



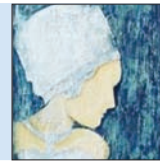
There's zero possibility of U.S. war on Iran **2**



Israel exposed its true face in Gaza attacks **3**



Persepolis knocked out of AFC Champions League **15**



Tehran Ariana Gallery gets warning over Tahmineh Milani exhibition **16**

Iran to respond to U.S. exit from JCPOA on Wednesday



See page 2

India considering new bank to facilitate trade with Iran

TEHRAN — Indian Ambassador to Tehran Gaddam Dharmendra said India is considering a new bank besides UCO bank for undertaking trade with Iran, IRIB reported. The ambassador made the remarks in a meeting with the Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Gholam-Hossein Shafei on Sunday. In the meeting, Dharmendra expressed

his country's determination for expanding trade ties with Iran, saying, "Considering the problems regarding the banking relations, commodity exchange could be a good solution for boosting the bilateral trade." The official mentioned the two countries' current \$14 billion trade turnover and noted that adding new commodity groups to the basket of trade could further boost the figure up. **→4**

Iranian, Chinese universities plan to open joint innovation tech offices

TEHRAN — The University of Tehran's science and technology park and China's Yunnan University plan to establish joint offices at the universities in the near future, Mehr reported on Monday.

A group of high-ranking officials headed by Huang Yi, the vice-chairman and Party Member of Yunnan Provincial Committee of the Chinese

People's Political Consultative Conference, held a meeting with the University of Tehran chancellor Mahmoud Nili on Monday.

Exchange of experts in the field of agriculture and formation of joint teams by Iranian and Chinese professors were some of the issues discussed during the event. **→11**

Islamic Jihad debuts new missile with attack on Israel, pledges bigger surprises

TEHRAN — The al-Quds Brigades, the armed wing of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement, has unveiled its latest domestic missile by firing it at targets in the Israeli occupied territories.

The resistance group released a video on Sunday which showcased the new missile, dubbed Badr 3, before cutting to footage of it being launched at positions in the city of Ashkelon, which is located

50 kilometers (31 miles) south of Tel Aviv. The missile carried a 250-kilogram (551 lb) warhead, a major leap from its predecessor which had a much smaller 40-kilogram warhead.

The video shows at least four Badr 3 missiles roaring into the dark of the night on May 4 and 5. Ashkelon is 13 kilometers north of the fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel. **→13**



PERSPECTIVE

M.A. Saki
Deputy editor-in-chief

It is not the way to counter sanctions

At a meeting of the Majlis (Parliament) on Monday, it was decided not to increase gasoline price and not even ration it.

The session, held behind closed doors, was attended by the oil and interior ministers.

Behrouz Nemati, spokesman of the Majlis presiding board, told reporters: There will be no increase in gasoline price." He also said there will be no "limit" for consumption of gasoline. He added the revival of the smart fuel card is only intended to prevent smuggling of gasoline.

The fierce opposition to raising gasoline price by MPs has been a source of economic headache. Some analysts say since they are facing reelection in February they oppose increasing gasoline prices.

But finding a seat in the parliament must not be above national resources. These MPs are indifferent to this bitter fact that gasoline consumption has increased to the astonishing level of 100 million liters per day and its use is increasing day by day as more cars are hitting the streets.

Unfortunately, the price of gasoline is extremely low in comparison to other goods. Its low price has created a situation for an insatiable use of private cars.

Those MPs who are so sensitive toward increase in gasoline prices don't seem to be that much concerned about high rises in prices of basic commodities such as rice, meat and sugar, etc. If MPs are really concerned about the public welfare, especially the poor and lower-income classes, they can allocate the money from increase in gasoline prices to subsidize basic commodities.

Economically speaking, at a time that Iranians are facing cruel and illegal sanctions and a considerable percentage of the 85 million population are worried about the cost of basic commodities, allocating billions of euros in subsidies to gasoline is adding salt to the wound.

The approach that the Majlis has adopted is not what is essentially needed to counter sanctions. It seems a majority of Majlis representatives are ignorant of this fact that cruel persons such as John Bolton and Mike Pompeo are resorting to every means to close all Iran's sources of incomes to strangle its economy.

In such a difficult situation spending billions of euros to subsidize gasoline is an indirect help to enforcers of sanctions.

Which province, which mobile game, an interesting survey

By Setareh Behroozi

TEHRAN — Yes, the place and ecosystem people live in, may affect the type of mobile game they download.

According to a recent report released by the Café Bazaar, an Iranian Android marketplace, about 65 percent of Iranians downloaded at least one game on their smartphones.

According to the report, about 24 million Iranian users have already installed mobile games on their cellphones and 6.5 percent of Iranians have more than ten games on their smartphones.

■ Iranian and foreign mobile games share the top list

The Iranian single-player word game Amirza ranks first on the most installed games. While

the foreign mobile strategy video game Clash of Clans and the brick breaker Swipe Brick Breaker follow it respectively.

The Iranian game Amirza, which includes 800 different stages of brain ladder games, category word and trivia with funny characters, is the most popular game amongst the users with over three million active installs.

Some 18.3 percent of users in central Isfahan province have installed Amirza on their smartphones, which brought them on the top of the list. On the other side, users in southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan province are on the bottom of list with 10.8 percent of installs.

The Clash of Clan is mostly installed by the users in Sistan-Baluchestan province with 13.5

percent and only 7.1 percent of people in northern Mazandaran province have installed the game.

Citizens in Ardebil province in northwestern Iran rank first in installing Swipe Brick Breaker with 13.8 percent while only 1.8 percent of users in southwestern Bushehr province have installed the game.

According to the report, six million users have only installed foreign games on their smartphones and the same number only install Iranian games.

■ Most of Yazd citizens install mobile games on their cellphones

About 69.1 percent of citizens living in the central province of Yazd have already installed one mobile game on their cellphones and grab the title for the most population of gamers in the country. **→11**

Blackwater training Daesh terrorists in Iraq, eyeing Syria

TEHRAN — The notorious U.S. mercenary firm Blackwater has returned to Iraq, a Lebanese newspaper says, with the private company currently training defeated Daesh terrorists at a base near Baghdad.

The Arabic-language newspaper al-Akhbar reported that Blackwater and other security firms have been allowed to operate in Iraq since early 2018 under intense U.S. pressure.

The daily cited sources close to the chargé d'affaires of the U.S. mission in Iraq, Joey Hood, as saying that Blackwater had transferred U.S. military equipment from Jordan to the western Anbar Province, Press TV reported.

According to the sources, the private company is currently training Daesh terrorists at the Ein al-Assad base which President Donald Trump visited in December.

Al-Akhbar quoted field sources as saying that trucks carrying Daesh militants were transferred from the town of Baqouz, the last piece of land which the terror group held in Syria's eastern Province of Dayr al-Zawr.

Blackwater was expelled from Iraq in 2007 after its mercenaries killed 14 civilians in Baghdad's Nisour Square in a crime that marked the peak of its violations against Iraqis during the US invasion of the country.

Al-Akhbar cited a document from February 2018 obtained by BuzzFeed News that confirms its report.

The document shows that Frontier Logistics Consultancy DMCC, a UAE-based subsidiary of a Hong Kong-listed security and logistics company established by Erik Prince - the founder of Blackwater - is operating in southern Iraq.

According to the daily, Blackwater which has changed its name to escape its bad reputation is seeking to operate in Syria, referring to Prince's remarks earlier this year when he welcomed Trump's Syria pullout decision and stressed that American troops in the Arab country could be replaced with mercenaries.

Last week, the Syrian army and Iraqi Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), known as Hashd al-Sha'abi, carried out a coordinated operation with the aim of clearing the Iraq-Syria border area of remaining Daesh terrorists.

The operation came after Iraq and Syria agreed to reopen the al-Qaim border crossing. Both countries originally recaptured the al-Bukamal and al-Qaim border region from Daesh in November 2017 but continued terrorist presence had prevented a reopening of the crossing.



ARTICLE

Hamid Bayati
Tehran Times journalist

Will Joe Biden revive Iran nuclear deal?

These days the name of Joe Biden, former U.S. vice president, is on the top news everywhere in U.S.

The latest polls in Democratic Party has shown that Biden is likely to become the party's primary candidate to run for 2020 presidential elections against Donald Trump.

Many U.S. analysts have predicted that Biden will beat his fellow democrat candidates, Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders and will enter the final 2020 presidential race.

Meanwhile, some western media discuss whether Biden will go back on U.S. nuclear agreement with Iran, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

According to AL Monitor, Ben Fishman, a former adviser to Obama on Middle East policy says "As he [Biden] puts together his campaign staff, Biden is expected to draw from a pool of experts that participated in years of negotiations with Iran. That should leave him well-positioned to defend specifics of the deal while also addressing lingering bipartisan concerns about Iran's role in the region."

"His first-hand knowledge of the details will allow him to articulate a policy not just on the nuclear elements of Iran, but the regional destabilization elements that Iran is still pursuing actively — including in Iraq."

Biden's strategy, then, will be demanding more concessions from Iran for superficially reentering the nuclear deal. This idea was also proposed before by Ilan Goldenberg, the senior advisor to John Kerry, former U.S. Secretary of State.

It is clear what democrats mean by "demanding more concessions"; they seek to constrain Iran's missile program and power in the region, in exchange for reviving the "dead" and "distorted" JCPOA with putting even more restrictions on Iran in comparison to when Barack Obama was in office.

This game devised by Joe Biden and John Kerry for Iran will become even more complicated when they start to request other international players to enter the game. **→13**



© Honaronline/ Ramona Mirian

Veteran Iranian artists get lifetime awards

TEHRAN — The Iranian Theater Forum honored eight veteran artists for their lifetime achievements during the closing ceremony of the Iran Theater Week at the Milad Tower on Sunday.

Stage directors Ruhollah Jafari and Bahram Beizai, actors Ali Nasirian, Mohammad-Ali Keshavarz, Jaleh Olov and Iraj Raad, novelist Mahmud Dowlatbadi and graphic designer Qobad Shiva were the figures who were recognized with awards.

Accepting his award, Nasirian praised the forum for honoring the veterans. **→16**

IRGC, Intelligence Ministry fighting enemies ‘round-the-clock’

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Major General Hossein Salami has praised the IRGC's intelligence unit as well as the Intelligence Ministry for their "round-the-clock war" against enemies. "Today, we are engaged in a serious, global round-the-clock intelligence war with enemies," said Salami, the new chief of the IRGC, during a meeting with Intelligence Minister Mahmoud Alavi in Tehran on Sunday.



He said Iran's intelligence forces are usually one step ahead of the enemy, according to the IRIB.

The top commander described the Guards' intelligence unit and the Intelligence Ministry as "the two sharp eyes" of the Islamic Revolution which "complement each other on the battlefield."

Salami highlighted the importance of Iran's intelligence work, saying, "Today, the intelligence factor contributes to the country's prestige and if the enemy faces our strong will, it will back down."

He called for awareness in the face of enemy plots but made it clear that none of the adversaries are to be overestimated just on the basis of their "psychological warfare" and "media propaganda".

"Today, our enemies appear scary and buff but deep inside they suffer from severe osteoporosis," he added.

Alavi, for his part, congratulated General Salami on his recent appointment as the new IRGC chief and hailed close ties between the two intelligence organizations.

"We hope that, hand in hand with our Guards' brothers, we can accomplish our critical mission to protect the country and the Islamic Revolution in the best possible manner," he continued.

Earlier this month, Alavi revealed that Tehran had identified 290 U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) agents across different countries, forcing Washington to form a special committee to reassess its cloak-and-dagger operations.

He made references to what U.S. spy experts have described as a major intelligence defeat for America.

Alavi pointed to a November 2018 Yahoo News article that said Iran's intelligence had gained access to a secret CIA communications system, allowing Iranians to not only discover and detain U.S. assets in the country, but also probably share key findings with Chinese and Russian authorities.

The intelligence minister added that as many as 114 Takfiri terrorist teams, 116 Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) teams, 44 teams seeking to overthrow the Iranian government and 380 drug smuggling bands were busted over the past year alone.

Iran's past calendar year ended on March 20, 2019.

He said the intelligence community of Iran neutralized 188 other criminal groups, including four people who were recently arrested in southwest of the country along with 15,000 AK-47 rounds.

Salami's meeting with Alavi came as the most recent leg of his meetings with high-ranking officials as the new commander of the Guards. On May 5, he met with Defense Minister Amir Hatami. During that meeting, Salami emphasized that enemies of Iran have been exhausted, reassuring that Tehran's foes will sooner or later crumble because of their internal decays.

Salami was appointed as the IRGC commander on April 21 upon a decree by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

In that decree, the Leader promoted Salami to the rank of major general and replaced him for Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari who had held the post since September 2007.

Salami had acted as the IRGC second-in-command under Jafari. The Leader also thanked general Jafari for his valuable and great services.

In part of his decree, Ayatollah Khamenei told Salami that based on the need for change in the IRGC commandership suggested by Major General Jafari and "in view of your competence and valuable experiences in top and different managerial posts in the revolutionary, jihadi, and popular institutes of the Guards... I appoint you, by granting the rank of major general, to the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps."

Sherman says she has never seen a war Bolton didn't want to wage

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Wendy Sherman, the former undersecretary of state for political affairs who led the U.S. negotiating team that concluded the Iran nuclear agreement, has said that she has never seen a war U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton did not want to wage.

"Indeed, @AmbJohnBolton bringing us war with Venezuela and with Iran? Never saw a war he didn't want to wage. Where is @realDonaldTrump?" she tweeted on Sunday.

Reportedly, the U.S. is deploying a carrier strike group and a bomber task force to the Middle East for a possible war against Iran.

Bolton said on Sunday that the deployment of the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group to the U.S. Central Command region was a response "to a number of troubling and escalatory indications and warnings" by Iran.

He has also threatened to use force against Venezuela which is caught in a conflict between the ruling government and the opposition.

Bolton told reporters on Wednesday that "all options" for Venezuela are under consideration at the White House, according to Politico.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi has condemned the United States for threatening to use military force to topple the legitimate Venezuelan government.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran condemns the U.S. attempts to cause a coup in Venezuela or take any military action in the country and also Washington's officials' remarks to incite chaos and violence," Mousavi said in a statement published on Thursday.

Mousavi said threatening to use force against a country is a violation of international law and urged the international community to respond to such remarks.

"Unfortunately, the international stability is under threat by some warmonger and lawless vandals in the U.S. administration, and it is essential that all members of the international community use what's in their power to resolve the issue," he added.

There's zero possibility of U.S. war on Iran: MP

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Alaeddin Boroujerdi, a veteran lawmaker who served as deputy foreign minister in the 1980 and 1990s, has said that Iran has many military capabilities and there is zero possibility that United States start a war on Iran.

"Today, the U.S. is aware of our military capabilities. We gained victory during the eight years of war [Iran-Iraq 1980-1988] despite all the Western countries' supports for Iraq. We have achieved many advances. If the U.S. aircraft carrier makes a mistake, it will definitely be drowned by our precision-guided missiles," he told the Arabic language Al-Alam news network in an interview aired on Sunday.

He noted that economies of the U.S. and Europe are intertwined with economy of the Middle East and the U.S. officials are not so "unwise" to start a war.

"War with Iran is playing with fire and it will burn all and not just Iran," added Alaeddin Boroujerdi who chaired the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee for many years.

Reportedly, the U.S. is deploying a carrier strike group and a bomber task force to the Middle East.

U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton claimed on Sunday that the deployment of the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group to the U.S. Central Command region was a response "to a number



of troubling and escalatory indications and warnings" by Iran.

■ **'It's time for Iran to review policies on nuclear deal'**

Boroujerdi also said that it is time for Iran to review policies on the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"The U.S. quit the JCPOA and violated

its commitments; and Europe has adopted a selective approach, so the government should not act in a conservative way because a revolutionary government should not act in this way. We should take retaliatory action," the veteran lawmaker suggested.

He also described the U.S. efforts to reduce Iran's oil sale to zero as a "political" and "psychological warfare".

“War with Iran is playing with fire and it will burn all and not just Iran,” MP Alaeddin Boroujerdi warns.

Iran, Kyrgyzstan hold political talks in Tehran

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran and Kyrgyzstan held their fourth round of political consultations in Tehran on Saturday.

The meeting chaired by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Seyyed Abbas Araqchi and his Kyrgyz counterpart Nuran Niazaliyev.

According to a report by the Iranian Foreign Ministry's website, during the talks, a wide range of issues including cooperation at mutual, regional, and international levels were discussed and the two sides reached an agreement on the agenda of meetings between high-ranking officials from the two countries during the current Iranian calendar year.

Holding the 12th meeting of the Iran-Kyrgyzstan Joint Economic Commission and the 8th consular meeting was also underlined by the two officials within the framework of the agreement.



Araqchi and Niazaliyev emphasized the need to implement the earlier agreements reached and the documents signed during the reciprocal visits of the Iranian and Kyrgyz presidents (the visit of former Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambayev to Tehran in 2015 and the visit of President Hassan Rouhani to Bishkek in 2016).

They further called for taking advantage of all capacities for mutual cooperation as well as regional mechanisms including the Eurasian Economic Union to expand trade ties between the two sides.

Expanding transportation cooperation, facilitating visa issuance for drivers and launching direct flights between Iran and Kyrgyzstan are among the main priorities of the two sides, the Iranian and Kyrgyz diplomats said, calling for the removal of any obstacles in this way and speeding up the pace of cooperation in the abovementioned areas.

Tehran condemns Israeli attack on Gaza

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran's Foreign Ministry on Sunday condemned the Zionist regime's attack on the Gaza Strip in the occupied Palestine.

Tensions erupted in Gaza on Friday following the killing of four Palestinians, two in an Israeli air raid on southern Gaza and two during the regime's live fire at anti-occupation protesters near a fence separating the blockaded coastal enclave from the occupied territories.

At least 21 Palestinians, including two pregnant women and a 14-month-old baby girl, have so far lost their lives since the beginning

of the Israeli brutal attacks.

In a statement, Seyyed Abbas Mousavi, the spokesman of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, said in light of the Washington's unlimited support for the Tel Aviv regime and the shameful silence of some Muslim governments, there would be no end in sight to the crimes by the Zionist rulers in the occupied territories.

Praising the legitimate struggles and the forbearing resistance of the oppressed people of Palestine against the occupying regime, Mousavi highlighted the legitimate right of the Palestinians to defend themselves against the crimes of the Zionist regime.

He also called for urgent action by regional and international organizations and associations to prevent the continuation of the regime's aggression against the innocent and defenseless people of Palestine.

The Israeli regime claims about 450 rockets have been fired at the occupied lands over the past days. The Israeli army says its warplanes have targeted some 180 sites in the Gaza Strip.

The latest rocket fire from Gaza killed a 60-year-old Israeli man. A total of some 83 Israelis have also been wounded.

The Gaza Strip has been under an Israeli siege since June 2007, causing a decline in



living standards as well as unprecedented unemployment and poverty.

Israel has also launched several wars on the Palestinian coastal sliver, the last of which began in early July 2014.

Iran to respond to U.S. exit from nuclear deal on Wednesday

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — In a televised and radio program on Wednesday, President Hassan Rouhani will announce Iran's retaliatory actions against the U.S. withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal, a source close to the supervisory board monitoring the JCPOA said on Monday.

According to the source, Iran will remove some limitations on its nuclear activities which had been suspended under the agreement, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

The measures will be within the framework of the JCPOA's 26 and 36 articles and quitting the deal is not still on the agenda, the source said.

He said the move is also a response to the European Union which has failed to meet its obligations under the multilateral agreement.

The decision comes as Iran's senior diplomat Ali Araqchi who helped craft the JCPOA announced over the past two days that Iran's patience is running thin.

The Trump administration has not only quit the JCPOA - which is being endorsed by the UN Security Council - and introduced the toughest ever sanctions against Iran, it also announced on Friday that Washington will not renew two of sanctions waivers which allowed Russia and the European nations to do business with Tehran. One of the two waivers allowed Iran to store excess heavy water produced in the uranium enrichment process in Oman. The other one allowed Iran to swap enriched uranium for raw yellowcake with Russia.

However, according to sources, Iran is still insisting that the "door to diplomacy is open" and Iran's gradual steps to remove



cap on its nuclear program provide a "new opportunity for diplomacy so that the other side rectify the wrong path of unilateralism and return to the JCPOA and fully implement its obligations."

Reportedly, Iran has informed the EU officials on its decision.

Following is the articles 26 and 36 of the JCPOA:

26. The EU will refrain from re-introducing or re-imposing the sanctions that it has terminated implementing under this JCPOA, without prejudice to the dispute resolution process provided for under this JCPOA. There will be no new nuclear related UN Security Council sanctions and no new EU nuclear-related sanctions or restrictive measures. The United States will make best efforts in good faith to sustain this JCPOA and to prevent interference with the realization of the full benefit by Iran of the sanctions lifting specified in Annex II. The U.S.

Administration, acting consistent with the respective roles of the President and the Congress, will refrain from re-introducing or re-imposing the sanctions specified in Annex II that it has ceased applying under this JCPOA, without prejudice to the dispute resolution process provided for under this JCPOA. The

U.S. Administration, acting consistent with the respective roles of the President and the Congress, will refrain from imposing new nuclear-related sanctions. Iran has stated that it will treat such a re-introduction or re-imposition of the sanctions specified in Annex II, or such an imposition of new nuclear-related sanctions, as grounds to cease performing its commitments under this JCPOA in whole or in part.

36. If Iran believed that any or all of the E3/EU+3 were not meeting their commitments under this JCPOA, Iran could refer the issue to the Joint Commission for resolution;

similarly, if any of the E3/EU+3 believed that Iran was not meeting its commitments under this JCPOA, any of the E3/EU+3 could do the same. The Joint Commission would have 15 days to resolve the issue, unless the time period was extended by consensus. After Joint Commission consideration, any participant could refer the issue to Ministers of Foreign Affairs, if it believed the compliance issue had not been resolved. Ministers would have 15 days to resolve the issue, unless the time period was extended by consensus. After Joint Commission consideration – in parallel with (or in lieu of) review at the Ministerial level - either the complaining participant or the participant whose performance is in question could request that the issue be considered by an

Advisory Board, which would consist of three members (one each appointed by the participants in the dispute and a third independent member). The Advisory Board should provide a non-binding opinion on the compliance issue within 15 days. If, after this 30-day process the issue is not resolved, the Joint Commission would consider the opinion of the Advisory Board for no more than 5 days in order to resolve the issue. If the issue still has not been resolved to the satisfaction of the complaining participant, and if the complaining participant deems the issue to constitute significant non-performance, then that participant could treat the unresolved issue as grounds to cease performing its commitments under this JCPOA in whole or in part and/or notify the UN Security Council that it believes the issue constitutes significant non-performance.

Three senior MPs urge retaliatory actions in response to U.S. violation of JCPOA

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** – Three Iranian parliamentarians have called on the government to take a tougher line against the United States, which has unilaterally withdrawn from the 2015 nuclear deal and reimposed sanctions on Tehran.

Speaking in separate interviews with Iran Press on Sunday, the MPs criticized the United States' maximum pressure campaign against the Islamic Republic, especially its violation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), commonly known as the Iran nuclear agreement.

"I think the experience of 40 years of the Islamic Revolution has proven beyond any doubt that U.S. intentions [towards Iran] are always malevolent and never bona fide. America has never honored the [multilateral] agreements that it has signed, and it has never honored the pledges and promises that it has made," said Rahim Zare, a member of the Majlis Economic Committee.

The senior MP called on the government to take commensurate reciprocal action in relation to abrogation and dishonoring of the JCPOA by the United States.

"The Iranian people certainly support such an approach; the government must take a much tougher line on those countries abrogating or dishonoring the multilateral nuclear agreement. If the government did this, the entire nation and the families of



Amir-Hossein Ghazizadeh

Ahmad Anaraki

Rahim Zare

the martyrs of the Revolution will be much more satisfied. This is what the nation wants," he added.

Ahmad Anaraki Mohammadi, another member of the economic committee, said Iran is a resourceful country and can use all its capacities against the U.S.

Pointing to the "awful record of the U.S. and the European Union" regarding the JCPOA, Anaraki Mohammadi said the

Iranian people expect their government to "respond appropriately" to the dishonoring of the JCPOA, and to have a specific plan to deal with the situation.

"The government should raise public awareness about the real issues regarding the JCPOA, in order to put people's mind at ease and allay their concerns," the MP suggested.

Anaraki Mohammadi went on to say, "It

means that the Iranian government should make it clear whether it wants to stay in or leave the JCPOA. It's a big question and the Iranian public deserves to know the answer to that question and the government should let the people know."

Amir-Hossein Ghazizadeh Hashemi, who is a member of the parliament's presiding board, also said it was time Iran did something serious and practical in response to U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA and Europe's inaction vis-a-vis Washington's undermining of the multilateral agreement.

Ghazizadeh Hashemi called on the government to react to Europe's lack of action, and its failure to meet its obligations under the multilateral accord.

Almost a year has passed since the United States withdrew from the multilateral nuclear deal with Iran but during this time, Europeans have been unable to take practical and tangible steps to protect Iranian interests, he stated.

He pointed out that the JCPOA was not merely an independent legal agreement but it was the result of a political agreement between Tehran and the big powers.

"It has been clear for now that Europe is not willing to meet its obligations under the JCPOA and there is no hope that Europeans will undertake practical action to save the deal despite their promises," he added.

Mission of Afghan envoy to Tehran ends



POLITICAL **TEHRAN** – Afghanistan's ambassador to Tehran met on Monday with Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif to bid farewell at the end of his diplomatic mission in Iran.

According to IRNA, Nasir Ahmad Nour was named Afghanistan's ambassador to Tehran in 2013. He had also served as Kabul's ambassador to Qatar.

No information on his successor has been released yet.

Iran and Afghanistan share a long border as well as other commonalities such as language, culture, and religion. The volume of trade exchanges between the two countries have also increased largely.

Aref: Reformists seek high turnout in parliamentary polls



POLITICAL **TEHRAN** – The head of the Reformists' Policy Making Council has said the main strategy of the reformists for the 2020 parliamentary elections is to encourage a high turnout.

"However, the election bodies should act in a way that secures the involvement of all (groups with different political) persuasions in the elections," Mohammad Reza Aref said, ISNA reported on Monday.

Aref, who currently is the leader of the Hope faction in Majlis, added that a high turnout will promote the legitimacy and power of the Islamic Republic.

Iran's parliamentary elections are scheduled to be held on February 21, 2020.

Embassy: Tehran condemns 'any form of terrorism'

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** – Iran's embassy in South Korea on Monday denounced allegations by a U.S. official that Tehran supports terrorism, emphasizing that Iran condemns "any form of terrorism against any country".

U.S. Special Representative for Iran Brian Hook, in a recent interview with the Korean news agency Yonhap, accused Tehran of supporting terrorism and said any missile test by the country should be prevented.

In a statement after Hook's anti-Iran remarks, the embassy stressed that Iran has always been a peaceful country, IRNA reported.

It also reaffirmed that the nature of Iran's nuclear program is peaceful and fully verified by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The IAEA has confirmed several times that Iran has been in line with its obligations under the nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

In May 2018 U.S., President Donald Trump unilaterally pulled his country out of the JCPOA and reimposed sanctions on Tehran. The sanctions have severely affected South Korea as a major buyer of Iran's crude.

Iran's embassy in Seoul also criticized the U.S. unilateral withdrawal from the JCPOA as an "illegal act and blatant violation" of international law.

Army displays new defense equipment

TEHRAN (IRNA) – The Iranian Army's Ground Force on Monday unveiled some new military equipment.

The unveiling ceremony was attended by Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari, the deputy army chief for coordination affairs, and Army Ground Force Chief Brigadier General Kiumars Heidari.

Sayyari, addressing the ceremony, emphasized the need to boost Iran's power, saying Iranian experts can manufacture important defensive equipment and increase the country's power.

Earlier on the occasion of the Army Day, the Army unveiled six new weapons, including three drones: a smart multirotor bomber, a drone fighter to counter micro drones; a smart multirotor bomber (with a 5km range, 8 launchers, up to 30 minutes flights continuity, able to carry 8kg of cargo), and an anti-drone net launcher (with a 20m range, and equipped with two launchers).

The Army also put on display an atomic plasma spectrometer (able to be mounted on UAVs, quadcopters, vehicles and military equipment); a smart ground pod (able to discover human targets 15m and a vehicle 50m away, equipped with a friend or foe (IFF) identification system), and a portable laser alarm system (with a 15km range and 3 sensors).

Ex-presidential aide says Trump admin resolute to demoralize Iranian nation

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** – Former presidential aide for civil rights Shahindokht Molaverdi says the Trump administration is determined to demoralize the Iranian nation by putting pressure on the Islamic Republic.

"Winning the 'war on hope' is only possible through maintaining internal solidarity, unity and empathy, and the only approach to reach that end is by means of agreeing to a national dialogue," Molaverdi said in interview with IRNA published on Monday.

She made the remarks in reference to President Hassan Rouhani's Saturday speech, when he said the U.S. has launched "war on hope" by tightening sanctions measures against Iran.

U.S. President Donald Trump unilaterally and illegally pulled Washington out of the 2015 nuclear deal in May 2018 and ordered reimposition of sanctions against Iran. The



first round of sanctions went into force on August 6 and the second round, which targets Iran's oil exports and banks, were snapped back on November 4.

Also, on April 22 the U.S. announced that Washington has decided not to extend waivers allowing major importers to continue buying oil from Iran at a reduced rate. Waivers ended on May 1.

"After exiting Barjam (the Persian acronym for nuclear deal), the U.S.'s approach has been to foment 'maximum discontent' so that Iran collapses internally," Molaverdi commented.

What's certain, she said, is that "we are engaged in an all-out psychological war in addition to an all-out economic war."

She further called for a national dialogue to resolve problems, saying, "As long as there's no means for every citizen to play a role in the society, one cannot expect the growth of hope."

Israel exposed its true face in Gaza attacks: advisor

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** – Hossein Amir Abdollahian, a senior foreign policy advisor to the parliament speaker, said on Monday that the Israeli regime's bombardments of Gaza exposed the bloodthirsty nature of the Zionist regime.

The barbarous attacks showed "the homicidal and murderous nature of the Zionist occupiers and the full support of the racist U.S. president," Amir Abdollahian said, Mehr reported.

He also denounced the silence of the international community including some Arab states and their appeasement of the Israeli regime's crimes as a factor behind the continuation of the Israeli atrocities against Gazan children, women and men.

The advisor called on the international community, parliaments of the Islamic countries and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to condemn the attacks and support the Palestinian people.



Amir Abdollahian warned that the U.S. support cannot change the inevitable crumbling of the Zionist regime, stressing that the Palestinian resistance will put an end to the occupation and will free the occupied territories with almighty God's help.

Noting that the Islamic Republic will remain loyal to the Palestine cause, the politician said the illegal and unilateral actions of the U.S. government will fail to weaken the resolute of the Islamic nations in their support for the Palestinians and their help to liberate Jerusalem al-Quds and the occupied lands.

Mottaki says Iran should export defense and nuclear products

TEHRAN (MNA) – Former Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki says Tehran should continue to export defense and nuclear products regardless of the United States' anti-Iran propaganda and restrictions.

In a Sunday tweet, Mottaki referred to the competitive prices of Iranian-made defense equipment, such as drones and those related to the nuclear industry, saying, "In a meeting with late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, we discussed selling Iranian drones... Chavez welcomed the [possible purchase] noting that they had recently bought some drones three times as expensive as Iranian drones."

"So, regarding the competitive prices of Iranian defense products and other domestic achievements and the [low]-enriched uranium, the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran and the defense and foreign ministries should disregard the U.S.' [anti-Iran] propaganda and continue the efforts to



export these products," he stated.

Following the U.S. withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal and reimposition of unilateral sanctions on Iran's oil and banking sectors, the U.S. announced on Friday that it would try to force Iran to stop producing low-enriched uranium, a move that has been rejected by Iran.

President Hassan Rouhani and Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani said on Saturday that Iran will continue with production of low-enriched uranium in line with its nuclear deal with world powers despite the U.S. decision.

Ex-envoy criticizes Europe for failing to protect ties with Iran

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** – Abdolreza Faraji-Rad, Iran's former ambassador to Norway, has criticized European countries for failing to fully fulfil their obligations with regard to protecting their trade ties with Iran, Mehr reported on Monday.

"A few months ago, Europe announced the formation of INSTEX and Iran also formed a trade mechanism to match INSTEX," however in spite of these efforts, big European companies cannot still cooperate with Iran, he said.

Even small and medium companies have been unwill-

ing to establish ties with Iran because of their fears of U.S. sanctions, Faraji-Rad lamented.

"This is a reality that Europe should accept and perhaps it is a price that they have to pay in order to implement INSTEX," he stated, pointing to U.S. pressures.

INSTEX is a special purpose trade mechanism which was created in January 2019 by France, Germany and Britain – three parties to the 2015 nuclear deal - to facilitate legitimate trade between European economic operators and Iran.

ation, the sides pledged to boost cooperation in areas of military and defense.

Stressing that Iran holds South Africa attaches special attention to South Africa in its foreign policy, Ahadi said the Iranian people always respect Nelson Mandela and his peaceful struggle against racial discrimination.

Referring to the U.S. hostile and illegal moves, Ahadi said Washington, in its latest blatant enmity against Iranian people, desig-

nated Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) as a foreign terrorist organization. He added that the U.S. has no intention to stop its all-out support for terrorist acts in the region and across the world.

Brigadier General Ahadi also emphasized the continuation of military consultations and interactions between the armed forces of the two countries, as well as development of defense cooperation between the two sides to achieve a long-term and strategic engagement.

Last week, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, in a message to his South African counterpart Cyril Ramaphosa on the advent of the African country's National Day, voiced hope that relations between the two sides would expand more than ever.

"I would like to offer my sincerest congratulations on April 27, the National Day of the Republic of South Africa, to Your Excellency and the people of that country," said Rouhani in the message cabled on April 28.

TEHRAN (FNA) – Senior military officials of Iran and South Africa have vowed to increase military and defense cooperation in line with achieving a long-term and strategic engagement.

The pledge was made in a recent meeting between Iranian Deputy Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Ahadi and South African National Defense Forces (SANDF) chief General Solly Zacharia Shoke. To reinforce defense and military cooper-

Iran, S. Africa pledge to broaden defense co-op

STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	215820.6
IFX	2623.53

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	47,008 rials
GBP	55,113 rials
AED	11,437 rials

Source: cbi.ir

COMMODITIES

Brent	\$70.64/b
WTI	\$61.54/b
OPEC Basket	\$70.98/b
Gold	\$1,281.50/oz
Silver	\$14.88/oz
Platinum	\$870.40/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

India considering new bank to facilitate trade with Iran

➔ Dharmendra also underlined talks with Iranian authorities for considering Shahid Beheshti Port in southeastern Iran as a path for developing trade relations between the two countries, saying “By doing so, we can boost the level of trade between the two countries. On the other hand, focusing more on Chabahar Port and the capacities available in this region can be helpful in this direction.”



Indian Ambassador to Tehran Gaddam Dharmendra (L) and Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Gholam-Hossein Shafei discussed facilitation of trade ties at ICCIMA place on Sunday.

He further pointed to preferential trade between the two countries as a priority in India’s future plans for trade with Iran, adding that “Commodity exchange is a good idea that could help us bypassing the banking problems caused by sanctions against Iran.”

Shafei for his part, mentioned the long-term plans made by the two countries’ authorities for boosting trade ties, emphasizing that new policies should be developed to facilitate such relations.

He called for cooperation between the transport and industry ministries of Iran and India to invest in Chabahar Port.

The official finally suggested holding regular meetings between the two countries’ businessmen in association with the two countries’ chambers of commerce and also the Indian Embassy in Tehran.

Touraj Dehqani Zanganeh appointed new head of Iran Air

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Touraj Dehqani Zanganeh was appointed as the new managing director of Iran’s National Airline (Iran Air), IRNA reported.

The decision was announced in a government meeting headed by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Sunday.

In the meeting the president also expressed appreciation for the services of Iran Air’s former head, Farzaneh Sharafbafi.

Iranian Airways Company was founded in May 1944 and operated its first passenger flight right after World War II.

China considering canceling this week’s trade talks after Trump’s tariffs threat

China may back out of trade talks scheduled for this week with U.S. officials after President Donald Trump threatened Beijing with increased tariffs, CNBC reported.

Trump said in a Sunday afternoon Twitter post that the current 10% tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods will rise to 25% on Friday. He also threatened to impose 25% levies on an additional \$325 billion of Chinese goods “shortly.”

Chinese Vice Premier Liu He had planned to bring a large delegation to Washington on Wednesday to hash out a trade deal — and there’d been talk in recent days that something resembling a deal could result. Instead, two sources briefed on the talks said the Chinese side may back out of this week’s negotiations.

That was pegged to Trump’s new threats, they said, which abandon a six-month trade after Beijing waffled on some previously discussed commitments.

One source said the Chinese vice premier will likely cancel the trip he’d planned for himself and a 100-person delegation for the final round of talks that U.S. officials had previously said could yield a deal by Friday. Chinese officials canceled a trip in late September 2018 in similar circumstances.

A second source said Trump’s decision to more than double the tariff rate on \$200 billion of goods was meant to send a message to Liu to not come to the U.S. with more “empty offers.”

The White House, the Treasury and the U.S. Trade Representative’s office did not immediately respond to CNBC’s requests for comment.

2,200 industrial units to back online by Mar. 2020: industry min.

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Rahmani said 2,200 industrial units will come back to the production cycle by the end of current Iranian calendar year (March 19, 2020), IRNA reported.

The minister said that last year, 1,900 inactive units were planned to restart activity, but the planning came true for 1,700 units and led to creation of 28,000 jobs.

He further said, “We have some plans for

removing the problems of the units which are facing serious challenges.”

There are some units that enjoy high potential and capacities, but due to some problems such as inadequate working capital they cannot work with full capacity, the minister noted, adding, “Our priority in the current year is to facilitate the condition for such units.”

As previously announced by Deputy Industry Minister Mohsen Salehinia, during

‘CBI to launch mechanism to ensure stability in foreign currency market’

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Central Bank of Iran (CBI) is going to launch a new mechanism to control the exchange rates in the country’s foreign currency market, Mehr news agency reported quoting an official with the bank.

According to the official, the preparations for a “unified foreign exchange market” system are being finalized and the new mechanism will be inaugurated as soon as the next week.

As reported, the new mechanism is aimed to organize the transactions in the foreign exchange market between the exchange shops.

“The CBI is going to explore the real volume of demand and supply in the foreign currency market through this new



mechanism,” the source explained.

Earlier this month, the CBI Governor Abdolnaser Hem-

Iran, Iraq hold meeting on Joint Trade Committee establishment

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Following the agreements on establishing an Iran-Iraq trade committee, officials from the two sides held a meeting to discuss the issue, the portal of Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) of Iran reported on Sunday.

According to Masoud Kamali Ardakani, the director for Industrial and Mineral Products Export Development Office of TPO, in the meeting, the two sides discussed several issues including joint investment and establishment of industrial zones, facilitating



the transit of goods, facilitating business travels, organizing pilgrimage and health tourism, as well as solving the existing

problems regarding mutual trade.

The official pointed to a 37 percent increase in Iran’s exports to Iraq in the last Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), saying “Obviously, the formation of this committee will be an important step towards reaching the goal of boosting the trade between the two countries to \$20 billion by 2021.”

The meeting was attended by senior officials from various sectors including representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Institute of Standards and Industrial

Research of Iran, Iran International Exhibition Company, Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce, Customs Administration Office, the Industrial Management Organization, the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization of Iran, The Industrial Development & Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO) and Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

Second Announcement

IN THE NAME OF GOD

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NO. 98-02/105

Tender Holder:
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

Subject of Two-Stage Tender:
Supply of Equipment and Development of an Infrastructure management system (DCIM) according to the tender documents

Deadline of Receiving Documents:
As of publishing second announcement of advertisement latest by the business hour dated on **Sunday May 12, 2019.**

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

Type and Amount of Guarantee for Participating in Tender:
The amount of **USD 24,900** which should be in the form of extendable bank guarantee

Time and Place of Delivering Priced Bid:
The sealed A, B & C packages/envelopes should be submitted within one main envelope marked with tender number no later than **15 p.m.** on **Wednesday June 12, 2019** and submitted to the Secretariat of Commission of Tenders.

Time and Place of Opening Envelopes
The date of opening envelopes A&B is at **8:30 a.m.** on **Sunday June 16, 2019** in the office of Vice President of IRIB Planning and Financial Resources and opening of envelope C will be after technical evaluation.
It should be noted that bidders should hold license from the authorized bodies.

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

Public Relations Dept. of IRIB

Brazil seeks to import petrochemicals from Iran: envoy

E N E R G Y **TEHRAN**— Brazil wants to import petrochemical products from Iran as the cost of producing these products is high in the Latin American country, Brazilian Ambassador to Iran Rodrigo de Azeredo Santos stated.

In a meeting with some officials of Iranian western province of Kermanshah, the ambassador said, "We are very keen to import urea, ammonia and bitumen from Kermanshah", IRNA reported.

Addressing the same meeting, Kermanshah Governor General Houshang Bazvand stressed that there are at least three petrochemical companies in Iran that are ready to export products, including urea, ammonia, polyethylene and sulphuric acid to Brazil.

"There are plans in place to build two other petrochemical companies in Kermanshah too," he added.

In an interview conducted by the Mehr News Agency on June 11, Santos said the



Brazilian government would spare no efforts to help Brazilian and Iranian firms develop relations after the U.S. withdrawal from Iran nuclear deal.

Also, in a meeting with the Head of Iran's

Industrial Development and Renovation Organization (IDRO) Mansour Moazami in Tehran, the Brazilian ambassador had announced his country's readiness for improvement of road transportation ties with Iran.

IOOC welcomes private sector's participation in offshore projects



E N E R G Y **TEHRAN** — The managing director of Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC) said that his company has already outsourced 60 percent of its operations to the private sector and will welcome this sector's partnership in the future projects, Shana reported.

Addressing a press conference on the sidelines of the 24th Iran Oil Show, Hamid Bovard said his company enjoys the largest offshore fleet in Iran and provides full services to upstream projects.

He said the company operates fields

with over 100 billion barrels of oil in place and ran 200 marine structures.

Bovard also stated that IOOC had realized its production goals fully and was also exporting crude oil cargoes directly.

Furthermore, he said that the sanctions have not impacted the company's production and exports and that they have even enhanced production in recent months.

Elsewhere in the press conference, the managing director of Iranian Offshore Oil Company said that his company is considering several project packages with an investment of over \$1.5 billion.

PGPIC to launch 7 projects by 2021



E N E R G Y **TEHRAN** — The managing director of Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (PGPIC) said the holding company plans to launch seven petrochemical projects by 2021, Mehr news agency reported.

Jafar Rabiei said that the projects included Bidboland Gas Refinery, Lordegan, Ilam Olefin, the ammonia project in Hengam Plant, Gachsaran, parts of associated gases collection and NGL 3200 projects.

He made the announcement on the sidelines of the 24th Iran Oil Show, which took place at the Tehran Permanent International

Fairgrounds from May 1 to 4. The event hosted some 1,150 domestic and foreign companies from 21 countries including Azerbaijan, Spain, Germany, Britain, Italy, Turkey, China, Russia, the Netherlands, Ukraine, and etc.

Rabiei said urea, ammonia and methanol would be added to the holding's output mix once Hengam and Apadana plants became operational.

PGPIC has also signed a contract with the National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) for gathering associated gases in the fields under operation by NISOC with 600 mcf/d of capacity.

Oil prices slump after Trump's tariff threat against China

Oil prices tumbled on Monday after U.S. President Donald Trump said he would sharply raise tariffs on Chinese goods this week, risking the derailment of trade talks between the world's two biggest economies.

As reported by Reuters, U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were at \$60.83 per barrel at 0832 GMT, down \$1.11. WTI hit \$60.04 earlier in the session, its lowest since March 29.

Brent crude futures were at \$69.78 per barrel, down \$1.07. Brent earlier hit its lowest since April 2 at \$68.79.

Trump said on Twitter on Sunday that he would hike U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods this week, pulling down global financial markets, including oil futures.

"Trump's sudden hard line on China tariffs has spooked investors, who are scrambling to reduce their risk levels in the markets," said Jasper Lawler, head of research at futures brokerage London Capital Group.

"The prospect of months of trade talks being derailed



by Trump has raised concerns over future demand for oil," he added.

Trump's move triggered reports that China may cancel or cut short trade talks scheduled with Washington this week.

"News of rising tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese goods at the end of this week has outweighed the announcement that the U.S. is to send a strike group to the Persian Gulf," Vienna-based consultancy JBC Energy said.

Within the oil industry, there are signs of a further rise in output from the United States, where crude production has surged by more than 2 million barrels per day (bpd) since early 2018 to a record 12.3 million bpd.

The United States is now the world's biggest oil producer, ahead of Russia and Saudi Arabia.

The number of rigs drilling for gas in the United States fell by three to 183 in the week to May 3, while oil-directed drilling rigs rose by two to 807, data from oil services firm Baker Hughes showed on Friday.

New Delhi likely to create strategy for Washington's Iran oil ban

By Liu Zongyi

A total U.S. ban on the purchases of Iranian crude oil took effect on May 2, according to the Voice of America. Last month, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced the U.S. would not extend sanctions waivers for Iranian oil importers including China, India, Japan, South Korea and Turkey. The countries were told to stop buying Iranian oil by May 2, or face sanctions.

Indian authorities indicated that since the U.S. announced this unilateral policy, it had been working with other countries to guarantee India's energy supply. This is a compliant attitude toward the U.S. unilateral policy. As the general election is ongoing in India, such an action by Narendra Modi's government has been condemned by the opposition Congress Party.

India is the world's third largest oil consumer, but its energy supply relies on imports, with about 80 percent coming from the Middle East. As India's third largest source of oil imports, Iranian oil accounts for more than 11 percent of India's crude oil demand. India is the second largest Iranian oil exporter only after China.

For the 2018-19 fiscal year, India imported about 23.5 million tons of oil from Iran. U.S. unilateral policy would see India pay more on energy. Sanctioned by the U.S., Iran is giving India many favorable treatments, such as 60 days of credit for oil purchases, Indian rupee payment, bartering trade for oil, while India imports oil from Iran with relatively low transportation and insurance costs. It is difficult for India to



find alternative countries that offer such favorable terms. India has serious foreign trade deficit, mainly because its imported energy costs too much in foreign exchange reserve.

Meanwhile, India's oil refining companies specialize in processing medium and heavy Iranian crude oil. From low-sulfur heavy crude oil with lower processing costs to higher-priced light oil, it not only costs more for raw materials but also requires changes in the process flow and techniques to open new markets.

The U.S. sanctions against Iran will increase international oil prices, impacting India's economic growth rate. After the Trump administration announced all Iranian oil buyers must stop importing

oil from Iran beginning May, oil prices surged significantly.

Rise in international oil prices
According to previous experiences, the rise in international oil prices will affect India's domestic energy prices and influence industrial and agricultural production costs, leading to higher food prices and eventually higher inflation. The reason why Modi's government has maintained a high level of economic development in the past five years is closely related to the low energy price of international market.

The U.S. unilateral policy would place India under geopolitical and domestic pressure. In fact, since the U.S. introduced the new sanctions last year, India's procure-

ment of oil from Iran dropped 50 percent.

Indian refiners have also been trying to mix heavy crude oil produced in Iran with light petroleum produced in the U.S. But the country's Iranian oil imports are not only for energy consumption but also for geostrategic purposes.

Iran and India have close political and cultural ties, with Pakistan in between the two. India is building the Chabahar Port and the International North-South Transport Corridor in Iran which enters Afghanistan and Central Asia bypassing Pakistan, competing with China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and the Gwadar Port to hedge the influence of China's Belt and Road Initiative.

In addition, India also hopes to maintain a balance between Sunni Muslims of Saudi Arabia and Iranian Shiite Muslims to show its unbiased position in domestic politics. If India completely abandons Iranian oil imports, it would suffer geostrategic and domestic political pressure.

India believes China will not accept the U.S. policy, and that some EU countries will not necessarily accept it as well. Thus, India can get a free ride from these countries. India could reduce Iranian oil imports but would hold its line to maintain the geostrategic relationship with Iran and ensure certain oil imports in rupees. India will strive to maintain its relationship with Iran for political reasons or acquiesce and encourage Indian companies to import Iranian oil through private tankers owned by private companies to evade the U.S. sanctions.

(Source: Global Times)

Middle East oil giants are about to upend oil trading

By Cyril Widdershoven

The summer of 2019 could be a watershed moment in global commodity markets. The next couple of months, could see a major reshuffle of global commodity trade and financial markets as a structured Arab strategy is kicking in.

International media has slowly started to report on the ongoing new ventures of oil and gas giants, such as Aramco and ADNOC, with international trading houses and IOCs making a move to capture a larger part of the global commodity market.

The current assessments still tend to look at the attempts by Aramco, ADNOC, QP and Sonatrach, as mere minor disturbance and not a cause to worry. The current market power of giants such as Glencore, Trafigura, Vitol, Mercuria, Dreyfus or Gunvor, is still unmatched, but partly substituted by IOCs such as Shell, Exxon, Total, ENI or Gazprom.

Now NOC is even in the top-20 league of these hydrocarbon commodity trading giants. For decades, traders and IOCs have been ruling the sector, taking risks and high profits while the NOCs have been out of the game. This trend is slowly changing, looking at the reported new trading deals between Aramco, ADNOC and others. Drilling down the value chain has been common practice for NOCs in the last couple of years, one example of this are the global downstream investments of NOCs. Locking in their own consumer markets has become spearhead in NOC strategies.

OPEC's leaders Saudi Arabia and UAE however have stepped up their effort to capture more dollars per barrel via a full integration of the value chain.

The combination of upstream, mid- and downstream is a winning business model as IOCs have proven already decades ago. Integrating the most risky but also profitable part of the business, commodity trading, has now become a priority for NOCs. The reach of their current trading arms is still not yet very large, but this could all be about to change.

Commodity traders

By setting up full-fledged trading departments, Aramco and ADNOC are openly taking on the conventional commodity traders. The Vitol's and Trafigura's of this world should now become very aware of the looming tsunami that is building up quick. The changes currently occurring in Dhahran, Abu Dhabi or even several North African countries, such as Algeria, will be much stronger than most trading giants currently expect. Simon & Garfunkel's "Times are Changing" is very applicable, as these NOC power houses are not going to be satisfied by taking a tiny piece of the market. Their goal most probably is to shakedown the sector, removing most of the dead weight that has been surviving due to a lack of competition, while at the same time restructuring hydrocarbon trading into a national or global (OPEC+) trading adventure.

Looking at the developments at Aramco, ADNOC and Sonatrach, there is still a lot of room for improvement, but all of them have a big advantage over the likes of Vitol and Trafigura.

Without having to deal with standard operational practices such as tenders or other bureaucratic issues, NOC trading departments will have full access to production volumes, or petrochemical products of their own company, having a direct advantage to third parties in price, knowledge and insight.

By entering the commodity trading space, NOCs also will increase their own power over oil prices and supply issues. Giants such as ADNOC or Aramco will be able to squeeze a higher value from their own production than currently is the case.

Commodity traders will not only be confronted by NOCs entering the market with their own crude and product volumes. MENA NOCs already suggested that there will be no limits to their global trading involvement. By combining inside and outside knowledge, a full-fledged trading strategy could not only remove weaker traders from the market, but could also create a power house of unprecedented proportions if Aramco and its peers would buy out trading houses or set up global alliances with IOCs. Such an adventure is nothing new, and some examples of these are ADNOC's trading JV with Italian oil major ENI and Austrian OMV, or Aramco entering Poland (and the Baltic) with a PKN Orlen JV.

Crude oil supply dominance

After decades of global crude oil supply dominance, OPEC members have seen the light. To become an integrated international national oil company (IINOC) it is necessary and rational to take on commodity trades at the same time. To leave part of the business to third party commodity power houses has cost OPEC dearly, or took out some of the market powers of the producers.

From a geopolitical point of view the NOC commodity trading move is also clear. To be able to supply and control trade flows increases the power of NOCs but also of its national government in light of regional or global alliances. It also gives Aramco and its compatriots the opportunity to enter the market itself when it needs to source crude grades from third parties, not available on its own market. At the same time, both leading NOCs already have shown their appetite for global gas markets too, addressing LNG trade and products on a global scale. Others will also be stepping in, such as still fledgling Iraq's SOMO trading or possible new Egyptian or Libyan ventures.

Commodity houses should be very worried, as the current hydrocarbon focus of these NOCs is going to be for form other trading options too. MENA countries, heavily depended on agriculture and livestock imports, while producing vast volumes of minerals and metals, will follow these practices and set up trading houses very soon too.

What still misses for a real NOC commodity trading hegemony is an important and flexible commodity price point. Even though the Dubai Mercantile Exchange is trying to set this up, most of MENA crudes and other commodities are priced in Rotterdam or Singapore. This is partly due to the interest of the current commodity power houses. The majority of them is based in and around Rotterdam (NL), Singapore or landlocked Switzerland. A new commodity hub in MENA, most probably Saudi Arabia or offshore, would be a life-threatening event for conventional commodity traders.

Combining hydrocarbons, metals and agriculture/food trading volumes, with a price point in the MENA region, would cause an earthquake that could reshape global trade patterns. It would fit into national strategies such as Saudi Vision 2030, which is linked to and supported by Abu Dhabi already. Commodity power houses should shouldn't be taking these warning signs lightly, it is not just business, it is a national strategy.

(Source: oilprice.com)

Of Western Weapons and War Crimes in Yemen



TEHRAN (FNA) — For a long time, the United States and its partners have been downplaying and ignoring the role their deadly weapons have played in committing war crimes and crimes against humanity in Yemen.

Now, some are conceding that their weapons are indeed the reason why many civilians have been killed and continue to get killed in that unfortunate country.

Strange enough, when US political leaders urged the Trump administration to either reduce or cut off arms supplies to Saudi Arabia - largely as a punishment for its indiscriminate bombings of civilians in the four-year old military conflict - President Donald Trump provided a predictable response: "If we don't sell arms to Saudi Arabia, the Chinese and the Russians will."

Perhaps in theory it's plausible, but in practice it's a lie primarily because switching weapons systems from Western to Chinese and Russian arms in the middle of an ongoing war could be a long drawn out process. It involves maintenance, servicing, training, military advice and uninterrupted supplies of spares – something the US and company have been providing to the Saudis from day one of the conflict, even refueling their warplanes midair and providing targeting intelligence.

More so, UN experts and rights groups point out that Saudi Arabia would find it very hard to maintain the US and UK weapons its armed forces largely rely on without the support of the large numbers of US and UK service personnel in the war right now. "The Saudi military might be able to keep the weapons going for a while in Yemen, but presumably at a much lower operational level."

Which is to say it will not only be very costly for Saudi Arabia to replace the expensive existing equipment, it also means that non-western weapons will not be as high quality as what Saudis now receive from the US and Western Europe.

As is often the case, these are the same weapons that are being used to commit war crimes in Yemen - including the intentional bombings of funerals, hospitals, weddings, factories and other civilian infrastructure - triggering condemnation from the United Nations and human rights groups who also accuse the Western governments of being complicit in Saudi war crimes.

For instance, in its World Report 2017, Human Rights Watch said the Saudi Arabia-led coalition has carried out military operations, supported by the United States and United Kingdom, against Ansarullah forces and forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh since March 2015.

According to Human Rights Watch, in between, "the coalition has unlawfully attacked homes, markets, hospitals, schools, civilian businesses, and mosques. None of the forces in Yemen's conflict seem to fear being held to account for violating the laws of war. UN members need to press the parties to end the slaughter and the suffering of civilians."

Besides Saudi Arabia, the coalition includes the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Senegal and Sudan. In a report released last February, Amnesty International also said the weapons for the coalition, primarily to Saudi Arabia and UAE, have come mostly from Europe and the US. This also makes these regional countries complicit in Saudi war crimes.

The time is now for all these countries to stop supplying arms to the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen until there is no longer a substantial risk that such equipment would be used to commit or facilitate serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law.

Sadly enough, the only four countries that have announced suspending arms transfers to the UAE were Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands and Norway. They are and many others yet to do the same as regards suspending arms transfers to Saudi Arabia.

At any rate, the results of a study commissioned by the UN Development Program, released last week, confirm the worst: The ongoing conflict has reversed Yemen's human development by 21 years. The study warns of exponentially growing impacts of conflict on human development. It projects that if the war ends in 2022, development gains will have been set back by 26 years. If it continues through 2030, that setback will increase to four decades.

It means what it means. The long-term impacts of the illegal war are vast and place it among the most destructive conflicts since the end of the Cold War. Further deterioration of the situation through Western arms transfers will add significantly to prolonged human suffering, retard human development in Yemen and further deteriorate regional stability.

Here, human development has not just been interrupted. It has been deliberately reversed. Even if there were to be peace tomorrow morning, it could take decades for the poorest country in the Arab world to return to pre-conflict levels of development. This is a big loss for the people of Yemen.

Iran's oil exports are unlikely to reach zero: Ali Vaez

By Javad Heirannia

TEHRAN — Ali Vaez, director of the Iran program for International Crisis Group says that "The U.S. is clearly trying to push Iran to walk away from the nuclear deal. The new nuclear restrictions are aimed at pushing other JCPOA signatories to join Washington in violating the deal."

He also adds that "Iran's oil exports are unlikely to reach zero, as Tehran can always find ways to sell its oil on the black market."

"If President Trump is serious about negotiating with Tehran, he ought to appoint an Iran envoy who doesn't belong to Bolton/Pompeo camp and has a history of positive working relations with Iran," Dr.Vaez tells the Tehran Times.

Following is the full text of the interview:
■ In recent development, US exercise the sanctions on Iran nuclear facilities. How can assess this development?

A: The U.S. is clearly trying to push Iran to walk away from the nuclear deal. The new nuclear restrictions are aimed at pushing other JCPOA signatories to join Washington in violating the deal. The Trump administration is hoping that with this move Russia stops construction of the second Bushehr nuclear reactor and that China halts the work on the



new Arak heavy water reactor. The hope is that these setbacks would further motivate Tehran to take retaliatory measures of its own, which in turn will allow the Trump administration to further isolate Iran.

■ President Trump has said that Saudi Arabia and United Emirates Arabia will fill Iran oil gap in the market Can they do?

A: It appears that Saudi Arabia and other oil producing countries can make up for the loss of Iranian oil, but the heavy crude market remains quite tight. Any further disruptions, be in in Venezuela or southern Iraq, could result in significant price hikes.

■ Can they do reduce Iran oil export to zero?
A: Iran's oil exports are unlikely to reach

zero, as Tehran can always find ways to sell its oil on the black market. It appears, however, that Washington has been successful in strong arming countries like China, India and Turkey in significantly reducing their oil imports from Iran, which can potentially send Iran's oil exports to their levels in decades. This undoubtedly will translate into a severe stagflation in the Iranian economy. What it is unlikely to do is to force Iran to capitulate or witness economic collapse.

■ Iran foreign minister recently separate President Trump from "team B"(John Bolton, Mike Pompeo). Do you think that President Trump eager to negotiate with Iran regardless Team B?

A: President Trump seems primarily motivated by negotiating a better deal with Iran. However, he wouldn't be able to achieve that objective with his current national security team. The trouble is every time the president gets impatient about negotiating with Iran, his national security team are likely to advise him against relieving pressure immaturity (the mistake they believe President Obama committed). If President Trump is serious about negotiating with Tehran, he ought to appoint an Iran envoy who doesn't belong to Bolton/Pompeo camp and has a history of positive working relations with Iran.

An international political economy at a glance

By Hanif Ghafari

Thomas Oatley" has provided extensive definitions and ideas in the field of international political economy. Some of these views and points are mentioned in this article.."

International Political Economy studies the political battle and challenges between the losers and winners from global economic exchange. Globalism plays a main role in Oatley's opinion.

Political competition in international relation shapes free trades and extend them so rapidly .International political economy emphasizes that it is hard to understand anything about international economy(practically and theoretically) without understanding political competition unfolds.

International political economy have studied the global economy traditionally within three schools:Marxism,Mercantilism ,and Liberalism.

Our main question is that how Mercantilists ,Marxists and liberals define relation between politics and economy.

Mercantilism is an economic theory, thought to be a form of economic nationalism that holds that the prosperity of a nation is dependent upon its supply of capital, and that the global volume of international trade is unchangeable.

Adam Smith used the "Mercantile System" as an phrase to explain the kind of political economic system based on nationalism.

Mercantile System based on limitation of import and extension of export to evaluate economic and political power of the country.

But Karl Marx and Marxists don't agree with mercantilism. Marx identify an "Economy" as a context of power in the country than identify politics and culture as a superstructures.

Marx and Friedrich Engels co-founder of Marxism believe that the person is exploited if performs more labour than necessary to produce the goods that he consumes; likewise, a person is an exploiter if he or she performs less labour than is necessary to produce the goods that he consumes. Exploitation is a matter of surplus labour — the amount of labour one performs beyond what one receives in goods. Exploitation has been a socio-economic feature of every class society, and is one of the principal features distinguishing the social classes.

Marxists in one hand tries to identify economy as a context and in other hand they determinates economy in relation between production and consumption.Even neo-marxists did not and don't solve this clear paradox.

However in this system we can not find logical relation between capital and consumption ant this guide us to anarchism in export and import.(exactly we perceive in Cuba and North korea).

The third school is Liberalism that underlines individual liberty and equal rights. Liberalists don't believe Marx opinion about private ownership.

In other hand they believe that economy should not be defined within nationalism(like Mercantilists).Classical liberals, broadly emphasized the importance of free markets.

In free markets you can find any thing and every thing! interference of states in markets and opening economic doorways to other countries is upholding in Liberalism.But linkage between markets and slight power of states causes terrible problems like new economic crises,. Oatley prefers not to focus on Mercantilism, liberalism and Marxism as the three traditional schools .he tries to find the new approach in order to international political economy.

■ **The World Trade Organization and The World Trade System**

The World Trade Organization (WTO),commenced on 1995, is an organization that supervises international trade .The "GATT" replaced by WTO in 1948.the organization deals with regulation of trade between participating countries.it provides a framework for formalizing trades agreements.

It is the main duty of WTO to review the national trade policies and ensure the transparency of trade policies through surveillance in global economy.

The WTO is based on two core principles. Market Liberalism and Nondiscrimination. Market Liberalism asserts that an open or liberal ,international trade system raises the world's standard of living.

Nondiscrimination is the second core principle of the multilateral trade system. Nondiscrimination ensures that each member of WTO faces identical opportunities to trade with the other members..



Most Favored Nation is a level treatment accorded by one state to another players in international economy system.

This concept is too practical in relation between members of WTO .however the country which is the recipient of this treatment must nominally receive equal trade advantages as the most favored nation by the country granted such treatment. this advantages include high import quotas or low tariffs.

A country that has been accorded MFN status may not be treated less advantageously than any other player (country) with MFN status by the promising country.

Political system such as the WTO reflect the interests of those who create them. here we should focus on the role of superpowers.

The multilateral trade system is an international political system.it provides rules that regulate how governments can use policies to influence the cross-border flow of goods and services.

It provides decision-maker process through which governments revise existing rules and create new ones. the scope of WTO rules has expanded during the last 15 years and will likely expand in future.

The Political Economy of International Trade Organization Oatleys tries to tell us how the political economy of international trade organization shaped and developed. his case study in this chapter is WTO.

■ **Oatley begins this chapter by the important question:"Why does WTO exist?"**

He mentions that we can answer to this question within historical and logical approach. In historical approach The "GATT" replaced by WTO in 1948,the organization deals with regulation of trade between participating countries.it provides a framework for formalizing trades agreements. Then we can remember DOHA talks and ect.

But Oatley in his new mentions on the logical approach. in this more abstract logic, WTO exists because it helps governments work together in pursuit of mutual gain. The world trade system is treated as a specific instance of the more general problem of cooperation.

Here Oatley analyzes some practical models ,helping us to survey process of WTO. May be the model which is more important and practical than the others is a Heckscher-Ohlin model.The Heckscher-Ohlin model is a mathematical model of international trade, developed by Eli Heckscher and Bertil Ohlin. It based on Ricardo's theory of comparative advantage by predicting patterns of commerce and production based on the factor endowments of a trading region.

The model says that countries will export products that utilize their abundant and cheap factors of production and import products that utilize the countries' scarce.

Relative factors of the production (land, labor, and capital) determine a country's comparative advantage. Countries have comparative advantages in those goods for which the required factors of production are relatively abundant locally.. Goods that require inputs that are locally abundant will be cheaper to produce than those goods that require inputs that are locally scarce.we should pay attention to this factors simultaneity(land,labor,and capital)

Finally Oatley mentions that WTO exists,therefore it facilitates international cooperation,thereby enabling societies to capture the welfare gains available from trade. trade raises social welfare by enabling consumers to enjoy a higher level of utility than if they could consume only goods produced at home.

■ **The Society-centered Approach to Ttrades Politics**

Society-centered approach helps us understand how the interaction between societal interests and political institution shapes trade politics,it does have weaknesses . Here Oatley explains some theories and approaches ,mainly explaining factor-model and sector model and also refers to "Factor Price Equalization".

Factor prices equalization is an economic theory which centralizes on related prices for two identical factor on production in the same market.

The theory states that the relative prices for two identical factors of production in the same market will eventually equal each other because of competition.

Here, we can imagine an action and reaction between two factors in the same system.

(NAFTA)is a good enough example to explain this theory .After signification of North American Free Trade ,labor wages fell in the United States but at the same rose in Mexico.

This theory helps us to know society-center approach better and better.in other hand,Oatley refers to Factor model and Sector model.

Factor model and Sector models in economy are two different models for annotating phenomenons.both of them are so practical but different in use. A Factor model is mathematical calculation of the extent to which macroeconomic factors affect the securities in a portfolio. Factor models attempt to account for contingencies like changes in interest rates or inflation. Factor models fall into three main categories. A macroeconomic factor model considers relevant risks to the wider economy.Here we talk about frames and math.

But in sector model we talk about progress not math! The benefits of the application of this model include the fact it allows for an outward progression of growth. As with all simple models of complex phenomena its validity is limited.

Finally Oatley says that the society-centered approach does not explain trade policy outcomes.it tells us that trade politics will be characterized by conflict between between the winners and losers from international trade,but in dose not help us explain which of these groups will wine the political battle.

■ **A State-Centered Approach To Trade Politics**

,Oatley concentrated on social-centered approach and explained this approach .here Oatley tells us about A States-Centered approach.he begins with a tangible example about US power.US sometimes goes a head in international organization lonely and dose not pay attention to what the other players in the worlds.

In the example of the book,on October 2004 the US lodged complaint with the World Trade Organization s dispute settlements mechanism(Story of SAS and what did Georg.W.bush's state)

But how we can analyze a power of states?what is role of superpowers at this point.

Focusing on industry can help us so much about this. there is a direct relation between power of the western states and industry.

Oatly determines the "Infant-Industry Case For Protection" as a recommendation. infant industry protection is controversial as a policy recommendation. As with the other economic rationales for protectionism, it is often abused by rent seeking interests

The infant industry argument is an economic rationale for protectionism. The crux of the argument is that nascent industries often do not have the economies of scale that their older competitors from other countries may have, and thus need to be protected until they can attain similar economies of scale.

Many countries have successfully industrialized behind tariff barriers. It is a main point that we should not forget it:even when infant industry protection is well-intentioned, it is hard for governments to know which industries they should protect; "infant" industries may never "grow up" relative to "adult" foreign competitors. For example, during the 1980s Brazil enforced strict controls on the import of foreign computers in an effort to nurture its own "infant" computer industry.

A state-centered approach is based on two central assumption.first assumption concerns the impact of protectionism on aggregate social welfare.

The second assumption concerns whether governments can operate independently of interest group pressures. ➔7

Macron in a cliff step!

By Saeed Sobhani

Recent polls in France show that the country's president has not had much chance of winning the European parliamentary elections. This is what has caused intense concern by Emmanuel Macron and his entourage at the Elysées Palace. Without a doubt, if the French president's party defeats in the European parliamentary elections, the probability of Macron's political death will rise. In this case, Macron can withdraw from power before 2020 (French presidential election).

As Euronews reported, The party of far-right leader Marine Le Pen will top the upcoming European Parliament elections with 22 percent of the vote, just ahead of President Emmanuel Macron's REM party, an Ipsos poll released on Sunday. It was the first time Le Pen's Rassemblement National (RN) - formerly the National Front - overtook Macron's REM in an Ipsos survey ahead of the EU election this year, although other, daily polls have shown the RN in pole position before. EU elections will be held on May 26 in France.

The poll of 1,500 people was conducted on May 2-3, after Macron announced a series of proposals, including tax cuts worth 5 billion euros (\$5.6 billion), in a bid to appease the "yellow vests" anti-government protest movement.

Macron's REM party would obtain 21.5 percent of the vote, the Ipsos poll for France Television and Radio France showed. On April 18-22, 23 percent of the people polled said they would vote for REM, against 22 percent for RN.



Macron is facing the biggest challenge of his presidency yet in the "yellow vest" protests, which started nearly six months ago over the high cost of living but spread into a broader movement against the former investment banker's pro-business reform drive.

Dissatisfaction over slow economic growth and backlash against migration across open EU borders have boosted support for nationalists in many member states. The RN and other anti-immigration parties in other EU states are planning to join forces after the EU parliamentary election.

The President of the French National Rally political party, Marin Le Pen, is trying to take

little stances on the new protests in her country. Some French politicians have accused her of interfering in the recent protests in favor of the French National Rally. Meanwhile, many analysts believe that, ultimately, the outcome of Macron's removal from power will be the presence of far-right nationalists (led by Le Pen) at the Elysées Palace.

In any case, Marin Le Pen and the French National Rally continue to make lots of propaganda in their country's political and social atmosphere. It should be acknowledged that the recent protests in France have doubled their chance to win the public vote, and he has greatly encouraged Le Pen and her en-

tourage to win the European parliamentary election which is to be held in June.

In 2014, the French National Rally was able to shine exceptionally well in the European parliamentary elections and overcome other French political parties. In the 2017 general election, Le Pen was able to reach the final round of the presidential competitions for the first time since the establishment of the French National Rally. However, at that time, Le Pen couldn't act against the broad opposition of the Socialist and Conservative parties. But the equation seems to have changed now!

The results of the European parliamentary elections will be very important for the president of the country. If Macron fails, he must prepare himself for the early departure of the Elysée Palace.

This is a very good time indeed, as many of the French citizens no longer trust Macron and his promises for making economic, social reforms in France. Le Pen and the senior members of the French National Rally, argue that the Socialist and Conservative Parties won't be able to redefine themselves in the near future, given the crisis that has stuck the two traditional French parties.

By contrast, the leader of the French National Front is trying to make his way to the Elysée Palace by winning the European Parliamentary elections. Hence, French nationalists make their best efforts to win European parliamentary elections. The removal of Socialist and Conservative candidates in the 2017 general election, was well indicating the political and social isolation of these two traditional parties in French society.

An international political economy at a glance



6 → ■ Trade and Development

Oatley analyzes development of trades in recent decades. he concentrates on NAFTA and GATT once again. he did it on last chapters too, but in chapter 6 and 7 he tries to analyze Trade and Development within import on industrialization.

One of the main points that he refers to Engels Low. Engel's law belongs on 1850, but it is known as a economic law until this time. The law doesn't imply that food spending remains unchanged as income increases.

Engel's law suggests that consumers increase their expenditures for food products less than their increases in income. other ways, Engel's Law states that household expenditures on food in the aggregate decline as income rise; in other words, the income elasticity of demand for food in the aggregate is less than one a decline toward zero with income growth. In engels law the income elasticity of demand of food is between 0 and 1.

Also he refers to The important competing sector. The important competing sector consisted of all activities that were capable of substituting for imports.

The import-competing sector has conventionally been identified with import-substituting industrialization in view of the importance of manufactures in the import bill. However history on 20th century can guide us about the important competing sector.

Many countries in 1920s were importing substantial quantities of agricultural good that could in principle be produced by domestic activities. Thus, it is also necessary to consider import-substituting agriculture as part of the important competing sector.

The change in relative prices shafted a mechanism of this process.

A fall in the output of the export sector and a rise in the output of import-competing sector would not necessarily produce a recovery in real GDP.

Here he explains that economic reforms in inter national relations step by step. the creation of G20 and cooperation between regional states (like East Asia) is so important in his research.

The G20 (Group of 20), established on 2003, is a bloc of developing nations that. The G-20 accounts for 60% of the world's population, 70% of its farmers and 26% of world's agricultural exports.

The first authors of G20 were Brazil, India and South Africa. Their foreign ministers signed declaration stated that "major trading partners are still moved by protectionist concerns in their countries' less competitive sectors and emphasized how important it is that the results of the current round of trade negotiations provide especially for the reversal of protectionist policies and trade-distorting practices.

China and Brazil are two most powerful players of G20 at this time, but totally an economic and political power of G20 is lower than G7.

Also in order to understand chapter 6 and 7 of Oatley's book, it is necessary for us to define General equilibrium theory. It is a branch of theoretical economics. It seeks to explain the behavior of supply, demand and prices in a whole economy with several or many markets, by seeking to prove that equilibrium prices for goods exist and that all prices are at equilibrium, hence general equilibrium, in contrast to partial equilibrium.

Also In economics, the law of comparative advantage refers to the ability of a party (an individual, a firm, or a country) to produce a particular good or service at a lower opportunity cost than another party. It is the ability to produce a product with the highest relative efficiency given all the other products that could be produced.

As with all models, this is an abstraction from a real economy; it is proposed as being a useful model, both by considering equilibrium prices as long-term prices and by considering actual prices as deviations from equilibrium.

Kamel Hawwash: Trump's Deal of the Century, A Mirage Already Rejected by Palestinians

TEHRAN (FNA) — Academic and activist Kamel Hawwash believes that Trump administration is "naïve" to think that Palestinians would accept his so-called Deal of the Century to end their struggle in return for "economic prosperity".

Speaking in an exclusive interview with FNA, Kamel Hawwash shared his opinion with us that the status of the holy city of Jerusalem al-Quds and the issue of the Palestinian refugees are key issues that Trump administration has tried to take off the negotiation's table.

According to the Palestinian academic, "Israel is the child of racist ideology of Zionism" which has been designed to "put the interests of the Jewish Zionists ahead of all others, including the indigenous Palestinians".

Kamel Hawwash is a British-Palestinian engineering professor based at the University of Birmingham. Hawwash is a longstanding campaigner for justice, especially for the Palestinian people. He is the Chair of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) and a founding member of the British Palestinian Policy Council (BPPC).

FNA has conducted an interview with Kamel Hawwash about Israel's brutal crackdown on Palestinian protesters, the Israeli legislation known as the nation state law and also Trump's so-called deal of the century.

Below you will find the full text of the interview.

■ It seems that killing scores of people and maiming thousands more over the past several months aren't an indication of what Israel thinks is enough to keep Gaza in check. Do you think Israel's deadly clamp down on Palestinian protesters is going to end anytime soon?

A: Ever since its inception in 1948 through violence and terror, Israel has treated the indigenous Palestinians as a lesser people than Jewish Israelis. It has systematically denied all the basic rights expected by any other people. This includes the right to self-determination and the right for Palestinian refugees, expelled in 1948 to return to their homes. Since March 2018, Palestinians in Gaza have been marching peacefully to demand a lifting of the illegal and immoral siege on the beleaguered strip and to be allowed to return peacefully to their homes. Instead of meeting their peaceful and legitimate demands, Israel met their protests with deadly fire, deploying tens of snipers that shoot to kill, sometimes at distances of hundreds of meters. Among the over 200 dead have been children, journalists and medics. There are no signs that the Great March of return will end soon or that Israel will stop attacking protesters at the Gaza fence.

■ What do you think the protests known as the 'Great March of Return' have accomplished so far?

A: The protests have highlighted the plight of Palestinians in Gaza but also the unjust situation all Palestinians find themselves in, nearly 72 years after their dispossession and expulsion. The GMR has also shown the world that Palestinians are resilient. They will not give up on their cause, no matter what Israel and its allies do. On the same day as the United States opened its new Embassy in Jerusalem, against all international understandings and before the 'deal of the century' was announced, Palestinians marched to the Gaza fence in their tens of thousands. The murder by Israel of over 60 Palestinians has not broken them. Nine months after the start of the march, they continue to protest. The GMR has also shown the world that Palestinians across all political factions can come together to face the common enemy Israel, putting aside their differences. Israel's violent response has exposed the brutality of the extremist regime governing what many see as a rogue state.

■ How do you think the US and some Arab states are complicit in crimes against the Palestinians especially in light of the discreet links between Israel and Saudi Arabia and some other Persian Gulf states?

A: The US funds Israel to the tune of over \$3 billion per annum. It also provides Israel with a de facto veto at the UN Security Council, shielding it from accountability. It also provides it with cover for its crimes against the Palestinians, claiming it is entitled to self-defense. As an occupying power, it is not entitled to self-defense. In fact, it is obligated to protect the people it occupies and to refrain



from committing crimes against them including land theft and moving its civilians into these occupied areas.

Arab states have not acted in the best interests of the Palestinian people, and some have embarked on steps to normalize relations with what is effectively an Apartheid state that occupies Arab people. Not only have Israeli sports teams performed in [Persian] Gulf States, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu recently visited Oman, followed closely by other ministers visiting Oman and the UAE.

■ In July 2018, the so-called nation state law was adopted by Israeli Knesset. What do you think the legislation shows about the nature of the regime in Tel Aviv?

A: Israel is the child of racist ideology of Zionism. It was never designed to be anything but a state that put the interests of Jewish Zionists ahead of all others, including the indigenous Palestinians. Its policies discriminate against Palestinians, whether in Gaza, East Jerusalem or the rest of the West Bank. It also discriminates against the Palestinian citizens of Israel in all areas of life, while providing a facade that claims that it is a democracy for all. The adoption of the nation state law in July entrenches its racism and articulates its own form of Apartheid. It gives the right of self-determination only to Jews, provides every Jew around the world with a right to emigrate to it but denies the right of return to Palestinian refugees. It also sees the building and expansion of settlements as a national value. With this law, Israel basically challenged the world, saying 'I am an apartheid state, what are you going to do about it?' The world has been silent, thus providing it with a continuation of the impunity it has enjoyed.

■ Many believe that the continuing illegal Israeli settlement activities have hammered nail after nail into the coffin of a diplomatic solution. What do you think about that?

A: Anyone who visits the occupied territories comes away questioning whether Israel has any interest in peace based on international law. Most countries believe this will come through a two state solution. However, as the number of settlers moves onwards a million and hundreds of settlements are developed connected with settler only roads and with the Apartheid Wall built deep into the occupied territories, the 'facts on the ground' Israel is creating have ended any prospects of a two-state solution that would meet the basic needs of Palestinians whose leadership accepted a state on 22% of their historic homeland. That is not only damaging for the prospects of peace, it also places all the countries that continue to hold out for a two-state in difficulty as they have no alternative to that. However, calls for one democratic state for all inhabitants of historic Palestine appear to be increasing.

■ The current administration in the US has been boasting about their new plan for Palestine and even calling it the deal of the century. What do you think would be in the new deal for the Palestinians?

A: The deal of the century seems to be a mirage. No details have emerged and it has been promised for a launch for months but with no firm date. The Palestinians have already rejected a US made plan after US President Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and moving the US embassy from Tel Aviv to the holy city. Jerusalem and the issue of the refugees are key final status issues that Trump has attempted to take off the negotiation's table. With Netanyahu claiming Israel must have security control from the river Jordan to the Mediterranean Sea, there is very little that the 'deal of the century' can compensate for exclusion of these issues from future negotiations. The deal is likely to focus on economic prosperity for Palestinians, which this naive American administration thinks the Palestinians will accept to end their struggle. The Great March of Return has demonstrated that the Palestinians will continue to struggle, no matter what the cost until they attain their rights.

Second Announcement



Permit No.1398.687

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : **08-21-9740011**

National Iranian South Oilfields Company intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	TUBING , API GRADE L-80 , SEAMLESS "VAM" , "N.VAM" "SEC" OR APPROVED THREAD RANGE 3 (MAX LEN :40.5 FT) AS PER API SCT/ISO11960, PSL 2 MARKING : COLD DIE STAMPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH API SCT SIZE (OD), WEIGHT (PPF), AS SPECIFIED NOTE: LEVEL OF INSPECTION :1 (L.O.:1) "QCP/MPs DOCUMENTS ARE ESSENTIAL TO REVIEW & CONFIRM" "ITP DOCUMENTS IS ESSENTIAL FOR TECHNICAL EVALUATION"	20000 LE
4-1/2 IN., 13.5 PPF DRIFT: 3.795 IN.		

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 2, available at: WWW.nisoc.ir , not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 226,225 EURO or 12 , 755,376,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

Tender Conditions materials thorough technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: WWW.nisoc.ir-material-procurement-management-tab

NO ADVANCE PAYMENT WILL BE PAID

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex

Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran

Tel. No.: **061 341 23455** Fax No.: **061 3445 7437**

Public Relations www.shana.ir www.nisoc.ir <http://lets.mporg.ir>

تهران تایمز نوبت اول ۹۸/۲/۱۴ نوبت دوم ۹۸/۲/۱۷

Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

Apartment

Apt in Kaveh Blvd
almost new, 2nd floor, 110 sq.m
2 Bdrs., furn, sauna, Jacuzzi
gathering room parking **\$1400**
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in North Fereshteh
ground floor, 70 sq.m, 1 Bdr.
semi furn, spj, parking, **\$800**
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Zafaranih
3rd floor, 400 sq.m with 4 Bdrs.
unfurn, spj, parking, **\$3500**
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Elahieh
1st floor, 170 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.
fully furn, equipped kitchen
spj, fire place, parking, **\$2000**
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Dezashib
brand new, 200 sq.m, 3Bdrs.
unfurn, spj, gym, elevator
gathering room, roof top
storage, parking spot, **\$3500**
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Jordan
almost new, 4th floor, 100 sq.m
2 Bdrs., furn, balcony, parking
\$1300
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Qeytarieh
2nd floor, 164 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.
furn, equipped kitchen
2 parking spots, **\$1500**
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Villa

Villa in Elahieh
duplex, 3000 sq.m land
furn/unfurn, 500 sq.m built up
Beautiful garden, parking
Price negotiable
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Triplex Villa in Velenjak
1250 sq.m land, 1000 sq.m built
up, unfurn, terrace
outdoor swimming pool
renovated, parking
Price negotiable
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Duplex Villa in Pasdaran
550 sq.m land, 630 sq.m built up, 4
Bdrs., unfurn, outdoor swimming
pool, parking
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Triplex Villa in Zafar
700 sq.m, 5 Bdrs., furn, Jacuzzi
renovated, green garden
one 100 sq.m separate suite
with 2 Bdrs., **\$6500**
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

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
3700 sq.m land, 1300 sq.m
7 Bdrs., 6 bathrooms, furn outdoor
pool, renovated
3-side entrances, **\$20000**
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156



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
Shariati - Soheil
2 floors, 600 sq.m totally
8 Bdrs., 6 bath rooms, one 40 sq.m
suit, renovated, 3 storages, 3-side
entrances, 12 parking spots
\$6000
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Whole Building in Zafaranih
brand new, 6 floors, each apt
360 sq.m with 4 Bdrs., unfurn
equipped kitchen, spj, roof top
elevator 27 parking spots
\$20000
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Office in
Valiasr - Mellat Park
several administrative offices
brand new, 570 sq.m land, 2000
sq.m built up, 43 parking spots
\$40000 negotiable
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Mahmoodieh
3 floors, one apt 90 sq.m with
1 Bdr, 3 apts 170 sq.m with 3
Bdrs., unfurn, equipped kitchen
elevator, lobby parking
Price: negotiable
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Whole building in Jordan
administrative office license
brand new, 6 floors, 6 apts
each apt 150 sq.m
elevator, gathering room
6 parking spots
\$11000
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Ideal Offers

Apt in Shariati - Mirdamad
110 sq.m, 2 Bdrs., furn
storage, parking
\$700
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Fereshteh
several apts, 165 sq.m, 3 Bdr.
fully furn, spj, roof garden
parking, **\$2000**
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in North Shirazi
7th floor, 120 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.
furn, balcony, parking
\$1000
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 Zafaranih
1st floor, 50 sq.m flat
yard, parking, **\$800**
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Qolhak
1st floor, 90 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.
fully furn, equipped kitchen
parking, **\$900**
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Elahieh
1st floor, 70 sq.m, 1 Bdr.
unfurn, spj, gym
\$800
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.

PARSIAN Real Estate
SHANON
Shanon_tari@yahoo.com
+989121907875
Tel: 88510081

Elahieh Apt 200sq.m, 3bdrs S/p, S, F.F
Jordan Villa 1000sq.m, 5bdrs yard, S/p (\$3000)
Darrous bldg 5stoery, 15bdrs (\$15000)

Kamranieh (\$2200) 220sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, F.F
Zaferanieh (\$1800) 200sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, F.F
Gheitarieh (\$1500) 140sq.m, 2bdrs, S/p, S, J, F.F

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



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

Could life on Earth have come from another star system?

Life may have traveled to Earth from afar, aboard an interstellar visitor like the weird, cigar-shaped object “Oumuamua”, researchers say.

“Oumuamua”, which zoomed through the inner solar system last fall, is the first confirmed interstellar object ever observed in our neck of the woods. But that doesn’t mean it was the first ever to get here — far from it, in fact.

“We think that something like an “Oumuamua” ... there’s always one within about 1 AU of the sun at any given time,” planetary scientist Bill Bottke said last month during a panel discussion at the Breakthrough Discuss conference at the University of California, Berkeley. (One AU, or astronomical unit, is the average Earth-sun distance — about 93 million miles, or 150 million kilometers.)

“And that actually has some really interesting implications,” added Bottke, who directs the Department of Space Studies at the Southwest Research Institute in Boulder, Colorado.

One such implication centers on the role that “Oumuamua”-like objects could play in the transfer of life from world to world around the cosmos, an idea known as panspermia.

“Oumuamua”’s exact size is unknown, but researchers think it spans less than 2,600 feet (800 meters) in its longest dimension. The object displayed “nongravitational acceleration” as it cruised away from the sun, spurring speculation that “Oumuamua” could be an alien spacecraft of some kind. But the consensus view is that the interloper is icy and its weird movements were caused by comet-like outgassing.

“This tells us that ices can survive over these interstellar distances,” astrobiologist Karen Meech, of the University of Hawaii’s Institute for Astronomy, said during the Breakthrough Discuss panel.

Previous research on comets and other



small bodies within our own solar system suggests that “Oumuamua”-like objects provide good thermal insulation and radiation shielding, she added. That’s good news for any microbes that may be hitching a ride.

“You’re probably getting significant protection on the inside, and you’re not getting any deeper with the radiation field or heating from supernovae below 10, 20 meters depth in a body,” Meech said. “So, the idea that you could bring some living organism in some state — it could be preserved in a cold deep freeze. So, it would be no different than coming from our outer solar system.”

Astronomers have not yet identified “Oumuamua”’s natal star system, so we don’t know long ago the object was ejected into the dark and frigid wastes. But it may have been traveling through interstellar space for 10 million years or more, Meech said.

It’s unclear if any putative critters aboard “Oumuamua” could have survived an impact with Earth. The icy object barreled past us at about 134,000 mph (215,000 km/h) relative to our planet, Meech said.

“That’s a very high impact velocity,” she said. (And it could have been even higher. “Oumuamua” came from above the plane of our solar system; an interstellar body hitting us more head-on could have an impact velocity of around 225,000 mph, or 360,000 km/h, Meech said.)

But “Oumuamua” and its kin are thought to be quite fluffy, so any that impact Earth are likely to “land” relatively gently and break open when they hit our atmosphere, Steinn Sigurdsson, a professor in the Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics at Penn State University, said during a different talk at the Breakthrough Discuss meeting.

Previous work by Harvard University astronomer Avi Loeb and others, along with Sigurdsson’s own calculations, suggests that about 100 “Oumuamua”-like objects have slammed into Earth over our planet’s nearly 4.6-billion-year history, Sigurdsson said. (This is assuming these bodies are on random trajectories — that they weren’t sent on their way by intelligent aliens, an idea known as directed panspermia.)

“Now, if any of them have biota in them? We don’t know,” he said. “Maybe we should go catch one and drill into it.”

Catching “Oumuamua” is not feasible, said Loeb, who chairs Harvard’s astronomy department and recently co-authored a paper speculating that “Oumuamua” might be an alien sailcraft. We don’t know exactly where the object is now, so any chase probe would have to be equipped with a powerful (and heavy and expensive) telescope, he said. And gaining enough speed to catch up to “Oumuamua” would require slingshotting around the sun at a dangerously close distance.

“It makes much more sense to search for the next interstellar object,” Loeb said during the question-and-answer portion of the Breakthrough Discuss panel.

The powerful Large Synoptic Survey Telescope, which is scheduled to start observing the heavens from Chile next year, will probably spot about one interstellar object per month when it’s fully up and running, Loeb added.

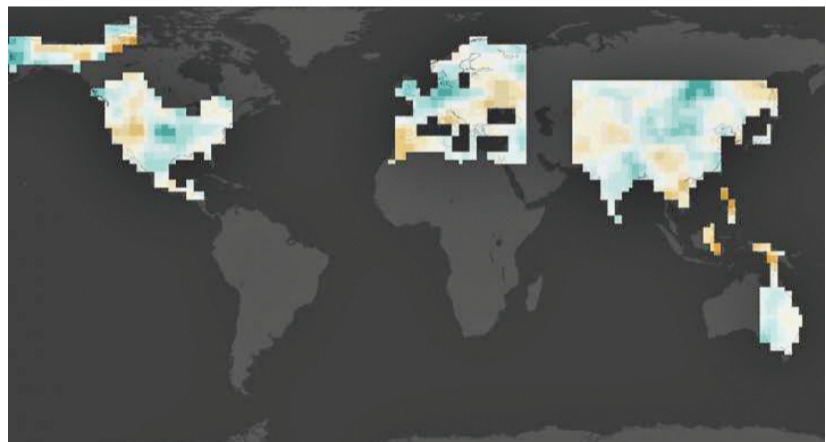
“So, just wait a few years and have one per month and just go after those with much less cost,” he said. “If you detect them on their approach to us, you can actually meet them halfway at relatively low speeds.”

It’s also possible, of course, that life took a relatively short leap to Earth long ago. The terrestrial planets in our solar system swap rocks fairly regularly, as the ever-growing collection of Mars meteorites here on Earth attests. Indeed, some researchers think life probably started on the Red Planet and made its way to Earth aboard a rock lofted into space by a powerful impact.

All of this being said, panspermia — interstellar or local, directed or natural — is not the canonical explanation for life’s emergence on Earth. There’s no evidence for it, after all, so most researchers go with Occam’s Razor and presume that we’re native to our blue marble.

(Source: Live Science)

Human impact on drought dates back 100 years, NASA study says



The human impact on today’s environment may have been happening a lot earlier than some people think.

Humans have been creating atmospheric particles and greenhouse gases that contributed to worldwide droughts since the early 20th century, according to a study published Wednesday in Nature.

The researchers measured soil moisture using a Palmer Drought Severity Index and drought atlas calculated by tree rings. The atlases could estimate when and where droughts occurred.

“If you look at the fingerprint, you can say, ‘Is it getting dry in the areas it should be getting drier? Is it getting wetter in the areas it should be getting wetter?’” said Kate Marvel, an associate research scientist at Columbia University and study lead author, in a news release. “It’s climate detective work, like an actual fingerprint at a crime scene is a unique pattern.”

They compared the results of those data to model predictions with atmospheric conditions that resembled 1850. During that time, the Industrial Revolution elevated the level of air pollution and greenhouse

gases, causing a global warming effect.

“These records go back centuries,” Marvel said. “We have a comprehensive picture of global drought conditions that stretch back way into history, and they are amazingly high quality.”

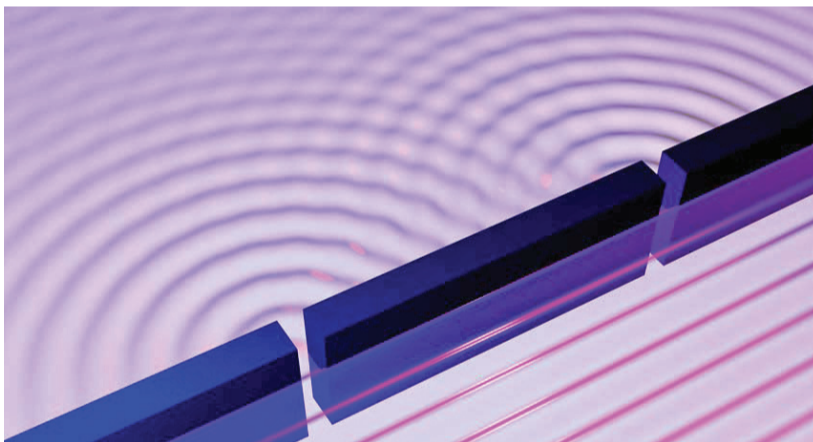
But between 1950 and 1975, the researchers say, the environment briefly cooled down with increased use of aerosols, smoke, soot, sulfur dioxide and other particles which blocked sunlight from warming the earth.

“Climate change is not just a future problem,” said Ben Cook, a climate scientist at Columbia University and study co-lead author. “This shows it’s already affecting global patterns of drought, hydroclimate, trends, variability -- it’s happening now. And we expect these trends to continue, as long as we keep warming the world.”

Using clues from tree ring atlases, historical rain and temperature measurements, and modern satellite-based soil moisture measurements, researchers found a data “fingerprint” showing greenhouse gases affected drought as early as the 1900s.

(Source: UPI)

Antimatter keeps with quantum theory. It’s both particle and wave



For the first time, researchers have performed a version of the famous double-slit experiment with antimatter particles.

The double-slit experiment demonstrates one of the fundamental tenets of quantum physics: that pointlike particles are also waves. In the standard version of the experiment, particles travel through a pair of slits in a solid barrier. On a screen on the other side, an interference pattern typical of waves appears. Crests and troughs emerging from each slit reinforce each other or cancel each other out as they overlap, creating alternating bands of high and low particle density on the screen.

This kind of experiment has revealed the wave-particle duality of photons, electrons, atoms and even large molecules. But it’s very difficult to generate a strong, uniform beam of antiparticles to do the experiment with antimatter. Now, a new double-slit-style experiment, reported online May 3 in Science Advances, has confirmed the wavelike nature of the electron’s antimatter counterpart: the positron.

The researchers designed a device in

which positrons, generated through the radioactive decay of the isotope sodium-22, travel through two successive rows of vertical rods less than a micrometer thick. The gaps between these rods, each a few hundred nanometers across, work like the slits in the classic double-slit experiment. The positron waves propagate out to a nuclear emulsion detector, where the antiparticles alter the chemical structure of silver bromide crystals.

The nuclear emulsion detector “is like a photographic film,” says study coauthor Marco Giammarchi, a physicist at the National Institute of Nuclear Physics in Milan. Developing the nuclear emulsion film in a darkroom and viewing it under a microscope reveals the positrons’ chemical footprints. Sure enough, Giammarchi’s team found a positron interference pattern, with alternating stripes of high and low positron density.

Giammarchi and colleagues hope to use their new technique to probe the nature of other antimatter conglomerates, such as positronium.

(Source: sciencenews.org)

Arsenic-breathing life discovered in the tropical Pacific Ocean

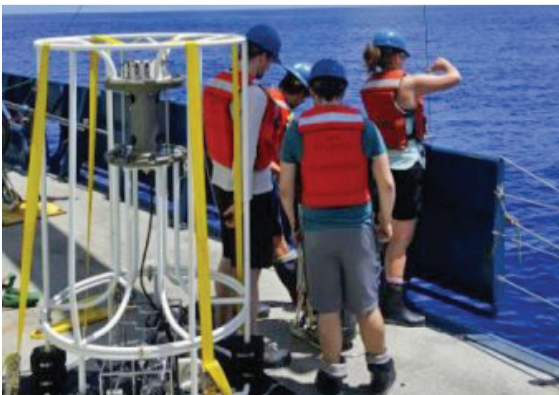
Arsenic is a deadly poison for most living things, but new research shows that microorganisms are breathing arsenic in a large area of the Pacific Ocean. A University of Washington team has discovered that an ancient survival strategy is still being used in low-oxygen parts of the marine environment.

“Thinking of arsenic as not just a bad guy, but also as beneficial, has reshaped the way that I view the element,” said first author Jaclyn Saunders, who did the research for her doctoral thesis at the UW and is now a postdoctoral fellow at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The study was published this week in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

“We’ve known for a long time that there are very low levels of arsenic in the ocean,” said co-author Gabrielle Rocap, a UW professor of oceanography. “But the idea that organisms could be using arsenic to make a living -- it’s a whole new metabolism for the open ocean.”

The researchers analyzed seawater samples from a region below the surface where oxygen is almost absent, forcing life to seek other strategies. These regions may expand under climate change.



“In some parts of the ocean there’s a sandwich of water where there’s no measurable oxygen,” Rocap said. “The microbes in these regions have to use other elements that act as an electron acceptor to extract energy from food.”

The most common alternatives to oxygen are nitrogen or sulfur. But Saunders’ early investigations suggested arsenic

could also work, spurring her to look for the evidence.

The team analyzed samples collected during a 2012 research cruise to the tropical Pacific, off the coast of Mexico. Genetic analyses on DNA extracted from the seawater found two genetic pathways known to convert arsenic-based molecules as a way to gain energy. The genetic material was targeting two different forms of arsenic, and authors believe that the pathways occur in two organisms that cycle arsenic back and forth between different forms.

Results suggest that arsenic-breathing microbes make up less than 1% of the microbe population in these waters. The microbes discovered in the water are probably distantly related to the arsenic-breathing microbes found in hot springs or contaminated sites on land.

“What I think is the coolest thing about these arsenic-respiring microbes existing today in the ocean is that they are expressing the genes for it in an environment that is fairly low in arsenic,” Saunders said. “It opens up the boundaries for where we could look for organisms that are respiring arsenic, in other arsenic-poor environments.”

(Source: Science Daily)

War wrecked an African ecosystem. Ecologists are trying to restore it

The national park at the southern end of Africa’s Great Rift Valley was once considered a wildlife paradise. Hippopotamuses lolled in the lush waters of Mozambique’s Lake Urema, and thousands of antelope bounded across the park’s savannas and floodplains. Elephant herds and prides of lions drew international tourists.

Then civil war erupted in the southeast African nation in 1977, leaving Gorongosa National Park in shambles. Closed in 1983, the sanctuary became a battleground, with animals slaughtered for food or — in the case of elephants — ivory to fund the fighting. Populations of African buffalo, blue wildebeest and zebra, thousands strong, plummeted until 15 or less of each remained. Hundreds of lions, leopards and wild dogs fled, starved or died in snares and steel-jaw traps. By the war’s end in 1992, only lions remained, their numbers in the single digits.

The park’s ruined condition has inspired a complex scientific effort by Mozambique officials and an international team of scientists to restore not just the park’s wildlife but an entire ecosystem — an enormous challenge that has rarely been attempted. Probably the most well-known example of such an effort to date is the reintroduction of gray wolves into Yellowstone National Park about 25 years ago, so far with uneven results.

Bringing back Gorongosa will require far more than the reintroduction of one species. It will take the reestablishment of at least 10 species and curtailing rampant poaching. About a decade into the project, the scientists have had mixed success.

“It is a big challenge,” says Princeton University ecologist Robert Pringle. He’s one of at least a dozen scientists from countries including Mozambique, Kenya and the United States who have been tracking the growth in animal populations and other changes in Gorongosa’s ecosystem.

Whether restoring Gorongosa is even possible is debatable. A goal of ecological science is to be able to heal natural habitats ravaged by war, development or resource extraction, Pringle says. But scientists are still working out the right recipe, looking at such factors as how the mix of species shapes an ecosystem and how predators affect the behavior of prey.

“What Gorongosa provides, because it’s so dynamic, is the ability to test some of these ideas in unusually powerful ways,” Pringle says.

Still, he says, “I don’t think it will ever be exactly how it was.”

■ Mixed-up herbivores

Removing the traps appears to have helped Gorongosa’s sole remaining large mammal predators. The lion population grew rapidly from 30 to 50 individuals in 2012 to 150 individuals in 2018, says conservation biologist Paola Bouley, the associate director of Gorongosa’s carnivore program. Along with 100 lions living outside the park, “we’re sitting at about half the lions needed to sustain a viable population,” she says.

On the prey side of the equation, from 2007 to 2014, park managers reintroduced six herbivore species, including 210 African buffalo and 180 blue wildebeest, researchers reported March 13 in PLOS ONE. So far, animal population trends are moving in the right direction. The number of buffalo went from 15 in 2001, the first count of those animals postwar, to almost 1,000 by 2018, while hippopotamuses, in the dozens in 2000, boomed to 546.

■ The power of predation

Before the war, Gorongosa’s bushbuck antelope (*Tragelaphus sylvaticus*) hugged the shadows of the forests, where their white-flecked, cinnamon-brown fur blended in with the background. Now they brazenly amble through open plains where their natural predators, leopards and wild dogs, would easily spot them. And the antelope have started eating the waterwort *Bergia mossambicensis*, a leafy flowering plant in the park’s floodplains that almost no other animals eat.

The bushbuck’s daring offered scientists a chance to test how carnivores affect the behavior of other animals — just through fear.

“We are just at the beginning of understanding the total impact that predators can have on prey populations, and also how they can affect community structure,” says Liana Zanette, a wildlife ecologist at Western University in London, Ontario who has not been involved with Gorongosa’s restoration.

Just the threat of being killed can affect where an herbivore goes, what it eats and how quickly it reproduces. “Predators have effects far beyond what we ever imagined they could have,” Zanette says. But the idea has typically been documented in simpler or artificial scenarios, such as spiders and grasshopper nymphs in a terrarium.

Scientists thought bushbuck might revert to their woodland ways if the antelopes thought predators were back in the park, even if they actually weren’t.

■ Bringing back the dogs

In the spring of 2018, Gorongosa’s conservation department took the first steps to expand the ecosystem’s pool of predators. It released 14 endangered African wild dogs (*Lycan pictus*) flown from South Africa. Another pack, 24 strong, will be released in July.

“It’s a wave of teeth that’s coming,” Bouley, of Gorongosa’s carnivore program, says. So far, the dogs have hunted primarily antelope, even trekking into the swamps to tackle waterbuck. The dogs kill at least two animals a day, and sometimes up to six, she says.

More dogs will be needed to establish a larger population to avoid inbreeding and more effectively withstand threats such as disease and natural disaster. “Ultimately, we’re restoring a balance that was here just a few decades ago,” says Bouley, who is based in Sofala, Mozambique. That balance included more competing carnivores, not just dogs and lions. Building up those populations, and establishing balance between them and their prey, will likely take several more decades — if it’s even possible.

In complex food webs with several predators and connections, “you’d be crazy to think that it would quickly reorganize to its pre-removal state,” says Tom Hobbs, a population ecologist at Colorado State University in Fort Collins who is not involved in the work in Gorongosa. Putting predators back into a broken ecosystem doesn’t necessarily reverse the results of having taken them out.

■ Gorongosa’s future

Gorongosa is expanding, in part to make room for predators. About 2,800 square kilometers of an old private hunting reserve obtained in 2017, and on which another small pack of wild dogs was found, is set to become part of Gorongosa National Park in August. Park officials also oversee conservation in a large area outside park boundaries, including a buffer zone at the park’s edge where about 200,000 people live.

“We don’t know whether our current state is going to be a permanent state,” says conservation scientist Marc Stalmans, the Sofala-based director of scientific affairs at Gorongosa National Park and a coauthor on the PLOS ONE and Science papers. He suspects Gorongosa is still in transition, noting that Kenya’s Lake Nakuru National Park also went through a period in the 1970s of species imbalance — between zebras, buffalos, waterbucks and warthogs — that eventually worked itself out, as researchers reported in the April 2012 issue of Biodiversity and Conservation.

(Source: sciencenews.org)

Six thousand Iraqis apply for Iran visa every day

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — Some six thousand Iraqi nationals apply for the Iranian visa per day, according to Iran’s consulate in the city of Basra.

The Islamic Republic’s consulate general in Basra announced that 6,000 Iraqis apply for Iran visas every day in order to visit the country, and this figure is on the rise, public relations office of the consulate announced on Monday, ISNA reported.



Back in March, Tehran and Baghdad agreed to mutually waive visa fees hoping to cement tourism, local economies and to bring their peoples closer.

Some two million Iraqi nationals visited Iran during the first seven months of the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), constituting Iran’s largest source of inbound passengers.

In return, hundreds of thousands of Iranian pilgrims head for the holy Iraqi cities of Najaf and Karbala each year.

Recovered Achaemenid guard on tour to southern Iran

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — A previously recovered limestone relief, depicting an Achaemenid Persian guard, is to be delivered to the Persian Gulf Anthropological Museum for a loan exhibit in Bandar Abbas, southern Hormozgan province.



The Achaemenid era (550 – 330 BC) object will be displaying at the museum from May 9 to June 5, Reza Boroumand, the provincial tourism chief, said on Monday, Mehr reported.

The bas-relief, has been put on show at the National Museum of Iran and Mashhad’s Khorasan Great Museum after President Hassan Rouhani returned it home from the U.S. on September 27.

The relief was part of a long line of soldiers depicted on a balustrade at the central building on the UNESCO-registered Persepolis in southern Iran.

The eight-inch-square object was back home after 80 years. In 2017, it was confiscated from the Park Avenue Armory in New York, while offered for sale at an art fair. In June, a U.S. judge ruled that the exquisite relic should be returned to Iran.



ROUND THE GLOBE

Church and Dominican Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie

The refectory of the Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan, Italy, forms an integral part of this architectural complex, begun in 1463 and reworked at the end of the 15th century by Bramante.

On the north wall is The Last Supper, the unrivalled masterpiece painted between 1495 and 1497 by Leonardo da Vinci, whose work was to herald a new era in the history of art.



The complex, including the Church and Convent, was built from 1463 onwards by Guiniforte Solari, and was afterwards considerably modified at the end of 15th century by Bramante, one of the masters of the Renaissance.

The painting was commissioned in 1495 and completed in 1497. The representation by Leonardo da Vinci depicted the moment immediately after Christ said, “One of you will betray me”. Leonardo rejected the classical interpretation of the composition and had Jesus in the midst of the Apostles; he also created four groups of three figures on either side of Christ. The 12 Apostles reacted in differing ways; their movements and expressions are magnificently captured in Leonardo’s work. The genius of the artist is seen especially in the use of light and strong perspective. Unfortunately, Leonardo did not work in fresco but in tempera on a two-layered surface of plaster that did not absorb paint. It was as early as 1568 when Vasari first pointed out problems with this painting technique.

(Source: UNESCO)

NACO director calls Iran’s new passenger terminal a “success”

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — Kjell Kloosterziel, the head of steering committee at the Netherlands Airport Consultants (NACO), paid a visit to a newly-constructed passenger terminal in the Imam Khomeini International Airport, on a high note on Monday, saying that he felt it has been a success.

The Salaam International Terminal is a successful project for the country’s airport industry, Kloosterziel said.

In an interview with IKAC news service Kloosterziel said: “Despite U.S. sanctions against Iran and creating difficult conditions for this country, we are keen on boosting relationship with Iran and I am proud of Iranians for building a new beautiful terminal for passengers at the Imam Khomeini Airport City.”

“It was a great idea that I am here... the structure of this terminal is very good for passengers... very special design and it has a nice view when I came to this terminal I

was amazing by the columns here.”

“I think you can be only proud of your country.”

NACO will meet all its commitments between the Netherlands’ private sector and Iranian companies, he stated.

The new terminal, which has a capacity to provide services to five million passengers, will be inaugurated in the near future.

It is aimed to create a suitable platform for improvement of air services. Imam Khomeini Airport City comprises three sections –free trade zones, specially-zoned areas, and the airport itself -- which together do much in the way of expanding the country’s aerial industry.

Salaam will offer entirely electronic smart services and all passengers are entitled to special services, according to organizers.

Headquartered in The Hague, NACO is an airport consultancy and engineering firm.



Undated handout photos show exterior and interior views of the newly-constructed Salaam International Terminal in Imam Khomeini airport, southern Iran.

Iran celebrates cuisine at Tbilisi festival

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — On May 5, a group of Iranian exhibitors offered various Iranian tea, honey, herbal ingredients and cuisine at a Tbilisi festival, where food fans were able to savor local tastes from all over the country.

Georgia Prime Minister Mamuka Bakhtadze, his fellow colleagues, and a number of international diplomats were attending the event, IRNA reported.

Organized under the auspices of Iran’s cultural office in Tbilisi, the gastronomy festival also featured live performances by Iranian traditional troupes from northern Iran.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Bakhtadze said the goal of the festival is to develop agricultural industry and tourism, to familiarize participants with the food culture of domestic and foreign producers, and to establish cultural and social interactions between the citizens of



different countries.

Iranian cultural attaché Hamid Mostafavi, for his part, said that organizing such annual festivals provides an opportunity for cultural exchange and sharing experiences and knowledge of different local and international communities.

“Dishes, drinks and food habits of the people of a region constitute parts of their cultural heritage. And many of countries in the region, particularly Iran and Georgia, have strong similarities in that regard, which is rooted in common culture and neighborliness,” Mostafavi explained.

“Food can be considered as a communicational tool that links fellows of cultural or ethnic groups of different countries,” he added.

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

Korean Air removes first class from 27 international routes

According to the Straits Times, Korean Air announced on Wednesday that it is removing first class seats from 27 international flights starting in June, leaving only two seating options (economy and prestige) on 76 of its 111 routes.

The company said the change was due to low demand for first class tickets, and a need to maximize profitability and efficiency. At the moment, there is no first class seating for most of Korean Air’s short-haul routes, according to the Straits Times.

First class seating demand has dwindled in recent years, despite the incredible perks like lie-flat seats, more

privacy, more legroom, and better food. According to The Economist, executives are opting for business class, and many former first class customers are choosing to fly private.

But if you are still hoping to kick back in first class, Korean Air will still be offering the option for its major short-haul routes, including Beijing, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Osaka, and Manila, among others.

“We will do our best to minimize the inconvenience of first-class passengers and maintain quality service for prestige-class passengers,” a Korean Air spokesperson told the Straits Times.

But even as first class seats give way to business, economy class will still be the main go-to for many travelers. If you can’t afford a premium ticket (or it’s not offered on your route), here are still some ways to make your economy seat feel like first class anyway.

Is first class on its way out? An increasing number of airlines including British Airways, Delta, and United are trading in their first class seats in favor of more business class and economy seating, and now first class seating on certain Korean Air flights is the latest to bite the dust.

(Source: MSN)

Jordan, Oman & Syria: different approaches to boosting tourist numbers

The 26th edition of the Arabian Travel Market in Dubai brought together more than 150 countries to showcase their tourism projects.

As expected, Middle Eastern countries were well represented on the ground.

Euronews looks at three divergent tourism strategies from the region, from Jordan to Oman and Syria.

Home to the ancient site of Petra, inbound visitors to Jordan spent an estimated \$4.64 billion in 2017, according to the latest report by the World Tourism Organization. This ranks the country as one of the most popular destinations in the Middle East.

According to the managing director of Jordan’s Tourism Board, Dr. Abed Al Razzaq Arabiyat, inviting social media influencers to visit the kingdom is a key part of their strategy going forward.

“We can see that when the influencers came to Jordan and lived the experience - shared their experiences within their own platforms - it created demand,” he said.

“Definitely the cost effective way [to market], is social media and online platforms, where you can have reach and exposure of the content,” he added.

Opening up low cost carrier routes - especially via Europe - is also boosting tourist numbers to the destination, according to the ministry.

The Tourism Board’s managing director also went on to say that ploughing more funds into the industry was essential for the country to cope with a recent surge in visitor numbers. “The challenge now, is that we need more investment in Petra,” said Arabiyat, “We need more hotel rooms - and also in Wadi Rum, the Dead Sea and Aqaba.”

Of late, the Jordanian government has granted tax exemption status to tourism projects and developments, which Arabiyat hopes will help attract foreign and domestic



investment and further expand the sector.

Like many of its Persian Gulf neighbors, Oman is seeking to be less reliant on oil revenues and diversify its economy by developing sectors like tourism.

According to Salem Al Mamari, Director General of Tourism Promotion in Oman, the efforts are focused on bringing in travelers with an appetite for nature, culture and adventure.

Al Mamari said that last year’s numbers were positive, with “\$1.5 billion pumped into the national economy by tourism.” He added that 2019’s figures are expected to be even higher and that job creation within the sector was on the rise.

Oman’s strategy differs from many other Gulf countries, who are investing in widespread advertising campaigns to attract the maximum number of visitors.

Al Mamari said that whilst everyone is welcome to visit the Sultanate, preserving the country’s natural beauty was the ministry’s priority. He said this would be successfully achieved in the long-term through targeted marketing.

“We believe that, what we have now has to live for generations to come. Mass tourism is not in our calendar. We are working with the people who are in a position to help us maintain, to keep and to preserve Oman as it is - for the people to continue to come in the future.”

For the first time in seven years, Syria was represented with a stand at the Arabian Travel Market.

Known for the ancient sites of Palmyra and Krak des Chevaliers, the country is trying to regain lost ground in the tourism space.

With security a major concern for travelers, Syria’s Ministry of Tourism is trying to send a message that the hospitality sector is up and running again.

“It is safe for all the people to go around, to have visits, to see all the great attractions of tourism and to visit again,” said Ziad Balkhi, the Ministry’s director of Information Communication Technology.

“Please see for yourselves...see the good Syrian people who don’t want war. They want peace - we want peace - and this is what we’re trying to promote all the time,” he added.

Whilst some landmarks are still visibly damaged by war, Balkhi was keen to reassure those who haven’t yet visited the country that there was much to engage and inspire them.

“The whole of Damascus, the south, Busra - all the great attractions of the west coast...it’s all there for travelers to come,” he said.

In business terms, Balkhi told Euronews that the general response to Syria’s presence at ATM had been encouraging.

“It was actually amazing,” he said, “I have seen a lot of people...tour operators coming. “Now we’re starting to receive business inquiries and business requests. It was a great opportunity for us.”

(Source: euronews)

Which province, which mobile game, an interesting survey

1 → The western Ilam province is on the bottom of the list with 62.8 percent of users who installed video games on their phones.

But citizens living in Bushehr province are the most professional gamers of the country. About 0.6 percent of users in Bushehr have installed over 50 mobile games on their cellphones.

On the other hand, only 0.1 percent of users in northeastern Khorasan Razavi province have installed 50 games on their smartphones.

■ Education in north, excitement in south!

According to the reports, the people in the northern provinces, namely Gilan, Mazandaran and Golestan, mostly installed educational games in comparison with other parts of Iran.

Action, mystery and detective games are mostly installed by Yazdi citizens. Users in Sistan-Baluchestan province like strategy, racing and driving as well as stimulation games. In Khorasan Razavi province, users prefer family-friendly and adventure games.

As one of the most popular android markets in Iran, statistics may give some interesting clues for mobile game marketing nationwide.

■ Internet users in Iran

The range and age of internet users in the country would be a key factor for assessing video games installing and playing. In December 2018, the deputy education minister for training Alireza Kazemi announced that in Iran, about 20 million internet users out of 56 million users are below 18.

Besides, according to a report released by the Measuring Information Society of Iran at the Information Technology Organization in January, 64 percent of Iranians above six years are internet users.



A survey was conducted at urban and rural areas during winter season of the Iranian calendar year 1396 (ended March 20, 2018) by the Statistical Center of Iran. According to the survey, the internet user is defined as someone who has used internet during the past three months and by this definition 46,315,545 people are internet users in Iran.

According to the report, 72.8 percent of Iranian families have access to the inter-

net, which means that 17,936,000 families benefit from internet nationwide.

A total of 17,216,000 families have access to computer, which is 69.7 percent of the population.

■ Interesting facts about mobile gamers worldwide

According to a report compiled on the techjury.net from various sources about mobile gaming statistics, the number of active mobile gamers worldwide was 1638.4 billion!

According to the report, about 24 million Iranian users have already installed mobile games on their cellphones and 6.5 percent of Iranians have more than ten games on their smartphones

Here you can find more interesting facts about this booming business worldwide:

- There are now 2.2 billion mobile gamers worldwide. 203 million of them are in the U.S. 56% of them play more than 10+ times a week. Mobile gaming growth is already a force to be reckoned with. With future development like AR coming to the mass customer, this trend shows no sign of slowing down.

- As of December 2018, Candy Crush generates only \$1.1 million daily, while Fortnite shows off with \$1.3 million. Pokemon Go tops the chart with its \$1.4 million in daily profits. All three of them, however, have to watch out for 2019's newcomers, such as "Harry Potter: Wizards Unite". With a fanbase as huge as the Potterheads, this game is set to break some records.

- Only 37% of mobile gamers are men. Female gamers also play more often and are more willing to pay for games. That makes them more valuable than male players. What was thought to be a male kingdom turns out to be dominated by women.

- In fact, 60% of females play daily. And 36% of those, who play spend money on mobile games.

- Some 55% of mobile gamers are around 55 years old, while 21% are between 25 and 34 years old. Only 8% of mobile gamers are teenagers.

- Mobile games managed to grab 46% of the global gaming revenue in 2017. In 2018 the number went up by 5% and it grew by 3% more in 2019. By 2020, that number is expected to reach 59%.

Many claim smartphones are losing their popularity. Their predictions fall short once we see how mobile gaming is taking over the world. Numbers do speak louder than words.

Plans for cultivation and processing of herbal plants supported

TECHNOLOGY d e s k **TEHRAN** — The national council for development of medicinal and aromatic plants and traditional medicine science and technology has supported 48 development plans for cultivation and processing of herbal plants in different provinces, IRNA reported on Saturday.

The producing of organic herbal

plants in western Iran in Hamedan, the packaging of herbal, aromatic plants and spices in Yazd, producing 7 herbal medicine with locals in Semnan, seed plate of herbal plants thyme and lemon balm in Qom, commercialization of medicinal mushrooms in Damavand and Momordica cultivation in Estahban are amongst some development projects.

In mid-April, the council announced that over 170 innovative products in over 150 knowledge-based companies.

The council, which is affiliated to the vice presidency for science and technology, initiated the first startup accelerator in the field of traditional medicine in November 2018.

Meanwhile, the vice president for sci-

ence and technology Sourena Sattari has announced that 170 knowledge-based companies active in medical herb industry are influential in value added chain.

"Iran enjoys different species of medicinal herbs. For example, more than 2,000 species of medicinal herbs are grown in the western Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province," he explained.

What will happen to your social media accounts when you die?

The grieving parents of a dead teenager in Germany were recently denied access to their daughter's Facebook account.

They wanted to read the profile page to see if she was being bullied, but the social network argued that doing so would compromise the privacy of her contacts – and a judge agreed.

So even if most people don't care about protecting their online data after they die, in principle there should still be a way for someone to do so.

It is believed there should be a mechanism to address this inconsistency that we would call post-mortem privacy.

This refers to the right of a person to preserve and control what becomes of his or her reputation, dignity, integrity, secrets or memory after death.

At the moment, this kind of protection varies around the world and, in most jurisdictions' succession laws, families have a default access to a deceased person's memories and data.

Service providers already permit some of this, too.

For instance, this means that families can ask for Facebook accounts to be deleted or for access to some of the content (but not private chats).

They can also request the profile be turned into a memorial.

But users might not want their families to have these powers and instead might want control over the very sensitive personal content found on some social media profiles and the digital identity that goes with it.

The legal recognition of post-mortem privacy would enable users to decide what happens to their data after death.

They could request full or partial deletion, transfer of some of their data to friends or family, or some other option.

Families can close or 'memorialize' Facebook accounts so certain features, like birthday reminders, no longer appear. Facebook allows the user to add a legacy contact – someone the user chooses to look after their account if it's memorialized. Families can ask for Facebook accounts to be deleted or for access to some of the content (but not private chats) +5

Families can close or 'memorialize' Facebook accounts so certain features, like birthday reminders, no longer appear. Facebook allows the user to add a legacy contact – someone the user chooses to look after their account if it's memorialized. Families can ask for Facebook accounts to be deleted or for access to some of the content (but not private chats)

This concept has so far received little attention in law – especially in common-law systems, such as in England, where legal decisions depend partly on previous judgments.



Common-law system have historically been much less inclined to protect personality and privacy rights than civil law systems. This is particularly true for the post-mortem protection of one's personality.

In fact, the UK law expressly excludes this protection. But there have also been some very exciting recent changes in the US and France.

The model law adopted by several states in the US suggests that the user should have a right to choose what happens to their data and assets on death.

If people express this wish using technology, for example with something like Google's Inactive Account Manager tool, then that should override even provisions of their will.

A similar solution has recently been adopted in France in the Digital Republic Act 2016.

This would mean that, for the first time in Europe, the law could recognize the use of software tools for the post-mortem transmission of digital assets, such as Google Inactive Account Manager or Facebook Legacy Contact, similar to the American legislation mentioned above.

These tools within the services where we store our data allow users to choose whether they want their accounts entirely deleted after they die or to leave some of their data to chosen beneficiaries (typically their friends or family).

Although these tools have been available for a few years with, anecdotally, relatively little uptake, the fact they have been adopted by some of the world's biggest service providers suggests post-mortem privacy is not seen as obscure, creepy or impossible anymore.

There are already some practical and legal mechanisms to

recognize and enforce it.

But to further clarify this legally and ensure more people have access to this kind of service, post-mortem privacy should be recognized in other countries' data protection laws where personal data isn't currently protected after death, for instance in the EU.

Without it, we can expect to see many more battles over our online heirlooms.

What you can do on different social media?

- Gmail: The Inactive Account Manager feature allows you to set a certain amount of time (3, 6 or 9 months) you want Google to wait before considering you 'inactive'. One month before that deadline, Google sends you an e-mail alert or text message. If you still haven't entered your account by then, Google will notify your 'trusted contacts' (you can list up to 10) and share your data with them if you have chosen to do so. Google uses several signals to figure out whether you're still using your Google Account, such as last sign-ins, recent activity, usage of Gmail and Android check-ins. To set up the Inactive Account Manager, go to www.google.com/settings/account/inactive and click 'setup'.

- Twitter: Twitter closes accounts of the deceased at the request of family members via a Privacy Form. Otherwise, the only other option is to leave the account as is.

- Facebook: You can add a 'legacy contact' – someone you choose to look after your account if it's memorialized. To add a legacy contact, go to your account's general setting, select 'settings' and click 'manage account'. Type in a friend's name and click 'add'. To let your friend know they're a legacy contact, click 'send'. Families can close or 'memorialize' accounts so certain features, like birthday reminders, no longer appear. Families can ask Facebook for access to some of the account's content (but not private chats). If you know you won't be using Facebook again, you can also permanently delete your account.

- Instagram: If you see an Instagram account that belongs to someone who's passed away, it can be reported to Instagram for memorialization. To report the account for memorialization, Instagram's Help Center must be contacted, and proof of death must be provided via an obituary or news article. Only immediate family members can request the account to be removed.

As you share more of your personal information, communications and photographs online, there is a growing risk that one day your sentimental keepsakes could be locked up forever.

(Source: dailymail.co.uk)

Study: More electric cars could help us breathe easier

Electric vehicles have a small but fast-growing share of the car market. This switch from the gas-powered internal combustion engine to battery-powered electric propulsion is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. But how will it affect other emissions related to air quality?

A new analysis published in Atmospheric Environment delves into that question. Researchers behind the study consider the effects of the electricity source used to charge them in addition to EV market share. Both these factors

vary based on geographical region in the U.S., so while the air quality impacts of increased EV adoption vary by region, there were general trends across the board.

Summer surface ozone levels decrease in most locations, the study found, while wintertime fine particulate matter levels went down. Overall, the number of conventional vehicles replaced by EVs has a larger effect on ozone than particulates overall, researchers from Northwestern University and Princeton University found, while

the source of the electricity for those EVs has a larger impact on particulates.

EV registrations doubled in the U.S. between 2017 and 2018, reaching 208,000. By 2025, analysts predict that 1.1 million EVs will be sold, making up about 7 percent of the vehicle market.

To analyze EV impact on air quality, the researchers used the newest version of NOAA's global atmospheric model to map ozone and particulate matter emissions. Both emissions come from automobiles and power generation

and are the main components of smog. The model also took into account geographical locations, EV adoption rates, power sources, and seasons and times of day.

Results showed that, as vehicle electrification goes up, summer time ozone levels fell no matter how electricity to charge the EV batteries was generated. In the winter, ozone levels go up because of a chemical reaction that occurs at lower sunlight levels.

(Source: msn.com)

ITO supports startups, knowledge-based companies to attend expos

TECHNOLOGY d e s k **TEHRAN** – The Information Technology Organization (ITO) of Iran supports knowledge-based companies and startups to take part in national and international exhibitions. Mehr reported on Sunday.



The organization introduces startups and knowledge-based companies active in the field of ICT to the Iran International Exhibitions Company.

Last week, the head of the Strategic Technologies Center Esmail Qaderifar announced that over 6,500 startups are now active in the country.

The Iranian startup ecosystem is one of the biggest ones in the southwestern Asia and will turn into the most powerful economies in the near future.

In April, the vice president for science and technology Sourena Sattari called Iran as the largest hub of startups in the region.

Bakers bring in robot help to make the perfect loaf

British bakers are turning to artificial intelligence in the quest to create the perfect loaf.

A team of researchers based in York has been awarded £77,000 in government funding to create a machine that will take the guesswork out of baking.



Currently, around 80pc of the UK's bread is made with automated machines, but everything from the weather to the quality of flour could impact how the bread turns out.

Using artificial intelligence, food scientists at RedBlack Software and research association Campden BRI hope to give bakers the ability to fine-tune their recipes.

"My husband is an amateur baker and he makes sourdough," says Jane Tyler, managing director of RedBlack Software "Every loaf is different. There is this unpredictability."

This happens on a much larger scale in bakeries, with £205 million worth of product wasted each year.

"Even slightly differing flour qualities have a big effect on the end product quality," she says. "Because of this, bakers throw away considerable amounts of dough before it is ever baked."

The AI being tested works by gathering data from a variety of sensors in the bakery that reveal everything from the humidity in the air to the speed settings on the mixer.

The robot can then learn from this data to predict exactly what can create the perfect dough on any given day.

Mrs. Tyler insists that human bakers will still have a role to play.

"Technology can take over monotonous tasks or iron out guesswork with superior data analysis, but I think baking will always be very hands-on and people-based," she says.

"It's an ancient, creative craft that mixes art with science and while technology can help with many aspects of the science, production and business, the art and creativity is definitely best left to humans."

Even if the AI proves to reduce waste in the industry by 50pc, Mrs Taylor believes the project would be a success.

M&S already uses a separate software by RedBlack's in more than 500 of its in-store bakeries to help staff predict what they should be baking at various times of the day to meet demand.

Smaller artisan bakeries have also turned to AI in the hope of improving the consistency and quality of their products. The 150-year-old Bretzel Bakery in Dublin, for instance, is using software and sensors to monitor the quality of its dough and manage room temperature and humidity.


The 'Intelligent Dough Mixer Project' will last until early October before several unnamed major British retailers test the technology in-store.

(Source: The Telegraph)

Iranian, Chinese universities plan to open joint innovation tech offices

1 → The delegation also met Zhang Gaoxiang, the Chinese manager, and Afshin Bazrafshan, the Iranian manager of the Confucius Institute at University of Tehran.

Yunnan University is one of the largest and most prestigious universities in China. Its main campuses are located in the provincial capital city of Kunming. It has been developed into the only "National Key University" in Yunnan province, having trained over 17,000 specialist professionals in various fields.




First Announcement

Call for public tender (First/Second publish)

One Stages tender

Subject of Tender: S.C.R BRAKER CONTROL



N.I.O.C
1398.741

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	3/199/483	Tender No.: FP/98-20/017 Indent No.:08-22-9745051	8, 717, 126, 894

Qualitative evaluation of tenderers

Method	Qualification process will be done in plain mode in offers opening session according to presentation of valid practice certificate / legal documents (certificate of corporation/ established announcement up to latest changes) which should be related to tender subject (good.s supply).
	<p>1- Applicants which have more than 4 in process contacts with NIDC are not allowed to participate in this tender .</p> <p>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</p>

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 (closing date : -)
	<p>Distribution Place Hall No:113, 1stfloor, Foreign Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN</p> <p>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</p> <p>Closing date Days after the last time of Purchasing. (closing date 35 ()) The envelopes will be opened At (. a.m) On ()</p> <p>Documents Receiving Method Address Hall No. 107, 1stfloor, Tender Committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. Tel: +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569</p>

Tender Guarantee

Value of guarantee	436,000,000 Rial / 9.238 Euro
Type of guarantee	<p>✓ Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.</p> <p>✓ 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.</p>
Duration of credit & quotation	Tender Guarantee and 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 ۹۸/۲/۱۷ نویت دوم ۹۸/۲/۱۷

Islamic Jihad debuts new missile with attack on Israel, pledges bigger surprises

➔ The al-Quds Brigades warned Israel that "what is coming next will be even greater."

■ Hamas targets Israeli armored vehicle

Meanwhile, Hamas' military wing, known as the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, published a new video that showed an Israeli armored vehicle being targeted with a Russian-made Kornet anti-tank missile.

The attack took place on Sunday in an undisclosed location north of the Gaza Strip.

■ Hamas conducts first ever drone attack against Israeli military

In a separate report, Israeli media stated that a Hamas drone had fired a missile at an Israeli military convoy.

The extent of the damage and possible casualties were not immediately clear.

According to press TV, the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades said, "At this stage, with the strides made in developing



better missiles, not a single point in all of the occupied Palestinian lands

will be safe from the missiles of the resistance."

The attacks came in response to a series of deadly airstrikes by Israel against various targets in besieged Gaza, which began on Saturday and killed 27 Palestinians, including two pregnant women and two infants. More than 100 others were wounded in the attacks.

The upsurge in violence came after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered his military to continue massive strikes on the enclave.

Tensions erupted on Friday after four Palestinians were killed, two in an Israeli air raid on southern Gaza and two during the regime's live fire at anti-occupation protesters near the fence separating the besieged coastal enclave from the occupied territories.

Nearly 700 rockets were launched from Gaza in retaliation and four Israelis were killed in two days of hostilities, with more than 80 others wounded.

U.S. to review ties with States based on their attitude toward Israel

TEHRAN — U.S. Special Envoy for Monitoring and Combating anti-Semitism, Elan Carr has stated that Washington may review its ties with certain states based on the latter's attitude towards Israel, Reuters reported. This may be done as a part of a recently announced policy shift that will equate anti-Zionism, or opposition to the existence of the state of Israel, with anti-Semitism in U.S. eyes.

"The United States is willing to review its relationship with any country, and certainly anti-Semitism on the part of a country with whom we have relations is a deep concern", he said.

Carr further stated that he will be discussing the issue of anti-Semitism and its impact on bilateral relations with the U.S. with a number of coun-

tries and their heads in "frank and candid conversations [...] behind closed doors". However, he refused to specify the exact states and the possible steps that Washington make take based on the results of these talks, Sputnik reported.

The special envoy also praised the U.S. decision to start equating anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism, claiming that it "breaks new ground" by admitting that the former is just "one of the chief flavours" of hatred towards Jews in the modern world.

The shift in the U.S. policy towards anti-Zionism was announced by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in March 2019. He claimed that it was just a form of anti-Semitism and vowed that the U.S. will be fighting against it "relentlessly".

Pakistan encouraged to use Yuan amid China's de-Dollarisation trend

TEHRAN — As China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has boosted the global use of the yuan, Pakistan, which is a part of the project, has been increasingly encouraged to use the Chinese currency in its business dealings with Beijing instead of doing trade in the U.S. dollar, the Global Times reported.

Despite the yuan skyrocketing in popularity in Southeast Asia, relatively stringent foreign exchange policies in some BRI markets are restricting the currency's internationalization in the short term.

"On the positive side, the growing pace of yuan use in BRI countries has been faster than the yuan's overall usage in the world in recent years. The trend is particularly evident in some Southeast Asian countries like Singapore", Zhou Yu, director of the Research Centre for International Finance at the

Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, was cited as saying.

Pakistan and China agreed to ditch the greenback and start trading in yuan in bilateral relations in November 2018.

"The agreement is part of practical steps being taken [by China] to support our [foreign] currency [reserves]", Pakistani Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry said at the time.

The central State Bank of Pakistan immediately declared the yuan an approved foreign exchange for all purposes in the country.

China has increasingly been using the yuan, which was included in the Special Drawing Right (SDR) basket in 2016 alongside the U.S. dollar, the Japanese yen, the euro, and the British pound, in bilateral trade with a number of countries, including Russia.

Venezuela vows response if U.S. takes military action

TEHRAN — Venezuela's Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza stressed on Monday that Caracas prefers diplomacy to solve the ongoing political crisis, but is ready for any scenario, and will retaliate if the United States chooses to take military action against the government of President Nicolas Maduro.

"We are prepared for any scenario... If [the U.S.] prefers the military path, we are ready to resist — we have an army, police, our people, and we are ready to destroy any army, no matter how powerful it is", he said, adding that Caracas has consistently called on Washington to resolve all issues through dialogue.

According to Sputnik, the foreign minister continued on by saying that the number of Russian military experts in Venezuela may be increased.

"I would like to remind [you] that a large part of military equipment in Venezuela is Russian... [Russian] President [Vladimir] Putin has offered us the best equipment that exists now and it allowed us to create a strong defence structure. All this requires maintenance. We need to improve it, exchange information. Currently, there is a commission



of specialists in Venezuela, of course, it can be expanded", Arreaza told reporters.

Arreaza then claimed that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Venezuelan opposition have devised a plan to oust Maduro in order to get hold of the country's natural resources.

The foreign minister's comments come shortly after Juan Guaido, Venezuela's self-proclaimed interim president, told the BBC that he "will evaluate all options if necessary" when asked if he would welcome U.S. military intervention.

Even though his coup attempt failed last week, Guaido claims that it is "clearly visible that the armed forces no longer support Maduro".

"I think the only one who really hurts himself is Maduro. He has been losing again and again. He is increasingly weak, increasingly alone, and has no international support. On the contrary, we gain acceptance, support and future options", he said.

Speaking with The Washington Post after the botched coup attempt, Guaido branded the discussions of military options in the U.S. "great news".

"That's great news to Venezuela because we are evaluating all options. It's good to know that important allies like the US are also evaluating the option. That gives us the possibility that if we need cooperation, we know we can get it", Guaido told the news outlet.

Erdogan: Turkey expects NATO to support its rights in eastern Mediterranean

TEHRAN— Turkey expects NATO to support its rights in the eastern Mediterranean, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Monday, after the United States and Euro-

pean Union voiced concerns over Ankara's plans for offshore drilling in an area claimed by Cyprus as its exclusive economic zone, Reuters reported.

Speaking at NATO's North Atlantic Council Mediterranean Dialogue Meeting in Ankara, Erdogan also said that Turkey rejected arguments claiming

its deal to purchase Russian S-400 defense systems meant Ankara was looking for alternatives in its international ties.

Jordan loses ICC appeal over Bashir non-arrest

TEHRAN— International appeals judges Monday upheld a reprimand of Jordan for failing to arrest former Sudanese president Omar al-Bashir during a visit to the Arab country two years ago.

Amman had appealed a decision by the International Criminal Court which found that Jordan "failed to comply with its obligations" when it refused to detain Bashir in 2017, wanted by the Hague-based tribunal for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, AFP reported.

But the ICC's appeal judges eased the blow by reversing pre-trial chamber judges' decision to refer Jordan to the UN Security Council and the court's Assembly of States Parties (ASP) for further measures.

Despite two international warrants for his arrest on 10 charges arising from the conflict in Darfour, Bashir freely attended an Arab League summit in Amman in March 2017.

"By failing to arrest and surrender Mr. Bashir, in circumstances in which Mr. Bashir was entitled to no immunity, Jordan prevented the court from exercising an important power and a fundamental function," Judge Chile Eboe-Osuji said.

Jordan is a member of the Rome Statute, which underpins the tribunal - established in 2002 to try the world's worst atrocities - and as such has agreed to comply with the court's orders.

In a first for the court, Amman last year appealed the ICC's findings that it failed to fulfill its legal obligations in seizing Bashir, saying it was not obliged to do so.

Jordan's lawyers argued that Bashir at the time of his visit was a sitting head of state "and therefore immune to arrest," based on the international legal principle of comity between states.



Taliban: Talks with U.S. stumble over troop withdrawal

TEHRAN — The Taliban militant group says peace talks with the U.S. — which have been underway in Qatar for months — have stalled over the key issue of a timetable for American and other foreign troops to pull out of Afghanistan, a longtime Taliban demand.

A Taliban political spokesman, Suhail Shaheen, told the AFP on Sunday that the two sides have so far failed to hammer out their differences on how to put their draft agreement on the withdrawal timetable into action.

The two sides are trying "to narrow the differences and have an agreement on a time-

table which is acceptable to both sides," but "that has not been achieved so far."

He also explained that nothing would move forward "in principle" until America announced a withdrawal timetable.

"If we are not able to finalize it in this round, then ... peace would be far away rather than being closer," Shaheen added.

Since last year, sixth rounds of talks have been held in Doha between the militant group and U.S. special envoy to Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad and his delegation of about two dozen officials in the hope of ending

an American war in Afghanistan that has dragged on for over 17 years.

The latest round began on May 1, and it is not clear if the talks were to continue Monday, which marks the first day of the holy Muslim month of Ramadan.

According to Press TV, the negotiations have so far excluded Afghan officials. The Taliban refuse to hold talks with the government in Kabul, which the militant group views as illegitimate and a U.S. puppet.

In February, Khalilzad claimed progress in the talks, saying that a deal was within

reach by July. Khalilzad has repeatedly said that for things to progress, the Taliban must ensure Afghanistan is never again used as a terrorist safe haven, implement a ceasefire, and speak to Afghan representatives.

The Taliban have said they will not do anything until the U.S. announces a withdrawal timeline.

Earlier this week, the group's spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid called on the U.S. to end the use of force in Afghanistan instead of putting pressure on the militant group to cease fire.

Will Joe Biden revive Iran nuclear deal?

➔ If Biden wins the 2020 presidential election, he will definitely try to drag the European troika into this game of "re-defining the JCPOA based on U.S. benefits", the same as what Trump did in 2017 before he finally thwarted the deal.

However, the democrats' game is different from that of Trump's, as democrats are trying to forge general consensus to "restrain the powerful Iran".

It is also worth noting that Trump's withdrawal from the nuclear deal only became possible due to the set of legal and political conditions that democrats installed in the first place! In fact before leaving the nuclear deal all together, Trump used these conditions as "triggers" which allowed him to justify himself in abandoning the deal.

Moreover, it was democrats who set a precedent so as the U.S. president should "waive the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions" every 120 days. They were democrats who put the fate of the Iran nuclear deal in the hands of every incumbent president. So, it can be concluded that, apart from Trump administration, democrats should also be widely blamed for the shutdown of Iran nuclear deal.

Militants in Idlib prepare attacks on military sites in western Syria

TEHRAN — Foreign-sponsored Takfiri terrorists positioned in Syria's militant-held northwestern province of Idlib are reportedly getting ready to launch attacks on military sites and safe areas in the neighboring provinces of Latakia and Hama.

A Syrian military source, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Syria's official news agency SANA that militant groups have been transporting more weapons and mobilizing large numbers of terrorists for the offensives.

According to Press TV, the source added that the Takfiris are bringing in their reinforcements to the town of Murak in the Suran subdistrict of Hama province to target the positions of Syrian government forces and civilian neighborhoods in the surrounding areas.

Forty-one reported killed after Russian passenger plane crash-lands in Moscow

TEHRAN— Forty-one people on board a Russian Aeroflot passenger plane were killed on Sunday, including two children, after the aircraft caught fire as it made a bumpy emergency landing at a Moscow airport, Russian investigators said.

Television footage showed the Sukhoi Superjet 100 crash bouncing along the tarmac at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport before the rear part of the plane suddenly burst into flames, Reuters reported.

Many passengers on board SU 1492 then escaped via the plane's emergency slides that inflated after the hard landing.

The plane, which had been flying from Moscow to the northern Russian city of Murmansk, had been carrying 73 passengers and five crew members, Russia's aviation watchdog said.

Svetlana Petrenko, a spokeswoman for Russia's Investigative Committee, said in a statement that only 37 out of 78 people on board had survived, meaning 41 people had lost their lives.

No official cause has been given for the disaster.

Israel, Palestine reach ceasefire agreement to stop Gaza attacks

TEHRAN — Palestine says a ceasefire agreement has been reached with Israel, after 25 people were killed in three days of Israeli attacks on the besieged Gaza enclave, which were responded to with homemade rockets from Palestinian groups.

That was announced by two Palestinian officials familiar with the agreement and the Hamas Resistance Movement's media outlet.

"The ceasefire understanding will begin Monday 04:30 (01:30 GMT)," one of the officials told Reuters.

Earlier, Gaza's Health Ministry said at least 25 people have been killed and 154 others injured in the fresh flare-up of violence in the enclave. Two pregnant women and a 14-month-old baby were among the fatalities.

According to Press TV, the upsurge in violence came after the Israeli prime minister ordered the military to continue massive strikes on the enclave. Benjamin Netanyahu also said Israeli forces around Gaza would be reinforced.

Maduro may visit Russia next month

TEHRAN — Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro may visit the Russian city of St Petersburg next month to attend an economic forum there, Russia's RIA news agency cited Venezuela's foreign minister as saying on Monday.

Bahrain court rejects request for alternative sentence for activist Rajab

TEHRAN — A Bahraini court has refused to grant the jailed human rights activist Nabeel Rajab a non-custodial sentence instead of the jail terms he currently serving, his lawyer said Monday.

According to Reuters, Bahrain introduced new legislation last year allowing its courts to convert jail terms into non-custodial sentences. The government said last week that courts had granted alternative sentences to 451 convicts so far.

Rajab, who played a prominent role in pro-democracy protests in 2011, was handed a five-year jail sentence and a two-year sentence for publicly criticizing the government and its ally Saudi Arabia.

"Our motion has been rejected," his lawyer Mohamed Al Jishi said. He added lawyers had requested the court to apply the new law in Rajab's case on Apr. 30.

Federer happy to return to clay after three-year hiatus

Former world number one Roger Federer said he was glad he made the decision to return to clay courts as he prepares for the Madrid Open this week, three years after his last match on the surface.

Federer had skipped the clay court season the past two years since last competing in Rome in May 2016 but confirmed his participation for the tournament in Madrid earlier this year.

“I’m happy that the decision I took last December, when I started feeling like I definitely want to play on the clay, was the right one,” Federer, 37, told reporters.

“I haven’t looked back yet during the clay court build-up, thinking, ‘Ah, maybe I shouldn’t have.’ I’m happy I’m here, I’m happy I am on the surface.

“It takes some time getting used to how to construct the points a little bit more because there is more baseline (play), a possibility to play with more angles and height. It’s been interesting and fun, but not so challenging.”

Federer, who recently won his 101st singles title in Miami, is the tournament’s fourth seed behind world number one Novak Djokovic, Rafa Nadal and Alexander Zverev.

However, the 20-times Grand Slam singles champion said he was not trying to burden himself with expectations when he steps out on court at the Caja Magica.

“It will be interesting to see how this tournament goes,” Federer added. “I do not have high expectations in some ways.

“But at the same time I also know that things are possible. Madrid always plays fast with the altitude here. I’m intrigued to find out.”

Having received a bye to the second round, Federer will play the winner of the match between France’s Richard Gasquet and Spanish teenager Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, who reached the semi-final of the Estoril Open last week.

(Source: Reuters)

Fallen Man Utd face huge rebuild after Champions League failure

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer’s Manchester United legend was built on scoring the goal that won the Champions League, but, 20 years on, the Norwegian now concedes the United side he has inherited as manager are not even fit to grace that competition.

The scale of the task now facing Solskjaer was laid bare by Sunday’s 1-1 draw at already relegated Huddersfield, statistically one of the worst sides ever to play in the Premier League, that ensured United cannot finish in the top four and must accept the consolation prize of a place in the Europa League.

“We are not in the Champions League but I think that is a true reflection. The table seldom lies at the end,” admitted Solskjaer as he came to terms with a run of two wins from 11 games that have sucked the enthusiasm from his first few months as a caretaker manager.

“When United needed their players to stand up and be counted, playing with intensity, taking responsibility individually, concentrating fully, fighting for the right to play in the Champions League, they froze,” wrote The Times.

“The meek may inherit the earth but they also end up in the Europa League.”

Solskjaer was given the job on a permanent basis less than six weeks ago on the back of winning 14 of his first 17 games in charge.

Yet, the hastiness of the club’s executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward and American owners the Glazier family to take the easy decision of appointing the former striker then, rather than waiting until the end of the season, may only extend the wait for United to get back on their feet.

(Source: France 24)

James Rodríguez emerges as surprise target for Napoli

James Rodríguez has emerged as a target for Carlo Ancelotti’s Napoli as the on-loan Real Madrid midfielder seeks a new side for next season with Bayern Munich looking increasingly unlikely to take up a 42-million-euro purchase option on the Colombia international.

James has fallen out of favour at the Allianz Arena under Niko Kovac and the Bayern board have cooled their interest in taking the 27-year-old on a permanent basis at the end of his two-year loan arrangement in Bavaria.

Speaking to Radio CRC, Italian sports journalist Stefano Agresti said that James could be among the type of player Ancelotti is looking at to push Napoli on and launch a major challenge to Juventus’ domestic stranglehold next season. Napoli president Aurelio de Laurentiis has previously stated his ambition to bring in some big-name signings this summer and Agresti provided a few possible targets.

(Source: AS)

Bach boxing comments undervalue International Federations - AIBA chief

The executive director of AIBA, the governing body of amateur boxing, has hit out at Olympic chief Thomas Bach for suggesting putting together an alternative organisation to run the sport at next year’s Tokyo Games would “not be rocket science”.

AIBA faces expulsion from the Olympic movement after an inquiry into its finances and governance reports at the end of the month, potentially leaving in limbo the boxing competition at the 2020 Summer Games.

International Olympic Committee President Bach said on Saturday that alternative arrangements could be put in place to ensure boxing retained its spot at the Games and made light of concerns about the lack of time available to do so.

“I heard Mr Bach’s comment and it was very concerning because it certainly minimised what work goes into the preparation for such monumental event,” Tom Virgets told Reuters by telephone on Monday.

(Source: Marca)

Concussed Salah out of Liverpool’s Champions League clash against Barcelona

Liverpool will be without top scorer Mohamed Salah for Tuesday’s Champions League semi-final, second leg against Barcelona after manager Jurgen Klopp revealed he was concussed in a 3-2 win at Newcastle.

The Egyptian was stretchered off at St James’ Park on Saturday due to a head knock sustained as he challenged Newcastle goalkeeper Martin Dubravka for a high ball.

“It’s a concussion so that means he would not even be allowed to play. So that’s it,” said Klopp at his pre-match press conference on Monday.

“He feels OK but it is not good enough from a medical point of view that is all. He’s desperate (to play) everything but we cannot do it.”

Klopp will also be without Brazilian striker Roberto Firmino due to a groin injury as his side face the huge challenge of trying to overturn a 3-0 first leg deficit to make the Champions League final for a second consecutive season.

“Two of the world’s best strikers are not available tomorrow night and we have to score four goals against Barcelona to go through after 90 minutes,” added Klopp.

“It doesn’t make life easier, but as long as we have 11 players on the pitch, we will try it.”

Liverpool have a rich history of stunning comebacks in European football, most famously lifting the Champions League in 2005 after trailing the final 3-0 to AC Milan at



half-time.

In Klopp’s first season in charge in the quarter-finals of the Europa League in 2016, the Reds also came from 3-1 down in the final 25 minutes to beat his old side Borussia Dortmund 4-3.

However, the German coach is aware of



the extra difficulty of not just scoring at least three against the Spanish champions, but also not conceding a vital away goal to the likes of Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez that would leave Liverpool needing to score five to progress.

“I imagine the place will be rocking even

before we score to be honest, but we not only have to score, we have to deny Barcelona from scoring,” he added.

“It doesn’t happen too often that Barcelona don’t score at all. We know how big the challenge is.

“This team is so wonderful we will try 100 percent, but that doesn’t mean it will all work out.”

While, Liverpool edged a bruising battle with Newcastle to remain in the hunt for a first Premier League title in 29 years, Barcelona boss Ernesto Valverde could afford the luxury of making 11 changes for a 2-0 defeat at Celta Vigo on Saturday having already sealed the La Liga title.

And Klopp admitted he could have one eye on Sunday’s final league game of the season at home to Wolves with his team selection.

“We have to make a lot of decisions. Tomorrow night will be the third game in six days and Barcelona changed 11 positions on Saturday, so that is a massive difference as well of course,” he said.

“Together with our supporters it was a long season and there is at least a little chance to make it even longer.

“But if not, these are the last two home games of an incredible season and I think we should celebrate that with a good performance on the pitch and a very, very good performance in the stands.”

(Source: AFP)

‘I nearly died’ - Maradona misses out on first title as coach



Diego Maradona’s hopes of winning his first coaching title were dashed Sunday as his Dorados team lost the Mexican second-division finals, along with their shot at promotion.

Rivals Atletico San Luis scored the lone goal of the second leg in extra time to clinch the title and a spot in the first division -- the second time they have left Maradona empty-handed in two consecutive finals.

“I nearly died... But it’s fine. I’m sad for my boys, though,” Maradona said after the match.

The Argentine great and his team faced a tough task heading into the second-leg match, having been held 1-1 in the first leg at home in Culiacan, in the northwestern state of Sinaloa.

They managed to hold Atletico to 90 goalless minutes playing away in the central city of San Luis Potosi.

But Spanish defender Unai Bilbao slotted in the winning goal for the home team in the 103rd minute, after Dorados’ keeper Gaspar Servio failed to clear a free kick.

The loss ended a 14-game unbeaten streak for Dorados, who faced a hostile crowd of nearly 25,000 that booed Maradona relentlessly.

Maradona, 58, took the coaching job

at the Sinaloa-based club in September -- amusing skeptics who questioned why the 1986 World Cup champion, who has publicly battled various addictions, would move to a place better known for drug cartels than football.

But he has answered his critics by coaching the struggling Dorados to back-to-back finals, both against San Luis.

San Luis defeated Dorados 4-3 on aggregate in the fall season finals in December.

Having now won the spring finals, too, the club -- an affiliate of Atletico Madrid -- gain automatic promotion to the first division. Had they lost, they would have faced a playoff against Dorados to decide which won promotion.

Maradona can legitimately boast to having turned Dorados around: they were in 13th place in their 15-team division when he arrived.

But the dream of winning a title as coach still eludes him, after stints managing the Argentine national team and various clubs in Argentina, the Middle East and now Mexico.

In April, he said he planned to leave Dorados at the end of the season, alleging the league’s referees were biased against him.

(Source: AFP)

Barca chief wants Champions League changes, Liga games abroad



Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu has said the Champions League must undergo changes to ensure elite teams face each other more often and remains committed to the idea of playing Liga matches abroad.

European soccer’s governing body UEFA met with representatives from its member clubs in March to begin discussions over the future of the Champions League and other continental competitions from 2024 onwards.

European Club Association (ECA) chairman Andrea Agnelli has invited his organisation’s 232 member clubs to an assembly in June to discuss the future of UEFA competition.

Barcelona beat Manchester United in the Champions League quarter-finals and are on course to reach the showpiece match in Madrid on June 1 after beating Liverpool 3-0 in the semi-final first leg ahead of next Tuesday’s decider at Anfield.

“Fans ask us for more European games. And from 2024 the new format will allow that. We’re going to change it for the better,” Bartomeu said in an interview with British newspaper The Guardian published on Sunday.

“When we played Manchester United it was the first time they’d been here in 11

years. Against Liverpool it was the first since 2006. It can’t be that we play many games but not against teams like Liverpool and United.”

United beat Barca in the 2007-08 Champions League semi-finals on their way to winning the competition, but lost to the Catalans in the 2009 and 2011 finals, while Liverpool defeated Barca at the last 16 stage in the 2006/07 season.

Bartomeu said he opposed the idea of certain teams being guaranteed places in the Champions League, however, adding: “No- one’s talking about a closed league or a Super League. It will be an evolution, and attractive. It won’t be a revolution.”

Bartomeu added that he was still in favour of playing Spanish top flight games outside Spain, after his club withdrew from La Liga’s proposed match between Barca and Girona in Miami last January, citing a “lack of consensus”.

“We want to continue ‘footballising’ the United States,” he added.

“I want there to be three games abroad every year to promote La Liga -- one in the U.S., one in the Middle East, one in Asia. They watch us on TV and it’s a way of getting close to those fans.”

(Source: Goal)

Dyche continues to buck trends with very British Burnley

In the cosmopolitan Premier League, with around two thirds of regular starting players drawn from across the globe, Burnley are unusual for their reliance on English players and manager Sean Dyche says that is unlikely to change next season.

The Clarets have secured Premier League football for a fourth straight season with a regular starting line-up that features nine Englishmen, an Irishman and a New Zealander.

While he will look to strengthen the Burnley squad this close-season, Dyche thinks the notion that investing in European players is an automatic route to success is flawed thinking.

“You don’t have to look very far this season for clubs that have spent heavily in Europe and they’ve gone down,” Dyche told Reuters in an interview at Burnley’s training center.

Fulham invested over 100 million pounds in multinational players while Huddersfield Town’s more modest outlay was also focused mainly on European players.

“There’s a bit of a myth that you pre-suppose every European player is better than every English player. And it’s dying a little bit now because there’s obviously a resurgence in the (England) national side, the under-19s, the under-20s and so on,” he added.

Dyche believes the demands of the Premier League mean technical skill is not sufficient to succeed in England’s high-tempo, physical game.

“Our club don’t want to take a gamble, so they don’t



want to sign a 15 million pound French player who’s never played in the Premier League, who’s 21, and then that ends up being a four million pound French player going back the other way,” he said.

“If you look through the Premier League there are a lot of those stories.”

Burnley’s squad does feature some European talent but their most expensive signing, Belgium international Steven Defour, struggled initially to adapt to the physical demands of the Premier League before shining last season.

“That was a top, top player for a club like Burnley who

still took six months to get used to it... and he’s no mug,” said Dyche.

“It is not easy to adapt and the thing is we haven’t got that much time -- you can’t spend £30 million on two European players who then take eight months to get involved in what we do.

“But the big clubs can, they can carry those players for an amount of time...,” he said.

Dyche’s side have gained a reputation for playing what some view, in the era of Pep Guardiola and the preference for short passing, as ‘old school’ English football -- a 4-4-2 formation, solid defending and a tendency to play quickly to their forwards.

While that image ignores some of the good football Burnley have played at times under Dyche, the 47-year-old former lower-league defender, makes no apologies for his approach.

“I don’t want just pure roll out of the back four. I want productive mixed play... how many ways can you affect a game?

“Manchester United at their pomp, they could fight it out, they could play their way out of it, they could counter attack, they could win with a set piece. They were fit, they were strong, all the things you want to represent a very good football side,” he said.

“We try many different ways of working but you do get put in a box sometimes, that is just one of them things and it is certainly not something I lose sleep over.”

(Source: Eurosport)

Ehsan Hadadi dreams of winning Olympic gold

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iranian discus thrower d e s k Ehsan Hadadi has set his sights on a gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics.

Hadadi, 34, won a gold medal at the 23rd edition of the Asian Athletics Championships in Doha, Qatar in April.

The gentle giant released a 65.95m championships record to collect his sixth continental title.

Hadadi, who won a silver medal at the 2012 Olympics with a 68.18m throw, also claimed a bronze medal at Doha 2019 IAAF Diamond League meeting in the Qatari capital on Friday with a throw of 66.78m.

With the Olympics in Tokyo just over a year away, Hadadi has talked about a variety of topics.

“I’ve won medals in the recent competitions and I am grateful to God, however I am not completely ready and secured the Olympic quota place with 80 percent readiness,” Hadadi said.

“I will prepare for the Stockholm Bauhaus Athletics, slated for May 30. I think I can win a gold medal in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games with 69m throw. The Olympic record for the longest discus throw is 69.89 meters. I believe that throwing 70 meters is possible. I am following my dreams,” Hadadi went on to say.

“There’s not much time left and I need to be supported because I want to get the best result in the Olympics,” the thrower continued.

“I participated in the Asian Championships with a photo of Shiraz’ Nasir al-Mulk Mosque and a hemistich of Shahnameh of Ferdowsi because I want to introduce my country to the world,” Hadadi concluded.



Persepolis knocked out of AFC Champions League



S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Persepolis football team d e s k of Iran were knocked out of the 2019 AFC Champions League on Monday.

Substitution Igor Sergeev struck late in the second half as Uzbekistan’s Pakhtakor beat Persepolis 1-0 on Matchday Five of the 2019 ACL Group D.

Persepolis, as the last season’s runners-up, remained bottom of the group with four points.

Persepolis created several chances in the second half but their strikers failed to score at the Pakhtakor Markaziy Stadium, in Tashkent.

Persepolis started the campaign with a 1-1 draw against

Pakhtakor in Tehran and lost to Al Sadd of Qatar 1-0 in their next match.

Branko Ivankovic’s team earned a 2-0 win over Al Ahli of Saudi Arabi but were defeated against the team 2-1 in their next match.

Persepolis will face Al Sadd on May 20 in Tehran’s Azadi Stadium.

The 2019 AFC Champions League group stage is played from 4 March to 22 May 2019.

A total of 32 teams compete in the group stage to decide the 16 places in the knockout stage of the 2019 AFC Champions League.

Sanchez extends contract as Qatar football coach till 2022



Felix Sanchez has extended his contract as head coach of Qatar’s national team through to the 2022 World Cup hosted by Qatar, the country’s Football Association said on Monday.

Sanchez, 43, has spent much of his coaching career in Qatar, working at the Aspire Academy before leading the nation to the Asian Under-19 title in 2014.

Spaniard Sanchez led the team to the Asian Cup title in the United Arab Emirates in January having been appointed to replace Jorge Fossati during the final stages of the country’s failed attempt to qualify for the 2018 World Cup finals in Russia.

The Asian Cup win, when Qatar defeated Japan in the final in Abu

Dhabi, was the country’s first major trophy and was achieved with a squad that is expected to form the bulk of the side at the World Cup finals in three years’ time.

Sanchez, 43, has spent much of his coaching career in Qatar, working at the Aspire Academy before leading the nation to the Asian Under-19 title in 2014 and he has a long-standing relationship with many of the current squad.

He retains the position despite speculation the QFA was on the hunt for a high-profile coach to lead the team into the World Cup finals and Sanchez’s next task will be to take Qatar to the Copa America finals in Brazil in June, where they are one of two invited sides.

(Source: Zee News)

Europa League spot is ‘right place’ for Man United - Solskjaer



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has hinted some his squad have made their last appearance for Manchester United while insisting the Europa League is the “right place” for his team after a 1-1 draw at Huddersfield ended any hope of a top four finish.

The result at the John Smith’s Stadium means United will not play in the Champions League next season and could even have a Europa League second qualifying round first leg on July 25 if they finish sixth and Watford beat Manchester City in the FA Cup final.

“There is the chance you have seen the last of players but I wouldn’t say that about any individual,” Solskjaer, who is set to embark on an overhaul of his squad in the summer.

“We gave ourselves a chance to be in the Champions League, something we didn’t

think was possible.

“We had so many opportunities to grab third or fourth. We didn’t and it is probably the right place for us to be next year, the Europa League.”

United are scheduled to play a preseason friendly against Tottenham in Shanghai on July 25 but there remains a possibility their Europa League campaign could now start on the same date. It would complicate Solskjaer’s summer plans and the Norwegian admitted he will cheering on City at Wembley if they finish sixth.

“It is not what we want,” said Solskjaer. “Let’s see what happens next week and with Arsenal and in the final with City. That is the reality. The kids will get chances to play games.”

(Source: ESPN)

Yates targeting Giro triumph



“There are many strong rivals, it’s a very packed field. I wouldn’t really like to single out anyone. I think they are all very strong and a lot of them have already won week-long races this year.” “In a way, I have unfinished business at the Giro, but I would just like to have another go. We were so close last year, so I’m motivated to give

it another go and I’m trying to arrive in the best shape possible to try to do that.

“We start directly with a prologue, so we will know how everyone’s form is there. If I can race aggressively, like I would do normally, that’s how I would like to race because that’s what I enjoy, but we’ll have to see once we get there.

“I like to race aggressively but you can’t always do that unfortunately and that’s what I really learnt from last season. I will apply those lessons and hopefully come off with the win.”

Mitchelton-Scott director Matt White added: “You’re only as good as your last race, and our last Grand Tour was a win, so naturally we’re going into the Giro as one of the favourites.

“We’re heading to Italy with the aim of finishing off the job this year. That may mean we don’t win as many stages, but we’re looking at the bigger prize.”

Yates will be joined by Jack Bauer, Brent Bookwalter, Esteban Chaves, Luke Durbridge, Chris Juul-Jensen, Mikel Nieve and 23-year-old Grand Tour debutant Lucas Hamilton.

(Source: Fox Sports Asia)

Iran chess player hits Swedish rival in Sigeman Tournament

IRNA — Iranian Chess player Parham Maghsudlou defeated Swedish player in the third round of the Sigeman & Co Chess Tournament underway in Malmö, Sweden.



After defeating the Swedish rival Maghsudlou earned 1.5 points. Indian and British players with two points are now on top of the list at the third round.

The Sigeman & Co Chess Tournament will be underway until May 9.

Earlier Maghsudlou ranked first at FIDE World Junior Chess Championship 2018 which was held in Kocaeli - Gebze, Turkey.

Parham Maghsudloo is an Iranian chess grandmaster. He was Iranian Chess Champion in 2017.

Preview - Group A: Al Zawraa Club (IRQ) v Zobahan FC (IRN)

Al Zawraa look to return to winning ways when they host Group A leaders Zob Ahan at Karbala Sports City on Matchday Five of the 2019 AFC Champions League on Tuesday.

The Iraqi side suffered a 2-1 home defeat at the hands of Al Nassr in their last outing and they find themselves third in the group, trailing the Saudi side by two points.

Hakeem Shaker’s men started the campaign brightly, earning a point on the road against Zob Ahan before recording a 5-0 victory against Al Wasl in Karbala. Back-to-back defeats to Al Nassr left them reeling, but their hopes of progress remain alive with two games to go.

Zob Ahan have impressed so far this season, remaining unbeaten in four AFC Champions League matches. The Isfahan-based side have ten points to their name, four points better off than second-placed Al Nassr.

A single point from their last two encounters will be enough for Zob Ahan to reach the round of 16 for the third time in four years.

(Source: the-afc)

Pjanic would consider PSG switch

Miralem Pjanic has cast doubt over his future at Juventus by saying he would consider a move to Paris Saint-Germain.

Speaking to Canal+, midfielder Pjanic said he was attracted by what PSG were building and would listen to an offer if one was made.

“Paris are one of the top eight clubs in Europe at the moment, and certainly in the Champions League they want to go further than they have done recently,” the 29-year-old said.

“They’re a very, very big club and a club where all players are willing to go because they have a sporting project and very big players are going. You have a real chance of winning the Champions League there.

“They’re a very big club, respected by the players, and we’re listening.”

Pjanic has spent the past eight seasons in Italy, first with Roma and then at Juve since 2016, where he has won the Serie A title three times.

He extended his contract until 2023 last year but has not ruled out leaving in the summer.

“Anything is possible in football,” he said. “I’ve been in Italy for eight years now, and I am at a truly great club with Juventus.

“In football, you never know what could happen. If everyone is in agreement, we could speak about a departure, but I am not at all thinking about that.

“I’m only thinking about finishing my season and my aim of the next few years to win the Champions League.”

(Source: ESPN)

Valencia identify fan making Nazi salute at Arsenal

Valencia confirmed on Monday that the club has identified one of the fans that appeared on a video making Nazi salutes and monkey gestures towards Arsenal supporters during Thursday’s Europa League semifinal first leg at the Emirates stadium.

A Valencia spokesman told ESPN FC they opened disciplinary proceedings against an unnamed fan with a view to having his club membership taken away.

They are also working to identify the other fans that appeared in the video that circulated on social media after Arsenal’s 3-1 win.

The footage showed a small section of Valencia supporters making monkey gestures and fascist salutes.

Both clubs condemned the incident and asked witnesses to come forward so that action could be taken against the individuals.

UEFA’s disciplinary body is reviewing the incident.

Six Valencia fans and eight Arsenal supporters were ejected from the Emirates stadium on Thursday for inappropriate behavior.

Valencia reiterated they have zero tolerance for this type of behavior and does not anticipate having any similar incidents at the Mestalla stadium in Thursday’s return leg “as it has never happened before.”

(Source: Soccernet)

A year on from his painful 2018 challenge, Simon Yates is determined to win the Giro d’Italia.

Simon Yates is keen to have another crack at the Giro d’Italia this year after seeing his challenge fade late on in 2018.

Mitchelton-Scott rider Yates led the general classification from the sixth stage until the 18th stage as he chased his first Grand Tour triumph last year – winning three stages along the way – only to lose 38 minutes in a gruelling 19th stage.

That dismal day left the Briton out of the running and compatriot Chris Froome instead triumphed, but Yates responded by claiming the Vuelta a Espana later in the season.

Now, heading back to Italy, Yates is determined to mount another bid, believing he can use his 2018 experience to his advantage.

“I wanted to go back to the Giro,” he said. “That’s what’s driving me at the moment and that’s what I have the passion to get out of bed for every morning.

“I’m approaching the Giro the same way I would do any other race. I am, more or less, always in a leadership role within the team and I really like to try to win every race I start. So for me, it’s just business as usual.

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(Rooztab) - ISSN: 1017-94

Tehrantimes79

Tehrantimesdaily

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran

P.O. Box: 14155-4843

Zip Code: 1599814713

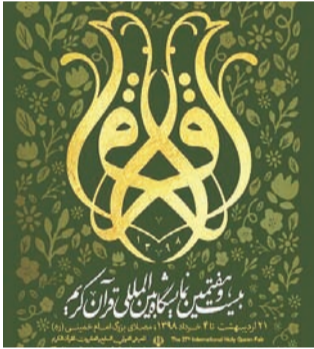
GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

If you fail to attain your desires, do not
blame others, and accept your fate in any
case.

mam Ali (AS)

International Holy Quran
Exhibition to open next week

CULTURE **TEHRAN** — The 27th International Holy Quran Exhibition will open at Tehran’s Imam Khomeini Mosalla on Saturday during a special ceremony to be attended by Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Abbas Salehi.



A poster for the 27th International Holy Quran Exhibition.

In a press conference held on Monday, the Deputy Culture Minister, Abdolhadi Feqhizadeh, said that guests from eight different countries, including Lebanon, India, Pakistan and Turkey, are expected to attend the exhibit this year. Copies of the Holy Quran published by various Iranian and international publishers will be on view at the exhibit, which is organized every year during the holy month of Ramadan, known as the spring of the Holy Quran. The annual exhibit has also dedicated sections to display top translations and interpretations of the Holy Quran. A number of meetings, seminars and art exhibitions on the Holy Quran are scheduled to be organized on the sidelines of the event.

Asma-ul-Husna Poster
Exhibition opens at Iranian
Artists Forum

A R T **TEHRAN** — The 15th Asma-ul-Husna Annual Poster Exhibition that displays typographical works featuring the names of Allah opened at the Iranian Artists Forum in Tehran on Monday. The exhibition underway at the Momayyez Gallery and Zemestan Gallery of the IAF displays a selection of 99 works by 77 artists whose works were showcased at previous editions of the event, the IAF announced on Monday. Maziar Aliyari, Ali Seilan, Iman Safai, Mehdi Naqavi, Rashid Rahnama, Khadem Sharif, Hossein Bahrami, Maryam Naderi, Mahsa Kiani, Meysam Namdar, Hanieh Heidari and Homa Delvari are among the artists. The exhibition will run until May 14.

Vocalist Salar Aqili
to join Vienna orchestra
for Austrian concert

A R T **TEHRAN** — Renowned Iranian vocalist Salar Aqili will join the Vienna International Chamber Orchestra to perform a concert at the Theater Akzent in Vienna, Austria on May 12. A repertoire of classical and contemporary Iranian music will be performed at the concert, which will be conducted by Afshin Khaef. Aqili will be performing in company with a number of Iranian musicians, including tombak player Anushiravan Mohseni, piano player Harir Shariatzadeh, tar player Nariman Hojjat and violinist Aiin Gandomi. A portion of the box office receipts from the concert will be donated to the victims of the recent devastating floods in Iran.

Veteran Iranian artists get
lifetime awards

1 → In her brief remarks, Olov also expressed thanks to the people who have always shown kindness and respect to her. “I am too old to go on stage now, but I still can work in cinema, radio and be active as a voice actor as well,” she said. Raad who was surprised to receive his award said that all these years he has made his best efforts to serve the family of Iranian theater.

Tehran Ariana Gallery gets warning
over Tahmineh Milani exhibition

A R T **TEHRAN** — Ariana Gallery, a major art center in Tehran, has received an official warning over organizing an exhibition of paintings by the renowned Iranian filmmaker Tahmiah Milani who was accused of plagiarism again in her second exhibition. The warning was issued by the Supervisory Council for Gallery Activities, which is composed of the Visual Arts Office director Hadi Mozaffari, his assistant, several painters and gallery owners. “Ariana Gallery has not properly observed professional regulations in ascertaining the authenticity and quality of the artworks,” the council wrote in its statement. The council also asked Iranian gallery owners to be more careful to ascertain the genuineness and quality of artworks before organizing any showcase. “Because, any carelessness and mistake would result in the art community’s distrust of a certain gallery and provoke controversy over visual art issues,” the council added. The council also noted that the accusation of plagiarism in this case will be investigated if a certain person files a lawsuit against Milani. In a three-day exhibition, which opened without any prior announcement on April 26, Ariana Gallery showcased a collection of Milani’s paintings, some of which were copies of original works by several artists, including Matteo Arfanotti, Sara Riches, Richard Burlet and Masumeh Mehdizadeh. After facing accusations of plagiarism in her exhibit titled “The Other One”, Milani wrote in a post published on her Instagram, “In this way, I draw inspiration from everything and everyone.” Earlier in September 2018, Milani created a media frenzy by copying several other artists’ works in her first exhibition “The Movies I Have Not Made” held at Tehran’s E1 Gallery. The gallery cancelled the exhibition following an allegation of plagiarism from a painting by Russian illustrator Jenny Meilihove. Afterwards, Milani said that she has filed a lawsuit in a Tehran court against the gallery over closing her painting exhibition early.



Richard Burlet
2014



Tahmineh Milani
2018

This combination photo shows French artist Richard Burlet’s painting copied by Tahmineh Milani.

“Dressage” named best at Geneva
film festival



A scene from “Dressage” by Puya Badkubeh.

A R T **TEHRAN** — Iranian director Puya Badkubeh’s acclaimed drama “Dressage” won the award for the best film at the 14th International Oriental Film Festival of Geneva (FIFOG) in Switzerland, the organizers announced on Sunday. The film is about Golsa and her friends who rob a corner shop. But while evaluating the booty, they are dismayed to realize that they forgot to take the security camera footage. One of them must return to the crime scene and retrieve it. The vote falls on Golsa, who bravely completes the mission. Her friends’ behavior makes her think, and she hides the hard drive somewhere in secret. But

her accomplices and their well-to-do families, worried about their social standing, put more and more pressure on Golsa. “Fatwa” by Mahmoud ben Mahmoud from Tunisia was presented with the Silver FIFOG Award, while “Photocopy” by Tamer Ashry from Egypt received the Critics’ Award. Iranian short “The Snail” by Mohammad Torivarian also received an honorable mention at the event. Four more Iranian short films including “Lunch Time” by Alireza Qasemi, “The Pink Line” by Nina Zarrabi, “I Am Zal” by Hooman Naderi and “Flying Fish” by Mohammad Torivarian were also screened during the festival.

First moon landing manual could fetch
\$9 million at auction

NEW YORK (Reuters) — The detailed manual used by U.S. astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin to land on the moon in 1969 is going up for auction in July and could fetch up to \$9 million, New York auctioneers Christie’s has said. The 44-page ring-bound Apollo 11 lunar module timeline book details every procedure that was needed to undock, land and rendezvous the Eagle with its Columbia command module when Armstrong and Aldrin became the first men to walk on the moon. “These are step-by-step instructions that cover the entire portion of the Eagle flight. It is a series of instructions on everything from ‘don your helmets’ to ‘check your power system,’” Christina Geiger, head of books and manuscripts at Christie’s, told Reuters. Along with technical data, the book, which was carried aboard the Eagle, contains drawings and almost 150 check marks and annotations written in real time by Armstrong and Aldrin. Since there was no audio or video recording of what happened in the cockpit of the Eagle, the manual

is regarded as a unique witness to space history. It also marks the first writing by a human being on another celestial body. It is being sold by a private collector who purchased it previously from Aldrin, Christie’s said. Collectors pay huge sums for space exploration artifacts. In 2017, Sotheby’s sold a zippered bag used by Armstrong and laced with moondust for \$1.8 million. “Everybody wants something that has flown to space or to the moon. It’s so cool to be able to gaze up at the moon and think: I’ve got an object in my pocket that was there,” said Geiger. The last manned mission to the moon took place in 1972. Christie’s has placed a \$7 million to \$9 million estimate on the timeline book, which will go on public view in New York from May 3 to 17 ahead of a global tour before the auction on July 18. The book is the star item in a 150-lot auction marking the 50th anniversary of the moon landing called One Giant Leap: Celebrating Space Exploration 50 years after Apollo 11.

Top artists of mental health photography
contest honored



“Veil” by Iranian photographer Zohreh Lak won the FIAP Gold Medal at the 5th Mental Health International Exhibition of Photography.

A R T **TEHRAN** — The organizers of the 5th Mental Health International Exhibition of Photography announced the winners in the categories of open and mental health during a ceremony at the Zanjan University of Medical Sciences on Sunday. In the mental health section, Iranian photographer Zohreh Lak received the FIAP Gold Medal for her single photo, “Veil”, while Pushpendu Paul from India won the FIAP Silver Medal for his photo, “In My Dreams”. Iranian photographers Amir Purmand and Javad Rezaei and Korean photographer Shin Woo Ryu received the FIAP Ribbons in this section. In the open section, Nese Ari from Turkey won the FIAP Gold Medal for

“Happiness”, while Peter Gennard from England and Mehran Cheraghchi from Iran received the Exhibition Trophies for their photos, “The Boyfriend” and “Urmia Lake” respectively. FIAP Ribbons were awarded to Nadiezda Anzhelina from Ukraine, Linivus Bleyen from Belgium and Kumral Kepkep from Turkey in this section. An exhibition of the selected photos opened at the Zanjan Match Factory Museum on Saturday. The 5th Mental Health International Exhibition of Photography was organized by the Zanjan University of Medical Sciences and Health Services in collaboration with the Focus Photo Club, Iran’s branch of the International Federation of Photographic Art (FIAP).

Italian artist Lorenzo Quinn builds
bridges over Venice

MILAN (AP) — Italian artist Lorenzo Quinn created a splash on the sidelines of the Venice Biennale contemporary art fair two years ago with a gigantic sculpture of a child’s hands reaching out of the Grand Canal, calling attention to climate change that threatens, among other things, to sink the lagoon city. For this edition, Quinn has created a successor sculpture that he wants to be a call to action: Six pairs of arching hands creating a bridge over a Venetian waterway, symbolic of the need to build bridges and overcome divisions. They are being erected in the Arsenale former shipyard against the backdrop of a city that stands as an historic East-West gateway — and as Europe prepares to vote in a continent-wide election that is shaping up as a battle of populism against more open social democratic traditions. The sculpture isn’t meant as a campaign platform, Quinn says. But his ideals are clear. “Humanity has never grown by creating barriers. It always grows when it opens up its borders and it welcomes new cultures,” Quinn told The Associated Press by telephone on Friday as he oversaw the installation another pair of the arching,

clasping, white resin hands. “Venice is a testament to that. Venice opened routes to Asia, the Far East, with Marco Polo and the Merchants of Venice. It has been a driving force of European growth always.” Quinn’s “Building Bridges” installation, like “Support” before it, is a collateral event to the Venice Biennale, which runs May 11-Nov. 24. Both projects have been backed by Venice city officials, after the Biennale refused to accept “Support” two years ago. But the lack of formal art fair acceptance has hardly mattered. The monumental sculpted hands proved to be one of the most popular works of 2017, even though it was out of the official Biennale, one of the many side events that vie for the attention of the art world that floods Venice every two years. Due to its enormous success, “Support” was extended six months beyond the close of the 2017 Biennale, and now is slated for permanent installation on the island of San Servolo, opposite the Biennale’s Giardini. Quinn said that cities — he won’t say which — already have opened a bidding process to win “Building Bridges” once its Biennale stint is closed.