabia attacked their homeland and those children who are starving to death! So it seems that the public conscience in the West awakens selectively and it is indicative to the fact that the West still tends to marginalize the poor people of the global south and disregard them. Perhaps what the suffering of the Yemeni people illustrates more than anything is that humanitarian action is always overshadowed by power politics and political interests. **→7**



ARTICLE

Setareh Behrooz
Tehran Times Journalist

Knowledge-based technologies can decrease flood losses

Recent floods saturated the grounds in dry regions, though it also brought grief and pain for the residents. New emerging technologies and knowledge-based companies suggest up-to-date ways to turn the threats of flood into opportunities.

From mid-March to April 2019 widespread flash flooding affected large parts of Iran, most severely in Golestan, Fars, Khuzestan, Lorestan, and other provinces. Iran has been hit by three major waves of rain and flooding over the course of two weeks which led to flooding in at least 26 of Iran's 31 provinces according to the officials.

According to Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian recent heavy rainfalls in Iran has filled 70 percent of dams and resulted in restoration of drained wetlands across the country.

On the other hand, the heavy rainfalls destroyed many urban and rural infrastructures of water, electric, telecommunication and transportation networks. It also caused agricultural loss. In mid-April, the Agriculture Minister Mahmoud Hojjati said Iran's agriculture sector has suffered an economic loss of 130 trillion rials (nearly \$3 billion) as a result of extreme flooding which has inundated many provinces.

The head of Technology Development Council of Water Drought, Erosion and Environment Naderqoli Ebrahimi introduced some new technologies to help people and flood-stricken regions.

■ **Portable water filters and purifiers**

Supplying purified water in flood-stricken regions is one of the main challenges after the occurrence of natural disasters. Some knowledge-based companies manufacture portable water filters and purifier packages, which provide drinking water and water for sanitation when there is no access to public water system.

The product can meet the demands of flood stricken and decrease the usage of water bottles, which is neither economic nor environment friendly. **→11**

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Rouhani to visit Kurdistan on Wednesday

POLITICS TEHRAN — President Rouhani will travel to Kurdistan Province on Wednesday to meet with people at Esteghlal club stadium in Sanandaj, the provincial capital.

Rouhani will be accompanied by a number of ministers and top authorities of his administration, ILNA reported on Monday.

During his visit, the president will inaugurate a number of structural and economic projects.

According to the governor of Kurdistan Province, the aim of Rouhani's trip is to accelerate the process of Kurdistan's development.



Hatami due in Moscow on Tuesday

POLITICS TEHRAN — Defense Minister Amir Hatami will leave Tehran for Moscow on Tuesday to attend the eight Moscow Conference on International Security.

Hatami's visit comes upon the official invitation of his Russian counterpart, Sergey Shoygu, Mehr reported.

He is scheduled to deliver a speech to security experts at the conference.

According to the Russian Defense Ministry, the conference "will encompass the problems of utmost significance in terms of shaping views on the international security. Separate plenary sessions will offer space to exchange views on modern military challenges and threats, including the improvement of the arms control system."



Hungarian, Swedish envoys bid farewell to Zarif

POLITICS TEHRAN — Ambassadors of Hungary and Sweden, Janos Kovacs and Helena Sangeland, met on Monday with Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif to bid farewell to him at the end of their diplomatic mission in Tehran, ISNA reported.

In an interview with IRNA last year, Kovacs said that over the past couple of years, "I did all in power to help improve bilateral relations and I will do so afterwards, too."

Sangeland has also said Sweden and Iran are expanding their relations in the field of economy and their economic ties will be even more strengthened in the future.



Iran says attaches no value, credit to U.S. exemptions

POLITICS TEHRAN — Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said on Monday that Iran does not attach any value or credit to the United States' exemptions on Iranian oil exports.

"Due to the illegality of the specified sanctions, the Islamic Republic of Iran has not attached any value or credit to the exemptions on sanctions and will not do so," Mousavi said, Mehr reported.

He added that Iran is in constant contact with its partners to hamper the impacts of U.S. sanctions.

Earlier, the U.S. announced that it is not extending any waivers exempting importers of Iranian oil from U.S. sanctions and there will be no grace period for those economies to comply.



U.S. unable to zero out Iran's oil exports: ex-diplomat

POLITICS TEHRAN — A former Foreign Ministry spokesman believes that the United States is not capable of forcing Iranian oil exports to zero.

In an interview with the Arman newspaper published on Monday, Ramin Mehmanparast said the global energy market has certain restrictions and removing Iran from the market is practically impossible.

"Everyone is well-aware that if it was possible for the Americans to drive Iran's oil exports to zero, they would have done so in the previous years," Mehmanparast argued.

He added that the U.S. is merely waging a psychological war against the Iranian nation through such declarations.



U.S. is ending exemptions to Iran sanctions: Pompeo

POLITICS U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Monday the United States is not extending any waivers exempting importers of Iranian oil from U.S. sanctions and there will be no grace period for those economies to comply.

"We're going to zero. We're going to zero across the board," Pompeo told reporters after the White House announced the end to waivers in order to put more pressure on Iran.

"There are no (oil) waivers that extend beyond that period, full stop," Reuters quoted Pompeo as saying.

The move is the latest in which the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump has staked out a hardline position on Iran.

No third country can affect Iran-Pakistan ties: Rouhani

POLITICS TEHRAN — President Hassan Rouhani said on Monday that Iran and Pakistan are determined to expand relations and no third country can undermine their friendly ties.

In a joint press conference with Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan in Tehran, Rouhani said that the two countries have capacities to expand economic relations.

He also said that Iran is ready to sell oil to Pakistan.

Rouhani also said security at common borders featured high in talks with Prime Minister Khan.

"The issue of security at borders was another issue we discussed. Unfortunately, we witnessed brutal acts by terrorists in the past months. We are happy that the Pakistani side has called groups which take inhuman actions 'terrorist' and counters them as terrorists," he explained.

On February 13, the so-called Jaish ul-Adl group whose members use Pakistan's soil as a hiding place, carried out a terrorist attack against Iranian border guards, killing 27 servicemen and injured 13 others. They were traveling between the cities of Zahedan and Khash, in south-east Sistan-Baluchestan province, when their bus was targeted in a suicide car bomb attack.

Iran, Pakistan to establish rapid reaction force against terrorists
Rouhani revealed that the two countries will form a rapid reaction force to fight terrorism at borders.

Iran to increase electricity export to Pakistan by 10 times

Elsewhere, Rouhani said it was agreed that Iran to increase export of electricity to Pakistan by ten times.

He also expressed hope that relations between Gwadar and Chabahar port cities would be expanded.

Gwadar is owned by Pakistan and Chabahar by Iran. The Pakistan port is being developed by the Chinese and Chabahar



Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan (L) in a joint press conference with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, Tehran, April 22, 2019.

by the Indians.

Khan invites Rouhani to visit Pakistan

Rouhani also said that Khan has invited him to visit Pakistan, expressing hope it would happen in the near future.

'Militants should not be allowed to use Pakistan soil to commit terror acts'

For his part, Khan said that militants should not be permitted to use the Pakistani soil to commit terrorist acts.

"Terrorism is the most important reason for my trip to Iran. Differences would not be increased if there was no terrorism. It is the issue of terrorism which has caused differences and it was important to take this trip," the prime minister remarked.

The prime minister said, unlike Afghanistan where terrorism is not annihilated despite NATO's presence in the country, Pakistan has made great achievements in

fight against terrorism.

Khan added, "We are ready to cooperate with Tehran to settle the issue of Afghanistan through dialogue and political ways, because peace in Afghanistan will be useful for the people of Afghanistan who have been suffering for 40 years and will also be useful for the people of Iran and Pakistan."

Elsewhere, he said that the issue of Kashmir can be resolved politically and through dialogue.

"Military solution is not the answer to the Kashmir issue. We need dialogue to find a political solution."

The prime minister said if the Kashmir issue is settled the entire Indian subcontinent will benefit from it and in that case Iran can reach the Indian and Chinese markets through the Pakistani soil.

Since independence from Britain in 1947, Kashmir has been divided between India

and Pakistan and is claimed by both sides.

'New chapter in Iran-Pakistan ties'

During a meeting of high-ranking delegations of Iran and Pakistan, Rouhani said that a new chapter has been opened in Iran-Pakistan relations by Khan's visit to Tehran.

He also said, "Iran and Pakistan will not allow interference in their brotherly and friendly relations."

The president went on to say that the U.S. has caused the most harms to the economy and security of the region through military interventions.

"Under the current situation, the regional countries should take decisions and draw up plans independently and in line with their interests," he opined.

Commenting on expansion of economic relations, he called for using national currencies in bilateral trade.

Khan said that Pakistan seeks to find a mechanism to expand economic ties with Iran especially in gas and oil industries.

He said though terrorists are making efforts to cause harm to friendly relations between the two countries, Pakistan is determined to fight them.

Prime Minister Khan arrived in Tehran late on Sunday after first visiting the shrine of Imam Reza (AS) in the northeastern city of Mashhad.

It is the first time that Khan is visiting Iran since he was elected prime minister in August 2018.

Tehran, Islamabad ink health agreement

On Monday, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan signed a memorandum of understanding in health and medical fields in the presence of Rouhani and Khan.

The MOU was signed by Iranian Health Minister Saeed Namaki and Special Assistant to the Pakistani Prime Minister on National Health Services Zafarullah Mirza.

IRGC: Iran to close Hormuz Strait if it is barred to use it

POLITICS TEHRAN — Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy chief Alireza Tangsiri warned on Monday that Iran will close the Strait of Hormuz if it is barred from using it.

"The Strait of Hormuz is a marine passage and we will close it if we are barred from using it," he said in an interview with the Al-Alam news network.

He noted that Iran will take counter actions in case threats are posed against the country.

The Strait of Hormuz is a strategic artery linking Middle East crude producers to key markets in Asia Pacific, Europe, North America and beyond. A third of the world's sea-borne oil passing through it every day.

On July 3, 2018, President Hassan Rouhani hinted Iran could disrupt oil flows through the strait in response to U.S. calls to bring down Iran's oil exports to zero.

Commenting on appointing Hossein



Salami as the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), Tangsiri said it is a decision that has nothing to do with designation of the IRGC as a terrorist organization by the U.S., noting that the world knows the real supporters of terrorism.

In a decree issued on Sunday, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, as the commander in chief, promoted Salami to the rank of major general and appointed him to the commander of the IRGC. Salami replace Mohammad Ali Jafari who held the position for about 12 years.

Ambassador: Creators of terror groups label IRGC terrorist organization

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iran's ambassador to The Hague Alireza Kazemi Abadi said those who have created the al-Qaeda and Daesh (ISIL) terrorist groups are now calling Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) a terrorist organization.

This is while they themselves believe that the IRGC has fought against Daesh terrorists more than others, Kazemi Abadi said, Mehr reported on Monday.

He said under the Islamic Republic's constitution, the IRGC is part of Iran's armed forces and is tasked with protecting the Islamic Revolution.

The ambassador also said Iran has always been targeted by terrorist groups.

Last week, the United States officially designated the IRGC as a "foreign terrorist organization". The move came after U.S. President Donald Trump's declaration a week earlier.

It was the first time the U.S. has declared an element of a foreign government to be a terrorist organization.

Minutes after Trump's announcement, the Iranian Supreme National Security Council named the United States Central Command (CENTCOM) a terrorist organization, and the U.S. government a sponsor of terror.

It also condemned Trump's move as "baseless" and warned of the consequences of its move for peace and security in the Middle East.

In recent months, the Trump administration has sought to impose "maximum pressure" on Iran, after abandoning the nuclear deal brokered during the Obama administration. Even before news emerged of a possible terrorism designation for the IRGC, more than 970 Iranian entities and individuals were already under U.S. sanctions.

Rouhani congratulates Salami on new post

POLITICS TEHRAN — President Hassan Rouhani has congratulated the new commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

In a Monday letter to Major General Hossein Salami, Rouhani highlighted the major role that the IRGC plays in countering threats against the country.

In a decree on Sunday, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, granted Salami the rank of major general and appointed him as the new IRGC chief.

In his letter to the new commander, Rouhani expressed the hope that wise employment of the IRGC's capacities and the great potential of its popular forces would mark stronger unity among the country's armed forces and boost



the Islamic Republic's power in the face of hostile plots and threats, according to the president's official website.

Leader: Iran, Pakistan should boost ties against enemies' will

POLITICS TEHRAN — Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei in a Monday meeting with the visiting Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan stressed that Tehran and Islamabad need to fortify their mutual ties to the dismay of their shared enemies.

Underlining the works of figures such as Muhammad Iqbal and Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Ayatollah Khamenei said, "Good relations will benefit both countries. But such relations have serious enemies, against whose will, cooperation and relations in various sectors should be enhanced."

"The rule of the Muslims marked the zenith of the Indian subcontinent's power and splendor, while destroying this outstanding Islamic civilization in it was the severest

blow that the English colonizers dealt to the region," the Leader said.

Ayatollah Khamenei also underlined the significance of security at the Iran-Pakistan border, saying, "The terrorist groups behind insecurity at the borders are being nourished with the enemies' money and arms. One of the goals of anti-security moves at the Iran-Pakistan border is to poison mutual ties."

Ayatollah Khamenei says, "The terrorist groups behind insecurity at the borders are being nourished with the enemies' money and arms. One of the goals of anti-security moves at the Iran-Pakistan border is to poison mutual ties."

For his part, Prime Minister Khan referred to his talks in Tehran with President Hassan Rouhani, who was also present in the meeting with the Leader. "In the negotiations, many issues were resolved and Pakistani ministers also had good talks with their Iranian counterparts."

The prime minister also referred to centuries-old relations between Iran and

the Indian subcontinent, saying, "Muslims ruled India for about 600 years and the influence of Iranians on them (Indians) was so great that the Indian official language became Persian."

Khan said the plundering of the Indian subcontinent happened during the British colonialism. "The British plundered all the Indian riches, destroyed their education system," the prime minister lamented.

Further in his remarks, Khan said certain countries don't like Pakistan and Iran to have close ties but "we can overcome problems."

He added, "We will try to make the two countries' relations stronger than the past, and will be in constant contact with the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

‘Stab in the back’: Hamas blasts UAE, Israel joint drills

1 → Emirati and Israeli pilots flew together as part of Iniohos 2019, Greece's largest annual military exercise, which was carried out at the Andravida Base in the Peloponnese between April 1 and 12.

The drills also saw forces from the United States, Italy, Cyprus, and almost the entire Hellenic Air Force (HAF) carry out complex air operations. The drills further featured naval and ground forces.

“The objective of the exercise is to provide realistic operational training in conditions that resemble a complex, multi-threat combat environment to maximize the operational capabilities of the Air Force,” the HAF said in a statement.

Israeli pilots flew a fleet of seven aircraft over central Athens during the exercises. The fleet consisted of F-35 Lightning, F-4 Phantom, Mirage M-2000 and Tornado fighter jets.

This is not the first time Israeli and Emirati pilots have flown together. Air forces from the two sides also participated in the Red Flag exercise hosted by the U.S. Air Force in Nevada in August 2016. Those drills featured representatives from Pakistan as well.

The UAE, along with Saudi Arabia, is



known to have secretly developed expansive ties with Tel Aviv over the past years. A growing obsession to confront Iran's growing influence in the region is said to be the main

driving force behind the emerging Arab-Israeli alliance.

In late March, Anwar Gargash, Emirate's minister of state for foreign affairs, called on

Arab nations to change their decades-long strategy of having no diplomatic relations with Israel, which he branded as a mistake.

The tiny Persian Gulf state's foreign minister, Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and the country's national security adviser paid a not-so-secret visit to Israel on a direct flight from Abu Dhabi to Tel Aviv in January, according to Israeli media reports.

In October 2018, Israel's culture and sports minister Miri Regev paid a historic visit to the Emirates. That same month, Benjamin Netanyahu became the first Israeli prime minister to visit Oman in more than 20 years.

In November 2018, then chief of staff of the Israeli military, Gadi Eisenkot, reportedly made two secret visits to the United Arab Emirates, where he met with senior officials.

In June, the New Yorker magazine reported that Israel had maintained a secret but extremely close relationship with the UAE for more than two decades, with a special focus on intelligence sharing and military cooperation, including potential weapons deals.

Sudan protesters to Saudi Arabia, UAE: ‘Please keep your money’

TEHRAN- Sudanese protesters have called on Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to “keep their money” a day after Riyadh and Abu Dhabi offered to send Khartoum \$3bn aid.

Hours after the oil-rich Persian Gulf Arab states made the announcement on Sunday, demonstrators at the sit-in outside Sudan's military headquarters in the capital started chanting: “We don't want Saudi support.”

“They are lobbying and using money to try and control Sudan. We have enough resources to look after ourselves and our interests,” Adil Gasem Alseedi, a trader, told Al Jazeera on Monday.

“We can rebuild our country without their help. We say thank you, please keep your money,” the 52-year-old said. Other protesters said Sudan needed good leadership and not foreign aid.

“We have the resources. With good leadership, we can look after our country,” Hanan Alsadiq, a university student, told Al Jazeera.

“The timing of their aid says a lot about their intentions. Why did they wait until now? Why did they not call on Omar al-Bashir to stop when he was killing our people. Their money will only create problems for us,” said Alsadiq, who was born in Saudi Arabia.

According to al Jazeera, The military removed al-Bashir earlier this month after months of anti-government protests during which dozens of people were killed.

The two Persian Gulf countries, in a joint statement, said \$500m would be deposited in Sudan's central bank to “ease the pressure on the Sudanese pound and achieve more stability in the exchange rate”.

The rest of the aid money will be sent in the form of food, medicines and fuel derivatives, the statement added.

Many demonstrators at the sit-in said they suspected the two countries of trying to influence the ruling military transitional council with the aid.

Sudan's head of the transitional military council, Lieutenant General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, was the head of the



country's ground troops when Khartoum sent its soldiers to Yemen as part of a Saudi-led coalition.

Davutoglu sharply criticizes Erdogan's AK Party

TEHRAN- A former prime minister and close ally of President Tayyip Erdogan strongly criticized the ruling AK Party on Monday, blaming policy changes and an alliance with nationalists for its poor performance in Turkey's local elections last month.

In his first major public challenge to Erdogan since leaving office three years ago, Ahmet Davutoglu, himself an AKP member, slammed the party's economic policies, media restrictions and the damage he said it had done to the separation of powers and to institutions.

Davutoglu, a high profile figure in the party, served as prime minister between 2014 and 2016 before falling out with Erdogan.

The AKP lost control of the capital Ankara and Turkey's largest city Istanbul in the elections on March 31.

“The election results show that alliance politics have caused harm to our party, both



in terms of voter levels and the party's identity,” Davutoglu said in a 15-page statement.

The AKP and the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) formed an alliance before pres-

idential and parliamentary elections in June last year in which Erdogan won the executive presidency but saw the level of support for his party fall.

There were no signs of a lira reaction to Davutoglu's statement. The currency had weakened in early trade and stood at 5.8334 against the dollar, from a close of 5.8170 on Friday.

In recent years there has been repeated media speculation that prominent AKP politicians such as Davutoglu might break away to establish a new political party, but no such development has materialized and Davutoglu's statement did not refer to any prospect of a new party.

Instead, it stressed the need for reform within. “I call on our party's executives and relevant bodies to assess all these subjects and our future vision sensibly and with cool heads,” Davutoglu said.

There is ‘ample evidence’ of Trump collusion, Schiff says

TEHRAN- There has been “ample evidence of collusion in plain sight,” says a top U.S. lawmaker in response to attacks by a Trump administration official.

California Democratic Representative Adam Schiff made the comments in reaction to White House counselor Kellyanne Conway's attacks.

“I use that word very carefully,” he told ABC. “Because I also distinguish time and time again between collusion, that is acts of corruption that may or may not be criminal, and proof of a criminal conspiracy. And that is a distinction that Bob Mueller made within the first few pages of his report. In fact, every act that I've pointed to as evidence of collusion has now been borne out by the report.” Press TV reported.

The chairman of the House Intelligence Committee has been a target of President Donald Trump and his staff.

“The obstruction of justice in particular in this case is far worse than anything that Richard Nixon did... I would



say in every way this is more significant than Watergate,” he noted. “And the fact that a candidate for president and

now president of the United States would not only not stand up and resist Russian interference in our election but would welcome it goes well beyond anything Nixon did.”

After the special counsel's report about the outcome of investigation found no collusion between Trump and Russia, Democrats are taking steps that could lead to the impeachment of the president.

“Impeachment is likely to be unsuccessful” without bipartisan consensus, Schiff said, adding that his committee has to decide soon “what is the best thing for the country.”

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler also said that “obstruction of justice, if proven, would be impeachable.”

“This is very, very, very serious. I believe that the first step is to have Representative Jerry Nadler continue to open up this investigation to better understand this. We are just getting this document,” Ohio Democratic Representative Tim Ryan told CNN.

Sri Lanka minister says local group linked to deadly attacks

TEHRAN- Sri Lanka's health minister has claimed that a local organization was linked to the string of bombings that killed nearly 300 people and wounded 500 others.

Rajitha Senaratne on Monday blamed President Maithripala Sirisena's government for failing to act on intelligence shared 14 days before the multiple blasts that targeted churches and luxury hotels across the island nation.

Speaking at a press conference in the capital Colombo, Senaratne said that failure to act against National Thowtheeth

Jama'ath, a hardline local organization, had devastated the entire country, AL Jazeera reported.

“Unfortunately, despite all these revelations by the intelligence units we could not avert these attacks,” Senaratne, who is also the cabinet spokesman, said.

He hinted at a possible role of an international network in the Easter Sunday attacks that have shocked the island nation.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attacks so far.

The government on Monday declared April

23 as a day of national mourning following the worst attack in the nation since its civil war ended a decade ago.

Senaratne's criticism of President Sirisena, who heads the security forces, comes a day after Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe acknowledged that “information was there” about possible attacks.

“We must also look into why adequate precautions were not taken,” he said on Sunday.

Ties between the two leaders are at an all-time low following Sirisena's sacking of

Wickremesinghe in October. The move triggered a weeks-long political crisis that ended only when the Supreme Court overturned that decision.

There were fears the attacks could spark a renewal of communal violence, with police also reporting late on Sunday there had been a petrol bomb attack on a mosque in the northwest and arson attacks on two shops owned by Muslims in the west.

Christians, Muslims and Hindus form nearly a quarter of the South Asian nation's 23 million population.

Putin, Kim on track to meet by end of April

Russia' President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un are on track to meet by the end of April, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Monday.

Last week the Kremlin said that Kim Jong Un would travel to Russia this month, announcing the first Russia-North Korea summit since Kim came to power in 2011, Reuters reported.

Arrests at London climate-change protests top 1,000

TEHRAN — The number of environmental campaigners arrested during eight days of direct action in London topped 1,000 on Monday, police said, adding that Waterloo Bridge, one of the sites blockaded by the protests, had re-opened to traffic.

Climate group Extinction Rebellion has targeted sites in central London, such as Oxford Circus and Parliament Square, in a campaign of non-violent civil disobedience with the aim of stopping what it calls a global climate crisis, Reuters reported.

Police said 1,065 people had been arrested in connection with the protests, and they had charged 53 with offences including obstructing the highway.

Oxford Circus and Parliament Square were re-opened to traffic on Sunday, they said, while Waterloo Bridge was cleared overnight.

Police had appealed to activists to move to Marble Arch, where they are allowing protests to continue.

Swedish teenage environmental activist Greta Thunberg addressed crowds at Marble Arch on Sunday, urging them to never give up their campaign to save the planet.

Kremlin says too early to speak of possible cooperation with Ukraine after election

The Kremlin said on Monday that it was too early to speak about possible cooperation with Ukrainian President-elect Volodymyr Zelenskyy, but added that Moscow respected the choice of the Ukrainian people.

Ukraine has entered uncharted political waters after near final results show Zelenskyy, a comedian, winning Sunday's presidential election by a landslide, dramatically upending the political status quo in the ex-Soviet republic.

(Source: Reuters)

Modi condemns Sri Lanka attacks, says he can defeat the ‘terrorists’

TEHRAN- After condemning the series of deadly bomb attacks on Sri Lankan churches and luxury hotels on Sunday that killed more than 200 people, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi told voters that they needed to elect him to a second term as only he can beat the “terrorists” threatening India.

“Should terrorism be finished or not?” he told an election rally in the western state of Rajasthan. “Who can do this? Can you think of any name aside from Modi? Can anybody else do this?”

According to Reuters, Modi and his ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have promoted the government's national security record as a vote winner in India's staggered general election that began on April 11 and will end on May 19. Votes will be counted on May 23.

In particular, Modi's muscular stance against Pakistan, which New Delhi says backs armed Islamist militant groups, had boosted support for the BJP in a tightening election race where opposition parties have focused on weak jobs growth and low farm incomes.

Tensions between India and Pakistan peaked earlier this year after a February suicide bomb attack in disputed Kashmir that killed 40 Indian paratroopers, and was claimed by an Islamist militant group based in Pakistan. Modi then sent warplanes to Pakistan to bomb a purported training camp, in India's first such aerial strike since 1971.

Indian officials say that three Indian nationals are known to be among the dead in the Sri Lankan attacks. No group has yet claimed responsibility.

“In our neighboring Sri Lanka, terrorists have played a bloody game. They killed innocent people,” Modi said.

Egypt to host African summits Tuesday on Sudan, Libya

Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi will lead two emergency summits with other African leaders Tuesday to address events in Sudan and Libya, his presidency said.

The leaders will focus on “the evolution of the situation in Sudan”, where protests continue after the military toppled president Omar al-Bashir, and on “stemming the current crisis” in Libya, where commander Khalifa Haftar is leading an offensive on Tripoli, the presidency said in a statement. Sisi is also current president of the African Union.

(Source: AFP)

STOCK MARKET	
TEDPIX	204321.9
IFX	2494.56

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES	
USD	42,000 rials
EUR	47,200 rials
GBP	54,574 rials
AED	11,437 rials

Source: cbi.ir

COMMODITIES	
Brent	\$73.76/b
WTI	\$65.55/b
OPEC Basket	\$70.81/b
Gold	\$1,280.40/oz
Silver	\$15.09/oz
Platinum	\$911.05/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

Trade at TSE, IFB up 80% in a year

1 → IRAN FINEX is the most prestigious event concentrating on finance industries in Iran. It is the most important event in this field in the region that brings together all the companies operating in the financial sector under the same roof.



Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) Head Shapour Mohammadi speaking in the inaugural ceremony of IRAN FINEX 2019

In this edition of the four-day exhibition, the latest achievements of banking industry, insurance, and capital market is being showcased.

Vice-President for Science and Technology Sorena Sattari, Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Farhad Dejpasand, Head of Central Insurance of Iran Gholamreza Soleimani, and Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Deputy Governor Akbar Komeijani attended the inaugural ceremony of the exhibit.

Mohammadi said this exhibition is not just limited to the capital market, while it is considered an important event in the country's financial market.

Tehran hosting intl. beauty & clean exhibit

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — The 26th edition of International Exhibition of Detergents, Cleansers, Hygienic and Cellulose Products and Related Machinery (Iran Beauty and Clean) kicked off at Tehran International Permanent Fairground on Monday, Mehr news agency reported.

Some 265 domestic as well as foreign companies from South Korea, Germany, India, China, Turkey, France, Italy and Spain are taking part in the four-day exhibition, which will wrap up on April 25, Head of Iran International Exhibitions Company Bahman Hosseinzadeh said.

Exhibitors are showcasing their brands across a wide range of services and products, including detergents and cleansers, hygienic and cellulose products, perfume, cologne, skincare products, commercial and advisory services and related production lines, machinery and equipment, he added.

According to the official, attracting local and foreign investment, finding new sales representatives and markets, increasing exports, becoming familiar with the latest standards in the field, introducing the capabilities of Iranian companies and preparing the ground for scientific and research cooperation between producers are among the objectives pursued by this exhibition.

India central bank holds up to \$43 billion of excess capital

A panel named by India's central bank to study its capital structure is likely to identify excess reserves of up to 3 trillion rupees (\$43 billion), or 1.5 percent of gross domestic product, Bloomberg reported citing Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

The view from BofAML lends itself to a debate over Reserve Bank of India's reserves, with one school of thought believing that the monetary authority holds surplus capital that can be handed over to the government and the other saying the RBI has insufficient reserves.

BofAML's note comes as the panel led by former central bank Governor Bimal Jalan prepares to submit its report in the coming weeks. While finance ministry officials have supported transfer of surplus reserves to help the government meet budget goals, a central bank-backed thinktank found that the RBI's capital buffer that's below the global average capital to asset ratio.

"Our stress tests throw up a range of one trillion rupees plus only from contingency reserves," Indranil Sen Gupta, chief India economist at BofAML, said in the note. According to him, India's central bank maintains higher contingency reserves as a percentage of its total book compared to its peers in Brazil, Russia and South Africa and a lower cap will release more funds.

As such, if the cap is halved to 3.25 percent from 6.25 percent, currently, that will release 1.3 trillion rupees, Sen Gupta added.

Along with revaluation gains which range from 3 billion rupees to 1.8 trillion rupees, India's central bank would be in a position to transfer the excess reserves to the government which can be used to recapitalize the country's struggling state-run banks, he said.

India's central bank books revaluation gains on the foreign currency assets and gold holdings. Those holdings are currently just above \$400 billion.

Over \$547m worth of commodities traded at IME in a week

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — During weekdays ending up to April 18, approximately, 378,167 million tons (MT) of commodities worth over \$547 million were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME).

According to the report from IME International Affairs and Public Relations Department, last week, on the domestic and export metal and mineral trading floor of IME, 84,352 MT of various products worth close to \$194.7 million were traded.

On this trading floor, 73,300 MT of steel, 6,100 MT of copper, 4,400 MT of aluminum, 120 MT of molybdenum concentrates, 12 MT of precious metal concentrates, 240 MT of zinc ingot as well as 1 kg of gold bullion were traded by customers.

The report declares that on domestic and export oil and petrochemical trading floors of IME, 291,929 MT of different commodities with the total value of \$369 million were traded.

On this trading floor, 104,000 MT of VB



feed stock, 82,957 MT of bitumen, 76,659 MT of polymer products, 26,468 MT of chemical products, 2,140 MT of sulfur, 1,200 MT of

slaps waxes and 10 MT of argon were traded.

Moreover, the agricultural trading floor witnessed trading of 5 kg of saffron strands.

China's Bank of Kunlun to continue co-op with Iran

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Directors of China's Bank of Kunlun announced that the bank will continue cooperation with Iran, Mehr news agency reported.

The Chinese bank announced that it will continue cooperation with non-sanctioned Iranian banks for transactions and also payments related to non-sanctioned goods.

In this due, Central Bank of Iran (CBI) expounded on the latest situation of banking cooperation between Iranian banks and China's Kunlun Bank.

The CBI's statement released on Monday notes that following the recent negotiations made with chief executives of China's Kunlun Bank, no change has been made to the policies of the Chinese bank regarding transactions of non-sanctioned goods with non-sanctioned Iranian banks.

On December 10, Deputy Head and speaker



of Iran-China Joint Chamber of Commerce Majid-Reza Hariri said: "Iran and China resume their joint banking relations from today".

"We needed a new plan for our banking relations with China following the new round of U.S. sanctions imposed on November 4, which impacted our ties," he said, "the issue is resolved now and financial transactions becomes operational today via China's Bank of Kunlun, as the only bank operating between Iran and China."

Inflation rate at 30.6%: statistical center

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — The Statistical Center of Iran announced that the inflation rate in the twelve-month period ended on April 20, which marks the end of the first Iranian calendar month of Farvardin, stood at 30.6 percent, IRNA reported.

The inflation rate in the mentioned period shows a 3.7-percent rise from the figure of the twelve-month period ended on the last day of the previous month.

As reported, the average goods and services Consumer Price Index (CPI) stood at 169.3 in urban areas and at 180.1 in the rural regions in Farvardin, indicating 3.7 percent and 5.8 percent increase, respectively, compared to the previous month.

In the Iranian calendar year 1395 (ended on March 20, 2017), Iran could manage to experience a single-digit inflation rate



after 26 years.

The inflation rate stood at 9.8 percent in that year according to the Statistical Center of Iran and at nine percent according to the Central Bank of Iran (CBI).

But since the last year's calendar month of Khordad (ended on June 22, 2018), when the inflation rate stood at 10.2 percent, as announced by the CBI, the country's experiencing double-digit inflation rates again.

Plastic products main item exported to Iraq

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iranian commercial attaché to Iraq named plastic products as the major goods Iran exports to its neighbor Iraq, Tasnim news agency reported on Sunday.

Nasser Behzad also said that demands for these Iranian products is growing in the Iraqi market.

He has previously said: "Iraqis demand for Iranian goods has increased and as expected Iran's non-oil exports to its western neighbor will go up in future thanks to the

held exhibitions and effective marketing."

Iran and Iraq are determined to boost their trade ties and to meet this target, many delegations from each side have been recently visited the other side.

Heading a high-ranking economic and political delegation, Iraqi Prime Minister Abdul Mahdi visited Iran on April 6 and 7. The visit came after Iranian President Hassan Rouhani's landmark visit to Iraq in March.

During their stay in Tehran, the Iraqi

officials met their Iranian counterparts to discuss different areas of cooperation between the two neighbors.

In that visit, an Iran-Iraq business forum was also held at the place of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA).

The event was attended by several senior officials from both sides including Iran's First Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri, Iraqi Prime Minister Adil Abdul-Mahdi as well as Iranian Energy Minister Reza

Ardakanian, Iraqi Minister of Electricity Louay Al Khateeb, Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammad Hashim Abdul Majid Jasim, Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Rahmani, Head of Basra Chamber of Commerce Majed Mozan, and Gholam-Hossein Shafeie, the chairman of ICCIMA, along with representatives of private companies.

During the business forum, the two sides called for further expansion of the trade ties between the two countries.

China manufacturers taking all necessary measures to survive trade war

Manufacturers in China facing trade barriers are deploying an array of moves to try to keep foreign customers - giving discounts, tapping tax breaks, trimming workforces and, occasionally, shifting production overseas to skirt tariffs.

Tit-for-tat tariffs from the China-United States trade war have been costly for many. Adding to the strain on Chinese manufacturers have been European Union duties on Chinese products ranging from electric bikes to solar panels, Reuters reported.

March brought some encouraging news for manufacturers. Industrial output rose at its fastest rate since mid-2014 and exports rebounded more than expected, while first-quarter growth was better than expected.

Still, some manufacturers who depend on U.S. sales are struggling. At the Canton Fair in southern China this past week, they put on a brave face, but feared they will need to take more measures to survive if Beijing and Washington fail to seal a trade deal.

Botou Golden Integrity Roll Forming Machine Co lost some U.S. customers when tariffs pushed up prices for its machines making light steel girders and bars for building frames, according to Hope Ha, a saleswoman.

It now offers an 8 percent discount as a sweetener. "We have to give discounts because they pay high tariffs," said Ha.

Ball bearing maker Cixi Fushi Machinery Co gave long-term customers a 3-5 percent discount, according to representative Jane Wang.

But that was not enough, so the company suspended a product line generating \$30,000 monthly revenue, she said.

"We will wait for the agreement and then we will see again," she said. Now, the focus is on its main market, the Middle East.

Some have been able to pass along increased costs.



Unavoidable price hikes

California-based ACOPower has increased prices about 10-15 percent on some of its made-in-China, solar-powered refrigerators, said founder Jeffrey Tang.

"We have no choice," he said. "We must increase the price."

Tang says his portable fridges cannot be made affordably in other countries. But if there's no trade agreement, and tariffs rise, the equation could change.

"Maybe I'll just ship all the components to Vietnam to do the assembly."

Aufine Tyre rented and filled a warehouse last year in California in anticipation of anti-dumping duties, which were later imposed. In another move to circumvent tariffs, it will soon open a plant in Thailand to make tires.

Jane Liu, a sales manager, said Aufine plans to send 50 containers a month from Thailand, with 220-240 tires in each, and later expand.

Some companies at the fair cheered Beijing's move to trim China's value-added tax to 13 percent from 16 percent at the start of April, and its pledge of tax rebates for exports. "Things like this give us some protection or else we would

suffer losses," said Wills Yuan, a salesman at Ningbo Yourlite Import & Export Co in Shenzhen, which produces LED lights.

Shenzhen Smarteye Digital Electronics Co, a maker of surveillance cameras, which are not on the U.S. tariff list, was able to drop prices because of the tax break, according to sales manager Simple Yu.

"We save a lot on costs, so we can sell at a low price," he said.

Exchange rate concern

But Smarteye has worries, including increasing rent and labor costs that led it to trim its workforce.

Yu said he's also concerned about the trade war's potential effect on the yuan-dollar exchange rate. "Before it was 6.9 per dollar, now it's 6.7 per dollar. We worry that it will go to 6.5."

Electric bike makers have reacted nimbly to European anti-dumping duties of between 18.8 and 79.3 percent imposed in January. Many have started assembling some bikes in Europe; Zhejiang Enze Vehicle Co does so in Poland and Finland.

"We take the battery, frame, and the other parts, package them up separately and send them over to be assembled by partners," said sales rep Dylan Di.

Anhui Light Industries International Co, which makes products ranging from plastic protractors for math to movie theater popcorn cups, says it has lost more than 1 billion yuan (\$149.2 million) after U.S. President Donald Trump raised import taxes.

Still, company representative Han Geng is optimistic the trade war will get resolved.

"It's not good for America, not good for China," he said, expressing the view that Trump knows the trade war is hurting business and "he will end it".

When that day comes, Han said, "We will sell to America again... We need to make money. Everybody loves money."

South Korea early export data points to more chip woes

South Korean exports slumped further this month, according to preliminary data, led by a drop in shipments of computer chips.

As reported by Financial Times, exports totaled \$29.7bn in the first 20 days of April, down 8.7 percent from the same period a year ago and following from a 5.2 percent year-on-year fall for the preliminary data in

March, according to the Korea Customs Service.

Semiconductor exports through April 20 were down 24.7 percent on the prior corresponding period, offsetting a 4.1 percent increase in car shipments and despite improvements in shipments of telecoms equipment.

The data comes amid a rocky month for

the country's technology sector after Samsung Electronics reported estimated first quarter operating profit down 60 percent, hit by a slump in prices of memory chips and display panels. Several other major South Korean companies including Hyundai Motor, LG Display and chipmaker SK Hynix are slated to report their first quarter financials this week.



The great sin of Amano

By Hossein Yari



TEHRAN - The silence of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) against non-core nuclear activities of Saudi Arabia indicates that it is non-autonomous. Riyadh, as a center for the development of terrorism in the West Asian region, and the main sponsor of terrorist and extremist groups (such as ISIS), is seeking to expand its nuclear program.

Donald Trump's government's support for Saudi Arabia's nuclear activities has raised doubts over the issue. Undoubtedly, everyone knows well that the nature of the Saudi regime is not peaceful. Hence, Saudi Arabia's nuclear activities are also dangerous for the international community. These activities certainly do not have a peaceful aspect.

Everyone knows well that basically Amano has never done his real job as IAEA Director General. Unfortunately, the IAEA Director General has committed a great sin. Undoubtedly, he will be responsible for the dangerous consequences of continuing the destructive nuclear activities of the Saudi terrorist regime.

The absolute obedience of Amano from Washington and Tel Aviv has already existed! While only a week remained to the official announcement of U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA, we witnessed Netanyahu's nuclear show against the Islamic Republic of Iran. In this nuclear and missile show, he argued that Iran, contrary to the JCPOA terms, has moved towards the production of nuclear weapons!

The claim was so ridiculous that even some of Washington and Tel Aviv allies decided not to take any positions on it.

Meanwhile, once again we were witnessing the passive stance taken by the IAEA. Eventually, after a few days of silence, the IAEA, in an indirect and prudent response that came after the claims of the Zionist Regime's Prime Minister against Iran, emphasized that it had "no credible indications of activities in Iran relevant to the development of a nuclear explosive device after 2009".

A spokesman for the International Atomic Energy Agency said in a statement that its board of governors had "declared that its consideration of this issue was closed" after it was presented with a report in December 2015. "The Agency evaluates all safeguards-relevant information available to it. However, it is not the practice of the IAEA to publicly discuss issues related to any such information," he added.

Interestingly enough, Yukio Amano didn't want to take any positions beyond the IAEA's indirect statement, so that the Zionist and U.S. authorities would not blame him for that!

Finally, the IAEA Director General must be accountable for his discriminatory policies and practices regarding Saudi Arabia's nuclear activities.

The vague fate of British-Japanese trade relations

By Bastian Harth

Asia Times - Brexit was supposed to happen by the end of March, but uncertainty prevails. The United Kingdom has been granted permission to delay its exit from the European Union until the end of October, months after the European elections in May. Also, Prime Minister Theresa May announced that she would step down after Brexit has been finalized but a "no-deal" scenario persists.

While Brexit has caused many sleepless nights, policy-makers across the Indo-Pacific region share the view that Brexit might be a "blessing in disguise" for improving strategic partnerships with the United Kingdom. Tokyo-based policy-makers, in particular, have echoed a resounding "yes" - called the "Tokyo Consensus" - as Japan-UK relations regarding military cooperation have not been this comprehensive since before World War I. Both have engaged in defense equipment cooperation, joint research and development missions, and the UK has even deployed its Typhoon fighter aircraft to Misawa Air Base in Japan.

But while Japanese policymakers continue to focus on the strategic and political partnership with the UK, Japanese companies in the UK continue to suffer. In the Harvard Business Review, Paul Maidment wrote that "...the prolonged uncertainty has been agonizing for [Japanese] businesses affected by the political process." Many Japanese companies are relocating their European headquarters to EU countries to continue business as usual within the single European market and to maintain their financial passport rights. Meanwhile, big car manufacturers such as Honda, Toyota, and Nissan have been closing manufacturing plants or halted their production lines of certain cars - potentially threatening the employment of more than 10,000 British workers.

Accordingly, earlier this March, Koji Tsuruoka, the Japanese ambassador to the UK, spoke on behalf of Japanese companies, warning Britain of the dangers of not negotiating a "promising post-Brexit deal."

He said, "These are all global companies and therefore they have other possibilities other than staying... they may relocate. Or they may combine or consolidate. But you can't make those decisions until you know what's going to happen next. This is very important."

He also said that most Japanese companies want to expand their businesses in the UK and elsewhere but without knowing what is going to happen next regarding the UK-EU relationship, potential investments continue to be stalled. Some Japanese firms have continued to invest in their UK businesses, but overall, investment has stagnated since Brexit.

Japanese companies in the UK accumulated an annual investment of \$158 billion, including 634 Japanese firms which report annual sales of \$68 billion, employing 150,000 workers. Thus, Japan remains the second-largest foreign direct investor in the UK with more than 1,300 Japanese companies having shops across the country.

The warning by the Japanese ambassador has not been the first. In 2016, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe warned that the UK would become a "...less attractive destination for Japanese investment." Earlier, in January 2019, he also warned the UK that "the world is watching" at a joint press conference with Prime Minister May. In a survey by the Japan External Trade Organization in 2017, Japanese companies across Europe cited Brexit as their number one concern.

The fears and hops of emancipation in the West: prof. Stephen Eric Bronner



The Iranian Revolution was successful insofar as a sovereign state was established whose government was not indebted to one of the Western "great powers."

tion." That is helpful if both participants in the conversation share the same (liberal) assumptions. Attacking a fascist for engaging in a "performative contradiction," would result in him responding "so what"?

■ What do you mean by "domesticated" when you refer to some Critical Theory thinkers such as Habermas? Do you think they have forgotten the ideal of emancipation?

A: When I speak about the domestication of critical theory, which incidentally became the title of an excellent book by Michael Thompson, I was referring to the general scholasticism, the preoccupation with subjectivity, and the lack of concern with the institutional obstacles to emancipation as well as the revolutions of 1989 and 2011 that are so much a part of our world. In short, I was referring to the retreat of critical theory from the social and the political in favor of the philosophical and the aesthetic. As I argued in Reclaiming the Enlightenment, which appeared in Farsi translation, any meaningful notion of socialism requires commitment to the liberal rule of law and republican institutions.

■ We consider you as belong to the New Critical Theory who intend to return to Marxist tradition and legacy and to revive radical emancipation and utopian thought. Would you please explain your position? What changes do you look for in New Critical Theory?

A: Yes; there has been a revival of radical critical theory, and figures like Marcuse, in Latin America and elsewhere in what was the third world. New forms of critical theory need to re-establish their connection with

the political legacy of the Enlightenment, investigate the (changing) contradictions of capitalism and imperialism, and concern themselves with the foundations of solidarity and emancipatory purpose.

■ Today we witness that many European young men are attracted to ISIS and other extremist groups like PEGIDA. What is the reason of this peculiar phenomenon from your viewpoint? Don't you think that they look for a revolutionary emancipation manifesto which they cannot find in Western societies?

A: The reactionary wave of our time exists in the Occident and the Orient. Underlying both, in my opinion, is a (paranoid) fear of modernity that primarily infects pre-modern classes and the less economically developed sectors of society. It makes sense that these premodern classes should embrace premodern ideologies of racism, sexism, xenophobia and the like (often brought together in the form of conspiracy fetishism) to explain to what has occurred to their traditional forms of life and the disappearance of "the good old days." I tried to talk about this in my most recent book *The Bigot: Why Prejudice Persists*.

■ Today we witness a 'religious turn' in the world even in Western societies. How do you evaluate 'the return of religion from exile' in relation to emancipation? Can religion and religious beliefs play a role in implementing emancipation?

A: There has indeed been much discussion of the "post-secular" society. Quite clearly the religious turn has been strengthened by the decline of Marxism as a theory of resistance.

The resurgence of religion is a complicated matter. Religion has inspired secular visions of emancipation and utopia notions of emancipation that abolish alienation yet, at the same time, it is tied to a traditionalist and other-worldly frame of reference. Religion is indeed still "the sigh of the oppressed" but it is also still "the opium of the masses." For all that, the issue is not religiosity or the belief in God, but rather the political activities of churches, mosques, and synagogues that identify their particular beliefs with those of the community at large. Dogmatism and ambition of this sort is what demands resistance by those committed to a better world.

■ How do you predict the future of emancipation considering current world situation? Are you still optimistic that there are opportunities to criticize Capitalism and Imperialism and to offer emancipatory manifesto?

A: Prospects for emancipation have always been "bad" but they have also always erupted unexpectedly. That was true in 1917 and in 1968 and in 1989 and in 2011, and it is true today. Liberal society still makes it possible to criticize capitalism and imperialism but that society is imperiled. The more progressive the society the better the chance for radical resistance. That is what history shows. And for good reason—a single taste of freedom is never enough; it always sparks the desire for more.

■ How do you evaluate Islamic revolution of Iran as a movement for emancipation and against imperialism? What is your idea as a critical theory thinker about Islamic revolution and its capacity for emancipation?

A: Emancipation and anti-imperialism are not the same same thing. The Iranian Revolution was successful insofar as a sovereign state was established whose government was not indebted to one of the Western "great powers." There is something unique about Iran's ability to fit the republican form of government into a religious frame of reference: different factions contest one another for power, citizens vote, the judiciary has a certain degree of independence, regular elections take place, and the army is subordinate to the state. In short, whatever the obvious limits, the revolution realized the goal of national self-determination for the Iranian people.

Of course, there are deficits with respect to civil liberties, freedom to run for office, and institutional accountability. Corruption exists along with capital punishment, outdated sexual prohibitions, religious dogmatism, and the unequal treatment of women and minorities. Other issues of this sort, pertaining to the rule of law, can be raised as well. Even were these matters fully addressed, however, emancipation would remain incomplete. That is because emancipation or freedom is ever reducible to any set of social institutions. The concept speaks to the moral autonomy of the individual, his or her ability to think differently, embrace unpopular beliefs, and challenge existing norms or, as Kant might have said, emerge from the kind of ethical immaturity whereby people are unable to make crucial life-decisions as they wish. Emancipation is regulative ideal not a fact: the real question is whether Iran is on the right path and, at the end of theirs citizens will have to make that determination.

Has the Chinese economy hit its low point at 6.4% growth?

By Luo Xuan

Global Times - China's GDP rose 6.4 percent in the first quarter, matching the fourth quarter of last year. The market has reached the bottom earlier than expected in the beginning of 2019, and the economy also has hit its low point. However, in both the long and short run, the economic revival has been lackluster.

In the long run, after a 40-year growth miracle, the Chinese economy remains far from finishing its task of shifting gears. Only eight out of 180 economies worldwide have achieved a 30-year-straight high growth miracle. Besides China, the other seven economies ended their high growth period within 40 years. Some have fallen into ultra-low growth or ended up in recessions.

Sharp economic slowdown happened in Japan, which failed to transform its economy. Since the bubbles in the stock market and real estate broke in the early 1990s, Japan's GDP growth has hardly passed 3 percent, and even dipped below zero in some periods. The country got caught in its "lost three decades," with GDP growth in 2018 under one percent. South Korea is one typical example of a smooth slowdown. Its GDP growth has been below 5 percent since 2003 and stabilized at around 3 percent over the past seven years.

China will be no exception. Since its GDP sunk below 7 percent in 2015, it will be difficult to get back that speed. Even the stimulus package only let it bounce back to 6.9 percent. One key variable is that the population dividend has been phasing out. Since the size of the Chinese labor force first showed a decline in 2012, the number of workers has decreased for seven consecutive years by an average of three to four million annually. The employed population in 2018 saw a decline and the trend is expected to continue. The Chinese population is also aging. Seniors above 60 years old number 250 million and that number will be 480 million in 2050.



An aging population will result in a systemic decline in the economy's potential growth capability. There are two direct implications for the economy. First, population aging has pushed up labor costs and led manufacturing to shift out of the country. A Deloitte report showed that China's labor costs had soared fivefold over the 10 years since 2005 and 15-fold since 1995, indicative of a drastic surge in the cost of labor. Currently, Vietnamese workers' average pay has yet to reach half of what their Chinese counterparts make on average. Rising labor costs surely have seen many big global factories moving out of the country.

China has been going through a deep shift over recent years, with many factories shifting toward Southeast Asia. "Made in China" is stealthily becoming "Made in Myanmar" and "Made in Vietnam." For example, Swedish clothing retailer H&M has moved its garment manufacturing facilities from China to Myanmar, while Microsoft has relocated Nokia smartphone production from China to Vietnam, and Samsung has also moved its China factories to Vietnam.

Second, an aging population has weighed on the inelastic demand for housing, thereby eroding the potential of the housing sector as a growth driver. Apart from a decrease in the amount of labor, the numbers of high school graduates and newly registered marriages have also been on a downward spiral since 2013. A trend of falling inelastic demand for housing has followed as a result.

International experience has shown that peaks in the working population nearly coincide with peaks in home prices. For instance, the U.S. labor force reached its peak in 2007 while home prices hit the ceiling in 2006. Japan's labor force peaked in 1992, while the nation's home prices were at their peak in 1990. The fading demographic dividend and weak growth momentum for homes suggest the fundamentals of the housing market have changed dramatically. The golden era of an overall expansion has come to an end, which has been replaced by the silver era of structural optimization. For example, there has been a trend of the economy shaking its dependence on the housing sector.

Over the short term, the economy is indeed seeing signs of stabilization, essentially driven by the steadying of social financing. This indicates an expansion of credit in the real economy, while a rebound in the Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is merely an outcome. If the economy's short-term prospects are judged from a long-term point of view, the first quarter GDP growth - unchanged from the previous quarter's 6.4 percent - clearly indicates a brief respite amid a larger economic cycle of deceleration. History shows that over the course of a short-term policy-enabled economic uptick amid a larger cycle, the pace, continuation and extent of economic stabilization tend to be weak, especially as time elapses.

Compared with the last cycle in 2015, the current round of economic stabilization is expected to be weaker, more mercurial and short-lived. The larger population cycle will also turn out to be a bigger drag on growth.

Scandinavian political economy

Case Study of Sweden and Norway

By Hadi Ajili * & Hanif Ghaffari *

TEHRAN - Study on international political economy of two countries, Sweden and Norway, in international interactions allows us to examine political economy of these two countries as the case study for further understanding of macro patterns of international political economy.

Thus, understanding the power of influence of international developments in two economic and political areas in internal relations of countries refers to one of the necessities in this research. The present research displays how a constant pattern such as the welfare state pattern can change under influence of global relations or loses its some principles, i.e. the vice versa of this rule is true. In other words, we face impact and effectiveness of the two sides of the exchange.

Without doubt, movement toward pattern of welfare state generates behaviors, patterns and considerations at the area of foreign policy of Sweden and Norway, which we will examine them in this research. However this multi-variable equation has not yet on the stage of final settlement and in some cases the relation between Norway and Sweden has not yet defined with the developments in the new world at the area of international political economy, definition for what going on is required to understand this complexity and the reason for creation of some ambiguities. Definition for political economy of Norway and Sweden as two countries with the most welfare worldwide reveals the necessity to conduct this research.

Since Norway and Sweden have a distinctive pattern in their welfare services, measurement of the relation between these distinctive patterns and common patterns which have conventionalized at the international economy is considered a major concern. Ultimately, this research is the necessity for our country to use the interactive pattern existing in Scandinavian countries at the area of international political economy. however, there are huge differences between our country and Scandinavian countries in terms of geographical position, population size and financial facilities, it can use some of the patterns of welfare state in our country and some of the behavioral patterns of Norway and Sweden in international relations to progress the political and economic relations of our country in international system.

■ Introduction

International political economy concept is relatively new and dynamic issue in international relations. When speaking of political economy in International Relations, naturally, by integration of basic economic and political data and consequently, the definition and interpretation of foreign policy actors in the international system are involved.

When you want to review a country's political economy, or beyond, a particular



domain (such as the Caribbean, the Baltics or Scandinavia), you have to process documented data for analysis of international and political behavior of it. Thus the research in the field of political economy – due to the dynamic and applied nature of this domain – has fruitful results.

International political economy deals with the concerns and important areas of economic and political relations between the various actors in the international system, particularly the governments. While private and multinational corporations have undergone dramatic developments subject to large changes such as globalization, public policy in different countries is also affected by such trend. On the other hand, study of mutual reflection of the domestic and international issues of different countries of the world in the domestic and international fields affect their political and economic behavior are among the main things that are considered within the framework of theories of international political economy for proper justification. On the other hand, Scandinavia has politically and economically unique characteristics in the international system and even Europe. Scandinavia is like an island in northern Europe, including Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

What is common to these countries is adherence to the model of the welfare state in these countries – an issue that affects and is affected by the concerns of the actors in their foreign policy. In other words, as long as the economy, and domestic and foreign policies of Scandinavian countries, especially Sweden and Norway is not analyzed accurately, no accurate and comprehensive picture of “international political economy” of these countries can be achieved.

Existence of welfare states in Scandinavia, and some components and specific economic and cultural ideas are what distinguish Scandinavia from other European regions. Evaluating of the relation between the welfare state and economic and international behavior of the two countries, Sweden and Norway

was the main aim of this research. However, due to lack of organized English literature on the Scandinavian region (especially political economy of the region), actually no applied research in our country, at least in the form of a doctoral thesis, has been done in our country.

However, the author hopes that given the relative mastery of language resources and the Nordic countries, a comprehensive thesis on the subject can written that would provide a source for future research in the field of “political economy of Scandinavia”.

When it comes to international political economy, automatically a combination of “economy”, “internal policies”, “International Relations” arise. Therefore, types of view of different countries about the issue of economics or international relations affect their overall international political economy fundamentally.

This rule is also true about the Scandinavian countries. Assessing the relationship between the economy and domestic policy and foreign policy in the Nordic countries in this research is the main concern. Here the concepts and categories like “welfare state” and “Keynesian economics” rise. Also here with specific behaviors of Sweden and Norway in the international system, including the efforts of the two countries to create a democratic peace among European countries, mediation in international conflicts and efforts to create peace in the world are considerable.

Scandinavian countries are characterized in the field of domestic policy by issues including overall commitment to the welfare state on the one hand and disagreements over policies such as increase or decrease of income taxes on the other hand. We have to reach reasonable composition and aggregation of the economic behavior, and domestic and international behavior of Nordic countries, allows us to analyze the economic, political and international impact and deterrence each of areas on two other areas.

In this respect, we are confronted with data, with each containing a “message” in the above three areas (economy, domestic policy and foreign policy) for both Sweden and Norway. Obviously the impact of these three areas on each other is not equal, and based on time, location and nature of the subject, they change. So in the international political economy of both countries Sweden and Norway, we are faced with numerous variables and components that change the orientation and behavior of the economies of the two countries in the international system in different time periods.

However, in this regard, we also saw constants and principles that are not changed even by international conflicts. For example, observance the principle of neutrality in foreign policy Sweden is an issue to which all parties are committed in this country. Or that the overall welfare state structure is fixed in social and economic equations of Scandinavian countries.

Next topic that is discussed in this research is social democracy model and then welfare state (as the product of thought and action arising from social democracy). In this respect, we are facing the historical and theoretical evolution. How Social Democracy as a school of thought has grown over the past century and what is product of realization and the rule of such thinking on the structure of welfare state.

Basically, the study of international political economy of both Sweden and Norway without regard to the concept of social democracy and the welfare state is not possible. International Social Democrats historically faced many ups and downs and structural changes and a lot of thought has occurred among the Social Democrats.

Social Democrats have historically faced many ups and downs and a lot of intellectual and structural changes have occurred among the Social Democrats. Social Democracy's shift from revolutionary thought against capitalism to a reformist thinking under capitalism has abolished many of the basic principles of the movement and replaced it with questions, concerns and goals.

Changes in the main objectives and approaches of the Social Democrats, in Europe led to changes in behavior, speech and action in the welfare state-based community. Essentially welfare state community rose from social democracy rather than socialism. The welfare state does not intend to be against capitalism and liberalism. Here the concept of mixed economy (social-liberal) rises, which has specific and unique characteristics of its own.

* Hadi Ajili - Assistant Professor, Public relations, Allameh Tabataba'i University, Tehran, Iran

* Hanif Ghaffari- PhD student, Public Relations, Allameh Tabataba'i University, Tehran, Iran

Reproduction of racism in the West

1 → This arrogant attitude stems from colonial period which has long lasting implications for post-colonial era. In post-colonial era that we are experiencing nowadays, great powers try to continue and justify the military and economic subordination of the global south by powerful western interests and global hierarchies of domination and subordination, past and present, are made possible through the social construction of racial, gendered and class differences.

We can make sense of Islamophobia clearly in this framework. In post-colonial era we are witnessing the continuity and persistence of colonial forms of power and control. So although the era of formal colonial imposition by force of arms is largely over, the systematic inequality still persist on a global scale.

Such terrorist attacks as we saw in New Zealand done by western extremists, prove that modern school of thoughts like liberalism have failed miserably to eradicate racism, extremism, violence and religious intolerance although they have claimed to do so. Western governments by adopting contradictory policies and double standards not only pave the way for creating, nurturing and arming terrorist groups like ISIS, but also spread the sense of hatred, violence and racial supremacy in their own societies.

We should bear in mind that the cruel terrorist who invaded the two mosques and killed more than 50 innocent Muslims cold-bloodedly, has been raised in western societies where citizens are constantly deluged with messages against Islam and Muslims. So when the old policy of spreading “phobia” and hatred has targeted Islam and Muslims with an unprecedented intensity, it is not strange that we witness such barbaric killings. It seems that as long as power politics dominates international system, perpetual peace and security will be unachievable.

In contrast to western schools of thoughts, Islam preaches equality, justice, unity and brotherhood. The Quran says: O' mankind we created you from a single pare of a male and a female and made you into nations and tribes that you may know each other. It says let there be no compulsion in religion.

It is exactly on the basis of such inclusive Islamic rules and norms that we see in Arba'een Pilgrimage millions of people gather annually from all over the world with different races, religions, colors, gender or social class and they practice living in a transnational society. Another example was the war against ISIS in Syria and Iraq where many Muslim fighters from different nations gathered and stood shoulder to shoulder to establish a transnational army which defeated ISIS and could release the two occupied countries.

That is why western politicians or extremists and racists fear Islam so much as the fastest growing religion in the world because the allure of Islam is attracting many people all over the world even in secular European countries. For example France, the E. U.'s most stridently secular state facing Western Europe's largest Muslim population, has proved to be the most difficult national case. It is interesting that bobby Said pays attention to this fear in his book “A Fundamental Fear: Eurocentrism and Emergence of Islamism” and writes:

The idea that the Islamic resurgence represents a return of the repressed does not take only a political form. At a more diffuse level, the Islamic revival signals a cultural anxiety in the West. The West sees in Islam the distorted mirror of its own past. It marks the rebirth of the God they had killed so that Man could live. The Islamic resurgence marks the revenge of God; it signals the return of faith, the return of all that puts into questions the idea of the progressive liberation of humanity.

As a conclusion, the return and resurgence of political Islam is an undeniable reality and the Christchurch attack can be conceived as a response to it. But the resurgence of Islam and its growth can be considered as a menace and threat only to power-hungry politicians and racists because invite and embrace warmly all open-minded people with different ideas from all over the world.

Washington's Propensity for Recklessness in Yemen

TEHRAN (FNA) - According to Oxfam, international aid agencies and human rights groups, the decision by President Donald Trump to veto a Congress resolution to end U.S. military support for the Saudi-led war on Yemen sends a sobering message to Yemeni families caught in the daily hell of war: “U.S. administration simply does not care. They see the end to their suffering a little further out of reach.”

The aid agencies warn that Trump's decision to continue U.S. military involvement will escalate the ongoing war in the trouble-plagued region. They also say the weapons used by the Saudis in the reckless bombing of mostly civilian targets, including schools and hospitals, are largely from the United States: F-15 fighter planes, Bell helicopters, drones, air-to-surface missiles, M60 battle tanks, laser-guided bombs and heavy artillery.

However, Trump's veto on April 16 is designed to ensure the uninterrupted flow of these American-made weapons into the war zone described by the United Nations as the “world's worst humanitarian disaster”.

In its latest report released last month, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has also said that arms imports by Middle Eastern countries increased by 87 percent between 2009–13 and 2014–18 and accounted for 35 per cent of global arms imports in 2014–18. Saudi Arabia became the world's largest arms importer in 2014–18, with an increase of 192



percent compared with 2009–13. Currently, the U.S. is one of the largest arms suppliers to Saudi Arabia.

Justifying U.S. arms sales to Saudi Arabia, Trump has repeatedly said that if the U.S. doesn't sell weapons, the Chinese and the Russians will sell them. His argument is basically irrelevant, and avoids the question of whether the U.S. wants to be complicit in supporting the killing of civilians in Yemen. The United Nations, aid agencies and Congress think the U.S. should not be and that's the real argument here: The U.S. being complicit in Saudi war crimes

That said, in a statement released April 17, the 15-member UN Security Council reiterated their call on the warring parties to fulfil their obligations under international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including ensuring the protection of civilians.

They expressed deep concern at the devastating impact this conflict has had on civilians, especially Yemeni children.

They reminded the Saudis and their allies of their obligations towards children affected by the war, and called on them to engage constructively with the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict to implement their commitments and obligations. At any rate, Trump's veto only encourages a Saudi regime that has shown a propensity for recklessness in Yemen, a recklessness that the Armed Conflict and Location Event Data Project says has killed more than 70,000 in Yemen just since January 2016. At least 10,000 people were killed just in the past five months.

As the war grinds on and civilian casualties mount, the Trump administration must answer for

its support of the Saudi campaign at the UN, which is prolonging the conflict. Even if Saudi Arabia balks at ending its airstrikes, it can't keep up the war without U.S. weaponry, intelligence, and logistical help. The Trump administration should stop this bloodshed.

As for the UN, the suffering in Yemen will not stop unless the world body stops supporting Saudi Arabia with top seats at the Human Rights Council and tacit consent. Yemen needs more than joint statements and emergency food aid appeals. UN statements need to follow with actions and aid has to reach the Yemenis.

This entire war has gone by without much comment and resolution at the Security Council. In fact, the opposite has happened as Saudi Arabia's depleted stores of munitions have been hastily replenished by permanent members France, the UK and the U.S. These past months - despite evidence that these weapons have been used to massacre civilians - they have continued to supply Saudi Arabia with arms.

In these difficult times, the people of Yemen should realize that no one is going to help them if they don't help themselves. America's aggression which began with Obama continues under Trump and will certainly be extended to the next administration. Imperial Washington has flat-out gone mad in its delusional self-righteousness and ridiculous claims that the wanton destruction inflicted on Yemen and the veto by Trump are justified.

First Announcement												
<p>N.I.O.C 1398.340</p>		<p>Call for public tender (First/Second publish) Two Stages (semi compressed) tender Subject of Tender: (TUBING PIPES 5-1/2"</p>										
<p>Tender descriptions:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>The Tender holder</th> <th>Registration No. throughout national electronic tendering system</th> <th>Tender No. /Indnt No.</th> <th>Estimated value (Rial)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>National Iranian Drilling Company</td> <td>3197403</td> <td>TenderNo. PFP/AZD/97/023 Indnt No: 48-22-9722005</td> <td>18,400,200,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				The Tender holder	Registration No. throughout national electronic tendering system	Tender No. /Indnt No.	Estimated value (Rial)	National Iranian Drilling Company	3197403	TenderNo. PFP/AZD/97/023 Indnt No: 48-22-9722005	18,400,200,000	
The Tender holder	Registration No. throughout national electronic tendering system	Tender No. /Indnt No.	Estimated value (Rial)									
National Iranian Drilling Company	3197403	TenderNo. PFP/AZD/97/023 Indnt No: 48-22-9722005	18,400,200,000									
<p>• Qualitative evaluation of tenderers</p>												
<p>Method</p> <p>Based on minimum scoring (60) made in award criterion reflected in the tenderers pre-qualification forms.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The tenderers who have more than four (4) active contracts with NIDC are not allowed to attend in this tender. The tenderers who have more than two (2) active contracts with same subject (exactly compliance with this subject) with NIDC are not allowed to attend in this tender. 												
<p>• Purchasing & Submitting</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Tender Document Distribution Company</th> <th colspan="2">The distribution of the documents will be started one day after the publishing of second advertisement and ended on the following tenth day thereof.</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Distribution Place</th> <th>Submitting Method</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="2"></td> <td>A) Hall No. 316, 3th floor, Foreign Procurement Dept. (DRILLING PROJECTS), National Iranian Drilling Company, After Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. 06134148329</td> <td rowspan="2"> Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of Iranian Rials under account number 4001114004020491 (Shaba No. IR520100004001114004020491) in name of "NIDC Income Centralized Fund" issued by I. R. Of Iran Central Bank. Submitting format Request for the purpose of receiving Tender Documents </td> </tr> <tr> <td>H) Hall No. 107, 1st floor, Tender committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. Tel: +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Tender Document Distribution Company	The distribution of the documents will be started one day after the publishing of second advertisement and ended on the following tenth day thereof.		Distribution Place	Submitting Method		A) Hall No. 316, 3th floor, Foreign Procurement Dept. (DRILLING PROJECTS), National Iranian Drilling Company, After Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. 06134148329	Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of Iranian Rials under account number 4001114004020491 (Shaba No. IR520100004001114004020491) in name of "NIDC Income Centralized Fund" issued by I. R. Of Iran Central Bank. Submitting format Request for the purpose of receiving Tender Documents	H) Hall No. 107, 1st floor, Tender committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. Tel: +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569
Tender Document Distribution Company	The distribution of the documents will be started one day after the publishing of second advertisement and ended on the following tenth day thereof.											
	Distribution Place	Submitting Method										
	A) Hall No. 316, 3th floor, Foreign Procurement Dept. (DRILLING PROJECTS), National Iranian Drilling Company, After Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. 06134148329	Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of Iranian Rials under account number 4001114004020491 (Shaba No. IR520100004001114004020491) in name of "NIDC Income Centralized Fund" issued by I. R. Of Iran Central Bank. Submitting format Request for the purpose of receiving Tender Documents										
	H) Hall No. 107, 1st floor, Tender committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. Tel: +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569											
<p>• Tender Guarantee</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Value of guarantee</th> <th>920,000,000 Rial/ 19,320 Euro</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Type of guarantee</td> <td> • ✓ Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. • ✓ Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt under account number 4001114006376636 (Shaba No. IR350100004001114006376636) in name of "NIDC saving account" by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran. • "NIDC saving account" by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran. </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Duration of credit & quotation</td> <td>Tender Guarantee and quotation should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for onetime in initial validity duration.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Value of guarantee	920,000,000 Rial/ 19,320 Euro	Type of guarantee	• ✓ Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. • ✓ Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt under account number 4001114006376636 (Shaba No. IR350100004001114006376636) in name of "NIDC saving account" by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran. • "NIDC saving account" by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran.	Duration of credit & quotation	Tender Guarantee and quotation should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for onetime in initial validity duration.			
Value of guarantee	920,000,000 Rial/ 19,320 Euro											
Type of guarantee	• ✓ Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. • ✓ Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt under account number 4001114006376636 (Shaba No. IR350100004001114006376636) in name of "NIDC saving account" by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran. • "NIDC saving account" by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran.											
Duration of credit & quotation	Tender Guarantee and quotation should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for onetime in initial validity duration.											
<p>(Name of department) More of this & other tenders are accessible by click on: www.nidc.ir http://sapp.ir/nidc.ir</p>												
<p>تهران تایمز نوبت اول ۹/۲/۳ نوبت دوم ۹/۲/۴</p>												

Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

Apartment

Apt in Niavaran
brand new, 4th floor, 150 sq.m
2 Bdrs., unfurn, spj, parking
\$3000

Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Zafaranih
1st floor, 135 sq.m with 3 Bdrs.
unfurn, spj, parking
\$1800

Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Jordan
almost new, 4th floor, 100 sq.m
2 Bdrs., furn, balcony
storage, parking
\$1500

Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in North Dibaji
2nd floor, 320 sq.m, 4 Bdrs.
semi furn, equipped kitchen
terrace, good light
outdoor swimming pool renovated,
parking, **\$3000**

Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Elahieh
4th floor, 150 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.
2 bath rooms, fully furn
balcony, swimming pool
Jacuzzi, elevator, billiard table
Parking, **\$1700**

Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Velenjak
2nd floor, 200 sq.m, 2 Bdrs. fully
furn clean furn
elevator, storage, parking
\$1600

Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Villa

Villa in North Kamranieh
duplex, 750 sq.m land, 500 sq.m
built up, unfurn, servant quarter,
renovated
2 parking spots
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Triplex Villa in Jordan
1380 sq.m land, 2000 sq.m built
up, furn, outdoor swimming pool,
yard, parking
4-side entrances
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Super Luxury Villa
in Shahrak Qarb
brand new, 800 sq.m land
700 sq.m built up, 4master
bedrooms, super luxury furn
spj, massage room, beautiful roof
garden, play ground for kids, city
view, parking
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Villa in Aqdasieh
triplex, 750 sq.m built up
6 Bdrs., nice garden
outdoor swimming pool
servant quarter, parking
\$6500

Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Villa in Niavaran
900 sq.m land, 1000 sq.m built up,
8 Bdrs., 7 bath rooms
3 kitchens, 3 big reception saloons
with one suit for servant, Jacuzzi,
swimming pool
outdoor / indoor parking
\$12000

Ms.Sara: 09128103207



Holder of
ISO 9001:2008
ISO 10004:2012
ISO 10002:2014

From Oxford Cert Universal

**Best Consultation
Best Services, Best Result**

Intl. Department Manager "Tina 09128103205"

Tel: 22662452-8, Fax: 22667173

Hot Line: 28141
info@parsdiplomatic.com
www.parsdiplomatic.com

Building & Office

Whole Building in Darous
administrative office license
brand new, 6 floors, each floor
one apt, each apt 185 sq.m with
2 Bdrs., elevator, parking
\$8000

Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Whole Building
in South Kamranieh
20 apts, 216 sq.m to 204 sq.m
70 Bdrs. totally, spj, gym
industrial kitchen, restaurant
driver's room, security system
20 parking spots
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Office in Vanak Square
administrative office license
almost new, 6 floors, 6 units
1000 sq.m flat, 4 lines, roof top cafe
shop, 10 parking spots
\$40 per sq.m

Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Whole Building in Zafar
3 floors, each apt 200 sq.m
clean & nice, parking, storage
\$3800 totally

Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Whole Building in Zafaranih
6 floors, 6 apts, each apt
230 sq.m with 3 Bdrs.
spj, parking, **\$16000**

Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Office in Saadat Abad
administrative office license
4 units, 750 sq.m, parking
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Ideal Offers

Apt in Mahmoodieh
2nd floor, 350 sq.m, 4 Bdrs. lobby
furn, spj, lobby, parking
\$3400

Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Jordan
2nd floor, 140 sq.m with
Bdrs., furn, parking 2
\$1000

Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Qeytarieh
2nd floor, 110 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.
furn, equipped kitchen
storage, parking
\$900

Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Villa in Sheykh Bahayi
triplex, 500 sq.m built up
3 Bdrs., outdoor swimming pool,
Jacuzzi, no over look
completely renovated, parking
\$4000

Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Jordan
3rd floor, 46 sq.m, 1 Bdr.
furn, storage, parking
\$500

long & short term
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in North Shirazi
one apt 120 sq.m on 7th floor with 2
Bdrs., another apt
185 sq.m, on 5th floor with
3 Bdrs. furn balcony, parking
\$1000 & \$1500

Ms.Sara: 09128103207

مالکین محترم

ملک های فروش و اجاره ای خود را (آپارتمان،
ویلا، مستغلات، اداری و تجاری) به ما بسپارید.

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت

مالکین محترم املاک مبله و غیر مبله، مسکونی، اداری و تجاری، ویلا و مستغلات
شما را جهت اجاره به سفارتخانه ها و شرکت های خارجی نیازمندیم.

مالکین محترم

ویلاهای شما را جهت اجاره به منزل سفیر و مدیران
شرکت های بین المللی در مناطق شمالی تهران
نیازمندیم.

SHANON
Shanon_tari@yahoo.com
+989121907875
Tel : 88510081

Velenjak (\$1900) 3bdrs, & S/p	Elahieh Villa (\$5000)
Farmanieh (\$2200) S/p, S, J	Tajrish Villa (\$3500)
Zaferanieh (\$2400) S/p, S, J	Jordan Villa (\$6000)
Both 4bdrs, 280sq.m, & F.F	All 6bdrs, S/p, & yard
Jordan (\$1300) 3bdrs, & F.F	Vanak Office (\$30 per sq.m)
	300sq.m, 4bdrs, & pkg lots

Don't Waste Your Time

Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties

www.DeltaHOME.ir

The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners

HOME
Real Estate

Member of DELTA Real Estate Group
(021) 88888865

Advertising Dept:

times1979@gmail.com

+9821 430 51 450

www.tehrantimes.com

TEHRAN TIMES

Iran's Leading
International Daily

Advertising Dept

Tel:
021 - 430 51 450

TEHRAN TIMES
Iran's Leading International Daily

ENGLISH PERSIAN GLOSSARY

واژه نامه اصطلاحات مطبوعات
انگلیسی - فارسی

The Tehran Times new pocket-sized glossary is now available on the market. The reader-friendly is a rich source of the most common journalistic terminology collected by the daily's retired staff.

It can benefit a wide range of tastes from students to professional journalists. Persian equivalents have been given for all entries, including idioms and expressions. The glossary also includes example sentences for entries the authors thought it would be a bit difficult to learn.

For more information contact:

Tel: 021 - 430 51 450
times1979@gmail.com

TRAPPIST planets may be habitable in weirder ways than we thought, new studies find

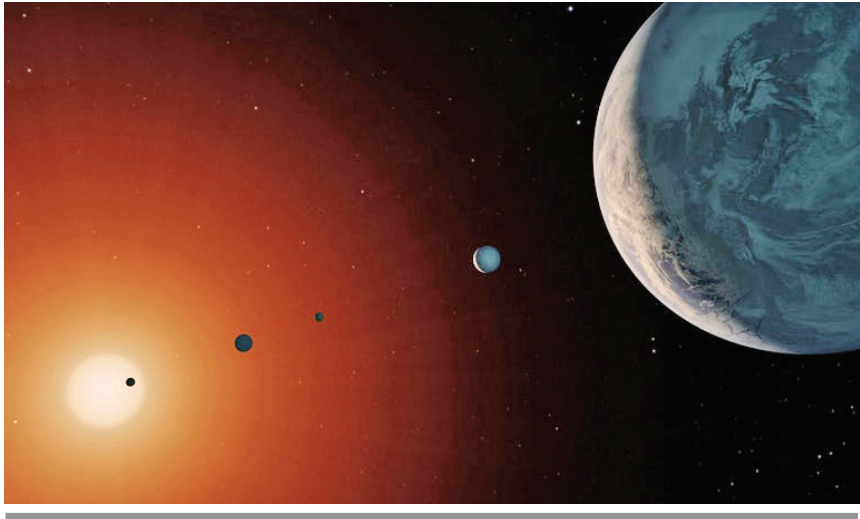
Transiting Planets and Planetesimals Small Telescope (TRAPPIST)-1 is one of the most fascinating planetary systems discovered so far. Located just 40 light-years away, seven roughly Earth-sized planets are orbiting a red dwarf star, with three of them within the habitable zone. Now, two new studies have looked at the habitability of these planets, with a focus on radiation from the star and tides caused by the other planets. Strangely enough, these factors could help make them more liveable.

One of this system's quirks is that all seven of its planets, dubbed TRAPPIST-1b through -1h, orbit very close to the star, and each other. In fact, all of them could quite comfortably fit between Mercury and the sun. That might sound like it'd be way too hot for life, but luckily TRAPPIST-1 is a relatively cool red dwarf, so its habitable zone is much closer.

The flipside to that is that it's a very active star, throwing off far more high-energy particles than our own sun does. This radiation has the potential to break apart complex molecules that are important to life, effectively sterilizing these planets before life can even get started.

High-energy particles

One of the new studies set out to model just how high-energy particles like protons move after they're released by TRAPPIST-1. By simulating their interactions with the star's magnetic field, they found that the protons would bombard the fourth planet, TRAPPIST-1e, in particular. Unfortunately, this



Other studies have suggested that the TRAPPIST planets could be water worlds, and deep oceans could protect also life from this radiation.

is widely considered to be the best candidate for life in the system.

"You expect that the particles would get trapped in these tightly wrapped magnetic field lines, but if you introduce turbulence, they can escape, moving perpendicularly to the average stellar field," says Federico Fraschetti, lead author of the study. The "flux of

these particles in the TRAPPIST-1 system can be up to 1 million times more than the particles flux on Earth."

Here on Earth, our magnetic field helps shield us from these potentially dangerous particles, so maybe a similar thing is happening on TRAPPIST-1e. But the team calculated that the planet would need a magnetic field

that's hundreds of times stronger than the Earth's to keep the radiation at bay, which doesn't seem plausible.

The TRAPPIST planets

Interestingly enough though, that doesn't necessarily rule out life. Other studies have suggested that the TRAPPIST planets could be water worlds, and deep oceans could protect also life from this radiation.

The planets are also tidally locked, meaning one side always faces the star while the other never sees the light of day. Normally that would suggest that each face is either too hot or too cold for life, but in this case it could help. Especially with tidal forces at play, as the second study investigates.

Just like the Moon does to Earth, the planets could be affecting the tides of any water on the surface, as well as molten rock underground.

"It's such a unique process that no one's thought about in detail before, and it's kind of amazing that it's actually a thing that happens," says Hamish Hay, lead author of the study.

The team found that the two innermost TRAPPIST planets orbit close enough together that they can raise powerful tides on each other, which could be strong enough to fuel volcanic activity. That in turn can help sustain an atmosphere.

That kind of tidal heating could also help transfer heat to the cold night-side of the planets, potentially making them more habitable.

(Source: newatlas.com)

Team discovers flower that seems to remember when pollinators will come calling



Can you remember what you did yesterday? If not, you might want to take a lesson from *Nasa poissoniana*, a star-shaped flowering plant from the Peruvian Andes with an unusual skill set.

These plants can gymnastically wave around their stamens — the organs they use for fertilization — to maximize the distribution of their pollen. More surprisingly, a study published last month in *Plant Signaling and Behavior* suggests that individual plants can adjust the timing of these movements based on their previous experiences with pollinators. In other words, they remember the past, and try to repeat it.

The discovery joins others recently painting an ever-broader picture of what plants can sense, learn and do. The study, although small and preliminary, "presents a promising and intriguing new system to study plant memory," said Peter Crisp, a plant geneticist at the University of Minnesota who was not involved.

Nasa poissoniana belongs to a subfamily of plants called *Loasoideae*. They're known for their polychrome blooms, as well as for the "really painful" stinging hairs on their stems, says Tilo Henning, one of the study's lead authors.

The complexity of flowers

Dr. Henning, a researcher at the Botanic Garden and Botanical Museum in Berlin, has been working with *Loasoideae* for nearly two decades, along with his collaborator Maximilian Weigend of the University of Bonn in Germany. From the start, the "com-

plexity of the flowers thrilled us," he said. So did their tendency toward thigmotaxis, or triggered movement.

While other plants may curl their leaves or catapult their seeds, many species of *Loasoideae* move their stamens: long, skinny filaments that are capped with pollen. *Loasoideae* stamens start out splayed, bunched up in groups and tucked within the flower's petals. Over the course of the flower's life, the individual stamens swing one by one into the center of the flower, where they stand tall and offer fresh pollen to insect visitors.

It takes less than three minutes for a *Loasoideae* stamen to travel from the outside in — nimble by plant standards. In certain species, this movement can be provoked by light and temperature, or by the pollinators themselves. When a bee rummages around for nectar in the flower's center, it triggers the next stamen to come sweeping in, ready for a new bee, or the previous bee's return. In this way, the flowers maximize their chances of transferring pollen to many different flowers.

Divided into several groups

For this latest study, the researchers divided *Nasa poissoniana* into several groups. "Pollinators" — in this case, humans with probes — visited the first group every 15 minutes, rustling the flowers' nectar-containing parts. They bothered the second group every 45 minutes. Other groups were left alone, as controls.

(Source: NYT)

Long-term study shows continuing impacts of Deepwater Horizon oil spill



Nine years ago - April 20, 2010 -- crude oil began leaking from the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig into the Gulf of Mexico in what turned out to be the largest marine oil spill in history. A long-term study suggests the oil is still affecting the salt marshes of the Gulf Coast and reveals the key role that marsh grasses play in the overall recovery of these important coastal wetlands.

Conducting the study was a multi-institutional research team funded in part by the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative, a 10-year independent program established through a \$500 million financial commitment from BP. The team began sampling soon after the spill was finally contained, and continue their work today. Their most-recent article -- in *Estuaries and Coasts* -- reports on the first six and a half years of sampling post-spill.

Johnson, an assistant professor at VIMS and expert in salt marsh invertebrates, says "Our study highlights the crucial role that plants play in the recovery of important links in the Gulf of Mexico's coastal food web." Those links ultimately connect to the fish and shellfish that support the region's economy and culture.

Plant-like organisms

Two plants dominate healthy Gulf Coast salt marshes -- the smooth cordgrass *Spartina alterniflora* and the black needlerush *Juncus roemerianus*. Also abundant on the marsh surface are single-celled, plant-like organisms that scientists collectively refer to as benthic microalgae, while a suite of small invertebrates -- amphipods, copepods,



nematodes, snails, worms, and others -- swim, hop, and crawl among the grass blades or burrow in the underlying root zone.

The team studied these organisms by measuring their abundance and biomass in heavily oiled, moderately oiled, and oil-free areas of Louisiana's Barataria Bay, using both surface plots and shallow cores. Sampling took place at roughly 6-month intervals between 2011 and 2016.

The researchers' early sampling showed that nearly all the plants in heavily oiled areas died, while benthic microalgae and burrowing invertebrates suffered significant reductions. Their later sampling showed that marsh recovery was led by benthic microalgae and *Spartina* -- which began to show significant above-ground growth within two to three years.

Importantly, it was only after *Spartina* started its comeback that recovery of the invertebrate community began in earnest. "Plants are the foundation of salt marshes," explains Johnson. "Marsh grasses facilitate colonization by burrowing invertebrates; fuel the food web, provide animal habitat, bind the soil, and slow water flow. Without plants there is no marsh, and there is no marsh recovery following a spill without plants leading the way."

The team's findings have important implications for responding to any future spills. Fleeger says "our findings indicate that mitigation strategies for any future spills should include the planting of foundation species such as *Spartina*."

(Source: natureworldnews.com)

An exotic microbe and an unusual extraction process may add up to an economical way to make a promising biofuel

Taking a step closer to a "green" replacement for fossil fuels, a research team that includes a chemical engineer at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) has developed a novel process using an unusual solvent and an exotic microorganism that may make it possible to manufacture isobutanol and other biofuels more economically.

Isobutanol, like ethanol, is an alcohol, but its lower water solubility (which reduces the risk of corrosion associated with many biofuels) and higher energy density (which translates to increased miles per gallon), have created considerable interest in the compound's potential use as a gasoline additive and even a gasoline replacement.

But manufacturing isobutanol, which is typically produced using biotechnology, has proven difficult and costly.

"With the growing threat of climate change and our dependence on fossil fuels and petroleum-producing countries, there is increasing interest in using isobutanol as a gasoline additive in place of ethanol, which can significantly lower a vehicle's fuel efficiency," said Michael Timko, associate professor of chemical engineering at WPI. "But we haven't found an environmentally friendly, efficient, or inexpensive way to produce it."



In a paper published recently in *Nature Communications* ("Engineered Microbial Biofuel Production and Recovery Under Supercritical Carbon Dioxide"), Timko and colleagues describe a novel method for producing and extracting isobutanol that uses supercritical carbon dioxide as a solvent and a bacterium that can thrive in this harsh, antimicrobial liquid.

High-pressure carbon dioxide

The team genetically engineered the bacterium,

which was isolated from a naturally occurring reservoir of high-pressure carbon dioxide, by adding genes for the production of isobutanol. They then showed how supercritical carbon dioxide could overcome two important problems that plague conventional biofuel production methods: low yields and bacterial contamination.

Timko, who received a National Science Foundation CAREER Award in 2016 for his work with biofuels, analyzed the process and showed that the biofuel could be made using five times less energy compared to traditional manufacturing processes, making it less expensive, more efficient and more environmentally friendly.

"We've done the calculations to prove that this process works and it works well," he said. "We had an intuition that this would work but the question was if it would be energy efficient. Turns out, it is. The art of the research has been creating the extraction technique."

Virtually every way to separate mixtures had previously been tried on isobutanol, but we came up with the right process."

(Source: phys.org)

Fish under threat release chemicals to warn others of danger

Fish warn each other about danger by releasing chemicals into the water as a signal, research by the University of Saskatchewan has found.

The researchers discovered that wild fish release chemicals called 'disturbance cues' to signal to other fish about nearby dangers, such as predators.

The findings may have implications for fish conservation efforts across the globe.

"Disturbance cues may help to explain why some fish populations crash after they decline past a certain point," said Kevin Bairos-Novak, a graduate student member of the research team.

While researchers have been aware that fish release chemicals into the water for 30 years, this is the first time their use has been studied.



The findings, involving researchers from the university biology department and the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, are published in the *Journal of Animal Ecology*.

Fish signaled most when in the presence of familiar fish, but signaled far less or not at all when in the presence of strangers, or when on their own.

The signals provoked a 'fright response' in fish they knew, including freezing, dashing about and then shoaling tightly together. Fish use this behavior to defend themselves against predators.

"When minnows were present alongside familiar minnows, they were much more likely to produce signals that initiated close grouping of nearby fish, a strategy used to avoid being eaten by predators," said Bairos-Novak, who is now at James Cook University, Australia.

Disturbance cues are voluntarily released by prey after being chased, startled or stressed by predators.

Fathead minnows, caught at a lake, were placed in groups with familiar fish, unfamiliar fish or as isolated individuals. The research team then simulated a predator chase. The fish responded by shoaling, freezing and dashing when they received a signal from a group they knew. But they did not take significant defensive action when receiving cues from unfamiliar fish or isolated minnows.

(Source: eurekalert.org)

Hawaiian hibiscus flower thought extinct rediscovered by drone

A hibiscus flower species was rediscovered in the Hawaiian island of Kauai a decade after it was last seen alive. The island of Kauai is known as a biodiversity hotspot in the Hawaiian islands.

During a late January drone surveillance of the Kalalau Valley on Kauai, Hawaii, researchers rediscovered a small colony of three *Hibiscadelphus woodii* (H. woodii) on a vertical cliff face. It was in 2009 that the species was last seen alive, and has since been listed in the IUCN Red List of Endangered Species as an extinct relative of the hibiscus.

Previous efforts to propagate H. woodii failed despite using several different methods, so the rediscovery gives hope, not just for the H. woodii, but for other species believed to be extinct as well. Furthermore, it also highlights the importance of drone surveillance in botanical surveys, particularly in rough terrain.

"Drones are unlocking a treasure trove of unexplored cliff habitat, and while this may be the first discovery of its kind, I am sure it won't be the last," said Ben Nyberg of the National Tropical Botanical Garden.

H. woodii grows as a shrub or small tree, and produces yellow flowers that turn purple as they mature. It was first discovered in 1991 on a cliff in the Kalalau Valley, and was officially named in 1995. This increased the hibiscus to seven species, all of which can only be found in the Hawaiian islands. By 2012, another discovery in Maui became the eighth hibiscus species, but by then six had already gone extinct.

The cliff location in which H. woodii grows is not typically accessible to humans and animals such as goats that typically pose a threat, but invasive plant species, introduced animals, and rock slides do affect the species. In fact, it was the falling boulders in the late 1990s that led to the species' demise.

(Source: techtimes.com)

Mind-boggling image shows how far into space humanity's voice has actually reached

It's the big mystery: Intelligent life should be out there in the universe, so why haven't we found any evidence for it? This question is called the Fermi paradox, and there are a few potential answers.

Space is super-duper big, and humanity's reach into it? It's super-duper small.

The galaxy in the image is a reconstruction of the Milky Way, if it were about 110,000 light-years in diameter (more recent research suggests it's even bigger than that).


The itty-bitsy blue dot is how far our radio signals have travelled from Earth - a diameter of about 200 light-years.

The invention of radio was the work of many great minds over the course of several decades during the 19th century, but the first transmission was made in 1895. Radio broadcasting came along a few years later.

The first intentional radio transmission to space, called the Arecibo message, wasn't until 1974, but we've been leaking radio signals into space for over 100 years.


Many of those are probably garbled by the ionosphere. Even those that aren't (like Earth-space communications), by the time they're 100 light-years away, are so attenuated and weak that they're basically undetectable anyway.

(Source: sciencealert.com)



N.I.O.C
1398.420

First Announcement
Call for public tender:
Two-Stages (compressed-semi compressed) tender renewal
Subject of Tender: (Provision of Three tugboats and a guided ship for moving drilling rigs)



National Iranian Drilling Company

* Tender descriptions:

The Tender holder	Registration No. through national electronic tendering system	Tender No. /Indent No.	Estimated value (Rial/Euro)
National Iranian Drilling Company	3/191/447	SH K97/- 06 / 33 - 5274	(6,779,850) AED

* Qualitative evaluation of tenderers

Method	
	1. Based on minimum scoring made in award criterion reflected in the tenderers pre-qualification forms. (60 score) – Technical evaluation (60 score) 2. Tenderers which has a four active current contract with NIDC, will not be allowed to participate in other tenders . 3. Tenderers which have a two active current contract with same subject (exactly same subject) with NIDC, will not be allowed to participate in other tenders.

* Purchasing & Submitting

Tender Document Distribution by Company	Distribution Place	Submitting Method
	Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of 990,000 Iranian Rials under account number 4001114004020491 in name of "NIDC Incomes Centralized Fund" issued by I.R. of Iran Central Bank Submitting format Request for the purpose of receiving Tender Documents
Documents Receiving Method	Closing date	
		Days after the last time of Purchasing 14
	Address	
		Hall No. 107, 1 st floor, Tender Committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. Tel: +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569

* Tender Guarantee

Value of guarantee	
	266,766 AED or 3,051,000,000 IRR
Type of guarantee	✓ Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. ✓ Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt under account number 4001114006376636 in name of "NIDC saving account" by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran.
Duration of credit & quotation	Tender Guarantee should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one time in initial validity duration.

(Name of department)

More of this & other tenders are accessible by click on: www.nidc.ir http://sapp.ir/nidc_pr

تهران تايمز نویت اول ۹۸/۲/۴ نویت دوم ۹۸/۲/۳

Knowledge-based technologies can decrease flood losses

1 → The product can meet the demands of flood stricken and decrease the usage of water bottles, which is neither economic nor environment friendly.

Tillage technology

Some fields were corrupted due to erosion caused by the recent fields. There are different methods for renovating the fields, which were destroyed.

The Iranian knowledge-based companies provide methods for tillage system in order to prepare the fields for next seeding.

Tillage that is deeper and more thorough is classified as primary, and tillage that is shallower and sometimes more selective of location is secondary.

documenting via drones

Unmanned aerial system would be a great help in imaging and estimation of the loss and damages during the natural disasters.

Such estimations and images would be a great help to prevent future losses and control the damages.

In past two decades, the satellite imagery was great solution to monitor natural disasters. In contrast, drones can capture aerial imagery at a far higher resolution, more quickly and at much lower cost. And un-



like satellites, members of the public can actually own drones.

Aerial seeding

Aerial seeding, as a technique of sowing

seeds by spraying them through aerial mechanical means such as a drone, plane or helicopter, is also a great way to cultivate the saturated regions after the flood.

Besides, the aerial seeding is an effective method to reduce erosion hazards and suppress growth of invasive plant species.

Iranian knowledge-based companies have already the knowledge and equipment to meet this demand for flood stricken area.

The major advantage of aerial seeding is the efficient coverage of a large area in the least amount of time. Aerial seeding facilitates seeding in areas that otherwise would be impossible to seed with traditional methods, such as land that is too hard to reach by non-aircraft or ground conditions being far too wet.

According to data from the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, these staggering figures are the total economic and human impact of global disasters from 2002 to 2012. With a steady growth in annual climate-related disasters, emergency management strategies are of high priority. Disaster management technologies is a must, which should be on high agenda to decrease losses in the future.

New emerging technologies and knowledge-based companies suggest up-to-date ways to turn the threats of flood into opportunities

National ICT festival slated for May

TECHNOLOGY TEHRAN – The 8th national festival on information and communication technology (ICT) will be held on May 17, Mehr reported on Monday.

The festival will be held in six sections namely top startups in the field of ICT, e-services, e-business, research on ICT, top ICT companies, space technology and space-based services.

For the first time, startups providing space-based technologies and services, will compete at the festival.

The space-based startups active in different fields of agriculture, insurance, oil, healthcare, energy, crisis management, environment, ur-



ban and rural management can compete at the space-based section of the festival.

The applicants that use GPS, communication bandwidth and remote sensing satellites as well as producing and designing space technologies will be competing at the space-based section of the festival.

Startups to attend TIBF, update cultural ecosystem

TECHNOLOGY TEHRAN – About 50 to 100 cultural startups will attend the 32nd Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF), the TIBF spokesman Ayyub Dehqankar said, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

The startups at the TIBF, which will open on April 24 and will run until May 4, aim to promote the culture of using modern technologies.

By their participation, the startups will pave the way for new technologies in the publication industry, he said.

Over 800 publishers from about 30 countries, including Japan, Germany, India, Russia, Serbia, Lebanon and



Armenia, are scheduled to attend the book fair.

China, which is the special guest of the event this year, will participate in the Tehran book fair with 78 publishers and a number of writers, translators and book illustrators.

Knowledge-based companies create 140,000 jobs: official

1 → In mid-April, the vice president for science and technology Sourena Sattari announced that the number of knowledge-based companies were 3,000 ones during the Iranian calendar year 1395 (March 2016-March 2017), it increased to 3,338 ones during the Iranian calendar year 1396 (March 2017-March 2018).

Knowledge-based companies exported \$450 million of products in the previous

Iranian calendar year 1397, which ended on March 20, he announced.

Sattari said that the knowledge-based companies sold 900 trillion rials (about \$21 billion) of products during the past year.

This is while the figure was 600 trillion rials (about \$14 billion) during the Iranian calendar year 1396 (March 2017-March 2018).



Do we really need it? On the excess of technology

One of the banes of listicle journalism is the outright promotion of goods that we are told that we "must have." Are you sick of being told about the ten or twenty "must-have gadgets" that you just "can't live without"? Thankfully, due to limited time and finances, most of us are doing just fine, breathing and walking about planet earth without a foldable keyboard and miniature speaker. How do we do it?

First, it is important to understand that most of the culture surrounding tech—to include writing on tech—has more to do with recommending good technology over less excellent to bad tech. From the birth of listicles, however, tech journalism has become inundated with content that pushes product, acting as a reference point for those of us who spend a significant amount of time researching tech. Where the marketplace, the hallway, the café and the gym were once the social milieu for exchanging ideas on burgeoning technology in the 1990s, today everyone is plugged into their tech devices, isolated within a hermetic bubble of sound reading up on tech news. Learning about new tech word-of-mouth is becoming as difficult as asking for directions when your smartphone battery has died. As most of us have experienced, people will walk right by you, even as you stand in full apologetic finger gesture left with the eery feeling of being invisible as you attempt to ask a stranger for information. Human interactions are becoming rarer today as technology grows and further divides us from real life interactions. Similarly, the culture of tech advice has migrated from the real cultural spaces of interaction to the journalistic sites of recommended purchases and tech news.

So how can consumers know that they will get any better sound quality or longer battery life from Apple's AirPods than from an off-brand competitor? From over-ear headphones to in-ear devices, there are literally dozens of



articles on each published daily leaving us caught between learning about new technology. From these articles, we must read further, then educate ourselves on the contiguous issues of safety, quality, durability, relevance, upgradability and so forth. We are told that social media is transforming the trading world even as social trading sites and algorithmic trading verge towards the destruction of older market analysis culture. New technology manifests a plethora of information which is not just telling us what we "need" but this information is being put forth by a cultural industry firmly established in telling us that we need something in the first place. If not this technology, then four seconds later there will be another technology that we "absolutely must have."

Whenever I come across these sorts of articles that attempt to convince the reader that we would drop stone-cold dead without a certain tech object, the first thing I think is, "Do we really need it?" This is a simple enough question, but it is an important question which plays into the everyday

of most of us—especially those of us with children who are learning about the world. Children learn the stark difference between "hungry" and "starving" and between "I need" and "I want" through parents and it is these lessons which we impart to children the differences between these feelings and desires. These same lessons could be easily translated into technology and consumer review sites—but the opposite is happening whereby the Saturday morning brightly-colored cereals and toys for children have now be adapted for an adult audience as we are constantly being told what we "can't live without" and the "tech gadgets that will transform your life."

From social media influencers to social media platforms, we are caught in a non-stop crossfire of recommendations of new-and-improved technology and apps that are mediated by the ever-changing parameters of speed and privacy. Certainly, privacy issues are driving much of the recent wave of software re-design that specifically sets out to protect privacy as app development companies like Retro Cube and Jumbo know too well. In fact, China's WeChat platform is facing an exodus over privacy issues as other platforms like Apple's Maps app is being redesigned with privacy as a central focus. Where privacy was once viewed as a technical feature is more and more being addressed as a cultural factor as people are more steadfast in wishing to maintain their privacy for more reasons than simply protecting bank information.

Aside from the ever-constant given of consumerism, what is driving our need to be constant consumers of tech must be discussed within a cultural framework just as much as from a purely technological perspective. As the expansion of software and hardware technology shows no sign of waning, we need to balance how we choose to update our technology against the greater resources of money and time.

(Source: forbes.com)

Things you must do to prevent eye diseases caused by constant use of smartphones

While we all are aware that the constant usage of smartphones, tablets and other electronic items have an adverse effect on our eyes, we really don't do much about it. This is because our lifestyle and work simply doesn't allow us to discard these devices. Now, a research by the University of Toledo is warning people that the constant long time exposure to smartphones and other devices could speed up blindness and other

eye diseases by the time you hit 50s. Here are things that you must know and do to prevent this from happening.

■ Blue light from smartphones and other devices is the prime concern. According to the optical chemistry research at The University of Toledo, blue light transforms vital molecules in the eye's retina into cell killers.

■ Simple measures at a young age might

prevent irreversible eye diseases by the time. Always switch on the Blue Light filter on the display settings of the smartphone.

■ Opt for high-quality screen protectors with Blue Light filters. If your work involves constant stares at laptop screens then go for regular eye checkups.

■ Consult a doctor to get a proper eye-drop to help nourish your eyes.

■ Don't stare at screens in complete

darkness.

■ If you wear glasses, then opt for high quality lens with Blue Light and UV filters.

■ It is a good habit to wash your eyes at regular intervals throughout the day to feel relaxed.

■ Do not shy away from wearing night glasses or glasses with UV/Blue Light filter if required.

(Source: gadgetsnow.com)

Tehran to host colloquium on optical wireless communications

TECHNOLOGY TEHRAN — Shahid Beheshti University of Tehran will host the 2nd West Asian Colloquium on Optical Wireless Communications (WACOWC) on April 27 and 28.

WACOWC aims to bring together researchers from academia and industry to share their findings in the emerging fields of OWC. The workshops and invited keynote speeches will be held on the sideline of the event.



The 2nd West Asian Colloquium on Optical Wireless Communications (WACOWC), which is hosted by Shahid Beheshti University in Tehran, follows the successful 1st event in Isfahan in 2018. WACOWC aims to bring together researchers from academia and industry to share their findings in the emerging fields of OWC. The colloquium will also include workshops and invited keynote speeches. High quality and original technical papers are welcome to be presented at WACOWC2019.

All organic visible light communications (VLCs), channel modelling and characterization, channel capacity analysis, diversity techniques, dimming, data communications and localization in VLCs, free space optics (indoor, outdoor and under water), hybrid RF/OWC technology, MIMO for OWC, hybrid IR/VLC technology and modelling of various noises in optical wireless communications are amongst the conference topic.

Professor Rafael Pérez Jiménez from Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain, and Professor Anh T. Pham from University of Aizu, Japan, are keynote speakers of the event.

Tech tent: Do we want our cities to be smart?

These days it seems every city wants to be smart. That seems to mean putting sensors in everything and collecting vast amounts of data with the aim of making urban life more efficient and environmentally friendly.

In Milton Keynes, we visit the Electric Vehicle Experience Centre. It is part of the town's campaign to get more of its motorists to go electric.

Visitors are shown a variety of cars, get information about range and charging options and - for a small fee - they can even borrow a car for a few days.

If they decide to buy a car, the local council may offer a charger on a lamp-post - also for a small fee, of course - or point the motorist to charging stations nearby.

There is even a plan to build a fast charging station which will give a full charge in five minutes, though that depends on new technology expected to arrive in electric vehicles over the next year.

Brian Matthews, head of transport innovation at Milton

Keynes Council, hope to allay common concern such as "the price of the vehicles, how they will charge them, and range anxiety".

It seems to be working. Uptake of electric vehicles in the town is running at twice the UK average.

Milton Keynes' other smart city initiatives include a trial of delivery robots that take small grocery orders to customers along the town's pavements.

There are also autonomous pods that will soon be shuttling drivers between car parks in an attempt to keep traffic out of the town center.

One thing they have not tried is electric scooters. They are now common in U.S. and Chinese cities, but illegal on British streets under a law dating back to the 19th Century.

We visit Paris, where a clutch of e-scooter rental firms - many from California - are competing for business.

Parisians seem enthusiastic about this relatively cheap and green way of making short journeys. But there are already problems emerging.

The pavements are cluttered with dozens of scooters. People are riding them without helmets, sometimes with children perched on the front. It also looks as though there is an investment bubble that could see firms go bust, leaving the city with a mess to clear up.

And while we have heard plenty of enthusiasm for the idea of using technology and data to make cities a lot smarter, in Toronto there is something of a backlash.

The Canadian city has done a deal with a division of Google called Sidewalk Labs. It plans to turn a stretch of land on the waterfront into a smart district: a city "built from the internet" is how the promoters describe it.

But privacy campaigners are suing the government, claiming that the plan will involve handing over sensitive personal data to a private company.

Brenda McPhail from the Canadian Civil Liberties Association explains the group's concerns about giving free rein to a firm in the business of collecting vast amounts of data.

"Online, we increasingly understand that comprehensive data collection that permits very granular monitoring of people's activities and behaviours is harming individuals and groups," she says. "We question why on Earth we think it's a good idea to import that big data model into our city streets."

The organisation behind the Waterfront Toronto scheme says that it has not yet received a plan from Sidewalk Labs, but once it does it will ensure that the public has a fair opportunity to provide meaningful input on the proposals.

The technology industry often assumes that developments such as smart cities are uncontroversial and that everyone will welcome something that could improve urban life.

But the public has grown sceptical about technology over recent years, so we can expect to see further battles like the one underway in Toronto.

(Source: bbcnews.com)

Earth Day: What is it and how do people mark it around the world?

Earth Day has now reached its 49th year, and according to the Earth Day Network (EDN) over one billion people in 192 countries are thought to have taken part in this year's event.

Celebrated every year on April 22, the global day of environmental action is thought to be the largest secular observance in the world.

Each Earth Day, individuals and organizations from across the globe participate in action intended to world towards a healthier environment for future generations.

■ **When did Earth Day get started?**
The celebration marks the anniversary of the birth of the environmental movement in 1970.

Modern environmentalism is largely credited as starting with the publication of Rachel Carson's bestselling book *Silent Spring* – documented the effects of the indiscriminate use of pesticides – in 1962.

After selling 500,000 copies in 24 countries, the book sparked a growing public awareness of environmental matters that crystallized in the first Earth Day.

The initial concept came to US senator Gaylord Nelson after witnessing the impact of a massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California.

Nelson wanted to channel the energy of the anti-war movement into action for the environment, and this culminated in 20 million Americans taking to the streets to demonstrate for an environment

■ **What has Earth Day achieved over the years?**
The first Earth Day united Americans from across the political spectrum, and within a year the action had led to the formation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, as well as the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts.

Earth Day 1990 was credited with giving a significant boost to recycling efforts worldwide, paved the way for the 1992 UN Earth Summit.

At another milestone, Earth Day 2000 chose to address the growing issue of global warming and the switch to clean energy sources.

For the 40th anniversary of Earth Day in 2010, the network behind the celebration launched a campaign to plant one billion trees, a target that was achieved in 2012.

In 2016, leaders from 175 countries used Earth Day as the backdrop for signing the historic Paris climate agreement, which aims to stop the planet from warming 2C above pre-industrial levels.

■ **What does Earth Day look like today?**
Earth Day has turned its attention to big environmental issue of the moment: plastic pollution.

Its goals include supporting efforts around the world to eliminate single-use plastics, and drive support for tighter regulations concerning plastic disposal.

“EDN will educate millions of people about the health and other risks associated with the use and disposal of plastics, including pollution of our oceans, water, and wildlife, and about the growing body of evidence that decomposing plastics are creating serious global problems,” said the organization's president Kathleen Rogers, in a statement.

“EDN has built a multi-year campaign to End Plastic Pollution.

“Our goals include ending single-use plastics, promoting alternatives to fossil fuel-based materials, promoting 100 per cent recycling of plastics, corporate and government accountability and changing human behavior concerning plastics.”

In the lead up to the events 50th anniversary, EDN is also launching an “ambitious set of goals to shape the future of 21st century environmentalism”.

(Source: The Independent)

WORDS IN THE NEWS

Global Water Shortages

(March 25, 1999)
Monday March 22 was World Water Day: serious water shortages are expected in the next century. Corinne Podger from BBC Science reported.

It's hard to imagine a global shortage of water, when oceans cover three-quarters of the world's surface. But the United Nations expects two billion people will **face severe** water crises in just twenty-five years time. The UN and the World Water Council are **launching** a World Water Commission, charged with the task of finding urgent solutions to the impending crisis. The commission's new chairman, Ismael Serageldin, told reporters the water **equation** is “simple but deadly” - more water must be found to supply an extra three billion people who will be alive by 2025. **Verbal conflicts** have already **erupted** over water in the Middle East and Northern Africa, and tension is also mounting about **access** to the Ganges on the Indian sub-continent and the Mekong River in Indochina.

The Commission's first **task** will be to find ways of making desalination - removing salt from sea water - cheaper and more effective. It will also develop techniques to **locate and tap** underground water reservoirs, and introduce water **recycling** in cities and villages world-wide. Mr Serageldin said these goals must be achieved by 2025. Otherwise, he warned, the inevitable alternatives were famine and **water wars**.

■ **Words**
face: if you face a difficulty, you have to deal with it
launching: they have started it working
charged with: its job is to
equation: there are two parts to the problem: people and water. They must be considered together before the whole situation can be understood
verbal conflicts: attacks in the media
erupted: broken out
access: deciding who is allowed to use the water
task: a piece of work that must be done
locate: discover or find
tap: make use of
recycling: processing water so it can be used again
water wars: actual wars involving fighting

(Source: BBC)

After deluge Helmand River springs back to life

ENVIRONMENT **TEHRAN** — After 18 **d e s k** years of dryness the **most dead Helmand River** returned to life following recent torrential rainfalls, YJC reported on Saturday.

Helmand River which starts in the Hindu Kush Mountains in Afghanistan feed the Hamouns in Iran and Afghanistan. The Hamouns are transboundary wetlands on the Iran-Afghan border made up of three lakes: Hamoun-e Helmand, which is entirely in Iran, Hamoun-e Sabari on the border, and Hamoun-e Puzak, almost entirely inside Afghanistan.

Helmand River is the longest river in Afghanistan and the primary watershed for the endorheic Sistan Basin. Sistan Basin is an inland endorheic basin encompassing large parts of southwestern Afghanistan and minor parts of south-eastern Iran, one of the driest regions in the world and an area subjected to prolonged droughts.

Dam construction, depriving the river from its water right, coupled with climate



change have resulted in the dryness of the river over past years contributing to biodiversity loss, and sand and dust storms.

Based on the latest data published on Monday by National Drought Warning and Monitoring Center affiliated to Iran's Meteorological Organization since the start of the current water year (September 23, 2018) the whole country received 290.1 millimeters of rain.

The number amounted to 114.1 millimeters in the previous water year and 198.3 millimeters in the long-term, the data indicated. The numbers show a drastic increase of 154.3 percent compared to last water year. It also reveals a 46.3 percent increase compared to long-term means.

The province of Sistan-Baluchestan also received 106.7 millimeters of rain in the same period which indicates 382.4 percent rise compared to last water year and a 6.4 percent increase compared to the long-term averages.

Asiatic cheetah kept in captivity may possibly reproduce

ENVIRONMENT **TEHRAN** — Asiatic cheetah, also **d e s k** known as Delbar, which is being kept in captivity at Tehran's Pardisan Park may possibly reproduce within the next 50 to 60 days, deputy chief for natural environment and biodiversity directorate at the Department of Environment (DOE) has said.

Artificial insemination was performed on Delbar some time ago and whether the procedure has been successful or not will be clear within the next two months, IRNA news agency quoted Zohrabi as saying Monday.

Artificial insemination is a method of treating infertility by inserting semen directly into a womb.

DOE's priority is to safeguard the precious Asiatic cheetah in its natural habitat, however, taking other measures such as captive breeding should not be overlooked, Zohrabi highlighted.

Last year (March 2018-March 2019) Delbar was physically prepared for mating with Kushki (the male Asiatic cheetah in captivity), however, possibly due to Kushki's old age, the two didn't breed, he regretted. Zohrabi went on to say that “that's why we introduced



sperm into Delbar's cervix for the purpose of achieving a pregnancy, and the results will be announced within 60 days.”

Tehran to host intl. flower, plant exhibit

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — The 17th **d e s k** International Exhibition of Flowers, Plants, Park Equipment and Related Industries will be inaugurated at Tehran's Goftegoo Park on April 28, ISNA news agency reported on Sunday.

Some 260 domestic companies as well as 17 companies from Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, Austria, Turkey, Armenia, Russia and Switzerland, will

attend the vent, Mohammad Ali Mokhtari, director general of Tehran Gardens and Green Spaces Organization affiliated to the Municipality has said.

Encouraging the public to keep plants and grow them in their houses and providing the public with plant growing tips are among the objectives of the exhibition, Mokhtari highlighted.


Additionally, the event will pave the

way for an economic boom as well as increase in production in plant industry, he added.

Concurrent with the flower and plant exhibition, he explained, beautiful flower arrangements will go on display across the city of Tehran.

Visitors can buy plants at the exhibition on the last day of the event for reasonable prices, he concluded.






N.I.O.C
1398.361

First Announcement

Call for public tender (First/Second publish)- RETENDER
One -Stages (semi compressed) tender

Subject of Tender: PART FOR OIL WELL DRAWWORKS MODEL
E-2000 for Drilling Rig



National Iranian Drilling Company

Tender descriptions:

The Tender holder	Registration No. through national electronic tendering system	Tender No. /Indent No.	Estimated value (Rial/Euro)
National Iranian Drilling Company	3,196,957	Tender No.: FP17-97/047 Indent No.: 48-22-9622027	14,390,568,451 Rial

Qualitative evaluation of tenderers

Method	R Based on minimum scoring (60 Points) made in award criterion reflected in the tenderers pre-qualification forms. 1- Applicants which have more than 4 in process contacts with NIDC are not allowed to participate in this tender . 2- Applicants which have more than 2 in process contacts with NIDC in similar subject (exclusively same subject) are not allowed to participate in another tender
--------	--

Purchasing & Submitting

Tender Document Distribution by Company		The distribution of the documents will be started one day after the publishing of second advertisement and ended on the following tenth day thereof.
	Distribution Place	Hall No.:113, 1 st floor, Foreign Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN 061-34148656 -06134148615
	Submitting Method	Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of 510,000 Iranian Rials under account number 4001114004020491 (Shaba No. IR 520100004001114004020491) in name of “NIDC Incomes Centralized Fund” issued by I.R. of Iran Central Bank .Submitting format Request for the purpose of receiving Tender Documents
Documents Receiving Method	Closing date	Days after the last time of Purchasing 14
	Address	Hall No. 107, 1 st floor, Tender Committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. Tel: +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569

Tender Guarantee

Value of guarantee	720,000,000 Rial/ 15,133 Euro
Type of guarantee	✓--Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. ✓--Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt under account number 4001114006376636 (Shaba No. IR 350100004001114006376636) in name of “NIDC saving account” by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran.
Duration of credit & quotation	Tender Guarantee & quotation should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one time in initial validity duration.

(Foreign Procurement Dept.)
More of this & other tenders are accessible by click on: www.nidc.ir http://sapp.ir/nidc_pr
تهران تایمز نویت اول ۹۸/۲/۳ نویت دوم ۹۸/۲/۴

Nasrallah denounces Sri Lanka blasts

TEHRAN — The secretary general of the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement on Monday denounced Sri Lanka blasts, stressing that culprits lack innate human nature. “Followers of all the heavenly religions agree on the concept of the emergence of a savior, despite the differences over his identity”, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said.

“Believing in the emergence of the savior gives people hope to confront oppression; however, despair leads surrender and loss”, he added.

Nasrallah also talk about Lebanon internal affairs and said “all parties agree that Lebanon is suffering from a deep financial crisis.”

“All the Lebanese parties are concerned with coping with the economic crisis”, Nasrallah added.

Hezbollah on Monday marked Imam Mahdi (P) Birthday and the 34th an-



niversary of establishing Imam Mahdi Scouts.

Earlier, Hezbollah condemned the terrorist blasts which targeted churches and hotels in Sri Lanka and claimed hundreds of innocent victims, denouncing endangering the believers at the places of worship on the glorious holidays.

In a statement issued on Sunday, Hezbollah reiterated that terror might never hold any religions identity, calling on all believers who follow the various religious creeds to stand united in face of this dangerous scourge whether represented by individuals or fabricated entities.

“On Imam Al-Mahdi (P) Birthday, Hezbollah hopes that Holy God grant the oppressed all over the world the imminent apparition of the Imam, so that all mankind enjoys security and peace.”

World witnessing ‘Widening Rift’ between EU, U.S.: UN expert

TEHRAN (Tasnim) — A UN rights expert said the European Union’s stance on US’s recognition of Syrian Golan Heights as Israeli territory shows that there is a “widening rift” in strategic policy between Washington and the 28-member bloc.

“The EU position is consistent with its long-standing policy that annexation of territory is illegal. It also affirms its position that occupations are meant to be temporary, and the occupying power gains no authority to claim sovereignty over any of the land, “Michael Lynk, the UN Special Rapporteur on situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory, told Tasnim in an interview.

He added, “We are witnessing a widening rift in strategic policy between the United States and the European Union. This rift has always existed to a smaller degree over policy towards the Israeli occupation of Palestine, with the Europeans more vocal towards the necessity of following international law in ending the occupation, and the USA more protective of Israel’s violations on international law”.

Michael Lynk is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, Western University, in London, Ontario. He joined the Faculty in 1999, and has taught courses in labour, human rights, disability, constitutional and administrative law. He served as Associate Dean of the Faculty between 2008-11.

The following is the full text of the interview:

■ US President Donald Trump on March 25 recognized Israel’s “sovereignty” over Golan, a Syrian territory that has been under Israeli occupation since 1967. What is your take on the move?

A: Annexation and territorial conquest in the modern world is strictly prohibited under international law. Today, they are regarded as a political calamity from an earlier age, when war was an acceptable cornerstone of state policy, and national borders were regarded as mutable frontiers rather than fixed and inalienable boundaries. This absolute prohibition applies whether the territory in question was acquired in a war of aggression or a defensive war – the point is to remove all incentives for any country to imagine expanding its borders through force.

Thus, the American recognition of Israel’s 1981 declaration of annexation over the occupied Syrian Golan Heights is a significant step backwards for international law and diplomacy. The United Nations Security Council voted in December 1981, in Resolution 497, to condemn Israel’s annexation declaration and to reaffirm the modern principle that: “the acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible.”

International law applies, with equal force and effect, to every state, and to everyone. This rule requires submission by all to the rule of law, whether great or small. As Justice Robert Jackson argued, with understated eloquence, in Nuremberg in 1945: “We must never forget that the record on which we judge these defendants is the record on which history will judge us tomorrow. To pass these defendants a poisoned chalice is to put it to our own lips as well.”

Does the American endorsement of Israel’s claim on the Golan Heights foretell Benjamin Netanyahu’s more recent promise to annex parts of the West Bank if he was re-elected to power in the Israeli elections earlier this month? This now appears to be a real likelihood. And it would be just as illegal.

In 1941, American President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill issued the Atlantic Charter, an early guide to the modern world order. In it, the Charter proclaimed that: “they desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned.” President Donald Trump’s recognition of the Israeli claim to the Golan walks us back to a darker world, and belies the solemn promise of international law that was forged with so much suffering over the past 80 years.

■ European Union’s Foreign Policy Chief Federica Mogherini said the 28-member bloc does not recognize Israeli Golan as part of Israeli territory. She added, “In parallel, the five EU Member States who currently sit in the UN Security Council – which are the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Belgium, and Poland – expressed this common position”. How much do you think such a unilateral decision could jeopardize global security?

A: The EU position is consistent with its long-standing policy that annexation of territory is illegal. It also affirms its position that occupations are meant to be temporary, and the occupying power gains no authority to claim sovereignty over any of the land.

We are witnessing a widening rift in strategic policy between the United States and the European Union. This rift has always existed to a smaller degree over policy towards the Israeli occupation of Palestine, with the Europeans more vocal towards the necessity of following international law in ending the occupation, and the USA more protective of Israel’s violations on international law.

This current rift may have positive consequences for the search for peace in the Middle East, but only if the



European Union becomes more willing than it has been in the past to assert the importance of the international principles for a final settlement, including: self-determination; equality and justice for all peoples; the rights of the Palestinian refugees; and the centrality of human rights and the rule of law.

■ How should the international community, particularly the UN, react to this?

A: Accountability is the one large missing piece of the puzzle for the international community. International law has been clearly stated on many occasions by the Security Council and the General Assembly. Yet, for too long, the Israeli occupation has been shaped much more by power than by justice.

Almost 39 years ago, the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 476 in June 1980. The resolution condemned the Israeli settlements and the Israeli annexation of Jerusalem as illegal. The Security Council then affirmed its: “...determination in the event of non-compliance by Israel with this resolution, to examine practical ways and means in accordance with relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations to secure the full implementation of this resolution.”

Israel remains in serial defiance of the direction of the international community. And the United Nations, notwithstanding a rich menu of powers at its disposal to bring recalcitrant states and organizations in line with modern norms of behavior, has not acted upon its own promise. International law, as well as the best interests of Palestinians and Israelis alike, have suffered as a result.

Abe’s ruling bloc suffers rare losses in Japan’s by-election

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s ruling bloc has suffered two rare losses in by-elections, an apparent warning from voters ahead of a national election for parliament’s upper house later this year.

Sunday’s defeats in a lower house by-election in Osaka, western Japan, and another on the southern island of Okinawa – host to the bulk of US military in the country – were the first such losses since Abe returned to office in December 2012, except for one uncontested poll.

“Each individual [ruling] Liberal Democratic Party member must take the results to heart and buckle down,” Abe told reporters

on Monday morning.

The defeats in the polls come after Japan’s Olympics minister, Yoshitaka Sakurada, resigned a year before the Tokyo Olympics. A vice transport minister also quit over a separate gaffe.

“The cabinet support rate is maintaining a certain level, but if they do not eradicate laxity and conceit, the upper house election will perforce be a difficult fight,” said an editorial in the conservative Yomiuri newspaper.

In a survey by public broadcaster NHK released this month, support for Abe’s cabinet was at 47 percent, up five points from the

previous month.

In Okinawa, Tomohiro Yara, a freelance journalist backed by several opposition parties and running on an anti-US base platform, defeated a former cabinet minister.

In Osaka, Shimpei Kitagawa, backed by the Liberal Democratic Party or LDP and its junior partner Komeito, lost to Fumitake Fujita from Nippon Ishin.

Speculation is simmering that Abe will call a snap lower house election in tandem with the upper house poll, possibly after announcing the postponement of a sales tax hike to 10 percent from eight percent scheduled for October.

Top government officials vowed on Friday to go ahead with the tax rise, barring a big economic shock.

Such a “double election” might help take advantage of weakness among the fragmented opposition parties, but could also spark the opposition to cooperate on candidates.

“Abe must be wondering which suffers more from weakness – LDP/Komeito or the opposition,” said Sophia University political science professor Koichi Nakano.

“A double election will also potentially galvanise the opposition into action ... so it’s a double-edged sword.”

(Source: Al Jazeera)

‘Google’s move to shut press TV’s YouTube channels overt, blatant act of censorship’

➡ The message was: “Your Google Account was disabled and can’t be restored because it was used in a way that violates Google’s policies”; However, Google has so far refused to provide any explanation for disabling Press TV’s account. This is the clear-cut proof this action is not based on any reason or legal basis, otherwise they would easily offer a specific explanation of what Press TV did wrong, or how it violated any Google policies. The mere fact of not explaining, explains it all. This is baseless press censorship, and all journalists and media should be concerned, because they may be the next. Barry Grossman is an international lawyer, and he explained, “Google in fact now is a company for Alphabet Inc. That is the parent company. It is a massive conglomerate of nothing which came to be one of the wealthiest corporations in the world essentially by cleverly usurping what ultimately are public assets, namely the control of the internet, the ability to search it and to operate essentially as a gateway for almost any and all use of the internet”. The Google ban seems to be in line with the U.S. government’s stepped-up pressure on Iran and an all-out propaganda campaign against the country, which includes targeting Iranian media.

■ Press TV aims to serve as the voice of the voiceless, questioning the policies adopted by the West. How does a Western non-government company which claims to provide free services get involved in silencing the alternative media?



A: In 2017, a number of media, often critical of Western policy, claimed that their Google-directed traffic sank as much as 63 percent in the wake of a Google algorithm change designed to stop “fake news”. However, many of corporate media’s news outlets such as, the New York Times, Washington Post and CNN did not suffer. How does Google, or any other body, define “Fake News”? Is it news based on lies, without facts, or is it news based on facts which make the U.S. policies look bad? The mainstream media in the U.S. are quick to point a finger of blame at countries which are seen as adversaries to the U.S. when they find censorship

there; however, when similar censorship is carried out by the U.S. tech companies, such as Google, they remain silent. Real news are facts, gathered carefully, and can be proven, given enough time for research. It is vitally important that everyone has access to the facts, regardless of political policies, and biases. If people have access to news they can make up their own mind.

■ Detention of Press TV’s journalist in January 2019, and now Google’s blocking Press TV’s accounts; Are they intrinsically connected?

A: When Marzieh Hashemi was detained in USA for 10 days, I feel that was an act of intimidation. It was directed at her personally, and her employer Press TV. The U.S. government has an openly hostile attitude to Iran. The U.S. policy towards Iran is to interfere in domestic operations, to stir up dissent, political unrest, and disobedience, with the ultimate goal of what the U.S. calls “Regime Change”. Instead of interacting with Iran and its people, to foster good diplomatic relations, and build bridges of greater understanding; the U.S. foreign policy on Iran is adversarial and heavy handed. Many experts have said that the U.S. foreign policy on the Middle East is written in Tel Aviv, and the same appears to be the case for Iran. The so-called Jewish State of Israel has a goal of eventual war on Iran, and they are trying to convince the U.S. Congress and U.S. administrations of the need for eventual war, which may devastate all those involved.

Traditional European parties are worried

➡ Washington’s support for the British withdrawal from the European Union suggests that Trump intends to repeat this experience in other European countries.

As Telegraph reported, The established centre-left and centre-right blocs in the EU Parliament are likely to lose their combined majority in May’s European Elections, according to the latest polling. Polls indicate that these two large pan-European blocs, which are comprised of a host of allied parties from each EU country, will lose seats under a tide of populist support. While the centre-right European Peoples’ Party (EPP) and centre-left Socialists & Democrats (S&D) are likely to remain the largest parliamentary groups, experts warn that their current position of dominance is now “threatened”.

The loss of their combined majority is thanks to the rise of the liberal Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) and Eurosceptic Europe of Nations and Freedom (ENF). These two blocs are forecast to make the largest gains in the election, leading experts to warn that the new Parliament could be more fractious with majorities harder to come by.

In any case, senior EU officials are busy monitoring European parliamentary elections. They worry about increasing the power of nationalist and anti-European currents in different countries. Greece, France, Sweden, Finland, Belgium, Hungary and ... are among the countries in which nationalist movements have grown significantly in polls. With no doubt, the presence of extremist movements in power can lead to many social and security crises in the Green Continent.

As noted above, the growth of extremist parties in multicultural societies is going to lead to increased attacks on Muslims and immigrants in general. In this case, we will witness the occurrence of continuous security crises in the United Europe. The social and economic crises of Europe are now tied to each other.

It means that as social crises in Europe are strengthened, the security crises would increase. The common denominator of the Europe’s security and social crises will be the creation of social insecurity in Europe. This is what many experts of political and security affairs in Europe have seriously warned about.

The main question here is whether senior European officials will be able to confront nationalist parties in the European Parliamentary elections? Will the status of traditional parties in Europe be strengthened again in the near future and after the European Parliamentary elections, or will there be new and serious challenges for the EU and the Eurozone?

U.S. attempts to blacken Huawei will fail

Global Times — The Times reported on Saturday that according to a UK source, the CIA says that Huawei has taken money from the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) and China’s state intelligence network. The vague information has a clear purpose: To further blacken Huawei.



The U.S. has spared no effort to attack Huawei, which is obviously more than just concerns about information security. There are many ways to ensure information security, and it is easy for U.S. technology to prevent Huawei from being used to gather intelligence. But there has been no evidence proving Huawei espionage, and it is difficult for the U.S. to let the whole world believe such a fake story.

Washington has three major purposes for blackening Huawei’s name. First, it wants to attack Huawei and win time for the U.S.’ 5G technology. The U.S. worries that Huawei’s devices will quickly become popular worldwide and thus will set a standard in the 5G era. The U.S. wants the world’s most developed areas to separate from Huawei’s influence. It wants the West to achieve high-tech decoupling with China.

Second, the U.S. has to fight to the end because it has sent its requests to its allies. It wants to set a precedent that U.S. allies prioritize U.S. interests and demands. Some Western countries are still hesitating, and Washington worries that they will stay neutral in U.S.-China competition and gain a strategic initiative.

Third, Washington did not use Huawei’s devices in 4G, and it is resolute in not using Huawei’s 5G devices as well. This means the 5G network in the U.S. is highly likely to fall behind China’s 5G construction. The U.S. does not want its allies to surpass it in 5G.

During the later stages of 4G construction, China surpassed the U.S. in 4G network coverage and speed. This triggered China’s leading mobile payment system. But the U.S. still leads China in modernization. What will happen if European countries, which match the U.S.’ modernization progress, follow the example of China in 5G, not the U.S.? Washington does not want to worry about this.

It is ridiculous for a superpower to use almost every legal and diplomatic tool to attack a high-tech company. This is unprecedented in human history. But the U.S. may still lose its war against Huawei. This is because the U.S.’ accusations are groundless and untenable. Huawei is in the best financial situation of any company, and the U.S. has had doubts about Huawei’s security risks for years. How can Huawei risk its reputation to gain but a little money from state intelligence and the army? Besides, Europe used Huawei’s devices in 4G, do they not remain safe?

As China is labeled a strategic competitor by the U.S., Europe has become a card that the U.S. is eager to play. We believe Europe will cherish its independence. Countries that follow the U.S. on the Huawei case are merely buying Washington’s favor, and will eventually lag behind and become a puppet.

European countries should not be deceived by the U.S. and must understand all the environmental factors of Huawei’s case. If they believe such false information that alleges Huawei is funded by the PLA, they are just like a kindergarten child at the mercy of their U.S. teacher.

Young confident misfiring Man United will be ready for City

Manchester United's players are well aware of the importance of Wednesday's Premier League clash against champions Manchester City and need no extra motivation after a 4-0 hammering at Everton, defender Ashley Young said.

Sixth-placed United's chances of finishing in the top four were dealt a blow at Goodison Park and the nature of Sunday's defeat prompted manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer to issue an apology to fans ahead of the clash with their city rivals.

"We know how important that (derby) is going to be. If you can't get yourselves up for the Manchester derby, there's something wrong," Young told the club's website.

"I've got confidence that we're going to be ready for Wednesday... we've got to dust ourselves down fairly quickly and go again this week... we've got four games left, we've got four wins to get. It's going to be tough but I'm sure we can do it."

United, who have 64 points from 34 games and sit two points adrift of Arsenal in fourth, face Chelsea, Huddersfield Town and Cardiff City in their final three matches of the season.

(Source: Mirror)

Brighton players have not downed tools, says Hughton

Brighton & Hove Albion players cannot be accused of not caring about retaining their Premier League status as they look to avoid the drop with four games left in the season, manager Chris Hughton said on Monday.

The south-coast club sit three points above the relegation zone but have endured a severe dip in form in 2019, winning only two of their last 14 league games to fall from 13th to 17th in the standings. Brighton have also failed to score in their last five league matches, including the 0-0 draw at Wolverhampton Wanderers on Saturday. "I don't think anybody could accuse a group of players at Wolves on Saturday of it not meaning enough or downing tools," Hughton told reporters ahead of Tuesday's trip to Tottenham Hotspur. "Absolutely that's not the case.

"We're a team of our level playing in the Premier League and, up until probably the last month or so, we've been in a decent enough position in the league.

"Probably our poorest period came at the worst time, but that happens when you're playing in a division as difficult as this one and when you are the level of club that we are.

"We have to find formulas and pull out results to get the points that we need."

Hughton, who spent over two decades as a player at Tottenham, said he was looking forward to playing at the new White Hart Lane stadium which opened this month.

"I was there all in all for 27 years and I have lots of memories as a player and as a coach," Hughton said.

"I'm looking forward to going there. How much I'll enjoy it will be down to the performance the team put in but I'm hoping I can enjoy it."

(Source: Reuters)

Sterling to pay for funeral of teenager who 'touched his life'

England star Raheem Sterling is to pay for the funeral of former Crystal Palace youth player Damary Dawkins who he says was an "example to us all".

Dawkins died aged 13 of leukaemia in March -- Sterling had supported a campaign to find a suitable stem cell donor for him.

According to an appeal page, Dawkins did receive a stem cell match a few days before Christmas but he relapsed in February.

His family had set up a GoFundMe page to raise £15,000 (\$19,400) to give Dawkins the "best send off and celebration of life" -- but Sterling has assumed all the costs himself.

"Damary was a special young man who touched a lot of lives, including my own. Positive until the end, he was an example to us all," said Sterling, who will attend the funeral on Friday.

Sterling paid tribute to Damary by lifting his England shirt to reveal a picture of the two of them together following his second goal in the 5-0 win over the Czech Republic in their Euro 2020 qualifier in March.

Their close relationship echoes that of former England international Jermain Defoe and Sunderland fan Bradley Lowery, who died of a rare form of cancer aged just six in 2017.

Defoe, who was playing for Sunderland at the time, forged a close bond with the youngster -- he has his name tattooed on his right arm -- and carried the boy he described as his "best friend" onto the pitch at Wembley for an England international with Lithuania.

(Source: Eurosport)

F1 esports champion Brendon Leigh crashes in on-track debut

Formula One's inaugural esports champion Brendon Leigh crashed during his on-track racing debut at the weekend.

Leigh, 19, has won both esports championships held by F1, in 2017 during its first championship and in 2018 as part of the Mercedes team he still belongs to. He became something of a viral sensation during the first final for wagging his finger tauntingly at a rival driver.

Leigh was competing in BRSCC National Formula Ford 1600 at British circuit Snetterton, his first taste of competitive single-seaters. The Englishman had three days of testing ahead of the weekend.

After finishing fourth in the opening race on Saturday, Leigh endured a nightmare Sunday, crashing into the barriers early on in race two, before car trouble forced him to retire from race three.

Leigh will race again in the series at its Oulton Park meeting on May 11.

(Source: BBC)

Mbappe's title, but PSG need to breathe new life into Qatari project



recently that "he doesn't realise how good he is, he can go much further".

He is also not used to losing, and may have upset some of his teammates with his assessment of last week's defeat at Lille. "We played like beginners," he said.

■ Hollow ring

To be fair, they have usually been excep-

tional domestically. However, the problem is that as long as they keep failing in the Champions League, domestic success for a club backed by a Gulf state will continue to ring hollow.

The title has effectively been in the bag for some time, but their season has been winding down ever since their exit against

Blazers ignore trash talk, refs to beat Thunder



With their starters heading to the bench with 40 seconds left, Game 4 in hand and a 3-1 series lead in their pocket on the way back home, the Portland Trail Blazers had an opportunity to bask in their 111-98 win over the Oklahoma City Thunder a little. But there was no celebrating, no trash talking, no taunting, no dunks at the buzzer. It was, as Damian Lillard said, all business from start to finish.

"After Game 3, we were in the locker room saying they lived at the free throw line and all this stuff, but Game 4, we're not talking to nobody but ourselves," Lillard said. "Referees can call it how they want to call, we're just going to worry about ourselves.

"After last game, it was a big deal being made out of the back-and-forth and we weren't emotional about it -- we were just competing," Lillard continued.

"We were just passionate about the game as well. But like I said earlier, we didn't really engage in it because our focus was our team.

Like I told you guys, we're not gonna come out here and go crazy on the referees,

we're not gonna go out here and get in any shouting matches and back-and-forths and all that stuff. We're gonna focus on the stuff we need to focus on that's gonna give us a chance to win the game. I was proud of how our team stuck to that."

Lillard, who started 0-of-6 and didn't make his first shot until 1:15 left in the first half, cooked once again in the third quarter, finishing with 24 points on 7-of-19 shooting plus 8 assists.

Guard CJ McCollum was essential in putting the Thunder away, scoring 27 on 10-of-20 shooting. A number of times, Lillard and McCollum were vocal with teammates, once pulling forward Zach Collins aside for an animated conversation after the second-year player was called for defensive three seconds.

"We're a lot more mature than we were in past years," McCollum said. "We can handle adversity. We understood what we wanted to accomplish tonight and we didn't want anything to get in the way.

Multiple times we had discussions about not saying anything to anyone.

(Source: ESPN)

United's foundations at risk unless Solskjaer rids club of 'weeds'



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said prior to the humiliating 4-0 thrashing by Everton there would not be wholesale changes to Manchester United personnel in the close season, but Gary Neville, for one, believes he should think again.

United's millionaire stars such as Paul Pogba and David de Gea put up a display described by the British press on Monday as "abject", "an apology" for a performance, with the team derided as being generally "rudderless" and "spineless".

However, whilst it came five years to the day when a 2-0 defeat by the same opponents cost David Moyes his job, it is not Solskjaer who is being targeted but the under-performing Pogba and his team-mates.

The World Cup-winning midfielder, after a series of encouraging performances when Solskjaer first assumed the reins in December, has returned to being the non-existent presence so often the focus of Jose Mourinho's ire -- although it was the Portuguese coach who was sacrificed.

His and Nemanja Matic's failure to shore up midfield has been a contributing factor to United's miserable run of six defeats in their

Manchester United in the last 16.

That, combined with being knocked out in the League Cup quarter-finals, means Tuchel in his first season has actually done worse than Unai Emery, his unloved predecessor.

However, according to sports daily L'Equipe, Tuchel has agreed to extend his contract to 2021. Thoughts have already turned to the future, with new signings needed at the Parc des Princes.

■ Time for a clear-out?

Mbappe is the one man they really cannot afford to lose, but is it time for a clear-out elsewhere?

Some of the excitement of the early part of the decade has gone, replaced with a stalesness. The days of Thiago Silva, Edinson Cavani and Marco Verratti are maybe ending.

Youri Djorkaeff, a World Cup winner for France and a PSG star in the 1990s, offers a frank assessment, suggesting real change is needed higher up.

"If you're not great in every compartment, from the bus driver to the girls who clean the shirts, you will go nowhere," he told Ligue 1 Podcast, 'Le Beau Jeu'.

"Paris Saint-Germain, after many years without success, have to rebuild everything, restart from scratch, because the foundations are not good. You cannot expect to one day win the Champions League without these foundations."

The Qatar project needs a breath of fresh air, and all eyes will be on president Nasser al-Khelaifi and sporting director Antero Henrique.

(Source: AFP)

Zidane bemused as Spanish press round on Bale

Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane is bemused by his team's fans' attitude towards Gareth Bale after they booed the Welsh forward during Saturday's 3-0 La Liga victory over Athletic Bilbao.

When quizzed on why a player who has won four Champions Leagues in five seasons in Madrid -- including scoring decisive goals in two of the finals -- is given such a hostile reception by fans Zidane said; "I don't know. Honestly, I don't understand it."

Bale came on as a substitute after being left out from the start for the second consecutive game by Zidane and irked the Bernabeu faithful by missing a one-on-one chance.

The reaction was in stark contrast to the one that greeted Isco, who came on to the pitch at the same time as Bale to much delight from the stands.

For his part, Bale shrugged off missing the presentable opportunity by unselfishly teeing up Karim Benzema for his hat-trick but that did not saved him from a mauling by local media on Monday.

"The intention is to sell him, but there's no offers forthcoming," read the front page of Marca, accompanied by a picture of the 29-year-old Bale looking sullen.

"They're now open to the idea of loaning him out," the



paper continued. The same newspaper reported recently that Chelsea's Belgian forward Eden Hazard will be signed to take Bale's place in the squad.

A scathing opinion piece in the paper went further.

"Madrid, or rather their president, have been procrastinating with Bale. He finished last season as a substitute for

not playing well enough and it will happen again this season," it said, omitting to mention Bale's two goals, including a stunning overhead kick, in last year's Champions League final with the game finely poised.

"He keeps on saying 'good morning' rather than 'buenos dias' when he arrives at the training ground; that's if he even says anything," Marca said.

"The thing is that Bale's lack of sporting value is also now on a par with his lack of economic value. He's a very expensive player and given the way football is, there's many players who are a level below salary wise who contribute a lot more."

In 2016 Bale was given a new deal through to 2022 that made him the third-best paid player in world football, but injuries -- he has missed 86 games since joining the club -- and a perceived failure to assimilate with Spanish culture have drawn criticism.

"The club aren't too optimistic about being able to sell him so are willing to listen to a loan offer," Marca said.

"They want to rid themselves of Bale's salary, or at least a part of it and add an option to buy like they did with James Rodriguez to Bayern."

(Source: Reuters)

Poupak Basami the first woman to represent Iran at Asian Weightlifting Championships

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Poupak Basami wrote her name into the history book as the first Iranian woman who participated in the Asian Weightlifting Championships.

Basami took part at the 55 kg weight category and failed to win anything but made history as the first Iranian woman participating in the Asian championships.

She is the first but is not the only Iranian woman in the event as six other women have traveled to Ningbo, China to partake in the prestigious competition.

Iranian men's weightlifters are well-known in the sport and have won eight gold medals at Olympics so far. Mohammad Jafar Salmasi won Iran's first Olympic medal at 1948 Summer Olympics.

However, the Iranian women's weightlifters have a long road ahead and it seems female development program launched by Iran's Weightlifting Federation last year will help them to do more in the near future.

Basami originally competed in basketball and was playing in Iran's Super League in the past years but changed her sport.

The Iranian sportswomen have shown that they have the potential to make the nation proud after shining in the international events in the last years.

The women's futsal team have won the back-to-back titles in the Asian Futsal Championship and women's kabaddi won a gold medal in the 2018 Asian Games after beating world giants India in the final match in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Kimia Alizadeh became the first Iranian woman to win a medal at the Olympic Games after claiming a bronze medal at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro.

Archer Zahra Nemati won a gold and a bronze medal at the 2012 Paralympic Games and a gold and a silver medal four years later in Rio.

Shooter Sareh Javanmardi also won a bronze in London and two gold medals at the 2016 Paralympic Games.

President Hassan Rouhani has recently said that supporting women's sports are top priorities for the government and it's the time to see a bright future for the Iranian women.



Thrower Hadadi wins gold at Asian Athletics Championships



S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iranian discus thrower Ehsan Hadadi claimed a gold medal at the 23rd edition of the Asian Athletics Championships in Doha, Qatar on Sunday.

Hadadi, the 2012 Olympic silver medalist, controlled the competition from the opening round and, with victory secured as he entered the ring for the competition's final throw, the 34-year-old gentle giant released a 65.95m championships record to collect his sixth continental title.

"I'm not so young anymore, so I'm

taking it step by step," Hadadi, whose early-season 67.19m effort in Chula Vista, California, 10 days ago has him sitting third on the world season's list, told iaaf.org. "I'm still waiting on who will succeed me in Asia."

His compatriot Behnam Shiri came closest, hitting 60.89m in round two. Still, each of Hadadi's five measured throws sailed further, underscoring his Asian dominance.

Jordan's Musab Al-Momani won the bronze medal with a throw of 58.27m.

Ganjzadeh wins gold at WKF Karate1-Premier League



S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Sajad Ganjzadeh from Iran claimed a gold medal at the World Karate Federation (WKF) Karate1-Premier League in Rabat, Morocco on Sunday.

In the male kumite +84kg final match, Ganjzadeh defeated Turkey's Alparslan Yamanoglu 2-0. His compatriot Ali Asghar Asiabari lost to Ukraine's Stanislav Horuna 9-8 in the male kumite -75kg final.

Saleh Abazari won a bronze medal in the male kumite +84kg after beating Egyptian Tarek Mahmoud 2-0.

Taravat Khaksar claimed a bronze medal in the female kumite -55 Kg, beating her Japanese opponent Sara Yamad 2-0.

Hamideh Abbasali took Iran's third bronze in the female kumite +68Kg after defeating Ayaka Saito from Japan 4-0.

The Karate1-Premier League- is the most important league event in the world of Karate. It comprises of a number of the most prominent Karate competitions and endeavors to bring together the best Karate athletes in the world in an open championships of unprecedented scale and quality.

Asian Club Volleyball Championship: Iran's Varamin beaten by Panthers

Terrific Michel Kubiak steered Panasonic Panthers to a hard-fought five-set win against powerhouses Varamin Municipality after rallying from 11-14 down in tie-breaker to stun the Iranians in their last top-8 playoff match at the 2019 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship at the University of Taipei (Tianmu) Gymnasium on Monday.

Polish Michel Kubiak chipped in with 24 points including 20 attacks for the Panasonic Panthers's 25-19 19-25 25-12 17-25 16-14 victory, while Kunihiro Shimizu made good company after contributing 18 points including 17 attack hits. Setter Hideomi Fukatsu assisted with 3 points from his solid blocking. Javad Hosseinabadi led Varamin Municipality with 22 points including 20 kills from 40 attempts. Behram Ebrahimi bagged 13 points including 4 stuff blocks.

Cultural and Sports Club of Varamin Municipality of Iran and Japan's Panasonic Panthers have initially been expected to set up a final showdown in this topflight competition, but had to first test mettle against each other in the top eight playoff match on Monday, with team rankings being confirmed at the end of all playoff matches on the same day for quarter-final matchups.

Against powerhouses Varamin Municipality, Panasonic Panthers replaced the hard-hitter Tatsuya Fukuzawa with Polish Michel Kubaik, who joined the Poland national team to land the back-to-back world title in 2014 and 2018. Also strengthening Panthers was left-hander Kunihiro Shimizu and fast attacker Akihito Yamauchi. Powerful hitter Seyed Arash Taghvi and Javad Hosseinabadi led the charge for Varamin.

Panasonic Panthers' Shimizu and Kubaik were on fire throughout the first set, contributing many key points for the team's 25-19 win. Kenji Shirasawa's dazzling serves and Shimizu's exceptional attacks also played part of key weapons for the team's win.



Going down one set, the Iranians improved on defence, with Javad Hosseinabadi and Seyed Arash Taghavi puncturing the Japanese defence with a series of thundering blows. Panasonic Panthers put their acts together to come up with solid blocks from Shimizu and Shirasawa, but the Iranians hit back from back-row attacks with scintillating blocks to capture the set win 25-19.

To everyone's surprise, the third set turned out to be a one-way traffic, with Shimizu and Kubiak thorns in the Iranian side. Both clearly annoyed the Iranian efforts, unleashing a barrage of fierce spikes which always baffled the oppositions. The set ended 25-12 in favour of the Japanese side.

Holding a 2-1 advantage, Panasonic Panthers played with confidence and consistency in the fourth set, but the Varamin Municipality's offence changed the momentum. With Javad and Rasoul Najafi attacking devastatingly to help Varamin stay a seven-point clear at 22-15, Panasonic Panthers fielded Tatsuya Fukuzawa and Issei Otake to improve on their attacks. Still, their attempts did not

pay off impressively as the Iranians stormed on to win the comfortable set 25-17, forcing the Japanese to play in the decider.

Varamin got off to a flying start in the deciding set to lead 4-1 and stretched it to 10-7 before Panasonic Panthers gradually pulled their game together to play cool under pressure. As the Iranians led commandingly 14-11 to need only one more point to win the set and match, the Japanese did not give up easily. Kubiak saved one matchpoint through his spectacular spike and Tubasa Hisahara did likewise a moment later with a thundering attack at the wing.

It turned sour for Varamin as the Iranians eventually let the victory slip through their fingers. Javad spiked out in a critical moment to help the Japanese close the margin at 14-14 before Hisahara and Akihiro Uamauchi successfully blocked Ehsan Daneshdoust to give the Japanese one point ahead. Hideomi Fukatsu produced a solid block against a sharp blow from Javad to foil all Iranians' comeback efforts. Panasonic Pathers captured the tie-breaker win 16-14 and the exhausting match.

"We did well in the first and third sets, but missed in the second and fourth sets. I think we served well, but in the fifth set we never gave up easily and that's why we won the match. After trailing 11-14 in the fifth set, my players just wanted to win the match and they fought hard, playing every part of the game well and we won eventually. Our service and good reception are the key points to our team's success in this match. Kubiak played in this match for the first time in the tournament and I think he played well, but he still needs some more time to adjust himself to the following matches," Panasonic Panthers' head coach Shinji Kawamura commented after the match.

(Source: asianvolleyball)

Esteghlal look for fourth successive victory over Al Hilal

After two rounds of fixtures, Al Hilal looked to be in a strong position to advance to the last 16 having won both their games, while Esteghlal were still seeking their first win of the campaign after conceding late to draw 1-1 with Al Ain on Matchday Two.

When the sides met in Doha two weeks ago, the difference was five points and a win for Al Hilal would have made it highly unlikely that the Iranian giants would catch them, but Esteghlal then blew Group C wide open by posting a 2-1 victory to move within two points of the Saudi team.

The result continued a recent trend in the fixture as last year Esteghlal claimed a pair of 1-0 victories over Al Hilal to progress from the group stage while the two-time runners-up exited after suffering a disappointing campaign.

On Tuesday, the sides lock horns once more in a potentially crucial clash in Abu Dhabi, where an Al Hilal victory would put them back on course for the last 16. However, if Esteghlal secure a fourth successive win over their opponents they leapfrog them in the standings and suddenly Al Hilal's hopes of advancing will be in doubt.

(Source: the-afc)



Farzin Noori suspended for anti-doping violation

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has suspended the Iranian powerlifter Farzin Noori for four years for committing an anti-doping violation.

The athlete who competes in the up to 72kg class returned an adverse analytical finding for 19-Norandrosterone in a urine sample provided on 9 December 2017 following an out of competition test in Dubai, UAE, prior to competing at the 2017 Asian Youth Para Games. The test was conducted by the Asian Paralympic Committee as part of its testing programme for the event.

This substance is included on the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) 2017 Prohibited List under the category S1.B1 Endogenous Anabolic Androgenic Steroids when administered exogenously.

As a result of his violation, Noori will be ineligible for competition for four years from 9 December 2017, the date of the test, to 8 December 2021. This means the athlete is not eligible to qualify or compete at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

All his results obtained from 9 December 2017 and onwards will be disqualified including forfeiture of any medals, points, records and prizes.

The IPC would like to remind all athletes the principle of strict liability applies to anti-doping matters. Therefore, each athlete is strictly liable for the substances found in his or her sample, and that an anti-doping rule violation occurs whenever a prohibited substance (or its metabolites or markers) is found in his or her bodily specimen, whether or not the athlete intentionally or unintentionally used a prohibited substance or was negligent or otherwise at fault.

As a signatory of the World Anti-Doping Code (WADC), the IPC remains committed to a doping-free sporting environment at all levels. The IPC, together with the International Federations and the National Paralympic Committees, established the IPC Anti-Doping Code to prevent doping in sport for Paralympic athletes, in the spirit of fair play. The IPC Anti-Doping Code is in conformity with the general principles of the WADC.

(Source: Paralympic.org)

Group C: Al Hilal SFC v Esteghlal FC

Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal can seal qualification to the 2019 AFC Champions League Round of 16 with a win over Iran's Esteghlal at Mohammed bin Zayed Stadium on Tuesday.

Two-time runners-up Al Hilal have reached the knockout stages nine times in the past 10 years, but they were eliminated in the group stage last year.

Coach Zoran Mamic's men fell to a 2-1 defeat to Esteghlal in Doha two weeks ago, after starting their Continental campaign with back-to-back victories over Al Ain and Al Duhail. Meanwhile, Esteghlal's win came after an opening day 3-0 reversal at Al Duhail and a 1-1 draw with Al Ain.

Al Hilal's chances will be boosted by the return of star midfielder Abdullah Otayf after a two-month injury layout.

Domestically, Esteghlal have won their last two matches to climb up to second in the Iranian Pro League table, five points behind arch-rivals Persepolis. Al Hilal similarly find themselves second in the Saudi Pro League, although just a point behind their own city rivals Al Nassr.

(Source: the-afc)

Fowler to be named new Brisbane Roar boss - sources

Robbie Fowler will be appointed as the new manager of A-League side Brisbane Roar, sources close to the former Liverpool and England striker have told ESPN FC.

Fowler is expected to be presented on Tuesday, ahead of Brisbane's final game of the A-League season at home to Adelaide United on Thursday.

The appointment ends a long search by the Roar for a replacement for John Aloisi, who resigned in December, with Fowler set to begin work in June.

The 44-year-old, who played for both North Queensland Fury and Perth Glory and had a spell as player-coach of Thai side Muangthong United, is tasked with reviving a side that has struggled badly in recent months.

Fowler, who made his Liverpool debut at the age of 18 in 1993, went on to score 183 goals in 369 games during two successful spells with the club. He also played for Leeds, Manchester City, Cardiff and Blackburn before moving to the A-League in 2009.

(Source: ESPN)

INTERNATIONAL DAILY
www.tehrantimes.com

■ Managing Director: Ali Asgari
■ Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Ghaderi

» Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
editor@tehrantimes.com
» Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
» Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051450
» Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
» Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
» www.eshterak.ir Distributor: Padideh Novin Co.
Tel: 88911433
» Webmaster: webmaster@tehrantimes.com
» Printed at: Hamshahri No. 3 - ISSN: 1017-94



Tehrantimes79



Tehrantimesdaily

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran
P.O. Box: 14155-4843
Zip Code: 1599814713



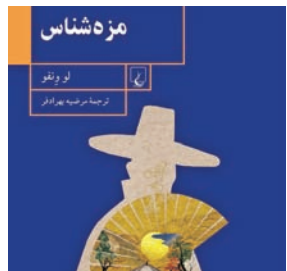
When the world gratifies you, your defects are hidden and no one can hurt you.

Imam Ali (AS)

“The Gourmet” published in Persian

CULTURE
d e s k

TEHRAN — Chinese writer Lu Wenfu’s 1988 novella “The Gourmet” has recently been published in Persian by Qoqnu Publications in Tehran.



Front cover of the Persian version of “The Gourmet” by Chinese author Lu Wenfu.

Marzieh Behradfar has translated the book from its original language into Persian.

Winner of the National Best Novellas Award, “The Gourmet” follows the lives of two cousins, Zhu, who is rich and obsessed with good food, and Gao, who is the manager of a restaurant that used to be a hub of excellent cuisine.

The book will be unveiled during the 32nd Tehran International Book Fair, which will be held from April 24 to May 4.

Varesh festival to review films from Azerbaijan

A R T
d e s k

TEHRAN — A lineup of eight movies from Azerbaijani filmmakers will be reviewed at the 9th Varesh Short Film Festival, the organizers announced on Monday.

The lineup includes “Chovkan”, a documentary film by Rafiq Guliyev, “Heritage” by Fariz Ahmedov, and “Baku in the Mirror of Time” by Natalia Zavoznenko.

Also included are “Trace of Gula” by Shamil Aliyev, and “Shaki” by Vugar Islamzade.

The festival will be running in the northern Iranian city of Babol in Mazandaran Province from April 29 to May 3.

Zombies to star at Cannes Film Festival, but no Netflix or Tarantino

PARIS (Reuters) — Bill Murray fighting off zombies and an Elton John biopic tracking the singer’s early days will be among the highlights at this year’s Cannes Film Festival, though Quentin Tarantino’s hotly-anticipated latest outing looked set to miss out.

Unveiling the line-up for the 72nd edition of the cinema showcase, festival director Thierry Fremaux described the selection as a “romantic and political” mix highlighting a colorful array of characters, from the walking dead to painters and migrants.

One major name not to make the list, however, was Tarantino, whose “Once Upon A Time In Hollywood” was hotly tipped to make it to the festival, held in May on the French Riviera.

The movie, starring Brad Pitt, Leonardo DiCaprio and Margot Robbie, was still in post-production, organizers said.

“Quentin Tarantino’s film is not ready...but he is sprinting” to finish it, Fremaux told a news conference, adding there was a slim chance it could yet make the line-up.

“I wish him luck, I wish him to be ready, I wish above all that he will make a beautiful film, what I’ve seen of it so far is magnificent,” Fremaux said.

The May 14-25 festival will kick off with U.S. director Jim Jarmusch’s latest film, “The Dead Don’t Die”.

One of the 19 contenders for the Palme D’Or top prize, the tale of a small town under siege from zombies boasts a star-studded cast including Murray, Tilda Swinton, Iggy Pop, Danny Glover and Selena Gomez.

Spanish director Pedro Almodovar - who presided over the jury at Cannes two years ago, a spot handed this year to Mexico’s Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu - will also be in contention for the top award with “Pain and Glory”.

The movie, which reunites actors Penelope Cruz and Antonio Banderas, tracks the travails of a filmmaker.

Britain’s Ken Loach, 82, who won the Palme D’Or in 2016 with “I, Daniel Blake”, returns with “Sorry We Missed You”.

Terrence Malick will also enter the competition with “A Hidden Life”, set against the backdrop of World War Two.

Newcomers in contention include France’s Justine Triet with “Sibyl” and Senegalese-French director Mati Diop’s “Atlantique.”

As last year, Netflix films will be conspicuously absent from Cannes, with the online streaming and media group at odds with the festival over its rules requiring productions to be shown in French cinemas.

Iranian cinema captures reality of life: Italian cinematographer Luca Bigazzi

By Manijeh Rezapoor

TEHRAN — Italian cinematographer Luca Bigazzi has said that talking about the reality of life is one of the main characteristics of Iranian movies.

“Every time I see Iranian movies I have the feeling of reality. It is not fiction, it is reality with a real structure,” Bigazzi told the Tehran Times on Sunday during an interview at Tehran’s Charsu Cineplex, which is hosting the 37th Fajr International Film Festival.

Bigazz is attending the event and has held two workshops and one master class on cinematography at the festival on April 19, 20 and 21.

“Iranian cinema is about real life with a very personal view, and this is very, very important in cinema; it is actually one of the most important things in cinema, and this is a type of cinema I am greatly interested in,” he added.

Iranian cinema is exactly on the borderline between documentary and fiction cinema, said Bigazzi who worked with the legendary Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami in his 2010 film “Certified Copy” starring Juliette Binoche and British opera singer William Shimell.

“Collaboration with Abbas was a fantastic experience. He was a great director and every day he surprised us with new ideas and new perspectives. The movie was shot in Italy, but it was an international movie because he was not speaking about Italy or Iran, he was speaking about humanity,” he added.

On his opinion about the Fajr festival, Bigazzi said, “This is one of my favorites, really, because I see some fantastic films by many directors not just Abbas but also many other good directors from Iran.”



Luca Bigazzi attends a press conference during the 37th Fajr International Film Festival at Tehran’s Charsu Cineplex on April 21, 2019. (FIFF/Farnaz Azizi)

Doc to chronicle history of motorcycle in Iran



This old photo shows an Iranian man with a motorcycle.

A R T **TEHRAN** — Director Farahnaz Sharifi plans to study the history of the motorcycle in Iran in a documentary, which will be produced by Hamid Qezlu.

“The vehicle has not received any concern in Iran at all,” Qezlu said in a press release published by the Documentary and Experimental Film Center (DEFC) on Monday.

“107 years have passed since the first motorcycle was imported into Iran, while there has not been even one page of reliable information about the history of the motorcycle in the country,” he added.

The idea to make the documentary titled “Motorcycle” flashed through Qezlu’s mind while reading a book about the role of motorcycle in modern Tehran.

“A team of four researchers have been assigned to study 500 editions of old magazines published over the past 120 years in order to gather information about the topic,” he said.

According to the information collected by the team, Iran’s customs office has registered the first import of a motorcycle into the country in 1912.

The first group of motorcycles was imported into Iran from India and Russia, and Japanese motorcycles were introduced in Iran in 1957.

Qezlu said that motorcycles were frequently used in Iranian movies during the 1960s.

Research on the subject is expected to be completed by July and shooting will begin immediately afterwards, he stated.

“Getting to Know China” at Tehran Intl. Book Fair



Organizers unveil a poster for the 32nd Tehran International Book Fair on April 17, 2019. (Fars/Hamid Tavakkoli)

A R T **TEHRAN** — China will attend the 32nd Tehran International Book Fair as the guest of honor with the motto of “Getting to Know China”, the organizers announced on Monday.

The motto have been chosen to encourage Iranian people to be more familiar with China through reading, a representative of the China National Publications Import and Export (Group) Corporation said in a press conference held at the Iran Cultural Fairs Institute in Tehran.

A delegation composed of about 200 Chinese cultural figures and officials as well as 94 publishers from the country will attend the Tehran book fair, which is scheduled to open

on Wednesday.

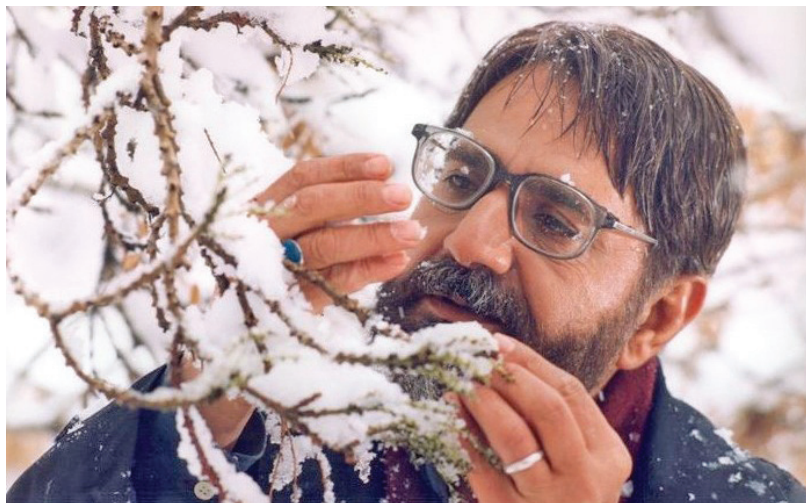
Cao Wenxuan, children’s book writer and the winner of Hans Christian Andersen Award, Mai Jia and Xu Zechen are among the writers.

China’s pavilion at the book fair will host special programs including meetings, during which the latest offerings from Chinese authors will be unveiled.

In addition, China plans to organize exhibitions of handicrafts, paintings and hand-written books by Chinese artists on the sidelines of the book fair.

Over 800 publishers from about 30 countries, including Japan, Germany, India, Russia, Serbia, Lebanon and Armenia, will also participate in the event, which will run until May 4.

“Willow Tree”, “Children of Heaven” to screen at SUFISIN festival in Konya



Ascene from “The Willow Tree” by Iranian director Majid Majidi.

A R T **TEHRAN** — Iranian Oscar-nominated director Majid Majidi’s films “The Willow Tree” and “Children of Heaven” will go on screen at the 2nd SUFISIN-Sufi Cinema Days in Konya, Turkey, the organizers have announced.

“The Willow Tree” is about Yusef, a blind middle-aged university professor, who regains his vision after surgery.

“Children of Heaven” follows the lives of two siblings, nine-year-old Ali and his younger sister Zahra, who are forced to share one pair of shoes after an unfortunate accident.

The movie received a nomination at the Oscars in 1998, but it failed to win.

The festival, which will be held from May 3 to 5, will screen movies on the themes of Sufism, religion and mysticism.

“Sunday in Budapest” offers selection of Latin American poetry in Persian



Front cover of “Sunday in Budapest”.

CULTURE **TEHRAN** — The Iranian publishing company Anima has published a book titled “Sunday in Budapest”, which contains a selection of poems from Latin American writers.

The poems have been selected and translated into Persian by Hamed Rahmati.

The book will be put on display by the publisher during the 32nd Tehran International Book Fair, which will open on Wednesday.

“The book contains works by 19 poets including Pablo Neruda, Jorge Borges, Oc-

tavio Paz, and Victor Jara,” Rahmati told the Persian service of MNA on Monday.

“Due to lack of sources in English, I even made use of the Turkish translations of some of the poems. For example, Jara is most famous in Turkey, and I used Turkish sources in the translation of Jara’s poetry,” he said.

Rahmati noted that most of the selected poems are from more famous poets and added, “For example, five poems by Paz and three by Borges are included in the book while others have one or two.”