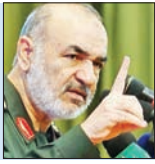




Resistance is the only way to overcome evils **2**



IRGC chief vows to 'chase enemies to graveyard of history' **3**



Next Iran coach to be introduced soon, Taj says **15**



Tehran photo exhibit to explore Ramadan in Afghanistan **16**

Yemen is facing the largest humanitarian crisis in the world



See page 13

Iraq defies U.S. request for cutting gas, electricity imports from Iran

TEHRAN — Iraq has rejected the U.S. demand for cutting its energy ties with Iran, IRNA reported on Tuesday citing Iraqi media.

According to Iraq's Power Minister Luay al-Khateeb, the country will need to import gas and electricity from Iran for at least three more years.

"Iraq is going to need two or three years to achieve self-sufficiency in the field, which

will be possible only if big projects are implemented", Al-Khateeb said.

"Iraq has told the Americans it currently needs to import gas and electricity from Iran, as it is importing close to 1,200 megawatts of electricity as well as gas for generating 2,800 megawatts of electricity from the country," he added.

Iraq has repeatedly rejected U.S. requests for cutting energy ties with Iran. ➔5

Iran succeeds to produce 4 new cancer, diabetes drugs

TEHRAN — Two new cancer medications as well as two drugs for treatment of diabetes were unveiled in a knowledge-based pharmaceutical company in Alborz province on Tuesday morning.

The unveiling ceremony of the four domestically produced drugs was attended by Health Minister Saeed Namaki and

Vice President for Science and Technology Sourena Sattari.

Additionally, the two officials attended the unveiling ceremony for an antivenom as well as a vaccine for peste des petits ruminants (PPR), also known as 'goat plague' at pharmaceutical biotechnology incubator. ➔11

Hamas says newly-developed tactic behind 'Iron Dome' failure

TEHRAN — The military wing of the Palestinian Hamas resistance movement Hamas says it successfully "overcame" Israel's so-called Iron Dome missile system during its recent confrontation with the Tel Aviv regime thanks to its new rocket-launching tactic.

Abu Obeida, a spokesman for the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, said in a social media post on Monday that

the fresh rocket-launching tactic had overwhelmed the so-called Iron Dome missile system, leading to the deaths and injuries of numerous Israelis in two days.

"The Qassam Brigades, thanks to God, succeeded in overcoming the so-called Iron Dome by adopting the tactic of firing dozens of missiles in one single burst," he said. ➔13



PERSPECTIVE

Hanif Ghaffari
Head of the Politics Desk of the TehranTimes

Beijing stands in front of the White House

The economic challenge of the United States and China has entered a new phase. While, until about a week ago, American and Western media spoke of the Washington-Beijing economic agreement in the near future, we are now seeing a sharpening of trade disputes between the two US and China. Many analysts believe that as long as the trump at the head of the US political and economic equation, this trend will continue.

What has happened today between the United States and China is rooted in the behaviors of the last two years of the US president with Beijing. US-China relations continue to decline during the Trump presidency. Of course, there were disagreements between Beijing and Washington over security and cyber-security issues at the time of Barack Obama, but the emergence of trade and economic disputes in their bilateral relations should be analyzed "beyond a simple controversy." In other words, from the beginning of 2017 and Trump's presence at the top of the political and executive equations of the United States, we have witnessed the emergence of constant crises and challenges in the relations between Washington and Beijing. Many international affairs analysts rightly believe that the conflict is not limited to economic and commercial issues, and it will also affect the political, security and regional spheres.

Donald Trump does not pay much attention to criticisms of his economic and commercial approach! Evaluating the consequences and effects of Trump's policies (in the long run) on the international economy and the domestic economy of the United States has become the concern of many experts in the field of international economics in recent months. This issue has also shown itself in the trade war between the United States and China. Although the outcome of the White House's performance in the short term may be to increase the trade deficit of China (since with the decrease of US imports from China, Beijing's exports to the world markets will be reduced). However, in the long run, the side effects of Trump's protectionism can hit the domestic economy of the United States, and we'll see a constant inflammation in the domestic and international economy of America. ➔6

Afghan publishers happy with response at Tehran book fair

By Abdul Wahid Haidari

TEHRAN — The 32nd Tehran International Book Fair was a resounding success, which elicited interest of people from different walks of life, and provided a platform to national and international publishers to promote and sell their books.

This year, China was a special guest and its stall was the cynosure of all eyes at the fair. Next to the attractive Chinese stall was an Afghan stall where publishers from Afghanistan displayed their books in Persian and Pashtu.

For Afghan publishers, the fair presents an opportunity to connect with readers in Iran, and build strong communication channels with publishers from other countries, academic community and research organizations and also an opportunity

to find target audience for their books.

"This year is the first time we have participated in the fair and the response from readers has been tremendous. We were able to promote our books and sell them," said Asadullah Amiri, representative of Bunyad-e-Andisha Publications, as the fair wrapped up.

The interest in books published by Afghanistan-based publishers has grown widely, said Nader Mosavi, founder of Amoo Publications and a representative of Taak Publications.

"In recent years that I have attended this book fair, I have felt that Iranian readers are very interested in books and literature of Afghanistan, especially works of fiction," he said, while attending to customers on the final day of the fair.

Pence to offer 'carrots' to Venezuela military, warnings to judges

TEHRAN — U.S. Vice President Mike Pence is set to offer new incentives to Venezuela's military to turn against President Nicolas Maduro, responding to an attempted uprising that fizzled out last week, a senior administration official told Reuters.

In a speech to the Americas Society at the State Department, scheduled for 3:25 p.m. (1925 GMT), Pence will also warn that the United States will soon move to sanction 25 additional magistrates on Venezuela's supreme court, the official said on Monday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Pence will also offer assistance for refugees who have fled the country, and an economic aid package contingent on a political transition, according to the official.

Pence's speech will be the first look at the Trump administration's recalibrated strategy

following massive street protests last week led by Juan Guaido, the opposition leader backed by the United States and most other Western countries.

Guaido had described the protests as the start of his "final phase" to oust Maduro, but mass military defections failed to come to fruition.

President Donald Trump has invested considerable political capital in the diplomatic and economic intervention in the Venezuela crisis.

Although Guaido's attempted uprising failed to immediately dislodge Maduro, it exposed new fissures within the country, the official said.

"A week before last, all the media - including you guys, everybody - was writing about how there's no way forward, complete stalemate," the official said.

"Suddenly last week, everyone woke up."

Despite incurring heavy losses in recent years because of the ongoing war, the publishers from Afghanistan have not felt discouraged or disheartened.

Participating in the Tehran International Book Fair has become a important annual pilgrimage for many of them, where they market their products and sell them mostly to young Iranian students and Afghan refugees based in Iran.

"Although we didn't make any significant profits from our sales (at this fair) but it has been better than the previous years," said Qasim Farzam, founder of Nashr-e-Wazha Publications. "Coming to this fair means acquainting ourselves with the experience of Iranian publishers and introducing our works to the Iranian and Afghan readers." ➔16

New carrots, and a stick

Guaido, the president of the country's national assembly, invoked Venezuela's constitution in January to declare himself interim president of the country, arguing that Maduro's 2018 re-election was illegitimate.

Maduro - who has said Guaido is a puppet of Washington - has sought to show that the military remains on his side, but opposition leaders and U.S. officials have said that support is tenuous.

"They sat back in the barracks and they're there, but they don't want to be identified as the institutional source of repression," the official said.

Pence will offer new "carrots" to the Venezuelan military, the senior official told Reuters, declining to provide details of the incentives ahead of the speech. ➔13



ARTICLE

Mohammad Homaeifar
Tehran Times journalist

The message Iran should have for Europe

Once again, a new scheme has been devised to curb Iran missile activity. This time the top officials of Germany, Britain and France, led by Mike Pompeo, the U.S. Secretary of State, have started a dangerous game.

Wall Street Journal recently published a report on the subject: "The European Union's new efforts include tighter export controls and pressure on non-EU countries to clamp down on sales of sensitive technology to Iran [in order to limit Iran's ballistic missiles work]."

According to the report, Britain, France and Germany are trying to convince all European Union member states to enforce extensive limits on Iran's missile program.

"One step would be to urge African and Asian countries to end exports or stymie the transit of sensitive goods to Iran," says the report.

The truth is Washington and European Union are trying to run two anti-Iran plans at the same time: one is keeping Iran in a "distorted nuclear deal" and the other is "limiting its missile activity".

Now a year after Trump administration officially abandoned the nuclear deal, Washington and allies have come up with a new plan to "impose sanctions on Iran's missile work" in order to weaken its defense capability and status in the region.

In such a critical situation, the Islamic Republic of Iran should stand its ground and send a clear message to Europeans.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry should be concerned about Europe's intrusion on Iran, majorly encouraged and backed by U.S. and Trump administration. The main duty of Iranian Foreign Ministry, in this critical situation, is to never trust Europe and take a serious stand against Germany, France and Britain.

If the Iranian Foreign Ministry don't take this action seriously, the European troika will adopt an even more offensive approach. Clearly, in such circumstances, it would be naive to still try to "differentiate between U.S. and Europe's tactics" since in fact "U.S. breaking up its promises" and "Europeans' inconsistent behavior" are both two parts of the same scheme.

In fact, this scheme was actually devised as soon as Trump came in office. ➔6



© IRNA / Moltaba Mohammadi

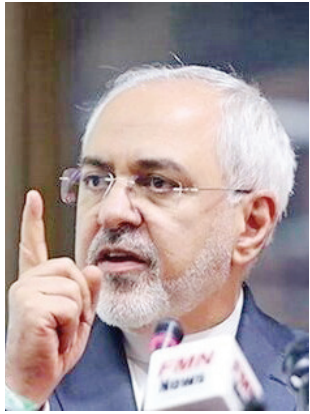
Tea harvest season begins in northern farmlands

Tea harvest season has started in farmlands in province of Gilan, northern Iran. Harvest season normally begins in mid-spring in the area. Photo depicts farmers picking tea leaves in farmlands in Lahijan, Gilan province.

Tea farms cover over 28,000 hectares of land area in the province of Gilan. According to the head of Iran Tea Organization, Habibollah Jahansaz, close to 9,000 tons of tea worth around \$12 million were exported from Iran during the first half of the last Iranian year (March 21, 2018 - September 22, 2018).

Zarif to B-team: If U.S., clients feel unsafe, it's because regional people hate them

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Addressing the B-team, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Tuesday that if the U.S. and its clients feel unsafe it is because they are despised by the people in the region.



Zarif advised the B-team, which includes U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (also known as Bibi), Saudi crown prince Mohammed Bin Salman's (MBS) and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan that blaming Iran won't change anything.

"The #B.Team is at it again: From announcements of naval movements (that actually occurred last month) to dire warnings about so-called 'Iranian threats'.

If US and clients don't feel safe, it's because they're despised by the people of the region—blaming Iran won't reverse that," he tweeted.

Zarif's tweet came after Bolton announced late on Sunday that his country is deploying the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group to the U.S. Central Command region as a response to what he called a number of Iran's "troubling and escalatory indications and warnings".

Keyvan Khosravi, the spokesman for Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said on Monday that Bolton suffers from lack of knowledge about "military and security" issues.

According to Axios, Israel passed information on an alleged Iranian effort to attack U.S. interests in the Persian Gulf to the U.S. before Bolton threatened Iran with "unrelenting force".

IRGC chief vows to 'chase enemies to graveyard of history'

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) is resolute to give the Iranian enemies an "unforgettable lesson", IRGC chief said on Tuesday, vowing that his forces will "chase enemies to graveyard of history". "The Guards is determined to see off enemies of the Islamic Iran to the graveyard of history with unforgettable defeats and humiliations," Major General Hossein Salami said in a letter to the Majlis.

In the letter read to the open session of parliament on today, the IRGC's first-in-command also appreciated lawmakers' support for the IRGC against U.S. hostile measures.

The letter was read by Akbar Ranjzadeh, a member of the Majlis presiding board.

In late April, parliament passed a legislation in support of the IRGC against the U.S. after Washington blacklisted the elite force as a foreign terrorist organization.

Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani sent the act to President Hassan Rouhani on April 28 after all legal procedures of the law were specified by the legislature.

The bill was put to vote during an open session of the parliament on April 23.

The bill required the reciprocal designation of the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) as a terrorist organization, asking the government to act "decisively" against any U.S. measure.

Earlier in April, the IRGC was formally blacklisted by the U.S. as a foreign terrorist organization, following a relevant announcement by President Donald Trump on 8 April.

Responding to Washington's move, Iran immediately declared the U.S. as state sponsor of terrorism and American forces in the region terrorist.

Iran's top security body, the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), in a statement declared the United States a "terrorist government", and blacklisted the "CENTCOM and all its affiliates a terrorist group".

U.S. sanctions on Iran violates human rights: UN

By staff and agency

Idriss Jazairy, the UN Special Rapporteur concerned with the negative impact of sanctions, has said that "unilateral coercive measures" on Cuba, Venezuela, and Iran by the United States, violates human rights.

In a statement published on Tuesday, Jazairy said the use of economic sanctions for political purposes "violates human rights and the norms of international behavior".



"Real concerns and serious political differences between governments must never be resolved by precipitating economic and humanitarian disasters, making ordinary people pawns and hostages thereof," he added, according to China Daily.

He said that such action might precipitate man-made humanitarian catastrophes of unprecedented proportions.

Jazairy expressed concern that the U.S. would not renew waivers for international buyers of Iranian oil, despite protests from some countries.

U.S. President Donald Trump unilaterally 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. In November the U.S. allowed sanctions waivers for countries such as China, India and Turkey to continue importing limited volumes of oil from Iran, however it announced on April 22 that if any country buys oil from Iran will be sanctioned.

Moreover, the U.S. State Department 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.

Leader: Resistance is the only way to overcome evils

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Monday that resistance is the only way head to counter ill-wishers, noting that since the Iranian people have not been trusting the hegemony they have been making progress.

"Today, the only way to overcome evils and infidels is resistance," the Leader stated.

Addressing a ceremony on establishing bond with the holy Quran, the Leader said resilience and following the principles of Quarn are the reasons why Iran has been making steady progress since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

"Dignity and progress of the Iranian nation during the past 40 years have been due to obeying Quran and resistance."

He added, "Those who are in the position of president or king in certain countries, who shout at other nations, are those whom Quran has commanded us to counter and avoid trusting them."

The Leader went on to say that the Islamic Awakening movement that started in Arab countries was derailed because of trust on the U.S. and the Zionist regime



of Israel.

The Iranians have known the value of the revolution and have not trusted the hegemony since the start of the revolution

and have stood against the hegemonic system, Ayatollah Khamenei stated.

Elsewhere, Ayatollah Khamenei described the Quran as a divine "masterpiece".

Rouhani, Qatari emir discuss Israeli raid on Gaza over phone

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — In a telephone call on Monday, President Hassan Rouhani and Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani discussed the recent developments in Palestine.

During the conversation, Rouhani stressed that Muslim countries must take all necessary steps to mount pressure on Israel and prevent further massacre of Palestinians, according to president.ir.

Recent attacks on the besieged Gaza Strip by the Israeli regime have left 27 Palestinians dead and scores wounded.

Tensions erupted 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.

The Israeli military claimed that its initial aerial assault had come in response to the wounding of two of its soldiers by Palestinian gunfire near the Gaza fence.

"It is necessary for the Islamic countries to prevent massacre of innocent Palestinians through their unity and mounting pressure on the Zionist regime," Rouhani told the Qatari emir.

Rouhani also expressed concern about the current humanitarian situation in Gaza, especially in the fasting month



of Ramadan.

■ **Oil sanctions on Iran intended to create regional instability**

Elsewhere in his phone talks, Rouhani referred to re-imposition of unilateral sanctions by the United States on Iran, noting that the main goal of U.S. restrictions on Iran's oil exports were intended to create instability in the region.

Rouhani also expressed hope that political cooperation among friendly countries would help maintain stability and security in the sensitive Persian Gulf region.



Bolton has no military and security knowledge: Iran

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Keyvan Khosravi, the spokesman for Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said on Monday that U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton suffers from lack of knowledge about "military and security" issues.

The remarks by Khosravi came after Bolton announced late on Sunday that his country is deploying the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group to the U.S. Central Command region as a response to what he called a number of Iran's "troubling and escalatory indications and warnings".

"Bolton has no military and security understanding and his remarks are aimed at attracting attention," Khosravi said.

He said, "According to precise observations of the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Abraham Lincoln plane carrier entered the Mediterranean Sea 21 days ago and Bolton's statement was a clumsy use of a burnt-out event for psychological war."

According to Axios, Israel passed information on an alleged Iranian effort to attack U.S. interests in the Persian Gulf to the U.S. before Bolton threatened Iran with "unrelenting force".

Quoting senior Israeli officials, Israel's Channel 13 news said Bolton's unusual and

aggressive statement included news that the U.S. would move an aircraft carrier to the region. The officials said intelligence gathered by Israel, primarily by the Mossad intelligence agency, is understood to be part of the reason for Bolton's announcement.

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 wage a war.

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

It is time for Iran to stop implementing some terms of nuclear deal: MP

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Alaeddin Boroujerdi, a veteran Iranian lawmaker, has said it is time for Iran to stop implementing some terms of the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"The U.S. unilateral withdrawal from the JCPOA showed that Washington is not committed to any international agreement. Obligations under the JCPOA are reciprocal, so it is time for us to stop implementing certain terms of the JCPOA," he told IRNA on Tuesday.

He noted that Iran should review its policies on the JCPOA.

A source close to the supervisory board monitoring the JCPOA said on Monday that President Hassan Rouhani will announce Iran's retaliatory actions against the U.S. withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal in a televised and radio program on Wednesday.

According to the source, Iran will remove some limits on its nuclear activities which had been suspended under the agreement.

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

"The Quran is a matchless artistic work. The first factor in attracting the hearts to Islam like a strong magnet was the artistic dimension of the Quran," the Leader said, according to khamenei.ir.

He said, "This artistic masterpiece should be performed artistically. When you have an audience and you recite the Quran in a ceremonial manner, you should impress the audience. Here the artistic aspects should play a role. The audience can be impressed by the art. This is what is meant by the recitations we listen to, praise and approve of. Of course, on the condition that this artistic recitation is done in a correct way."

Ayatollah Khamenei advised reciters to recite Quran in a way that emphasized the meanings of the divine script, maintaining: "I have repeatedly advised our friends to recite the Quran in a way that emphasized the meaning to the audience. For instance, Sheikh Abdul Fattah Shashaey and Mustafa Ismail put proper emphasis on the sentences and words. Some reciters understand what they are doing and they recite in a way as if you are being addressed by the word of God."

U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew Washington in May 2018 from the landmark Iran nuclear agreement, reached between Iran and the P5+1 group of countries -- the U.S., Britain, France, Russia and China plus Germany -- in July 2015. He also decided to re-impose unilateral sanctions against Tehran.

The U.S. administration also said in a statement on April 22 that, in a bid to reduce Iran's oil exports to zero, buyers of Iranian oil must stop purchases by May 1 or face sanctions. The move ended six months of waivers, which allowed Iran's eight biggest buyers -- Turkey, China, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan -- to continue importing limited volumes.

Noting that Iran welcomes any measures taken to restore calm and tranquility to the region, Rouhani expressed hope that regional problems would be solved through dialogue.

Tamim, for his part, said Doha had frequently told Washington and regional states that differences must be resolved through dialogue and that Qatar is opposed to any measure that would foment insecurity in the region.

He emphasized that Qatar will spare no effort to restore calm to Gaza while condemning measures taken against Palestinians by the Zionist regime.

Leader aide: U.S. unable to wage military war on Iran

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — A military advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution has said that the United States is not able to launch a military war against Iran.

"We believe that the Americans are neither willing nor capable to do something, meaning their unwillingness comes from their lack of power to drag the region into chaos or potentially stage military action against Iran, be it a limited action or striking some bases," Hossein Dehqan said in an interview with the London-based Al-Araby released on Tuesday.

Dehqan also commented on some reports saying that Iran has received an official letter from the U.S. which indicates Washington has no plans to launch military action against Iran.

"There is no need for the Islamic Republic of Iran to be waiting for, or interested to receive such a letter from the Americans," he said.

He underlined that neither can the region

take on more crisis, nor is Washington itself able to win the support of the world's public opinion to mobilize resources against Iran.

He also touched upon a statement by U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton in which he recently said the deployment of the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier to the region sends a message to Iran.

"In military analyses, some people argue that deployment of troops and facilities means preparedness for war and combat. These analysts may even enumerate some objectives for that [possible] war," he said.

However, added the general, even U.S. President Donald Trump has said that he would be fighting wars in several areas in the world if he wanted to listen to Bolton.

"That's why the political elite in the United States are still wise enough to stop hardliners and keep tension from spilling over beyond acceptable levels."

Dehqan downplayed U.S., Israeli and Saudi pushes to create the impression that the Middle East region is on the threshold of a serious crisis.

"They know well that in such a crisis if someone pulls the trigger first, that shooting will not be limited to a specified location or region," stated Dehqan who served as defense minister in Hassan Rouhani's first administration.

On the possibility of blocking the Strait of Hormuz, the general said, "Blocking the Strait of Hormuz is not outside the capability of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

However, he added, Iran wants the strategic waterway at the mouth of the Persian Gulf to stay "open to all" countries.

Some 18.5 million barrels of oil per day flow through the narrow waterway between Iran and Oman.

"What the Islamic Republic of Iran has



always been saying is that the Strait of Hormuz should be open to all, and that if they are going to impose restrictions on using it, naturally the sphere of this restriction will include others as well," he stressed.

"Therefore, if restrictions are slapped on [Iran's] oil exports, and if we are supposed to lose our sovereignty over this strategic passageway, or if it no longer serves our interests, the Islamic Republic will definitely use this strait as a tool," he said.

General: U.S. military ‘a little wiser than White House dwellers’

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Ahmad d e s k Vahidi, president of the Supreme National Defense University, says he doubts that U.S. military forces will take any action against Iran as “they are a little wiser than those running the White House.”

“The U.S. military forces know that any action they take against Iran will be faced with a strong and unforgettable response from the Islamic Republic of Iran,” he said, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

Vahidi, who was defense minister from 2009 to 2013 under the Ahmadinejad administration, stressed that the Iranian armed forces are completely ready to defend the country against any unexpected event.

The remarks came after U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton announced that his country is deploying the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group to the U.S. Central Command region as a response to what he called a number of Iran’s “troubling and escalatory indications and warnings”.

“The United States is deploying the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group and a bomber task force to the U.S. Central



Command region,” Bolton said in a Sunday statement.

The move, he said, is aimed at sending a “clear and unmistakable message” to Iran that “any attack on United States interests or on those of our allies will be met with unrelenting force.”

Iran has repeatedly said that it does not seek escalation.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Saturday that Iran does not seek to escalate tensions with the United States, but it will not let Washington disrupt the security of the Persian Gulf as the “lifeline of Iran”.

“We have been very clear that we have no interest in escalation,” Zarif said in an exclusive interview with Al Jazeera TV.

“We have been clear that the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz are our lifeline. We depend on them for our livelihood, and we want them safe, secure, and free for navigation of all countries, including Iran,” he said.

“As we have stated before, Iran won’t permit the U.S. to threaten the Persian Gulf,” the foreign minister added.

‘Iran to send nationals to Umrah pilgrimage if Riyadh accepts conditions’

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Akbar Rezaei, the deputy chief of Iran’s Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization, said on Tuesday that the dispatching of Iranian nationals to Saudi Arabia’s holy cities for performing the Umrah (minor Hajj) pilgrimage will resume if the kingdom accepts Tehran’s conditions.

Rezaei explained that talks with the Saudis over the resumption of Umrah pilgrimage will be held after this year’s Hajj season, Tasnim reported.

He also voiced hope that the Saudis would accept Iran’s conditions and an agreement would be reached in this regard.

“Consular protection for our country’s pilgrims and (ensuring) their dignity and security are among our main conditions, which will be emphasized in the talks to resume Umrah pilgrimage,” he added.

The Umrah is a pilgrimage to Mecca performed by Muslims. Unlike the Hajj, which is also known as the “major Hajj pilgrimage”, it can be undertaken at any time of the year.

During a visit to Saudi Arabia in December 2018, Head of the Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization Alireza Rashidian held meetings with officials from the kingdom’s Ministry of Hajj and Umrah about the 2019 Hajj season.

The two sides signed an agreement at the conclusion of the meetings to make better arrangements for Iranian pilgrims and prevent the problems that they faced in previous years.

The agreement stipulates that 86,500 Iranian pilgrims would go on pilgrimage in the coming Hajj season.

In 2016, more than 1.8 million pilgrims attended Hajj, but Iranians stayed at home after tensions between Riyadh and Tehran boiled over following a deadly crush of people during the 2015 pilgrimage.

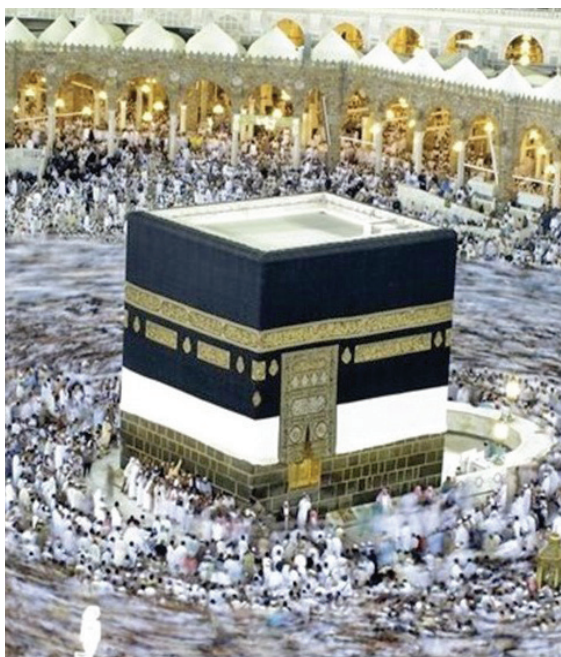
On September 2, 2015, thousands of people lost their lives in the deadly crush after Saudi authorities blocked a road in Mina during a ritual, forcing large crowds of pilgrims to collide.

The crush was the deadliest incident in the history of the pilgrimage. According to an Associated Press count based on official statements from the 36 countries that lost citizens in the disaster, more than 2,400 pilgrims were killed in the incident.

Saudi Arabia claims nearly 770 people were killed, but officials at Iran’s Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization say about 4,700 people, including over 460 Iranian pilgrims, lost their lives.

Ali Qazi Askar, the Leader’s former representative for Hajj affairs, said earlier this week that Tehran had sent a letter to Riyadh to remind the Saudi kingdom of its promise to pay damages to the families of victims of the tragic Mina incident.

Qazi Askar added that so far Saudi Arabia has failed to pay any compensation to victims.



Top lawmaker: Iran to pursue policies under JCPOA, NPT

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Chairman d e s k of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee has said Iran will pursue its policies within the framework of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and the nuclear Non-Proliferation of Treaty (NPT).

In an interview with ISNA published on Tuesday, Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh added that his country, however, won’t observe commitments beyond the NPT.

“Iran uses the capacity of the JCPOA and the NPT. Iran will pursue its policies within the framework of the JCPOA and the NPT, but won’t observe additional commitments of the NPT,” he insisted.

On Iran’s probable response to U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA, the senior lawmaker said, “The Islamic Republic of Iran will adopt counteractive policies. Without doubt, all the political wings will support the policy.”

Falahatpisheh also said Iran should hold serious talks with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the remaining parties to the JCPOA to produce the nuclear fuel it needs.

Under the JCPOA, Iran has the right to totally or partially cease its commitments,



if any side fails to observe its commitments.

Falahatpisheh said, “We have implemented a series of additional commitments to the NPT which were irrelevant to the NPT and related to the JCPOA. So, there is no reason now to comply with the commitments in the current situation. It would be better to review these commitment.”

“By adopting such policy, we not only remain in the JCPOA and the NPT but also use the capacities of the two documents in fighting against U.S. unilateralism against Iran,” he added.

Parliament mulls decision on reducing JCPOA commitments

TEHRAN (MNA) — The Iranian Parliament held a closed session on Tuesday morning to mull over the decision to reduce the level of Iran’s nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA following the U.S. withdrawal and re-imposition of sanctions.

Mashhad representative in the parliament, Nasrollah Pezhmanfar, told Mehr correspondent that the parliament is holding a closed session on Tuesday to address the nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the U.S. withdrawal from the agreement, and the EU’s lack of commitment to its commitments regarding Iran’s economic interests.

Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani would also offer some explanations about the recent decision of President Rouhani about reducing the level of nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA, he added.

An informed source said Rouhani is likely to announce the country’s plans to retaliate against U.S. withdrawal from the nuclear deal on a live TV program on Wednesday.

Iran’s initial step in taking reciprocal measures would be reducing some parts of its commitments under the JCPOA as



well as restarting some of its nuclear activities halted due to the deal, according to the source.

The decision comes as Washington is ramping up pressure against Iran, by re-imposing new sanctions, including restrictions on Iran’s low-level uranium enrichment, and ending the sanctions waivers for Iran’s major oil clients in an attempt to drive the country’s oil exports to zero.

The Trump administration is reportedly expected to announce additional sanctions on Iran within the coming week, targeting new sections of the Iranian economy.

allowed Iran to swap enriched uranium for raw yellowcake with Russia.

“If after [Iran’s] withdrawal from Barjam, the U.S. still creates problems for Iran, pulling out of the NPT should be put on the agenda of the Supreme National Security Council,” he suggested.

“The Islamic Republic is paying a price for implementing Barjam and the NPT, but earns nothing in return,” the MP said. “Therefore, the implementation of these two treaties do not benefit Iran.”

Zonnour went on to say that the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee will hold a session next week to discuss the JCPOA, new U.S. sanctions, and Iran’s withdrawal from the NPT.

Rouhani felicitates Holy Ramadan to leaders of Muslim states

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani on d e s k Tuesday sent separate messages to leaders of the Islamic countries to felicitate the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan.

“I hope that in this month which is filled with love and mercy, with our joint efforts and under the guidance of the Holy Quran, we will witness the establishment of peace and serenity all over the world as well as the expansion of bilateral relations and cooperation among Islamic countries,” Rouhani said, Mehr reported.

Emphasizing the importance of promoting Islamic values such as brotherhood and friendship, the president called for maintaining effective dialogue with other Islamic countries.

At the end of his message, Rouhani wished for health and prosperity of all the Muslim leaders and nations of the world.

Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani also felicitated the beginning of Ramadan in separate messages to parliament speakers of Islamic states.

In his message, Larijani noted that the holy month provides a perfect opportunity for the Muslim world to promote unity.

The Iranian parliament welcomes strengthening of ties with all Islamic countries’ parliaments, he said, hoping that the holy month would open a new chapter in “brotherly ties” among Islamic countries.

Larijani also wished for health and prosperity of all the leaders, parliament members and nations of the Muslim world.

Syrian ambassador meets Judiciary chief Raisi



POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Syrian Ambassador Adnan Hassan d e s k Mahmoud held a meeting on Tuesday with Iran’s Judiciary Chief Ebrahim Raisi in Tehran on Tuesday, ISNA reported.

Iran and Syria are very close allies. Iran has provided the Syrian government — which has been dealing with a conflict since 2011 — with advisory aid to fight the terrorists.

According to Iranian authorities, the Islamic Republic will stay in Syria and it will carry out operations against terrorists upon the request of the legitimate Syrian government.

Majlis to hold closed session on economic, security issues

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Behrouz Nemati, spokesman for d e s k the Majlis presiding board, told reporters on Tuesday the parliament plans to hold a closed session next week to discuss economic and security issues.

Nemati said beside significant economic and international security issues, the lawmakers are to confer confidentially on allocation of \$14 billion worth of resources for supplying basic goods, Mehr reported.

The distribution methods of the supplied basic goods will also be addressed in the session, he added.

Israel misled Bolton on Iran, Axios reveals

In a report posted on the Axios website on Monday, it was announced that Israeli intelligence agency Mossad misled the White House about Iran that provoked national security advisor John Bolton to issue a threatening language to Iran.

Iranian Foreign Minister has already warned that the B-team, which includes Bolton, Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu (known as bibi), Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed (MBZ), are trying to drag the U.S. into a conflict with Iran.

Following is part of the report by Axios:

Israel passed information on an alleged Iranian effort to attack U.S. interests in the Persian Gulf to the U.S. before Bolton threatened Iran with “unrelenting force” on Sunday night, senior Israeli officials told Axios.

Bolton’s unusual and aggressive statement included news that the U.S. would move an aircraft carrier to the region. The officials said intelligence gathered by Israel, primarily by the Mossad intelligence agency, is understood to be part of the reason for Bolton’s announcement.

It added information about possible Iranian moves against the U.S. or its allies in the Persian Gulf were raised two weeks ago in talks held at the White House between an Israeli delegation headed by national security adviser Meir Ben Shabbat and a U.S. team led by Bolton, the Israeli officials told Axios.

The intelligence about a possible Iranian attack is not very specific at this stage, but the officials said it was clear the threat was against a U.S. target in the Persian Gulf or U.S. allies like Saudi Arabia or the UAE.

An Israeli official told Axios that Mossad drew several scenarios for what the Iranians might be planning:

“It is still unclear to us what the Iranians are trying to do and how they are planning to do it, but it is clear to us that the Iranian temperature is on the rise as a result of the growing U.S. pressure campaign against them, and they are considering retaliating against U.S. interests in the (Persian) Gulf.”

We should reconsider JCPOA implementation, MP suggests

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — A top lawmaker believes that d e s k Tehran should reconsider implementation of the 2015 nuclear deal, also known as the JCPOA or Barjam, since the European parties have failed to fulfill their commitments under the pact.

“Europeans have not fulfilled any of their commitments and therefore Iran should reconsider its implementation of Barjam according to its national interests,” Mojtaba Zonnour, chairman of the Majlis Nuclear Committee, told Mehr on Tuesday.

Asked about Iran’s recent threat of reciprocal actions to U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA, the lawmaker emphasized that “there is no Barjam anymore, so that we reduce the level of our commitments.”

“Barjam is like an abandoned house covered in cobwebs in which Mr. Rouhani keeps staying like Miss Havisham,” he said, making a reference to a character in the Charles Dickens novel “Great Expectations”, who insists on wearing her wedding dress for the rest of her life after being left at the altar.

Zonnour further said that the recent U.S. measure to ban part of Iran’s nuclear activity is a clear violation of the JCPOA.

On Friday, Washington announced it 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

STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	208197.1
IFX	2570.53

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	47,062 rials
GBP	55,088 rials
AED	11,437 rials

Source: cbi.ir

COMMODITIES

Brent	\$70.64/b
WTI	\$61.90 /b
OPEC Basket	\$70.61/b
Gold	\$1,282.10/oz
Silver	\$14.86/oz
Platinum	\$876.15/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

Nearly 5m tons of cargos loaded, unloaded at Shahid Rajaei Port in a month

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Near five million tons of cargos have been loaded and unload at Iran's largest container port, Shahid Rajaei, during the first Iranian calendar month of Farvardin (March 21-April 20, 2019). Director General of Ports and Maritime Department of Hormozgan Province Allah-Morad Afifipour announced.



As the official said, of the mentioned figure, 2.5 million tons of non-oil commodities have been exported from the port, in the southern province of Hormozgan, during the first month of this year, Mehr news agency reported.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani inaugurated 22 port and maritime projects in Shahid Rajaei Port through videoconference in his two-day visit to Hormozgan in mid-February.

Speaking in the inaugural ceremony, Transport Minister Mohammad Eslami put the value of projects, which were supplying 12 modern gantry cranes, at €104 million.

The minister said that putting these cranes into operation while boosting the container capacity of the port to 5.8 million TEUs, jobs are created for 700 people.

"Annual loading and unloading capacity of Shahid Rajaei Port stands at 100 million tons, 25 percent of which belongs to minerals, Afifipour has previously announced.

Norway's economic momentum remains strong: IMF

While many advanced economies around the world are experiencing slower growth, Norway's output has continued to expand strongly, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Monday.

According to xinhuanet.com, as part of the IMF's yearly assessment of the Norwegian economy, an IMF delegation presented its concluding statement after more than a week of discussions on recent economic developments and Norway's economic policy with authorities, academic institutions and social partners.

After growing by 2.2 percent in 2018, Norway's mainland economic activity is expected to accelerate further and rise by about 2.5 percent this year, before growth slows to 2.1 percent in 2020, according to the IMF statement.

Norway's growth is supported by relatively high oil prices which are boosting investment, gains in competitiveness from the weak krone, and a robust labor market that is supporting incomes, the statement said.



But downside risks cloud this positive near-term outlook as global trade tensions and uncertainty about European growth persists, it said.

"I am pleased to note that the IMF delegation find Norway's economic momentum to be strong due to the conduct of fiscal policy in recent years," Norwegian Minister of Finance Siv Jensen was quoted as saying in a statement.

Meanwhile, the IMF delegation said that house prices are high and warned against relaxing mortgage regulations.

House prices remain overvalued, albeit less so than last year. In combination with high and increasing household debt, the housing market represents a risk to the Norwegian economy and financial stability, the delegation said.

It is thus too early to loosen mortgage regulations. In addition, risks stemming from the commercial real estate market are growing and should be closely monitored, the IMF team said.

Annual steel ingot exports at over 4.8m tons

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iran exported 4.899 million tons of steel ingot during the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20, 2019), IRNA reported, citing the data released by the Iranian Steel Producers Association.

As reported, billets and blooms accounted for 67 percent of the steel ingot exports in the past year.

Over 40% of crude steel produced in Iran is exported to different markets worldwide, according to Khodadad Gharibpour, the head of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

A report by the World Steel Organization (WSO) has indicated that Iran became the world's tenth largest steel producer in 2018.

Iran which stood at the 13th place in 2017 could lag behind three major steel producers in the world, namely Italy, Taiwan, and Ukraine to stand at the 10th place in 2018, despite the re-imposition of sanctions by the U.S.

According to the WSO's report, Iran



produced 25 million tons of crude steel in 2018 which indicates 17.7 percent growth from 21.2 million tons in 2017.

Also, a recent report by the WSO says that production of crude steel in Iran rose 7.1 percent during the first quarter

of 2019 compared to the same period of time in 2018.

It is while crude steel production in the world increased 4.5 percent in the first quarter of this year.

The WSO's report put Iran's crude steel

output at 6.223 million tons and that of the world's 64 steel producers at 155.9 million tons in the three-month period.

China, India, Japan, the U.S., and South Korea were the top five steel producers in the world during the first quarter of this year.

The country's crude steel production capacity will increase by 25 million tons within the next four years, according to a deputy director in IMIDRO.

Ardeshir Sa'd Mohammadi said that through such increase in crude steel output, the required feedstock for the plants will be properly supplied.

The official further lamented that of the 35 million tons of crude steel produced in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20, 2019), 25 million tons were used in the production process.

Iran is one of the top 10 mineral-rich countries where 68 types of minerals have been identified so far, including the world's largest deposits of copper, zinc and iron ore, which are tempting international investors.

Croatia planning to maintain trade ties with Iran: envoy

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Ambassador of Croatia to Tehran Drago Štambuk said his country is making all efforts to maintain trade with Iran, the portal of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) reported.

"We need planning to maintain trade with Iran during the sanctions era; there are some ways to do so and the best solution is to connect the two sides' small and medium-sized enterprises", he said.

The ambassador made the remarks in a meeting with ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafei at the place of the chamber on Tuesday.

In the meeting, the two sides explored different areas for mutual cooperation between Iran and Croatia's private sectors and stressed the need for establishment of the joint economic committee which the two sides agreed eight months earlier.

Štambuk for his turn, underlined his country's capabilities in shipbuilding and recycling technologies and expressed



Ambassador of Croatia to Tehran Drago Štambuk (L) met with ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafei on Tuesday.

Croatian companies' readiness for cooperation with Iranian counterparts in such areas.

The official emphasized the weakness in the exchange of information between the two countries, adding "Without exchange of information the base for economic cooperation development is not provided."

He further stressed the need for a coherent and close relationship between the two countries, even at the provincial level.

"The lack of such cooperation is in fact the missing link in reaching the desirable economic cooperation that we seek", he said.

Shafei for his part pointed to rail transport as one of the potent areas for cooperation between the two countries, saying "Based on the Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan (2016-2021), we are planning on renovation and construction of several railway lines for connecting the port of Chabahar in the southeast of Iran to the country's northern regions in order to connect India and China to Europe."

"With its experience and knowledge, Croatia can help Iran to complete this route", he added.

Iran, Kazakhstan call for expansion of ports, maritime co-op

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Kazakh Ambassador to Tehran Askhat Orazbay and Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) Head Mohammad Rastad met on Tuesday to discuss expansion of cooperation in maritime, ports, transit and transportation.

After the meeting, Rastad said Kazakhstan is keen on promoting economic relations with Iran, emphasizing that the development and strengthening of bilateral ties in various fields is in line with the interests of both countries, the official website of PMO published.

The Iranian deputy minister of roads and urban development welcomed Kazakh

companies' investment in Iran's ports and maritime projects.

He further mentioned a shipping agreement between the two countries, saying that implementation of such agreements would be a big step in developing the two sides' maritime and port relations.

The Kazakh ambassador for his part underlined the two countries' great potentials for strengthening trade and economic relations, especially in maritime and port fields.

Expressing his country's interest in investment in Iran's ports and maritime projects and development plans, he mentioned the capacities and potentials

of Iranian ports including Amir-Abad Port, Shahid Rajaei Port and Chabahar Port, and stated: "Certainly, with expert reviews and studies, we will give especial attention to the investment opportunities in these ports."

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Kazakh official mentioned his country's investments in some of China's ports and noted that Kazakh companies are well capable in constructing siloes and storages in port areas.

Orazby invited the PMO head to attend the Seventh Iran-Kazakhstan joint ports and maritime committee meeting which is due to be held in Aktau Port in Kazakhstan.



Kazakh Ambassador to Tehran Askhat Orazbay (L) and Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) Head Mohammad Rastad met on Tuesday to discuss port and maritime cooperation.

Italy emerges from a recession as France and Spain carry the region's growth

By B. Lana Guggenheim

Italy has once again recovered from a recession – it's third in a decade. The strong turn in the economy was due to better than expected growth in the first quarter of this year, with a growth of 0.2 per cent GDP, and 0.1 on an annual basis, according to the national statistics bureau ISTAT. Earlier estimates had expected a quarter-on-quarter expansion of only 0.1 percent, and 0.1 percent year-on-year decline.

Italy was the only nation in the eurozone to enter into a recession at the end of last year, kicked off by faltering global trade and low business confidence, which resulted in two quarterly contractions. Two consecutive executive quarters of contraction is enough to qualify as a recession. However, industrial production rose in early 2019, and demand for Italian bonds rose at a 5-year debt sale. This in turn eased the pressure on the European Bank to provide a rescue stimulus package.

The "outcome reduces the chances of additional stimulus, such as generous conditions for the newest round of TLTROs, being announced by the Governing Council in June", said euro area economists, David Powell and Maeva Cousin. The European Central Bank also said it will not be raising interest rates this year.

In addition, unemployment dropped slightly in March, to 10.2 percent, which is the lowest it's been since 2012 according to Eurostat. Approximately 60,000 jobs were created, and the overall employment rate rose to 58.9 percent in March – up from 58.6 percent in February. That means employment rates are at their highest levels since April 2008.

■ Boosting welfare

The improvements were feted by Italy's coalition government, which is struggling to limit both the budget deficit and state debt, while seeking to fulfill campaign promises about boosting welfare – which requires state spending – with Salvini urging what he called a "necessary tax reduction".

While ISTAT did not give out a numerical breakdown of what's driving the improvements, it did indicate that industry, services, and agriculture, had all shown increased activity, along with exports helping power growth. In contrast, domestic demand remained weak and had a negative impact on Italy's economy.

"These numbers testify to the solidity and stability of the Italian economy", Economy Minister, Giovanni Tria said.

The "Italian economy came out of recession at the start of 2019, in better shape than expected. It is likely that the current



quarter may be less dynamic, but the cycle's minimum seems to be behind us", concurred Paolo Mameli with Intesa Sanpaolo.

■ Third-largest economy

However, Italy still lags behind many other countries in the eurozone, including Spain. Italy is the eurozone's third-largest economy, and yet it is still weaker than that of the wider currency area.

To compare, the eurozone economy expanded 0.4 per cent quarter on quarter, compared with a forecast 0.3 per cent expansion, according to Eurostat. This is due to investment in Spain, strong consumer spending in France, as well as Italy's rebound – which have jointly contributed to strengthen the overall euro area.

And while the region's growth rate is still below average for the past five years, it is also the second quarterly acceleration since a previous slump in trade and factory activity, dragged the economy down last summer.

Still, Italy's modest growth "represents a surprisingly good improvement after two consecutive negative readings", said Nicola Nobile, a senior economist at Oxford Economics.

Nevertheless, many worry that Italy's rebound might be short-lived. "While this out-turn is definitely decent news for the Italian economy, recent surveys, such as the Istat confidence indicators released last week, suggest that the second quarter of this year will very likely remain subdued, with Italian growth continuing to stagnate", said Nobile.

Late in April, S&P Global Ratings also said the Italian economy will likely "stagnate this year". Italy's main business lobby, Confindustria, similarly said it expects the economic situation to remain fragile and uncertain during the second quarter.

■ Italy's economic output

That is because, even with this recent expansion, Italy's

economic output is still 5 percent below levels previously reached in 2008. Italy's sluggish growth minimizes its chances of reducing its large public debt-to-GDP ratio – and at 132 percent, Italy's public debt is the second largest in the EU. Only Greece's is larger, at nearly 180 percent, but Greece has larger cash buffers than Italy, as well as more rapid growth.

And while France and Spain have proven economically resilient, and Italy's growth provides optimism, external trade conflicts and domestic difficulties might yet derail the region's growth. In particular, further upheavals in Germany's car industry can have wide-ranging effects on the entire eurozone.

The lack of public and private investment is also a concern to Italian economists. Carlo Alberto Carnevale-Maffe, Professor at Bocconi University School of Management in Milan, told DW that "Italian" export is robust, but it's the only positive component of our GDP. And it isn't able to bear the weight of the national economy on its own."

Andrea Capussela, author of The Political Economy of Italy's Decline, notes that Italy still lacks solid social institutions to spur innovation and deliver competitiveness. "An expansionary fiscal policy, financed through debt, kept growth up, but also hid underlying problems, like slowing growth and innovation", he told DW.

Despite the public debt to GDP ratio, the issue is not necessarily Italy's budget so much as how the country chooses to spend the money it does have – and not everyone is convinced that Italy is spending wisely. Capussela says, "In the short-term, the [problem is] inefficient public spending; in the long-term, Italy's inefficient institutions – and none of this has been done (addressed)."

"Carnevale-Maffe agrees, and told DW which measures are most detrimental to the quality of Italy's public spending: "Some countries spend on public investment that increases productivity", he says. "But with the new pension reform, which increases the pension expenditure by tens of billions of euros, Italy isn't promoting the economy's growth; on the contrary, it depresses growth, it reduces employment and it raises the financial burden for the new generations."

A solid policy requires cooperation – a tall order, as the Five Star Movement and the League remain pitted against each other, in an uneasy coalition – and unable to agree on a growth plan for the country.

(Source: southeusummit.com)

Iraq defies U.S. request for cutting gas, electricity imports from Iran

➔ Earlier, Iraqi Oil Minister Thamer al-Ghazban referred to improbability of cutting gas and power imports from Iran under current juncture.

According to Iraqi officials, without Iranian gas supplies half of Iraq's natural gas power plants will close down in the summer.

Considering Iraq's geopolitical improvements in the past few years, the Iraqi government has been seeking to improve

the country's infrastructure and one of the main areas of focus has been Iraq's electricity network and power infrastructures.

Being neighbor to a country which is the home to the world's second largest gas resources is a good-enough reason for Iraq to look to Iran as one of its main suppliers of natural gas to meet its energy needs. Therefore, Iran for long has been one of Iraq's main gas suppliers.

Since Trump withdrew from Iran's nuclear



deal in November, the U.S. government and its allies have been putting all their efforts together to isolate Iran and make the Islamic

country bend under economic pressure and doing so, cutting Iran's energy exports has been Trump's top agenda.

'Sanctions resulted in Iran's self-sufficiency in water, power industries'



ENERGY DESK TEHRAN — Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian said that the sanctions have brought self-sufficiency for Iran in water and power industries, Fars news agency reported.

"Today, Iran has gained self-sufficiency in the manufacturing of a number of equipment needed for water and wastewater industries and many equipment needed for the power industry thanks to sanctions," the official said on Monday.

Ardakanian noted that through investment, the ministry has been able to manufacture a wide range of power generating equipment including gas turbines.

On Sunday, Iranian MAPNA Group's managing director also announced that Iran is completely self-sufficient in constructing any types of power plants.

"Achieving this level of knowledge and technology, the country is now able to export services and technology in almost all related industrial areas", Abbas Aliabadi said in a press conference.

The official mentioned the unjust U.S. sanctions on Iran, saying, "The hardships inflicted by U.S. sanctions has made us achieve this level of technology. All the equipment and technology used in construction of power plants is now built inside the country."

Iran's renewable power generating capacity hits 700MW



ENERGY DESK TEHRAN — The capacity of generating electricity from renewable resources has reached 700 megawatts (MW) in Iran, IRNA reported on Tuesday, quoting a renewables official.

According to Seyed Mohammad Sadegzadeh, the head of Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (known as SATBA), the energy ministry plans to add between 300MW to 500MW of renewable capacity to the current figure every year exploiting electricity taxes.

The official noted that most of the necessary equipment for such power plants are produced inside the country, adding that

currently over 50 large-scale solar power plants are operating across the country.

So far, renewables have created jobs for 43,680 persons in the country and private sector has made over 101 trillion rials (about \$2.4 billion) of investment in this sector.

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

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

Oil mixed, caught between U.S. sanctions on Iran, Venezuela and trade dispute with China

Oil prices were mixed on Tuesday as U.S. sanctions on oil exporters Iran and Venezuela kept markets on edge while concerns that an escalating Sino-U.S. trade dispute could slow the global economy also kept crude somewhat in check.

According to Reuters, U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were at \$62.29 per barrel at 0135 GMT on Tuesday, 4 cents above their last settlement.

Brent crude oil futures were at \$71.16 per barrel, 8 below their last close.

Analysts said there was a number of factors putting upward pressure on oil prices.

The United States is tightening sanctions on Iranian oil exports and on Monday said it was boosting its military presence in the Middle East.

Tehran has said it would defy these sanctions and try to continue selling oil in the "grey market".

Iran has also threatened "reciprocal actions" against U.S. sanctions, which could mean restarting some of its nuclear program.

The U.S. sanctions have already halved Iranian crude oil exports over the past year to below 1 million barrels per day (bpd), and shipments to customers are expected to drop as low as 500,000 bpd in May as U.S. sanctions tighten.

Oil sanctions on Venezuelan government

Beyond Iran, the crisis in Venezuela has also disrupted oil supplies from this OPEC member, with Washington placing oil sanctions on the Venezuelan government under President Nicolas Maduro.

"As the White House raises the stakes on Iran and Venezuela, what is the oil endgame?" asked Bank of America Merrill Lynch in a note.

The "Venezuelan political situation seems untenable but oil exports could continue to contract until the industry receives a capital injection, a dim prospect for now," the bank said.

"In addition ... Iran oil exports could collapse further over the coming months. While America's maximum pressure

policy on these two regimes may pay off, additional oil supply losses cannot be ruled out," it added.

Despite this, there were still factors keeping oil prices from rising further.

Bank of America said rising supply from the United States, as well as from Saudi Arabia and Russia could soon weigh on prices.

The bank said "global oil demand growth is still decelerating ... (and) further global GDP weakness into year-end would hurt oil prices."

Global growth has been threatened by trade disputes between the United States and China.

Talks between the world's two biggest economies hit a wall over the weekend, when U.S. President Donald Trump announced a raft of new import tariffs on Chinese goods.

Overall, Bank of America expects Saudi Arabia "to bring back oil production slowly as Iranian barrels exit the market", but added that despite this relief Brent crude oil prices would likely have a price floor at \$70 per barrel.

Offshore drillers must keep cutting costs because OPEC will not do them any favors

By Chris Tomlinson

After five long years of slashing costs, doing more with less and reconciling with lower-for-longer oil prices, the offshore drilling industry is poised for a revolution.

Instead of demanding \$100 or more for a barrel of crude, as Chevron CEO John Watson did in 2013, offshore drillers have reduced costs to make money in the current \$50-\$75 range. A flurry of press releases proves it.

Oil companies paid \$244 million in March for 1.2 million acres in the Gulf of Mexico, the U.S. Department of Energy reported. The leases are grouped around existing platforms, but they signal a readiness to drill again.

Last month, Murphy Oil Corp. paid \$1.4 billion for the Gulf of Mexico assets belonging to LLOG Exploration Offshore and LLOG Bluewater Holdings. The deal included four development projects with planned start-up dates.

New leases and acquisitions will drive spending on offshore exploration for years to come, generating jobs in Houston and all along the Gulf Coast. Recent discoveries will also add to the demand for experienced offshore hands.

■ Multibillion-dollar platform

Royal Dutch Shell found more than 400 feet of net oil pay with "good reservoir and fluid characteristics" in the western Gulf of Mexico. Shell says the early results are strong enough to consider investing in a new, multibillion-dollar platform.

Then there is Exxon Mobil's massive success in Guyana. Thirteen finds for 5.5 billion barrels of oil equivalent, and the drillship is not yet finished establishing the outlines of the industry-changing reservoir.

In a world with plenty of oil, though, the low price is king. None of these leases or wells would make economic sense if oilfield service companies did not lower costs to make them competitive with onshore shale.

Shell executives say they can make money at \$30 a barrel. Others say \$50 is the new break-even point. But driving costs even lower must remain the priority.

The international benchmark price for oil has floated between \$70 and \$75 in recent weeks, but the risk is prices will drop, not rise.

OPEC has reinstated its cartel power by negotiating a deal with Russia and other national oil companies to keep more than 2 million barrels off the market. Officials from Saudi Arabia, OPEC's de facto leader, have talked about a \$70-\$80 band as their target, but maintaining that price requires discipline among OPEC members.

Geopolitics have helped keep prices higher in recent months, but they are an unreliable partner.

President Donald Trump's sanctions have taken 1.5 million barrels a day of Iranian crude off the market, and he's intent on shutting down the last 500,000. But in less than two years, a new president could unleash those barrels with a stroke of a pen.

Oil prices also have received a boost from the meltdown in Venezuela, holder of the largest oil reserves in the world. Government mismanagement has cut oil production in half, and U.S. sanctions are strangling what's left.

No one knows how much longer Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro can hold on. A new government, followed by outside investment, could return Venezuelan barrels to the market quicker than many market analysts and participants expect.

■ Restoring crude oil

A civil war in Libya also is taking oil off global markets. But if Gen. Khalifa Haftar seizes control of most of the country, as expected, the first thing he will do is restore crude exports to generate income.

Lastly, Saudi Arabia will make sure prices do not go higher than \$80 for many reasons.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, whom the international community has shunned over the assassination of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, cannot afford to anger Trump too much and will respond to his demands to keep oil prices under control.

Saudi Arabia also wants to defend its market share from U.S. oil companies and lithium-ion batteries. Higher oil prices would trigger more U.S. production and greater competition from electric vehicles, both of which would cut into Saudi oil sales. OPEC and Russia are ready to open the taps to control prices.

Five years ago, oil executives mistakenly believed that OPEC would keep prices around \$100 a barrel. They produced with abandon and cut into OPEC's market share. OPEC then crushed them by allowing the price to fall to \$26 a barrel. More than 140,000 people lost their jobs.

The potential for an offshore revival and revolution, therefore, relies on pushing costs lower, not relying on authoritarian leaders to guarantee a reasonable price. The darkest days of the oil crash may be behind the industry, but that's not a cause for irrational exuberance.

(Source: houstonchronicle.com)

As world burns, clean energy growth stalls for first time in nearly two decades

By Brian Kahn

According to a report released on Monday by the International Energy Agency (IEA), installations of renewable energy plateaued in 2018 for the first time in nearly two decades of record keeping. Even if it's just a temporary hiccup, a pause in installations is an extremely worrisome sign about the world's ambition to address climate change.

The world added 177 gigawatts of renewable energy to the grid last year, matching 2017's total. The last time the world didn't see year over year growth in renewable capacity additions was 2001.

While last year's capacity additions to the grid provides enough juice to power 64 million Americans homes, the plateau is troubling. According to the IEA, renewable capacity has to grow by 300 gigawatts per year until 2030 for the world to have any hope of reaching the Paris Agreement goals.

The "world cannot afford to press 'pause' on the expansion of renewables and governments need to act quickly to correct this situation and enable a faster flow of new projects," Fatih Birol, IEA's executive director, said in a statement. "We don't have time to screw this up."

■ Solar power installations

The cause for the capacity standstill was largely driven by China, where year over year

installations fell from 82 gigawatts in 2017 to 77 gigawatts in 2018, driven by solar power installations falling compared to 2017.

The dip in solar was due to China implementing new regulations and removing some subsidies for utility-scale solar (GreenTech Media has an excellent overview of all the details). While China still installed three-and-a-half times more clean energy capacity than the European Union, its closest competitor, the dip hurt.

Speaking of the European Union, it also saw a drop in installation of new capacity in 2018, along with India and Japan. The U.S., and the IEA catch-all "other countries," saw their installations increase compared with 2017.

"Any time we fall short of what is needed to effectively address greenhouse gas emissions, it is a big deal," Mike O'Boyle, the director of electricity policy at Energy Innovation, told Earthar in an email. "We don't have time to screw this up."

■ Solar and wind energy
Costs have come down remarkably fast, which will tend to provide a basis for further

growth," he said. "We are also far from saturated with solar and wind energy — there is a huge potential for further growth, particularly in developing countries."

The key to ensuring that growth happens is setting policies that help rather than inhibit installations. In developed countries, O'Boyle suggested that policymakers should focus on transmission improvements to help get renewables onto the grid. Renewables plus battery storage could also help make intermittent sources like wind and solar easier to integrate.

In developing countries, it means turning away from fossil fuels as the driving force of energy development. That also requires money and technical know-how, something developed countries could definitely help provide. O'Boyle said China's One Belt, One Road initiative — a global development strategy whereby China is building infrastructure to advance its interests around the world — offers one way to ensure that happens, though the country is currently exporting coal technology rather than renewables. Which, bad idea!

"China can maintain and further its global leadership instead by exporting clean technologies and high-voltage transmission that it manufactures en masse, avoiding billions in potential stranded assets," O'Boyle said.

(Source: gizmodo.com)

Second Announcement



Permit No.1398.719

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : 02-30-9350022

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
20	P/F"MASONEILAN" PRESSURE CONTROLLER .REF.MASONEILAN REGULATOR CO	457

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. 1, 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 2,653 EURO or 125,183,916 RIAL, in favor of NISOC. Tender documents including the 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 25010 Fax No.: 061 3445 7437
Public Relations www.shana.ir www.nisoc.ir <http://fiets.mporg.ir>
تهران تایمز نوبت اول ۹/۸/۱۳۹۸ نوبت دوم ۹/۸/۱۳۹۸

Beijing stands in front of the White House



1 → This will become even more apparent when the Chinese use all their economic and commercial power to confront the United States! According to evidence in the field of international trade and economics, China holds \$1.17 trillion of US government debt, and China is clearly now the largest single holder of US Treasury bonds.

As The Guardian reported, Stock markets around the world have sold off sharply after Donald Trump threatened to raise the stakes in the simmering US-China trade war. Here are the answers to key questions about the rumbling dispute between the world's two largest economies. In two tweets posted on Sunday afternoon the president accused China of trying to renegotiate the trade deal being hammered out between Washington and Beijing after months of talks.

Trump threatened to ratchet up existing import tariffs of 10% on \$200bn (£153bn) of Chinese goods sold in the US to 25% on Friday. He also warned that 25% tariffs could be slapped on a further \$325bn of goods in future – which would mean all Chinese imports being covered by tariffs.

Tariffs have been imposed by Washington on some Chinese goods sold in the US for about a year, as part of the ongoing dispute over trade. They come on top of broader tariffs used by Trump that have hit China and other trading partners such as the EU, Canada and Mexico, on goods including steel and aluminium. The Trump administration imposed 25% tariffs on \$50bn of Chinese technology goods in June 2018, covering aerospace goods, automobiles, communications tech and robotics, in a bid to hinder Beijing's "Made in China 2025" initiative to boost its manufacturing and technology base. The White House then imposed tariffs of 10% on \$200bn of goods in September, on a wider range of products including food ingredients, construction materials, bike parts and burglar alarms. These are the tariffs that could be increased to 25%. China has retaliated with \$110bn-worth of tariffs on US goods, including agricultural produce such as soya beans, as well as cars, luggage, electronics, housewares and food. Trump has threatened to raise the tariffs before, but agreed a truce late last year with China's president, Xi Jinping, to allow officials more time to negotiate a solution to the trade dispute.

Undoubtedly, China is moving in a very powerful and serious economic struggle with the United States. In the past two years, the country has shown that it does not intend to retreat against the actions of the government of Donald Trump.

The message Iran should have for Europe

1 → It seems that Iranian diplomats should constantly remind the west (U.S. and European troika) of Islamic Republic's "strategic limits and boundaries".

These boundaries clearly state that Iran is not having negotiations over its missile work and defense capability and is determined to keep equipping itself against regional threats and will not allow its military bases to be examined by any organization or entity.

Clearly, U.S. and European troika are not allowed to enter such strategic and banned areas in Iran.

Finally, it is more than clear that the challenge between Iran and European troika on Iran's missile activity will reach a critical point in coming months, and Iran can never win this argument unless it stands firmly on upholding its strategic boundaries and limits. By abandoning these limits, U.S. and Europe will succeed in isolating Iran in international arena and especially in western Asia.

Bolton's war



By Paul R. Pillar

LOBELOG — National Security Advisor John Bolton, aided by his comrade-in-arms Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, is doing everything possible to instigate a war with Iran. Naked aggression as a means of starting such a war may be too much for even Bolton to pull off, so the strategy has been to try to pressure and goad Iran into doing something—anything—that could be construed as a casus belli. So far, no doubt to Bolton's frustration, Iran has exercised remarkable restraint in the face of unrelenting and escalating hostility from the Trump administration. Iran even continues to comply with its obligations under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the agreement that restricted Iran's nuclear program, despite the U.S. reneging on the agreement and the resulting absence of economic improvement for Iran that was part of the deal. But Bolton keeps searching for still more ways to goad and to pressure.

One of the most recent ways is a twist on the ever-expanding U.S. sanctions against Iran, the main effects of which so far have been to make life for ordinary Iranians more uncomfortable and to poison relations with U.S. allies and other states doing ordinary business with Iran. The twist—and another U.S. violation of the JCPOA and of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231—is to sanction anyone who, in compliance with the terms of the JCPOA and Resolution 2231, imports any heavy water or low-enriched uranium from Iran, thereby keeping Iran's own stocks of these materials under the agreed limits. The U.S. move is a way of pressuring Iran into exceeding those limits and violating the agreement. The move shows that the campaign of goading Iran is taking precedence over even the nonproliferation objective of keeping the Iranian nuclear program peaceful through the enforcement of strict limits.

■ Unsheathing the Saber

The very latest escalation in the campaign is a saber-rattling statement that Bolton issued over the weekend: "In response to a number of troubling and escalatory indications and warnings," the United States is deploying a carrier strike group and bomber task force to the region "to send a clear and unmistakable message to the Iranian regime that any attack on United States interests or on those of our allies will be met with unrelenting force." The statement was issued in the name of Bolton himself, making the origin clear. No explanation or details have been given about the supposed "troubling and escalatory indications and warnings," and nothing in the news suggests any heightened Iranian interest in attacking U.S. interests or attacking anyone else, for that matter. The phrasing of the statement is more of the obscurantist rhetoric of the "malign, nefarious, destabilizing behavior" variety that has become an anti-Iran mantra but almost never gets to specifics.

Follow-up comments suggest that Bolton's move does not respond to any specific Iranian threat. One report, sourced to Israeli officials, indicates that Israel was the origin of whatever information was involved but that the information was "not very specific" and, in the words of an Israeli official, "It is still unclear to us what the Iranians are trying to do and how they are planning to do it." A Reuters report quotes a U.S. official as saying that the U.S. deployment, given the already high tensions between Washington and Tehran, was made "as a deterrence to what has been seen as potential preparations by Iranian forces and its proxies that may indicate possible attacks on U.S. forces in the region." The official said that the United States was not expecting any imminent attack and cited no specific Iranian activities that raised any new concerns. If the Iranians have been making preparations for possible military action, that would be only prudent on their part given all the threats they have been hearing from Washington.

The administration's rhetoric about Iranian conduct has been internally inconsistent. When Pompeo or President Trump wants to argue that all those U.S. sanctions have been successful even though they have not brought Iran an inch closer to a negotiating table, they contend that they have curbed bad Iranian behavior in the Middle East. But when Bolton wants to heat up the war fever, the contention is the opposite—that Iranian behavior is worse than ever. In fact, the nature and tempo of Iranian regional activity have not changed appreciably, one way or another, in the last couple of years. The Iranians do what they do in the region for what they

consider to be reasons important to their security, and they do not ramp that activity up or down in response to the state of their nation's economy. What they are doing now is basically the same as what they have been doing for some time.

The language in Bolton's statement about interests "of our allies," as well as a later reference in the statement to how the United States would respond to actions "by proxy" as well as by Iran itself, is an open invitation to Iran's regional rivals to generate some incident that could spark a war. As former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates once observed, the Saudis "want to fight the Iranians to the last American." Something similar could be said about the Israeli government of Benjamin Netanyahu, who has made hostility toward Iran a hallmark of his premiership and the all-purpose distraction from things he would rather not talk about. A shooting war between Iran and the United States would be the best distraction of all.

The opportunities for the regional rivals to ignite a spark are numerous and easy to imagine, ranging from a sophisticated black-flag operation to a simple encounter at sea. Bolton would exploit, rather than be deterred by, any murkiness about responsibility for an incident.

A pretext for war would not even require a manufactured incident and instead could involve spinning the meaning of "proxy" and "ally." Mark Dubowitz of the misleadingly-named Foundation for Defense of Democracies, which has been Bolton's most influential pressure-group ally in stoking hostility toward Iran, is using this gambit. He suggests that such fighting as recently occurred in the Gaza Strip is somehow an Iranian way of distracting Israel from Iranian plans "for strikes against

U.S. assets and allies." In fact, the fighting in Gaza has everything to do with conditions in Gaza and the unresolved Israeli-Palestinian conflict and nothing to do with Iran.

■ Effects of War

It probably would be futile to try to get inside the war-mongering mind of John Bolton to figure out why he wants a war with Iran. Suffice it to note that Bolton to this day contends that the 2003 war against Iraq—a colossal blunder of U.S. foreign and security policy—was a good thing. He probably expects a war with Iran to trigger regime change in Iran. That overlooks the likelihood that a war would be at least as likely to trigger a rally-round-the-flag effect as it did during the devastating Iran-Iraq War, when the Islamic Republic was less well established and more vulnerable than it is today. It also overlooks that any regime change that might occur probably would produce a government more hardline and less democratic than what Iran has now.

Overlooked as well are the other destructive effects of such a war, including but not limited to the direct physical and fiscal costs. They also would include wider economic effects, especially given the disruption to the oil trade that a war in the Persian Gulf region would entail. And they would include lasting animosity toward the United States among future generations of Iranians.

Bolton is in a position to accomplish much of this mayhem himself. He reportedly has caused much of the usual policy-making machinery to be bypassed or simply to fall into disuse. Meetings of National Security Council principals have become rare. There is a parallel here, too, with the disastrous Iraq War. No policy process ever examined whether launching that war was a good idea.

The person who most needs to pay attention to all this is the one in the Oval Office. Having dismissed Steve Bannon when he came to perceive how much his once-influential political advisor was manipulating him, Trump needs to realize how much Bolton is manipulating him now. A war begun in the next few months would be past the "mission accomplished" stage and into the stage of regrets and awareness of costs when Trump—who won votes in 2016 by criticizing excessive U.S. involvement in Middle Eastern wars—is up for re-election. Trump already has cashiered two previous national security advisors, one (Michael Flynn) for good cause and the other (H.R. McMaster) because Trump got impatient with an adult in the room telling him what to do.

Trump's earlier hesitation to bring Bolton into his administration reportedly stemmed from his dislike for Bolton's mustache. Surely getting the United States into another Middle East war, which would be damaging to Trump's presidency as well as highly damaging to U.S. interests, would be at least as good a reason to separate Bolton from the levers of power.

Whole framework of IR theory is positivistic: Ringmar

By Javad Heirannia

TEHRAN — Erik Ringmar, a Professor of department of political science and International Relations of Ibn Haldun University, Istanbul, Turkey says "Religious issues and conflicts have not been much theorized about among scholars of international relations. Sometimes these issues come up as a matter of the force of "ideas" as opposed to power politics or economic factors."

He adds that "The whole framework of IR theory is positivistic through and through."

Following is the full text of the interview:

■ When have been the religious issues a matter of



great in Theorizing of International Relations?

A: Religious issues and conflicts have not been much theorized about among scholars of international relations. Sometimes these issues come up as a matter of the force of "ideas" as opposed to power politics or economic factors. The question then becomes how "ideas" are to be included in a theoretical model. Since the Iranian Revolution religion has of course made a remarkable return. Modern society was supposed to make religion redundant. That is certainly not what has happened. Yet Western scholars have no good tools for understanding this. Their premise is that religion is a "variable" which can be treated as other variables, but that is certainly not how most people think about it around the world. Religion is not a "variable," it is an intrinsic feature of human life.

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

A: Constructivism, critical theory etc, might be more open to "cultural" factors and perhaps also to religion. Yet all practitioners of these approaches are themselves secular and for that reason they are unlikely to understand what

they are talking about. Constructivism and critical theory are valuable additions, but not since they discuss religion in a particularly insightful way.

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

A: I like Gillespie's book. He is no doubt correct that modernity has religious roots. In fact, there is still a lot of "secular religion" around. We have made gods out of economic markets, economic growth, "liberty," "modernity" etc. There might be a way to theorize about all of this. In fact, someone like Carl Becker ("Heavenly city and the eighteenth-century philosophers") did that already back in the 1930s. But I don't think this would be "IR theory" properly speaking. IR theorists are rarely proper intellectuals. They tend to simplify and misunderstand.

■ Some argue that the current International Relations theory cannot explain some of the current phenomena of international relations and we need a religious theory of International Relations, especially with regard to religious issues. What is your opinion? In general, theorizing Religion in International Relations is feasible?

A: No, I don't think so. The whole framework of IR theory is positivistic through and through. Everyone – even Constructivists etc. – are looking for dependent and independent variables. What it takes is a much more thoughtful endeavor. You need philosophy, psychology, and perhaps also religious insight.

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

A: I don't think so. People living in the West – people who have gone through a conversion to secularism – have no way of understanding the role that religion plays in other people's lives. Making theories about it only compounds the problem. Theories always display the world at a distance. Understanding must come in other ways. Since last year I'm living in Istanbul and working at a university which takes religious studies very seriously. Most of my female students wear hijab. All of my colleagues go to Friday prayer. I've started going too but it will take me a while before I understand the role of religion in Turkish society. I'm working on it though.

First Announcement



National Iranian Oil Company

N.I.S.O.C

Permit No.1398.781

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : 08-38-9740008

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
	CORE HEAD. PDC WITH STANDARD THREAD MATRIX BODY	
01	1/8 X 2-5/8 X 4-3/4 IN. -01	25
02	7/8 X 2-5/8 X 4-3/4 IN . -02	15

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 23,547 EURO or 1,125,000,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

Tender Conditions materials technical thorough 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://iets.mporg.ir>

تهران تایمز نوبت اول ۹۸/۲/۱۸ نوبت دوم ۹۸/۲/۲۱

How to end U.S.-backed violence against Palestinians?

TEHRAN (FNA)— Reports suggest a cease-fire agreement has been reached between Israel and Gaza to end a surge of violence that led to the deaths of dozens of Palestinians and Israelis over the past few days.

Gaza officials say Egypt and Qatar helped mediate an end to days of attacks between Gaza and Israel. There is no confirmation from the Israeli side. An Islamic Jihad official, on condition of anonymity, said the truce agreement was based on Israel easing its blockade of the Gaza Strip. Among the steps, he said, are the easing of limits on the fishing zone off the coast of Gaza and improvements in Gaza's electricity and fuel situation.

Around two million Palestinians live in Gaza, the economy of which has suffered years of Israeli and Egyptian blockades as well as recent foreign aid cuts and sanctions by the United States and allies. Now Washington claims an elusive "deal" is supposedly being concocted.

We have been awaiting the unveiling of this "deal" for almost two years now. During this period, while the "deal" was supposedly being concocted, the Trump administration and the Netanyahu regime have been quite busy taking steps that make clear their intentions toward the Palestinians.

Trump has recognized Jerusalem Al-Quds as the capital of Israel. And by closing the US Consulate and denying US assistance to Palestinian institutions in the East Al-Quds, he has placed this captive Palestinian community wholly under Israeli control and occupation. Similarly, the Trump administration has attempted to take the issue of



the Palestinian refugees off the table at the United Nations by suspending all aid and making clear that they do not consider the descendants of those who were forced into exile in 1948 to be refugees.

At the same time, by their silence and financial aid, the Trump Administration has accepted Israeli bombings of Gaza and land grabs that have undermined the future of Palestinian lands and rights. Illegal settlements have expanded, illegal outposts have been legitimated, and illegal Israeli demolitions of Palestinian homes and exploitation of Palestinian resources and lands have accelerated

at an alarming rate.

Add to this the recent Israeli violence that killed scores of civilians, including women and children, in the besieged city of Gaza, and you will realize that in this criminal campaign Washington and Tel Aviv are indeed one and the same.

Indeed, the US government has Palestinian blood on its hands. It is complicit in Israeli crimes against humanity and that says why it takes action to protect Israel from the International Criminal Court at any given opportunity. At the same time, the US government has made efforts to criminalize sup-

port for anti-Israel boycotts (BDS) around the globe – all of which have contributed to furthering Palestinian powerlessness and Israel's sense of impunity.

With this in mind, Israeli violence against the besieged people of Gaza is far from over. Even if there is a "deal" by Washington or a ceasefire agreement, it won't last. The only way to end a future violence is to lift the illegal blockade and end the US-backed occupation of Palestinians lands.

Washington and company should also allow the creation of true Palestinian sovereignty and control over their own land and resources, allow Palestinians the opportunity to freely and independently conduct commerce with the outside world, recognize the rights of Palestinian refugees to return and end their recognition of the Israeli occupation of Jerusalem Al-Quds. And that would be just the beginning. Failure to do so would only ensure greater violence along the Gaza border and surrounding areas which will eventually spread to the West Bank.

Which is to say the status quo brings only continued pain, suffering and war. The US non-stop efforts to make its "Deal of the Century" that envisions a seizure of almost the entire West Bank among others is, in fact, a preemptive move to avoid the spread of armed resistance to the Palestinian territories in the East. Ultimately, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict must be resolved through a referendum on the fate of the occupied Palestinian territories, Gaza and the West Bank by the indigenous population of Palestine and their descendants

U.S. 'clash of civilizations' leads nowhere

Global Times — Kiron Skinner, director of policy planning at the US Department of State, said on April 29 that Washington is formulating a strategy against China based on the idea of "a fight with a really different civilization." This has triggered dissenting voices inside the US. It seems that the US Department of State led by Mike Pompeo is inciting hostility toward China as well as the Chinese civilization.

The plan mentioned by Skinner is clearly centered on Western civilization and discriminates against Chinese civilization. It is also a false summarization of Western civilization, as the basic orientation of civilization is harmony, tolerance and mutual benefit, rather than exclusion, egotism and gunboat diplomacy.

Today's world is vastly different from that of the early 1990s when US political scientist Samuel Huntington put forward his thesis "Clash of Civilizations." Inter-civilization estrangement and divergence still do exist, but major clashes between civilizations involving state powers are pretty much beyond people's imagination.

Different civilizations are constantly integrating and sharing intertwined interests. As long as there is basic

Discrepancies between Chinese and American civilizations are mainly manifest in their social organization and value systems, but Chinese people's yearning for peace, respect for international rules, and pursuit of equal and friendly cooperation are highly consistent with the world's mainstream values.

mutual respect between civilizations, the deep hatred of the Middle Ages surely will never return.

Discrepancies between Chinese and American civilizations are mainly manifest in their social organization and value systems, but Chinese people's yearning for peace, respect for international rules, and pursuit of equal and friendly cooperation are highly consistent with the world's mainstream values.

China has long been absent from war and opposes armed expansion.

China has never hindered any civilization. Skinner explained, "When we think about the Soviet Union in that competition [the Cold War], in a way, it was a fight within the Western family," but China represents the first time the US has faced a power rival that is "not Caucasian."

However, the competition brought about by China is far more moderate and rational than the issues that caused World War II and the Cold War.

The primary purpose of the US is probably to win over fence-sitting Western countries to join Washington in attempting to contain China. Politicians like Pompeo may believe that the very concept of Western civilization can create cohesiveness. Except for certain fanatical political elites inside Washington, few people around the world would welcome battles between civilizations.

Is Washington really worried about Western civilization? On the contrary, over the last two years, the US has precisely and severely harmed Western civilization and trampled on international rules universally acknowledged by the West. Chinese society has always respected Western civilization, and learning from the West has always been one of the collective creeds of Chinese intellectuals.

Friction between China and the West has mainly resulted from China's opposition to the West's interference in China's internal affairs. The Chinese people are not egotistical, and have no ambition to dominate the world with China's social value system.

Hence, fights between civilizations will never occur. Striking a balance between China and the US is in the best interest of the West and all other countries and regions around the world rather than siding with the US to contain China. The US Department of State led by Pompeo is trying to mislead the world, but the world is not as stupid as they think it is.

Protectionist trade policies

By Saeed Sobhani

TEHRAN—economists review traditional arguments in favor of free trade in light of new theories and evidence. Explaining why countries non-theless adopt protection, the authors emphasize societal theories focusing on the distributional effects of trade policy and the incentives for specific groups to seek governmentally imposed trade restrictions.

They concentrate on developments in international economy have examined the consequences of international trade in markets where there are market imperfections.

In other hand the empirical evidences is clear –cut .the costs of protectionist trade policies far exceed a benefits. but here we should focus on losses too.

The losses suffered by consumers exceed the gains reaped by domestic producers and government.

The gains from international trade result from the reallocation of production resources toward goods that can be produced less costly at home than abroad than abroad and the exchange of some of these goods for goods that can be produced at less cost abroad than at home.

In other hand,while protectionist trade policies may offset monopoly power overseas use domestic monopoly power,trade restriction tend to reduce the competition faced by domestic producers.

As we know the costs of protectionist trade policies far exceed the benefits. The main reason for these costly protectionist policies relies on a public choice argument.

The desire to influence trade policy arises from the fact that trade policy changes benefit some groups while naturally harming others .

Adverse consumer effects of protectionist trade policies are not short-lived. Also interest group pressures from industries experiencing difficulty and general appeal of a "level playing field" combine to make the reduction of trade barriers specially difficult at the present time in the United States.

The Rise of free Trade in Western Europe

Charles Kindberger is an economic historian and he analyzed the historical and social process of free trade in western Europe after 1850. The main point of this article



that structure repeated human interactions. we can imagine this definition in international political economy too.

Institutions effects on economic exchanges and shapes economic rights and constitutions. North tells us some examples about the role of institutions on economic growth. In England, the rise of parliament was a huge and important mutation .before that, king was able to do what he wanted on the base of his recognition .but the rise of parliament beginning in 16th century constrained and limited the power of the king.

Impacts of this constriction was so clear. Decreasing of king's power finally leading to more secure rights to property and a relatively efficient market economy. the UK is a best case study that asserts us how economy influenced by political institutions.

Changing of each rule or approach connected to mankind's property changes international economy directly.

But in Spain story was in contrast with uk.in Spain king became so powerful and effective. the king augmented his power and created a large bureaucracy with impended economic growth.in case of Spain king and queen became so strange but economic growth stopped and even lagged.

Here we can realize two kind of political impacts on economic growth so directly .the divergent paths of institutional development in Europe were replicated in the British and Spanish empires with important long-term consequences for growth in north and south America.

The Political Economy of Nontariff Barriers

In recent years ,one of the most persistent sources of debate among both economy and trade political scientists has centered on the relative merits of societal and statist explanations of the foreign economic policy.

Mansfield and Busch believe that their founding lend support for the societal argument that macroeconomic fluctuations contribute to demands for protection, which are in turn central determinants of trade policy.

Nontariff barriers(NTB s) have emerged as one of the primary impediments to international trade. As tariff were negotiated away over the successive rounds of the general agreement of tariffs and trade ,previous NTBs were exposed and new NTB were created to insulate uncompetitive industries from the consequences of liberalization.

The authors synthesize domestic societal and domestic institutional arguments and find that NTBs are most pervasive when deteriorating macroeconomic conditions prompt industries to make new demands for protection, when countries are sufficiently large to give policymakers

economists review traditional arguments in favor of free trade in light of new theories and evidence.Explaining why countries non-theless adopt protection,the authors emphasize societal theories focusing on the distributional effects of trade policy and the incentives for specific groups to seek governmentally imposed trade restrictions.

is that political or social activity by entrepreneurs can not explain the rapid expansion of free trade in Europe after 1850.

Despite of writers realistic approach ,he challenges political rules of states in this essay. kindleberger emphasizes that free trade in many cases arose as a individual entrepreneurs pressured governments to lift restriction on international trade.

Institutions and Economic growth

Douglas North is a Nobel-Prize winning economist .in this article he explains the role of political institutions on economic growth.in his historical approach he concentrates on this main point that how institutions impacts on economic growth.

He believes that institutions comprise both sets of formal and informal norms of behavior.

institutions are rules and norms of behaviors that structure

Second Announcement



N.I.S.O.C

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : 08-21-9740016

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

Material Description	Quantity
TUBING. APIGRADEL-80. SEAMLESS VAM FLUSH JOINT THREAD. RANGE 2. AS PER API 5 CT/ISO 11960. MARKING: COLD DIE STAMPED IN ACC . WITH API 5 CT SIZE (OD). WEIGHT (PPF). THREAD AS SPECIFIED. NOTE: LEVEL OF INSPECTION:1 (L.O.I:1) "QCP/MPDS DOCUMENTS ARE ESSENTIAL TO REVIEW & CONFIRM" ITP DOCUMENTS IS ESSENTIAL FOR TECHNICAL EVALUATION" 3-1/2 IN. 9.3 PPF	5000 LE

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 59,921 EURO or 2,870,480,400 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

Tender documents including the 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 24355 Fax No.: 061 3445 7437

Public Relations www.shana.ir www.nisoc.ir <http://lets.mporg.ir>
تهران تایمز نویت اول ۹۸/۲/۱۵ نویت دوم ۹۸/۲/۱۸

Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

Apartment

Luxury Apt in Elahieh
new building, several apts with 2
Bdrs. to 4 Bdrs., furn & unfurn
balcony, nice lobby gym saloon
spj, parking unbelievable 360° view
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Farmanieh
120 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.
nice furn, equipped kitchen
renovated, parking, **\$1200**
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Fereshteh
1st floor, 420 sq.m, 4 Bdrs 1
unfurn, equipped kitchen
4 bath rooms, fire place, spj
roof top, elevator, parking
full of foreigners, **\$6000**
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Zafaranieh
4th floor, 180 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.
fully furn, balcony, nice view
equipped kitchen, lobby, roof
garden parking, **\$3000**
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Jordan
1st floor, 246 sq.m, 4 Bdrs.
furn, spj, balcony, parking **\$3200**
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Niavaran
205 sq.m, fully furn, huge terrace,
nice view, BBQ parking, **\$3500**
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Villa

Modern Villa in Soheil
duplex, 1000 sq.m land
750 sq.m built up, 5 Bdrs.
fully furn, equipped kitchen
outdoor swimming pool, sauna
Jacuzzi, beautiful yard parking
\$12000 negotiable
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Duplex Villa in Fereshteh
800 sq.m land, 600 sq.m built up, 4
Bdrs., unfurn, renovated
parking, yard, **\$5500**
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Villa in Zafaranieh
brand new, 105 sq.m, 2 Bdrs. with
one 75 sq.m suit, unfurn
parking
totally \$1400
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Duplex Villa in Niavaran
600 sq.m land, 700 sq.m built up, 5
Bdrs., furn, terrace
beautiful garden, outdoor
swimming pool, parking
\$8500
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

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



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

From Oxford Cert Universal

**Best Consultation
Best Services, Best Result**

Intl. Department Manager "Tina 09128103205"

Tel: 22662452-8, Fax: 22667173

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

Building & Office

Whole building
in Jordan - Valiasr
administrative office license
7 floors, 1800 sq.m totally
renovated, 42 parking spots
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Whole Building in Darous
3 floors, 700 sq.m land
900 sq.m built up, unfurn
outdoor swimming pool parking
\$11000
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Super luxury Office
in Mirdamad
administrative office license
4 offices, each office 590 sq.m
elevator, parking
Price: negotiable
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Office in Valiasr
administrative office license
3 units, 102 sq.m, elevator
lots of parking
near Niayesh highway
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Whole Building in Zafaranieh
4 floors, each floor one apt
each apt 350 sq.m with 4 Bdrs.
fully furn, equipped kitchen
spj, 2 parking spots, **\$14000**
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Office in Saadat Abad
administrative office license
2 units, 110 sq.m, parking
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Ideal Offers

Apt in Niavaran
5th floor, 160 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.
furn, elevator, sauna, Jacuzzi
storage, parking, **\$1150**
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Elahieh
3rd floor, 280 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.
fully furn, terrace, spj, gym
parking, **\$2000**
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Jordan
1st floor 88 sq.m, 1 Bdr., furn
elevator, fully renovated parking,
\$800
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Villa in Sheykh Bahayi
triplex, 500 sq.m built up
3 Bdrs., outdoor swimming pool,
Jacuzzi, no over look
completely renovated, parking
\$4000
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Luxury Apt in Mahmoodieh
4th floor, 120 sq.m, 2 master rooms,
almost new, luxury lobby, luxury
& new furn
spj, good access to highway
parking spot
\$1800
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Jordan
brand new, 2nd floor, 61 sq.m
1 Bdr., furn, balcony
storage, parking, **\$700**
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

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 : 88745542

Darrous (\$1500) 210sq.m, 3bdrs S/p, S, J, & F.F	(\$1600) Kamranieh 200sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p	Tajrish Villa (\$4000) 1500sq.m, 5bdrs yard, S/p, & F.F
Velenjak (\$1800) 180sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p S, J, balcony, & F.F	Elahieh (\$2800) 3bdrs, S/p, S, J pkg, & F.F	Dibaji bldg (\$20000) 5storey, 15units 25bdrs, yard, & pkgs

If you are looking for
a driver with car, I
am ready for service.
Please contact me.

Thank you
Fred-Mirza
0935-1283820



Advertising Dept:
times1979@gmail.com



+9821 430 51 450

www.tehrantimes.com

VIP GROUP
Professional Housing Agency

**Going above and beyond
to find your next home.**

It's a true pleasure to introduce ourselves as
one of the oldest and best agencies in Tehran.
We were honored to find demanded property
for embassies and foreign countries for more
than 15 years.
Best prices and strong contracts are guaranteed.
The best advertisement is a great reputation.

WhatsApp/call : Shayan **+98 912 285 0 415**
Kia **+98 912 357 17 76**

Email: **sh_vipgroup@yahoo.com**

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

maharaja
Indian Restaurant

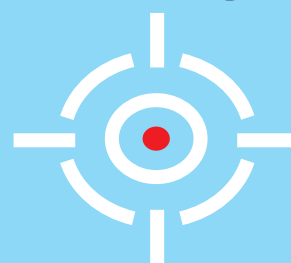
**FIRST INDIAN RESTAURANT
IN IRAN**

PRIVATE PARKING LOT

Jahan Hotel (Exelsior) – Rahimzade Alley – Taleqani
Crossroads – Valiasr St. Tel: **66476855**

TEHRAN TIMES
Iran's Leading International Daily

Advertising Dept



Tel: 021 - 430 51 450

times1979@gmail.com

New telescopes to help astronomers acquire sharper black hole images

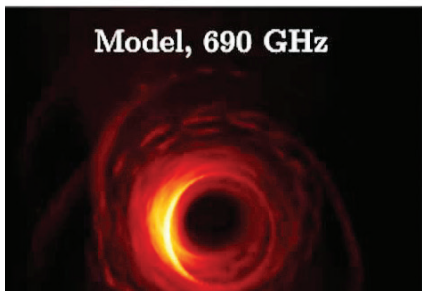
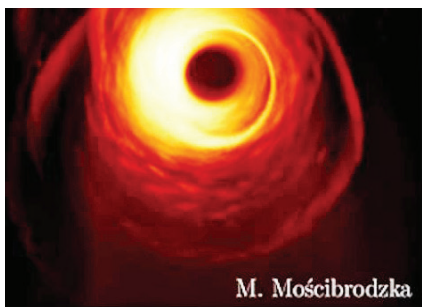
Earlier this year, scientists captured the first up-close image of a black hole. Now, researchers are working on plans to produce even sharper images of the cosmic phenomena.

Scientists published their plans for acquiring better black hole images this week in the journal *Astronomy and Astrophysics*. The plans involve the deployment of two or three coordinated orbital radio telescopes.

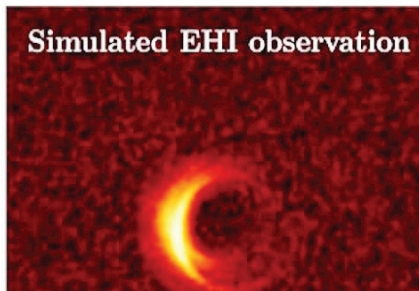
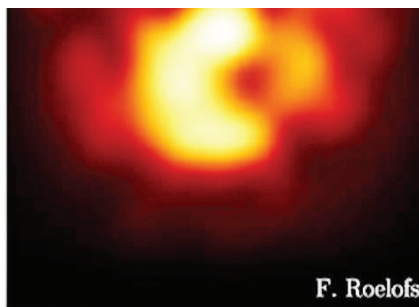
To showcase the power of their planned constellation of observatories, dubbed the Event Horizon Imager, researchers developed a model to simulate the telescopes' image-making abilities.

"There are lots of advantages to using satellites instead of permanent radio telescopes on Earth, as with the Event Horizon Telescope," Freek Roelofs, a PhD candidate at Radboud University in the Netherlands, said in a news release. "In space, you can make observations at higher radio frequencies, because the frequencies from Earth are filtered out by the atmosphere."

"The distances between the telescopes in space are also larger," Roelofs said. "This allows us to take a big step forward. We would be able to take images with a resolution more



than five times what is possible with the EHT." EHT was used to produce the first-of-



their-kind black hole images published earlier this year. While groundbreaking, the images

produced by EHT aren't sharp enough to test Einstein's Theory of General Relativity.

According to the newly published paper, a space-based constellation of black-hole-hunting radio telescopes would be able to measure difference in the behavior of real black holes and the characteristics predicted by Einstein's theory.

To make the astronomers' plans a reality, engineers will have to overcome some technical challenges. "The concept demands that you must be able to ascertain the position and speed of the satellites very accurately," said Volodymyr Kudrashov, researcher at the Radboud Radio Lab. "But we really believe that the project is feasible."

Initially, scientists expect the EHI telescopes to function independently of the EHT observatories, but the two systems could be eventually combined.

"Using a hybrid like this could provide the possibility of creating moving images of a black hole, and you might be able to observe even more and also weaker sources," said Heino Falcke, a professor of radio astronomy at Radboud.

(Source: UPI)

Human society under urgent threat from loss of Earth's natural life

Human society is in jeopardy from the accelerating decline of the Earth's natural life-support systems, the world's leading scientists have warned, as they announced the results of the most thorough planetary health check ever undertaken.

From coral reefs flickering out beneath the oceans to rainforests desiccating into savannahs, nature is being destroyed at a rate tens to hundreds of times higher than the average over the past 10m years, according to the UN global assessment report.

The biomass of wild mammals has fallen by 82%, natural ecosystems have lost about half their area and a million species are at risk of extinction – all largely as a result of human actions, said the study, compiled over three years by more than 450 scientists and diplomats.

Two in five amphibian species are at risk of extinction, as are one-third of reef-forming corals, and close to one-third of other marine species. The picture for insects – which are crucial to plant pollination – is less clear, but conservative estimates suggest at least one in 10 are threatened with extinction and, in some regions, populations have crashed. In economic terms, the losses are jaw-dropping. Pollinator loss has put up to \$577bn (£440bn) of crop output at risk, while land degradation has reduced the productivity of 23% of global land.

The knock-on impacts on humankind, including freshwater shortages and climate instability, are already "ominous" and will worsen without drastic remedial action, the authors said.

"The health of the ecosystems on which we and other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide," said Robert Watson, the chair of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (Ipbes). "We have lost time. We must act now."

The warning was unusually stark for a UN report that has to be agreed by consensus across all nations. Hundreds of scientists have compiled 15,000 academic studies and reports from indigenous communities living on the frontline of change. They build on the millennium ecosystem assessment of 2005, but go much further by looking not just at an inventory of species, but the web of interactions between biodiversity, climate and human wellbeing.

Over the past week, representatives from the world's governments have fine-tuned the summary for policymakers, which includes remedial scenarios, such as "transformative change" across all areas of government, revised trade rules, massive investments in forests and other green infrastructure, and changes in individual behaviour such as lower consumption of meat and material goods.

Following school strikes, Extinction Rebellion protests, the UK parliament's declaration of a climate emergency and Green New Deal debates in the US and Spain, the authors hope the 1,800-page assessment of biodiversity will push the nature crisis into the global spotlight in the same way climate breakdown has surged up the political agenda since the 1.5C report last year by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

David Obura, one of the main authors on the report and a global authority on corals, said: "We tried to document how far in trouble we are to focus people's minds, but also to say it is not too late if we put a huge amount into transformational behavioral change. This is fundamental to humanity. We are not just talking about nice species out there; this is our life-support system."

The report shows a planet in which the human footprint is so large it leaves little space for anything else. Three-quarters of all land has been turned into farm fields, covered by concrete, swallowed up by dam reservoirs or otherwise

significantly altered. Two-thirds of the marine environment has also been changed by fish farms, shipping routes, subsea mines and other projects. Three-quarters of rivers and lakes are used for crop or livestock cultivation. As a result, more than 500,000 species have insufficient habitats for long-term survival. Many are on course to disappear within decades.

Eduardo Brondizio, an Ipbes co-chair from Indiana State University, said: "We have been displacing our impact around the planet from frontier to frontier. But we are running out of frontiers... If we see business as usual going forward then we'll see a very fast decline in the ability of nature to provide what we need and to buffer climate change."

Agriculture and fishing are the primary causes of the deterioration. Food production has increased dramatically since the 1970s, which has helped feed a growing global population and generated jobs and economic growth. But this has come at a high cost. The meat industry has a particularly heavy impact. Grazing areas for cattle account for about 25% of the world's ice-free land and more than 18% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Crop production uses 12% of land and creates less than 7% of emissions.

The study paints a picture of a suffocating human-caused sameness spreading across the planet, as a small range of cash crops and high-value livestock are replacing forests and other nature-rich ecosystems. As well as eroding the soil, which causes a loss of fertility, these monocultures are more vulnerable to disease, drought and other impacts of climate breakdown.

In terms of habitats, the deepest loss is of wetlands, which have drained by 83% since 1700, with a knock-on impact on water quality and birdlife. Forests are diminishing, particularly in the tropics. In the first 13 years of this century, the area of intact forest fell by 7%, bigger than France and the UK combined. Although the overall rate of deforestation has slowed, this is partly an accounting trick, as monoculture plantations replace biodiverse jungle and woodland.

Oceans are no longer a sanctuary. Only 3% of marine areas are free from human pressure. Industrial fishing takes place in more than half the world's oceans, leaving one-third of fish populations overexploited.

Climate change, pollution and invasive species have had a relatively low impact, but these factors are accelerating. Emissions continue to rise. Last week, the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere passed the 415 parts per million mark for the first time. Even if global heating can be kept within the Paris agreement target of 1.5C to 2C, the ranges of most species will shrink profoundly, the paper warns.

Population growth is noted as a factor, along with inequality. Individuals in the developed world have four times as much of an economic footprint as those in the poorest countries, and the gap is growing.

Our species now extracts 60bn tons of resources each year, almost double the amount in 1980, though the world population has grown by only 66% in that time. The report notes how the discharges are overwhelming the Earth's capacity to absorb them. More than 80% of wastewater is pumped into streams, lakes and oceans without treatment, along with 300m-400m tons of heavy metals, toxic slurry and other industrial discharges. Plastic waste has risen tenfold since 1980, affecting 86% of marine turtles, 44% of seabirds and 43% of marine mammals. Fertiliser run-off has created 400 "dead zones", affecting an area the size of the UK.

Andy Purvis, a professor at the Natural History Museum in London and one of the main authors of the report, said he was encouraged nations had agreed on the need for bitter medicine.

SpaceX's Dragon capsule docks with International Space Station

SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft docked and bolted to the International Space Station on schedule Monday morning.

It was the 17th such mission for the space company's Commercial Resupply Services contract with NASA.

Video of the docking sequence on NASA Live showed the station as it traveled at more than 7,000 mph into nighttime darkness over the Indian Ocean. The craft launched on top of a Falcon 9 rocket early Saturday from Florida.

Earlier on Monday, Canadian astronaut David Saint-Jacques used the station's robotic arm, or Canadarm2, to capture the craft and line it up with the docking hatch.

NASA also showed in the video that Dragon was one of six craft

parked at the station now. The others include Northrop Grumman's Cygnus cargo craft that launched in April from Virginia, two Russian Soyuz capsules and two Russian Progress cargo capsules. The crew aboard the station was to open the hatch Monday afternoon to begin unpacking the Dragon's 5,500 pounds of cargo. Most of that, about 3,400 pounds, is pressurized and includes sensitive scientific equipment.

Dragon will be bolted to the spacecraft for about a month for unloading and repacking with around 2,000 pounds for the return trip, said Leah Cheshier, a NASA Mission Control communications specialist.

(Source: UPI)

Harnessing sunlight to pull hydrogen from wastewater

Zhiyong Jason Ren, principal investigator and professor of civil and environmental engineering and the Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment, and Lu Lu, first author on the study and an associate research scholar at the Andlinger Center work on the specially designed anaerobic chamber used for producing hydrogen from wastewater.

Hydrogen is a critical component in the manufacture of thousands of common products from plastic to fertilizers, but producing pure hydrogen is expensive and energy intensive. Now, a research team at Princeton University has harnessed sunlight to isolate hydrogen from industrial wastewater.

In a paper published at the journal *Energy & Environmental Science*, the researchers reported that their process doubled the currently accepted rate for scalable technologies that produce hydrogen by splitting water.

The technique uses a specially designed chamber with a "Swiss-cheese" black silicon interface to split water and isolate hydrogen gas. The process is aided by bacteria that generate electrical current when consuming organic matter in the wastewater; the current, in turn, aids the water splitting process.

The team, led by Zhiyong Jason Ren, professor of civil and environmental engineering and the Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment, chose wastewater from breweries for the test. They ran the wastewater through the chamber, used a lamp to simulate sunlight, and watched the organic compounds breakdown and the hydrogen bubble up.

The process "allows us to treat wastewater and simultaneously generate fuels," said Jing Gu, a co-researcher and assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry at San Diego State University.

The researchers said the technology could appeal to refineries and chemical plants, which typically produce their own hydrogen from fossil fuels, and face high costs for cleaning wastewater.

Historically, hydrogen production has relied on oil, gas or coal, and an energy-intensive method that involves processing the hydrocarbon stock with steam. Chemical manufacturers then combine the hydrogen gas with carbon or nitrogen to create high-value chemicals, such as methanol and ammonia. The two are ingredients in synthetic fibers, fertilizer, plastics and cleaning products, among other everyday goods.

Although hydrogen can be used as a vehicle fuel, the chemical industry is currently the largest producer and consumer of hydrogen. Producing chemicals in highly industrialized countries requires more energy than producing iron, steel, metals and food, according to a 2016 report from the U.S. Energy Information Administration. The report estimates that producing basic chemicals will continue to be the top industrial consumer of energy over the next two decades.

"It's a win-win situation for chemical and other industries," said Lu Lu, the first author on the study and an associate research scholar at the Andlinger Center. "They can save on wastewater treatment and save on their energy use through this hydrogen-creation process."

According to the researchers, this is the first time actual wastewater, not lab-made solutions, has been used to produce hydrogen using photocatalysis. The team produced the gas continuously over four days until the wastewater ran out, which is significant, the researchers said, because comparable systems that produce chemicals from water have historically failed after a couple hours of use. The researchers measured the hydrogen production by monitoring the amount of electrons produced by the bacteria, which directly correlates to the amount of hydrogen produced. The measurement was at the high end for similar lab experiments and, Ren said, twice as high as technologies with the potential to scale for industrial use.

Ren said he sees this technology as scalable because the chamber used to isolate the hydrogen is modular, and several can be stacked to process more wastewater and produce more hydrogen.

Though a lifecycle analysis has not yet been done, the researchers said the process will at least be energy neutral, if not energy positive, and eliminates the need for fossil fuels to create hydrogen.

The researchers said they will likely experiment with producing larger amounts of hydrogen and other gases in the future, and look forward to moving this technology to industry.

(Source: Science Daily)

First Announcement



N.I.S.O.C

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : 01-31-9280040

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

Material Description	Quantity
PARTS FOR " COOPER-BESSEMER" GAS TURBINE TYPE COBERRA-182 SERIAL NOS. SN-401,2,3,4,5 AND 6 RT RP FITTED TO COMPRESSOR TYPE RB7-6B , SERIAL NOS 1045-48-51-53 RC REF. COOPER-BESSEMER S.A	23 Items Including 282 NOS
PARTS FOR " COOPER ROLLS" POWER GAS TURBINE , TURBINE TYPE RT 48 , SERIAL NOS. 884 RT, 885 RT, AND 886 RT REF. COOPER ROLLS LTD	06 Items Including 127 NOS

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. 1, 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 5,857 EURO or 276,477,309 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

Tender documents including the 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 DEPT
Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran Bldg. No. 104
Tel. No.: 061 3445 7437

Public Relations www.shana.ir www.nisoc.ir <http://iets.mporg.ir>
تهران تایمز نویت اول ۹۸/۲/۲۱ نویت دوم ۹۸/۲/۲۱

Restoration commences on flood-hit Sassanid bridge

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** — Restoration work has commenced on Kashkan Bridge, a ruined Sassanid era (224–651) monument in western Iran, which further suffered from flooding in March.

Built over a river of the same name, the bridge is situated along the ancient route Shapurkhast (today’s Khorramabad) to Tarhan a district in Kouhdasht county in Lorestan province.



In an interview with ISNA, provincial tourism chief Amin Qasemi reminded that a recent flood inflicted damage to tens of cultural heritage sites in Lorestan, adding restoration of Kashkan Bridge has been started, however, scientific studies are currently underway for others.

The bridge is 300 meters long, and it originally had 11 columns and 12 arches, some parts of which are ruined or wiped away. Its highest varies between 10 to 26 meters.

Inscribed on the list of National Heritage, Kashkan Bridge is one the most spectacular attractions of the ancient province.

Domestic tourism is the focus of German government

The German government wants to make business easier for German hoteliers and travel companies and to promote domestic tourism more. However, the methods so far are not particularly tailored to the industry.

The Federal Government wants to strengthen the competitiveness of the tourism industry in Germany and to take more care of the small and medium-sized companies. The Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology presented key points for a “National Tourism Strategy” recently, which was already announced in the coalition agreement.

Parliamentary State Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Thomas Barieb, told the German press: “With the tourism strategy, the Federal Government will present a holistic economic concept for the domestic tourism sector for the first time.”

He called the tourism industry an economic heavyweight and referred to nearly three million jobs and a gross added value of more than 100 billion euros.

Concrete measures are not yet included in the key points. They should now be developed in cooperation with the federal states. Barieb announced consultations with all relevant stakeholders in the industry, the federal government, and states.

The tourism industry needs less bureaucratic burdens and fair tax conditions according to experts. The attractiveness of rural areas as holiday destinations should be increased in order to distribute tourist flows well and relieve the tourist hotspots. “This includes finally a faster mobile network expansion and better transport links,” Barieb said.

(Source: Tourism Review)



ROUND THE GLOBE

Paphos

Paphos, situated in the District of Paphos in western Cyprus, is a serial archaeological property consisting of three components at two sites: the town of Kato Paphos (Site I), and the village of Kouklia (Site II). Paphos has been inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage list as well.

Kato Paphos includes the remains of ancient Nea Paphos (Aphrodite’s Sacred City) and of the Kato Paphos necropolis known as Tatoi ton Vasileon (“Tombs of the Kings”), further to the north.



The village of Kouklia includes the remains of the Temple of Aphrodite (Aphrodite’s Sanctuary) and Palaepaphos (Old Paphos). Because of their great antiquity, and because they are closely and directly related to the cult and legend of Aphrodite (Venus), who under the influence of Homeric poetry became the ideal of beauty and love, inspiring writers, poets, and artists throughout human history, these two sites can indeed be considered to be of outstanding universal value.

Paphos, which has been inhabited since the Neolithic period, was a center of the cult of Aphrodite and of pre-Hellenic fertility deities. Aphrodite’s legendary birthplace was on the island of Cyprus, where her temple was erected by the Myceneans in the 12th century BC and continued to be used until the Roman period.

The site is a vast archaeological area, with remains of villas, palaces, theatres, fortresses and tombs. These illustrate Paphos’ exceptional architectural and historic value and contribute extensively to our understanding of ancient architecture, ways of life, and thinking.

The villas are richly adorned with mosaic floors that are among the most beautiful in the world. These mosaics constitute an illuminated album of ancient Greek mythology, with representations of Greek gods, goddesses and heroes, as well as activities of everyday life.

(Source: UNESCO)

Oriental Institute ready for delivery of ancient Persian artifacts

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** — The University of Chicago’s Oriental Institute has recently signaled its readiness to deliver the first batch of ancient Persian clay tablets to Iran, a senior cultural heritage official has said.

“We have just received an email from Chicago’s Oriental Institute, in which the institute has announced its readiness to deliver Achaemenid tablets to Iran in Tehran,” Mohammad-Hassan Talebian, a deputy for the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization, said in a press release on Tuesday.

Following years of ups and downs, the fate of Persian tablets, on loan from Iran to the Oriental Institute since the 1930s, was left in the hands of the U.S. Supreme Court in 2018, this time in favor of Iran.

The court concluded that American citizens injured in a 1997 suicide bombing in Jerusalem cannot seize the artifacts to satisfy a \$71.5 million court judgment against Iran, as compensation.

Referring to efforts made by the CHHTO for repatriating the artifacts home, the official said, “The process of sending them from the United States to Iran has already been commenced, even needed licenses have been issued by the U.S. Department of the Treasury for the return of 1,780 tablets.”

“In the meantime, ways of sending and delivering the Achaemenid tablets were examined, yet the Oriental Institute had put forward excuses like insurance and

[U.S.-led] sanctions.... Finally, it accepted to deliver the first batch to the National Museum of Iran and concurrently seek to gain license for delivering the rest.”

“In response to the email, we coordinated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs beforehand to declare Iran’s readiness to issue visas [for the institute’s representatives], which is subject to acceptance of shipping and insurance [costs from the U.S. entity],” Talebian added.

Archaeologists affiliated with the University of Chicago discovered the tablets in 1930s while excavating in Persepolis, the ceremonial capital of the Persian Empire. However, the institute has resumed work in collaboration with colleagues in Iran, and the return of the tablets is part of a broadening of contacts between scholars in the two countries, said Gil Stein, director of the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago.

What these tablets tell us is the economic, social and religious history of the ancient Achaemenid Empire (550-330 BC) and the larger Near Eastern region in the fifth century BC.

The tablets have been difficult to read because information about the Persian Empire had been largely limited to non-Persian sources. That non-Persian information came from Greek writers such as Herodotus and Latin authors, and mostly concerns encounters between the Persian Empire and Greek states, encounters of warfare, and diplomacy.



What these tablets tell us is the economic, social and religious history of the ancient Achaemenid Empire (550-330 BC) and the larger Near Eastern region in the fifth century BC.

Information from the tablets provided one of the first opportunities to gather data on the empire from Persian sources. The Persian Empire was the largest and

most durable empire of its time. The empire stretched from Ethiopia, through Egypt, to Greece, to Anatolia (modern Turkey), Central Asia and to India.

Are budget airlines really worth it?

When the budget airline Wow Air abruptly ceased operations earlier this year, thousands of travelers were left stranded and scrambling, on both sides of the Atlantic, to make alternate travel plans.

The news, after months of speculation that the Icelandic airline was struggling financially, came at a period that has already been particularly difficult for low-cost carriers. Cyprus’s Cobalt Air, Pakistan’s Shaheen Air, and Primera, based in Denmark and Latvia, collapsed in October. In February, Flybmi and Germania filed for bankruptcy. For most, rising fuel costs and overexpansion led to their demise.

Budget airlines are appealing to travelers because they offer much lower prices than major airlines. A flight to London from New York can cost around \$1,000 on American Airlines, British Airways or another major carrier, but the same trip on low-cost Norwegian, for the same dates, can be around \$600. Similarly, a flight from Washington to Paris costs around \$1,200 on Air France, and just over \$800 on Aer Lingus.

For travelers who are concerned about the risks of booking low-cost, here are some tips to keep in mind.

■ You don’t need to avoid all budget airlines.

Though the Wow Air developments were jarring, aviation experts say that the chances of an airline going under, out of nowhere, are very low.

To protect your travel and itineraries, first conduct some research online. News about Wow Airlines’ financial woes had been swirling for months before it canceled its flights. A Google search brings up articles from 2018 mentioning that Wow was “struggling,” suffering from “growing pains” and on Trip Advisor, the company had more “Terrible” reviews than “Good” or “Excellent” ones.

Christian Nielsen, the chief legal officer at AirHelp, a site that helps passengers make claims against airlines, recommends travelers consider whether the carrier is well-established.

“If it’s someone new in the game, I would be cautious about booking a flight across the Atlantic,” he said. “At least not without buying some travel insurance.”

Scott Keyes, co-founder and chief executive of Scott’s Cheap Flights, a travel site that alerts members on inexpensive flight fares, said he would always read news reports on specific airlines. (Scott’s Cheap Flights never suggested flights on Wow Air, because of the airline’s high fees for luggage, food, seat upgrades and other additions.)

“If I heard that an airline was potentially going to go under soon, I wouldn’t book it,” said Mr. Keyes. “I wouldn’t recommend booking if it seems like this is something that’s imminent but I wouldn’t be shying away from booking budget airlines altogether.”

■ And if things do go awry?

“There are protections if things go wrong, so there’s very little downside risk to booking flights on low-budget airlines,” Mr. Keyes said.

■ Book with a credit card, not a debit card.

If your airline goes bankrupt, it’s unlikely you’ll receive a refund for a canceled flight. But your credit-card company could help, and you can file a dispute with them for a service you paid for, but did not receive.

“A lot of cards nowadays have protections that say ‘if your trip is canceled for reasons unrelated to anything you did, then we will reimburse you,’” said Mr. Keyes. This protection is quite common, he said, comes with most cards, not simply the premium ones. “It’s also not something you need to pay to enroll in.”

Debit cards, however, do not offer this cancellation



protection, said Zaneilia Harris, president of Harris and Harris Wealth Management in Upper Marlboro, Md.

Ms. Harris suggested applying for the Chase Sapphire Preferred card and Citi’s Advantage Executive World Elite Mastercard. She added that travelers should make sure they “read the fine print to learn what is a covered event and what information is required to support a claim.”

Mr. Nielsen noted that credit card terms can be difficult and frustrating to read through, but taking the time is worth it. “And you can always give your credit card company a call to make sure you’ve got the right to a refund,” he said.

■ You don’t always have to buy travel insurance.

If you have any nonrefundable expenses at stake, insurance is a good idea. Buying travel insurance is trip-specific and often relies on how much risk you’re willing to take. If you are concerned about the limitations of an airline’s compensation terms, you can book travel insurance from a third party and look for coverage for your entire trip, not just your plane tickets.

“Travel insurance from a third party can help if your

airline goes belly up, bags are lost or stolen, your flight is delayed — for a covered reason — or you miss a connection that prevents you from, say, boarding your cruise,” said Julie Loffredi, media relations manager for InsureMyTrip, a travel insurance comparison site.

And if you’re traveling internationally, travel medical insurance is a good idea. Experts recommend “cancel for any reason” travel insurance plans because you can get at least 75 percent of your nonrefundable trip costs back.

“When you purchase a trip insurance plan to protect the money you spent for your trip, it’s important to know what your total nonrefundable trip cost is,” said Justin Tysdal, CEO of Seven Corners Inc, a travel insurance provider. “That’s the amount you want to insure. Take a moment to consider if that dollar amount is material to you. What if you had to cancel your trip, and you had to absorb that loss? If the trip expenses are a material amount to you, you’ll want to buy trip insurance.”

■ If things do go wrong, act fast.

Of course, some developments arise that no amount of planning can account for, especially when you’re traveling. If your airline suddenly cancels flights, your first calls should be to your travel agent or insurance company, then to your credit card company. And if you didn’t book with an agent or if you don’t have insurance, first try to get a new flight and then contact your credit card company.

“Try to get a flight ticket home as quickly as possible, because you’re probably not the only one stranded and there will be high demand,” Mr. Nielsen said. “The sooner you reach out to the right people, the quicker they can book you on an alternate flight and get you home.”

(Source: The New York Times)

First Announcement

Permit No.1398.804

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : 31-95204-53-020

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

Material Description	Quantity
LINE PIPE 6 IN RTP (REINFORCED THERMOPLASTIC PIPE) ACCORDING TO STANDARD API155 & API17J BURIED COILED 3 LAYER RTP PIPE INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO 1.INNER HDPE LAYER , 2. REINFORCED LAYER ,3.OUTER HDPE LAYER SUITABLE FOR HIGH PRESSURE SOUR WATER & SEWAGE LINE PIPE SERVICES.	70.000
MAX ALLOWABLE WORKING PRESSURE:63 BAR & 150 BAR	

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 169,497 EURO or 8,096,000,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

Tender Conditions materials technical thorough 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://iets.mporg.ir>

تهران تایمز نوبت اول ۹۸/۲/۱۸ نوبت دوم ۹۸/۲/۲۱

Iran succeeds in production of 4 new cancer, diabetes drugs

➔ According to a report by IRNA news agency, empagliflozin and dapagliflozin, medications used to treat type 2 diabetes, in addition to regorafenib and sorafenib, two cancer drugs are now being manufactured in Iran.

Empagliflozin, sold under the trade name Jardiance among others, is a medication used together with diet and exercise to treat type 2 diabetes. Dapagliflozin, sold under the brand name Farxiga among others, is also a medication used to treat type 2 diabetes.

Iran is now capable of producing 800 kilograms of empagliflozin and 100 kilograms of dapagliflozin annually, the report added.

Empagliflozin was approved for medical use in the United States in 2014. A month supply in the United Kingdom costs the NHS about £ 36.59 as of 2019. In the United States the wholesale cost of this amount is about US\$ 442. In 2016 it was the 289th most prescribed medication in the United States with more than a million prescriptions.



Just after 5 years Iran also succeeded in producing empagliflozin.

Regorafenib is used to treat cancer of the colon and rectum which has spread to other parts of the body. It is also used to treat liver cancer and a certain cancer of the digestive system (gastrointestinal stromal tumor). It works by slowing or stopping the growth of cancer cells.

And sorafenib, is a kinase inhibitor drug approved for the treatment of primary kidney cancer, advanced primary liver cancer, FLT3-ITD positive AML and radioactive iodine resistant advanced thyroid carcinoma.

Some of the aforesaid medications produced in Iran will be exported to other countries, namely India and Russia.

Iranian researcher wins Dr. Shousha Foundation Prize

HEALTH **TEHRAN** — Iranian researcher Golaleh Asghari, PhD in Nutritional Sciences, won Dr. Shousha Foundation Prize, IRNA news agency reported on Tuesday.

The Dr. A.T. Shousha Foundation was established in 1966 in memory of Dr. Aly Tewfik Shousha, first WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean. The prize, consisting of a sum in the order of CHF 2500 and a bronze medal, is awarded to a person who has made the most significant contribution to improving health in the Eastern Mediterranean, the geographical area in which Dr. A.T. Shousha served the Organization.

Asghari, researcher at Endocrine Research Center affiliated to Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Science, is mainly collaborating in Tehran Lipid and Glucose Study figuring out methods to decrease the burden of non-communicable diseases with regard to nutritional balance.

In addition to the prize Dr. A.T. Shousha Foundation Fellowship was established to enable health professionals from the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region to obtain a postgraduate diploma or a master's degree in public health. The Fellowship, amounting to US\$ 15,000, is awarded when-

ever accumulated interest is sufficient, in principle about every six years.

The prize, awarded not more than once a year, is presented at a special ceremony during a session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean.

Any national health administration in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region and any former recipient of the prize may propose, at the invitation of the Regional Director, the name of a candidate who, in their opinion, qualifies for the prize; the nomination must be accompanied by a written justification.

A similar procedure applies to the proposal for the fellowship. In this case the proposal must be accompanied by the necessary background information and a statement that the qualifications obtained by the candidate will be used for the benefit of the countries in the area mentioned above.

The Regional Director submits the nominations received to the Foundation Committee, which meets during the sessions of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean to consider the candidatures. The Foundation Committee makes its recommendation to the Executive Board, which designates the recipients of the prize and fellowship.



What workplace wellness programs can — and can't — do for you

Experts say wellness programs at the office can be effective if they are long term and more personalized. Getty Images

Workplace wellness programs have been in vogue for a while now.

However, a recent study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) suggests they might not be all they're cracked up to be, at least in the short term.

In a randomized trial involving nearly 33,000 employees at 160 BJ's Wholesale Club stores and work sites, researchers found that workers engaged in wellness programs reported an 8 percent increase in regular physical exercise.

The study also found a 13 percent higher rate of workers actively managing their weight after 18 months compared to a control group that wasn't offered these programs.

Sounds pretty good, right?

But despite these improvements, the researchers didn't register any improvements in other outcomes, including clinical markers of health such as cholesterol levels, blood pressure, and body mass index score.

Job outcomes such as absenteeism, tenure, performance, and sleep quality also didn't show improvements.

The researchers also didn't note any overall savings in health spending during this time.

Not all gloom and doom

One of the strengths of the study was its size and design in that it was randomized and had a large control group.

But "wellness programs" can incorporate a wide range of practices and aims.

In this case, the programs constituted eight wellness modules on nutrition, physical activity, and stress reduction — among other topics — administered by registered dietitians.

That's just one approach among many and not enough



to write off wellness programs at large.

"I am not unduly surprised by the results in the study," Russell Thackeray, PhD, an organizational consultant with more than 20 years of experience working with workplace wellness programs, told Healthline. "There is no explicit aim that the programs were meant to achieve those outcomes and, even if that were the aim, there are a vast range of variables that can affect the results."

Those include factors such as the quality of the programs themselves, the motivation of participants, adjusting for non-workplace variables, how involved management is in supporting the programs, and the degree to which the learning in these programs is embedded in the workplace.

"The issue is that so many wellness programs have mixed objectives, outcomes, and motivations, and the net effect can be a short term 'bounce' in morale rather than any long-term

change," he added. "Often, the effects of change are more observable in an employee's family circumstances when truly focused on their needs — the work outcomes simply become a 'knock-on' effect."

What we can learn

Ultimately, this study should not be looked at as prescribing a singular truth about workplace wellness but adding to our overall understanding of these programs.

"Well-done studies [like this one] give us a very useful estimate about what happened under the conditions that they study and that data point is very valuable when it's put with collection of studies that have been done on the same topic," said Stewart I. Donaldson, PhD, a professor of psychology and community and global health at Claremont Graduate University and the executive director of the Claremont Evaluation Center in California.

Instead, workplaces seeking to implement programs should look at what does work. "The most effective ones are those on-site or near-site and that are multi-year efforts, simply because health change is a slow process impacted by motivation, time and life demands, and mediated by the work culture, leadership, and income and education levels," Priyanka Upadhyaya, PsyD, a clinical health psychologist specializing in wellness interventions, told Healthline. "Health, happiness, and employment are inextricably tied as a healthy employee doesn't need to take off, be away from work, or avoid tasks at work. A healthy and happy worker is motivated, energetic, and can go beyond to get the job done."

Personalization may be key

Making wellness programs more effective may require deeper integration into workplace culture.

(Source: healthline.com)

When done right, the internet can be a useful alternative to seeing a doctor

Everyone occasionally experiences new symptoms that can't be readily explained or ignored. In most cases, people seek initial medical guidance from the one source they consider authoritative, available, trustworthy and non-judgemental.

A quick trip to your favorite search engine illustrates how easily the process of self-diagnosis can go off the rails. Most people seeking information about their symptoms aren't trying to become experts but just want practical guidance and advice. A top Google search result for "headache", however, begins with the unhelpful (and questionable) assertion that there are "over 150 types of headaches" — then attempts to catalogue many of them.

Medicine is also complicated, and online articles often can't account for the unique context in which each symptom occurs. Are you a healthy 25-year-old experiencing a cough after travelling abroad? Or a 65-year-old smoker with a cough who just started a new blood pressure medication? The evaluations are completely different for these two patients — though the search results may be the same. Some popular sites are even more misdirected. A top 10 search result for "cough" offers lung cancer and cystic fibrosis as the first two explanations. Though one should always consider these possibilities, they're almost always much further down the list.

(Source: independent.co.uk)

World countries to attend Iran's largest health exhibition

HEALTH **TEHRAN** — Iran Health 2019 Exhibition will be running from June 9 to 12 in Tehran.

This is the 21st Iran Health International exhibition where a diverse range of medical, dental, laboratory equipment and pharmaceutical products are displayed, Mehr news agency reported.

Iran Health Exhibition is the largest and first important trade-based event in the field of health in Iran and second in the Middle East.



According to Edris Mazandarani, the exhibition's manager, Iran Health Exhibition could be a great opportunity for Iran to promote an advanced range of its medicine and equipment and export them.

Commercial delegations from 15 countries including China, Malaysia, Singapore, Germany, Italy, England, Azerbaijan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Oman and Russia have been invited to the event, Mazandarani remarked.

All Iranian medical sciences universities, health centers and hospitals have also been invited to the exhibition, so that they can buy their required supplies.

AI can detect depression in a child's speech

A machine learning algorithm can detect signs of anxiety and depression in the speech patterns of young children, potentially providing a fast and easy way of diagnosing conditions that are difficult to spot and often overlooked in young people. If undiagnosed, they can lead to an increased risk of substance abuse and suicide later in life.

A machine learning algorithm can detect signs of anxiety and depression in the speech patterns of young children, potentially providing a fast and easy way of diagnosing conditions that are difficult to spot and often overlooked in young people, according to new research published in the Journal of Biomedical and Health Informatics.

Around one in five children suffer from anxiety and depression, collectively known as "internalizing disorders." But because children under the age of eight can't reliably articulate their emotional suffering, adults need to be able to infer their mental state, and recognize potential mental health problems. Waiting lists for appointments with psychologists, insurance issues, and failure to recognize the symptoms by parents all contribute to children missing out on vital treatment.

"We need quick, objective tests to catch kids when they are suffering," says Ellen McGinnis, a clinical psychologist at the University of Vermont Medical Center's Vermont Center for Children, Youth and Families and lead author of the study. "The majority of kids under eight are undiagnosed."

Early diagnosis is critical because children respond well to treatment while their brains are still developing, but if they are left untreated they are at greater risk of substance abuse and suicide later in life. Standard diagnosis involves a 60-90 minute semi-structured interview with a trained clinician and their primary care-giver. McGinnis, along with University of Vermont biomedical engineer and study senior author Ryan McGinnis, has been looking for ways to use artificial intelligence and machine learning to make diagnosis faster and more reliable.

The researchers used an adapted version of a mood induction task called the Trier-Social Stress Task, which is intended to cause feelings of stress and anxiety in the subject. A group of 71 children between the ages of three and eight were asked to improvise a three-minute story, and told that they would be judged based on how interesting it was. The researcher acting as the judge remained stern throughout the speech, and gave only neutral or negative feedback. After 90 seconds, and again with 30 seconds left, a buzzer would sound and the judge would tell them how much time was left.

"The task is designed to be stressful, and to put them in the mindset that someone was judging them," says Ellen McGinnis.

The children were also diagnosed using a structured clinical interview and parent questionnaire, both well-established ways of identifying internalizing disorders in children.

The researchers used a machine learning algorithm to analyze statistical features of the audio recordings of each kid's story and relate them to the child's diagnosis. They found the algorithm was highly successful at diagnosing children, and that the middle phase of the recordings, between the two buzzers, was the most predictive of a diagnosis.

"The algorithm was able to identify children with a diagnosis of an internalizing disorder with 80% accuracy, and in most cases that compared really well to the accuracy of the parent checklist," says Ryan McGinnis. It can also give the results much more quickly — the algorithm requires just a few seconds of processing time once the task is complete to provide a diagnosis.

The algorithm identified eight different audio features of the children's speech, but three in particular stood out as highly indicative of internalizing disorders: low-pitched voices, with repeatable speech inflections and content, and a higher-pitched response to the surprising buzzer. Ellen McGinnis says these features fit well with what you might expect from someone suffering from depression. "A low-pitched voice and repeatable speech elements mirrors what we think about when we think about depression: speaking in a monotone voice, repeating what you're saying," says Ellen McGinnis.

The higher-pitched response to the buzzer is also similar to the response the researchers found in their previous work, where children with internalizing disorders were found to exhibit a larger turning-away response from a fearful stimulus in a fear induction task.

The voice analysis has a similar accuracy in diagnosis to the motion analysis in that earlier work, but Ryan McGinnis thinks it would be much easier to use in a clinical setting. The fear task requires a darkened room, toy snake, motion sensors attached to the child and a guide, while the voice task only needs a judge, a way to record speech and a buzzer to interrupt. "This would be more feasible to deploy," he says.

(Source: sciencedaily.com)

First Announcement



Permit No.1398.805

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : 48-32-9606002

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	SKID MOUNTED CRYOGENICAL NITROGEN TANK 2000 US GALLON CAPACITY BASED ON ISO 20421 ALL DETAILS OF CALCULATION & DESIGN BASED ON ISO 20421 SHALL BE SUBMITTED BY MANUF PROPER FRAME AND PORTABLE ON TRUCK CONSIDERATION TO IRAN TRAFIC LAW.4 HOOKING EYES FOR LIFTING WORKING PRESS:6BAR TEST PRESS.10BAR MDMT (MIN.DESIGN METAL TEMP):196C OVERAL DIM.:L:300mm W:2500mm H:2600mm	01

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 3,663 EURO or 175,000,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

Tender Conditions materials technical thorough 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://iets.mporg.ir

تهران تایمز نویت اول ۹۸/۲/۱۸ نویت دوم ۹۸/۲/۲۱

‘Wetland restoration budget must be spent on increasing vegetation cover’

ENVIRONMENT d e s k **TEHRAN** — After flood filled the dams and water resources in the country, some claimed that the budget for conservation of wetlands and reforestation must be cut, while it must be earmarked to restore vegetation cover in forests and rangelands, deputy chief for natural environment and biodiversity directorate at the Department of Environment has stated.

Floods carrying large amounts of sediments have left severe mud behind in different parts of the provinces, which will turn into new sand and dust storm (SDS) hotspots after being dried, Hamid Zohrabi warned.



So, to fight dust generation, we must expand vegetation cover in those areas, he said, suggesting, the budget supposed to revive the wetlands and forests must go to cultivation of plants in areas prone to SDSs.

Moisturized soil, water resources good condition, and the accumulation of mud and sediment caused by flooding, help to implement vegetation and rangeland restoration plans at a much lower cost, he highlighted.

He went on to note that instead of slashing water resources revival funds following flooding, we should take the opportunity to make the most of the damage, compensating for the damages at the lowest cost, such as vegetation enhancement.

Measures such as mulching, planting seedlings, reducing grazing in rangelands, and securing the habitats with the participation of locals, are among immediate measures to combat desertification, he concluded.

Destruction of landfills, most challenging issue in flood-hit areas

ENVIRONMENT d e s k **TEHRAN** — The biggest challenge the flood-stricken provinces are facing is mostly the destruction of landfills by flood, Tasnim news agency reported.

Landfill is a system of waste disposal in which the waste is buried between layers of earth to build up low-lying land.

The issue has been addressed during the fourth meeting of special working group on the environmental and health threats in flood-affected provinces.

The other issue that must be overcome is to fix damages to the wastewater treatment infrastructure, which might bring discomfort for the regions’ residents, the report added.

Flood carried garbage dumped in the landfills across some provinces contaminating the environment.

Ali Asghar Farshad, head of the secretariat of supreme council for health and food safety further called for an urgent pursuit in revitalization of provincial infrastructure, such as waste disposal management, urban wastewater treatment, and the rehabilitation of refineries.

Extreme rainfall, starting on March 19, has caused flooding in 28 out of 31 provinces affecting 42,269,129 inhabitants in 253 cities nationwide.

Precipitation doused Iran, western provinces hit records high

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN — Iran has experienced 40.5 percent rise in rainfall since the current water year (September 23, 2018) compared to the long-term mean with western provinces of Lorestan and Ilam setting the record for the highest rainfall levels.

Based on the latest data published on Monday by National Drought Warning and Monitoring Center affiliated to Iran’s Meteorological Organization, precipitation in the country increased to 294.9 from 133 millimeters (mm) in the previous water year, demonstrating a 121.8 percent rise.

The amount also raised in comparison to the long-term average of 209.9 mm, amounting to 40.5 percent.

Over the past 8 months, almost all provinces across the country have met above normal averages of rainfall compared to both long-term means and the previous water year averages, while Lorestan province received the most rain of them all with a precipitation rate measuring at 966.9 mm.

The province’s rainfall in long run averaged out at 503.9 mm, increasing by 91.9 percent, it also set the record high for the highest precipitation rise compared to its long-term mean among all the provinces.

Ranking second for the highest amount of rainfall received in the aforesaid period,



Ilam province got doused in 859.9 mm of rain, which faced 99.4 and 128 percent increase compared to the long-term mean and previous water year, respectively.

Gilan province with 848.1 mm of rain saw the biggest rainfall rate after the two provinces of Lorestan and Ilam. Rainfalls

in Gilan exceeded mean precipitation rates by 23.2 percent.

However, provinces of Yazd and Kerman did not see the same unprecedented amount of rain as other provinces, recording 119.4 and 125.4 mm respectively.

‘Water shortage not a concern for Tehraners this summer’

ENVIRONMENT d e s k **TEHRAN** — Tehran’s water resources condition has improved significantly due to recent rainfalls during the current water year (started September 23, 2018), so that water shortage in summer should be of no concern to the citizens, deputy director at Tehran Water and Wastewater Company has said.

“Currently, water overflowed the entire dams in the capital, now water is being partially discharged in order to control the amount of water in the dams,” Mohammad Reza Ahmad Nasab said.

Five major dams in Tehran are retaining 937 million cubic meters of water, which surpassed the last year’s amount of 675 million cubic meter by 39 percent, he stated.

Referring to the increased amount of water restored behind five major dams of Tehran compared to that of last year, he noted that water behind Karaj, Taleqan, Latian, Lar and Mamel dams have increased by 7.2, 39.9, 61, 17.3 and 26.3 percent, respectively.

Given that the amount of snow in the upstream was also much higher than the previous years, the amount of water



entering the rivers is high; therefore, the dam’s outlets must be opened to release and regulate water flow, he explained.

He went on to say that snow depth in the Lar region was increased to 7.5 meters from six meters, which demonstrates the improvement of water sources in the capital.

“So, it is necessary to take measures to withdraw water from the dams feeding the underground aquifers and preventing probable damages,” he further added, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

However, dams will supply the water required in the whole summer without any shortages imposed on the residents,

In terms of variations in mean averages, Kerman was ranked first for the lowest precipitation rise compared to its long-term averages with only 1.1 percent increase.

Among the other provinces, Sistan-Baluchestan set for the second province meeting the smallest variation in mean precipitation with 5.3 percent increase reported.

However, the province received an incredible 107.5 mm this water year, which was 385.7 percent more than that of the last year amounting to only 22.1 mm.

Receiving 132.5 mm of precipitations, South Khorasan province placed third which got the smallest difference in precipitation rate in long-term accounting for 25.6 percent.

When it comes to the highest variations in mean precipitation, after Lorestan province, Ilam and Golestan are the winners with 428.6 and 297.2 mm increase in rainfall compared to their long term means.

Tehran also surpassed both last year and long-term precipitation amounts of 158.7 and 229.2 mm, respectively, as 311.7 mm of rain poured over the capital.

This is while, during the last water year, 26 out of 31 provinces experienced drop in rainfall compared to their long run, and the whole country was short of rain by 36.6 percent.

he highlighted.

Based on the latest data published on Monday by National Drought Warning and Monitoring Center affiliated to Iran’s Meteorological Organization since the start of the current water year the whole country received 294.9 millimeters of rain.

The number amounted to 133 millimeters in the previous water year and 209.9 millimeters in the long-term, the data indicated. The numbers show a drastic increase of 121.8 percent compared to last water year. It also reveals a 40.5 percent increase compared to long-term means.

Recent above normal rainfall resulted in a water year with highest precipitation rate in the past half-century, as all provinces exceeded their long-term means reported since the past 50 years.

Since the beginning of the current water year, 56.64 billion cubic meter of water entered the dams nationwide, which demonstrates 289 percent increase compared to the last year’s amount of 14.56 billion cubic meter.

Among 178 major dams in different provinces, 77 are filled by 90-100 percent, which constitute 54 percent of the total capacity of the country’s dams.

Charity foundation, entrepreneurship fund to generate 28,000 jobs for the deprived

SOCIETY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Barekat charity foundation and Omid entrepreneurship fund will create some 28,000 employment opportunities in deprived rural areas, Mehr news agency reported on Monday.

The two have signed a memorandum of understanding, aiming to improve employment in less developed rural areas, by committing to pay some 3 trillion rials (nearly \$71.5 million), the report added.

As per the memorandum of understanding within the next two years job plans such as livestock breeding, aquaculture, bee keeping

etc. will be provided with low-interest loans offered by Barekat charity foundation and Omid entrepreneurship fund. Each job plan will be granted with loan amounting to 600 million rials (nearly \$14,000) with the interest rate of 4% paid back in 60 monthly instalments.

Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, also known as Setad-e Ejraiye Farman-e Hazrat-e Emam, was founded in 1989. In the Iranian calendar year 1386 (March 2007-March 2008) Barekat charity foundation- the social arm of the organization- with the aim of promoting social justice was established.

Socio-economic empowerment of the communities by encouraging entrepreneurship prioritizing breadwinner women, developing infrastructure such as water supply schemes, power grid, and road building, constructing schools and increasing educational spaces, promoting health for all, granting non-repayable loans and insurance especially in less developed areas and regions most affected by 1980s war and natural disasters are of the priorities of the charity foundation.

Omid entrepreneurship fund is a fund for supporting entrepreneurship and small and medium enterprises.

Second Announcement



N.I.S.O.C

Permit No.1398.723

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : 08-38-9440043

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	ROCK BITS. JET TYPE. WITHOUT CENTER JET. LESS NOZZLES WITH API REGULAR TOOL JOINT PIN CONNECTION 17-1/2 IN. I.A.D.C.1.1.1	120

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 62,317 EURO or 2,940,000,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

Tender Conditions materials technical thorough 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://iets.mporg.ir>

تهران تایمز نوبت اول ۹۸/۲/۱۵ نوبت دوم ۹۸/۲/۱۸

TEHRAN TIMES

Iran's Leading International Daily

Advertising Dept Tel: 021 -430 51 450



N.I.O.C

1398.741

Second Announcement

Call for public tender (First/Second publish)

One Stages tender

Subject of Tender: S.C.R BRAKER CONTROL



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).
	1- Applicants which have more than 4 in process contacts with NIDC are not allowed to participate in this tender . 2- Applicants which have more than 2 in process contacts with NIDC in similar subject (exclusively same subject) are not allowed to participate in another tender

Purchasing & Submitting

Tender Document Distribution by Company		The distribution of the documents will be started one day after the publishing of second advertisement and ended on the following tenth day thereof (closing date : -)
	Distribution Place	Hall No.:113, 1 st floor, Foreign Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahvaz, IRAN
	Submitting Method	Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of 510,000 Iranian Rials under account number 4001114004020491(Shaba No. IR 520100004001114004020491) in name of "NIDC -Incomes Centralized Fund" issued by I.R. of Iran Central Bank Submitting format Request for the purpose of receiving "Tender Documents
Documents Receiving Method	Closing date	Days after the last time of Purchasing. (closing date 35 () .a.m On ()
	Address	Hall No. 107, 1 st floor, Tender Committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahvaz, IRAN. Tel: +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569

Tender Guarantee

Value of guarantee	436,000,000 Rial / 9.238 Euro
Type of guarantee	✓--Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. ✓--Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt under account number 4001114006376636 (Shaba No. IR 350100004001114006376636) in name of "NIDC saving account" by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran.
Duration of credit & quotation	Tender Guarantee 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 نوبت اول ۹۸/۲/۱۷ نوبت دوم ۹۸/۲/۱۸

Yemen is facing the largest humanitarian crisis in the world

TEHRAN — Yemen is facing the largest humanitarian crisis in the world – 80 per cent of the population are in need of protection or assistance and 3.6 million people are internally displaced, according to the International Organization for Migration’s (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). With the conflict in its fifth year, widespread instability, severe economic decline, food insecurity and the collapse of essential public services are taking an enormous toll. The people of Yemen were already living in the most impoverished country in the Persian Gulf region prior to the outbreak of fighting and now face not just insecurity and violence but also outbreaks of diseases like cholera. Despite the current crisis, irregular migrants continue to arrive in Yemen in increasing numbers, most hoping to find work in Saudi Arabia.

With offices in Sana’a, Aden, Al Hudaydah and now Marib and satellite presences in all 22 governorates, IOM supports the most vulnerable groups throughout Yemen, including displaced people, conflict-affected



communities and migrants. The Organization directly implements a multisector humanitarian response, namely health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), shelter, nonfood item (NFI) and cash-based

assistance, camp coordination and camp management (CCCM), protection and displacement tracking (DTM). Growing to be one of its largest missions worldwide, IOM is currently scaling up its response

in Yemen by increasing the capacity of its team and expanding its operations to reach more people in underserved and remote areas. Through IOM establishing additional operational hubs throughout the country, the Organization and partners will be better able to effectively assist displaced people, migrants and the communities hosting both groups.

Saudi Arabia invaded Yemen in 2015 with the aim of reinstating former president Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi who resigned amid a political deadlock in January 2015 and then fled to Riyadh.

According to new figures from the United Nations, the Saudi war in Yemen will have claimed about 102,000 lives by the end of 2019, indicating that the invasion has killed far more people than previously reported.

A number of Western countries, the U.S. and Britain in particular, are accused of being complicit in the ongoing aggression as they supply the Riyadh regime with advanced weapons and military equipment as well as logistical and intelligence assistance.

Hamassays newly-developed tactic behind ‘Iron Dome’ failure

➡ “The high intensity of fire and the great destructive ability of the missiles that were introduced by the Qassam [Brigades]... succeeded in causing great losses and destruction to the enemy,” Obeida noted.

According to Press TV, Israeli aerial assaults on Gaza prompted the most intense fighting between the regime and the Palestinian resistance fighters since Tel Aviv’s bloody war on the blockaded enclave in 2014.

In retaliation, the Palestinian fighters fired around 700 rockets from Gaza into the occupied territories, killing four Israeli settlers and injuring at least 80 others over the weekend.

In the course of Israel’s seven-week war in 2014, five Israelis died and 67 others were wounded.

Israeli media reported that the “Iron Dome” intercepted only 240 of the projectiles, adding that some 35 rockets and



mortar shells had struck populated areas over the course of Saturday and Sunday.

In an interview with The Jerusalem Post, former head of Israeli military intelligence’s research department, Yaakov Amidror, revealed that the “Iron Dome” had failed to intercept all the missiles launched from Gaza due to a number of reasons.

According to him, one of the key issues was that some of the rockets were launched from a very close range, giving the Israeli system next to no time to react and intercept them.

He added that in general the rockets launched from the Gaza Strip are not unique and are “within the capabilities of the Iron Dome.”

Another reason for the failure, the military expert explained, is the system’s peculiar design, which makes it ignore missiles aimed at areas it deems empty or uninhabited.

UN panel links airstrikes on Libya’s government to UAE

TEHRAN — United Nations inspectors are reportedly probing missile attacks on Libya’s capital of Tripoli with the apparent use of drones used by the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

In a confidential report to the Security Council, a UN panel of experts said that it had inspected photographs of missile debris and identified the weapon as a Blue Arrow air-to-surface missile that had never been used in Libya in the past, AFP reported Tuesday, citing a leaked copy of the classified report.

The attack on the southern suburbs of Tripoli was carried out on April 19-20 by the so-called Libyan National Army (LNA) forces loyal to renegade strongman General Khalifa Haftar — who is backed by the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Washington — in

efforts to capture the capital city from the internationally-recognized Government of National Accord (GNA) in the divided North African nation.

In a phone call to the Libyan general last month, U.S. President Donald Trump “recognized Field Marshal Haftar’s significant role in fighting terrorism and securing Libya’s oil resources,” according to the White House. Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Egypt have also been praising Haftar’s field victories against other militia forces in the country.

Meanwhile, the Blue Arrow air-to-surface missile used in the attack by LNA forces is possessed by only three countries: China — which is its manufacturer — Kazakhstan, and the UAE, and is paired with the Chinese-built Wing Loong drone, press reports said.

“Probable use of Wing Loong UAV variants by the LNA, or by a third party in support of the LNA” is under investigation by the UN panel, said the report submitted Thursday to the Security Council.

The panel said, however, that it was “almost certain” that the missiles were not directly supplied to Libya by the manufacturer or by the Chinese government. It has also contacted Chinese authorities for information that could help identify the suppliers of the weapon.

According to Press TV, the UN inspectors also pointed out that the use of the drones was “likely a recent non-compliance of the arms embargo as the weapon system reported on has not been identified in Libya before.”

Moreover, UN Secretary-General Anto-

nio Guterres renewed on Monday his call for a ceasefire and for an end “to foreign interference to allow Libyans to be able to once again come together” and find a political solution.

Since April 4, fighting between the LNA and GNA forces has killed at least 432 people, wounded 2,069, and displaced more than 50,000, according to the UN.

In a message late Sunday, Haftar called on his forces to “uproot” GNA troops from “our beloved country.” The attack, however, appears to have mired after GNA forces in the capital put up strong resistance.

Haftar’s message came just hours after the UN mission in Libya called for “an extendable one-week humanitarian truce” to mark the beginning of Ramadan.

U.S. violating NPT, ignoring Israeli regime’s breaches of accord: Bashar al-Ja’afari

Syria’s UN Ambassador Bashar al-Ja’afari has slammed the United States for flagrantly violating the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and turning a blind eye to the Israeli regime’s breaches of the international accord.

“Syria took the initiative in 1968 to join the treaty, and signed the agreement of guarantees with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 1992 ... It also presented a draft resolution in 2003 aimed at the establishment of a (Middle East) region free from weapons of mass destruction (WMD); but the U.S. blocked the measure,” Ja’afari said at the the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in New York on Tuesday.

The Syrian diplomat also lambasted certain Western states for helping Israel establish the Dimona nuclear center and offering it related substances, experience and technology — a step that enabled the Tel Aviv regime to possess hundreds of nuclear heads.

Israel is estimated to have 200 to 400 nuclear warheads

in its arsenal. The regime, however, refuses to either accept or deny having the weapons.

It has also evaded signing the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) amid staunch endeavor by the United States and other Western states on international levels in favor of its non-commitment to the accord.

According to Press TV, the clandestine nuclear activities were uncovered when whistle-blower Mordechai Vanunu, originally a technician at the Dimona nuclear facility, handed overwhelming evidence of Israel’s nuclear program to Britain’s Sunday Times in 1986.

It is believed that the nuclear site is home to Israel’s nuclear weapons.

In September 2017, then-Iranian Ambassador to the IAEA Reza Najafi denounced the West’s double standard approaches on the possession and development of atomic technology, urging a complete end to any nuclear cooperation with the Israeli regime.

Addressing a quarterly meeting of the IAEA’s 35-mem-



ber Board of Governors in Vienna, Najafi warned that the Israeli regime’s nuclear program is negatively impacting security of the Middle East.

Bahrain’s top court upholds death sentences for 2 anti-regime activists

TEHRAN — Bahrain’s supreme court of appeal has upheld death sentences against two anti-regime activists and handed down jail terms to dozens of others as the ruling Al Khalifah regime presses ahead with its heavy clampdown on political dissidents and pro-democracy activists in the kingdom.

On Wednesday, the Court of Cassation also stripped 47 of the defendants of their citizenship, Bahrain’s official news agency BNA, citing an official statement, reported.

The court also upheld life terms for 19 convicts and sentenced 37 others to between five and 15 years in jail.

The statement said the defendants were found guilty of forming a “terror cell” that carried out a number of attacks, killing at least two policemen and wounding several others.

They were also convicted of “smuggling weapons by boat, attacking a prison and helping a number of inmates flee.”

Thirty-six of the convicts, including the



two sentenced to death, are being held in jail, while the rest were sentenced in absentia.

Separately, the same court upheld lengthy jail terms against 19 dissidents on charges of espionage and plotting to overthrow the ruling regime.

The court confirmed life terms for eight of those convicted, 15-year jail terms for nine and 10-year terms for two others, with the citizenship of 15 of them revoked.

Thousands of anti-regime protesters have held demonstrations in Bahrain on an almost

daily basis ever since a popular uprising began in the country in mid-February 2011.

They are demanding that the Al Khalifah regime relinquish power and allow a just system representing all Bahrainis to be established.

Manama has gone to great lengths to clamp down on any sign of dissent. On March 14, 2011, troops from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates were deployed to assist Bahrain in its crackdown.

Scores of people have lost their lives and hundreds of others sustained injuries or got arrested as a result of the Al Khalifah regime’s crackdown.

On March 5, 2017, Bahrain’s parliament approved the trial of civilians at military tribunals in a measure blasted by human rights campaigners as being tantamount to imposition of an undeclared martial law countrywide.

Bahraini monarch King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifah ratified the constitutional amendment on April 3, 2017.

Lavrov warns against U.S. military action in Venezuela

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov Monday warned that U.S. military intervention in Venezuela would be catastrophic and unjustified after he held talks with his U.S. counterpart Mike Pompeo in Finland.

The two men met on the sidelines of a meeting of the Arctic Council in Finland.

Lavrov told reporters his meeting had been constructive and that the two top diplomats had made decent progress when it came to discussing strategic nuclear stability, Reuters reported.

Lavrov also said he was sure that Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President Donald Trump would have another chance to meet again after their summit in Helsinki last year.

Erdogan backs re-run of Istanbul vote after ‘organized corruption’

TEHRAN — Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Tuesday the decision to re-run Istanbul’s mayoral election was an important step toward strengthening democracy, describing the March vote as marred by “organized corruption” and illegality.

The High Election Board ruled on Monday for a fresh Istanbul mayoral contest on June 23, scrapping the March 31 vote which was lost by Erdogan’s party candidate, in a move that drew opposition accusations of dictatorship, Reuters reported.

“We see this as an important step to strengthen our democracy,” Erdogan told lawmakers from his AK Party in parliament. “We believe there was organized corruption and full illegality in the Istanbul mayoral elections.”

The Turkish lira tumbled against the dollar after the election decision, bringing its losses this year to 14 percent as investors fretted about political uncertainty and business leaders criticized the move.

Erdogan said Turkey was facing economic sabotage and vowed to fend off attacks on the economy. “So, what are we going to do? From now on, we will do what we did to terrorists.”

Turkey’s Western allies have also expressed concern about the election’s annulment. German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said the decision was neither transparent nor comprehensible.

Egypt upholds death sentence for 13 members of disbanded militant group

TEHRAN — Egypt’s top appeals court Tuesday upheld death sentences for 13 members of a disbanded militant group who were convicted of launching attacks on security forces, a judicial source and lawyer said.

The 13 had appealed to the Court of Cassation after a Cairo criminal court handed them the death penalty in 2017. The Court of Cassation is the highest civilian court in Egypt and its rulings cannot be challenged on appeal, Reuters reported.

The 13 were members of Ajnad Misr, or Soldiers of Egypt, a group that emerged in January 2014 and targeted security forces in and around the capital Cairo.

The group’s leader was killed by security forces in 2015, and many of its remaining members are held in custody.

Egyptian security forces launched a large security operation in February 2018 to crush Islamist militants who have waged an insurgency that has killed hundreds of soldiers, police and residents over many years.

Security forces have battled militants, including a Daesh (ISIL) affiliate, in the mainly desert region of North Sinai, stretching from the Suez Canal eastwards to the Gaza Strip and Israel, since 2013.

Pompeo cancels Berlin trip at last minute

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has canceled a planned visit to Berlin on Tuesday, a U.S. Embassy spokesman said, citing scheduling reasons.

“Unfortunately, we must reschedule the Berlin meetings due to pressing issues. We look forward to rescheduling this important set of meetings. The Secretary looks forward to being in Berlin soon,” the U.S. Embassy cited a State Department spokesperson as saying.

(Source: Reuters)

Pence to offer ‘carrots’ to Venezuela military, warnings to judges

➡ “He’ll be showing where the opportunities lay if people do the right thing moving forward,” the official said.

Pence is also set to outline new assistance for Venezuelans who have fled the oil-rich OPEC member, which has been plagued by hyperinflation and shortages of food, water, power and medicine - and a “Day One” economic assistance plan for Venezuela contingent on Maduro’s departure, the official added.

The vice president in addition will deliver a “warning shot” to magistrates on Venezuela’s supreme court. The Treasury Department sanctioned the court’s president, Maikel Moreno, in 2017 and the seven principal members of its constitutional chamber - and is now preparing to sanction the 25 remaining members of the court, the official said.

“We feel like that’s where the pressure needs to be,” according to the official.

“All 32 magistrates in the TSJ are going to sink or swim together,” the official said, using the acronym for Tribunal Supremo de Justicia.

The court would be responsible for signing off on any warrant for an arrest of Guaido - a move the U.S. official emphasized would have severe consequences.

FIFA ensures gender parity with two new women’s honors at annual awards

FIFA will introduce awards for the best women’s goalkeeper as well as the women’s team of the year during its annual Best Football Awards, world soccer’s governing body said.

The move ensures both men and women will now claim awards in the same categories, with this year’s winners set to be crowned in Milan on Sept. 23.

“It is yet another step in the right direction to raise the profile of women’s football,” FIFA’s deputy secretary general Zvonimir Boban said in a statement.

“FIFA is certain that France will host a groundbreaking edition of the Women’s World Cup this year, so I cannot think of a better moment to introduce these new awards.”

(Source: Reuters)

Conte rules out coaching Roma in near future

Former Juventus, Italy and Chelsea coach Antonio Conte has ruled out an immediate move to AS Roma where he was considered the favourite to replace Claudio Ranieri at the end of the season.

“Today, the conditions are not there,” he told Gazzetta dello Sport in an interview although he did not rule out coaching the club at some point in the future.

“I need to have the perception that I can beat anyone,” said Conte, who has not coached since being fired by Chelsea 10 months ago. “I need to feel that winning is possible. Otherwise, I will happily stay where I am.”

Ranieri took over at Roma in March after Eusebio Di Francesco was fired and was given the job until the end of this season.

Conte, who won three successive Serie A titles with Juventus and the English Premier League in his first season with Chelsea, added that he had nothing against the city itself.

“I fell in love with Rome when I frequented it during my two years as national team coach,” he said. “At the (Stadio) Olimpico, I feel the passion of the public who live their football with a special intensity.”

Gazzetta said that Conte’s comments increased the chances that he could either return to Juventus or join AC Milan or Inter Milan after the end of the season.

“I have a problem: winning,” he said. “It is the goal of my work. The way there involves work, sacrifice, a unity of purpose, of thinking about us and not about me. I don’t know any other way.”

(Source: Football Italia)

Ribery to play on for a couple of seasons after Bayern exit

Bayern Munich winger Franck Ribery plans to play on for a few more seasons after leaving the Bavarians at the end of the current campaign, he said on Tuesday.

The 36-year-old last week announced his departure from Munich after 12 years at the club.

“There are several options, but it is still a bit early to say what will happen next season,” Ribery told a news conference in Munich.

“But there will be something, that’s for sure. I will play on for one or two more years, and then I will return 100 percent to Munich.”

He did not give any details about where he hoped to play next season.

Ribery, who will become the only Bundesliga player to have won the league title nine times if his team clinch it in the last two match days, said he had spoken with club bosses about a possible post there after his playing days are over.

The Frenchman joined Bayern in 2007 and has won 21 major titles with the Bavarians including the 2013 Champions League and Club World Cup titles, as well as five German Cups.

“We have discussed this with (club president) Uli (Hoeness) and (CEO) Karl-Heinz Rummenigge,” Ribery said. “But as you know a lot can happen in two years. So the first thing is for me to return to Munich. Then we will see.”

Former France international Ribery will join fellow veteran forward Arjen Robben in leaving the club at the end of the campaign, marking the end of the pair’s iconic ‘Robbery’ partnership at the Allianz Arena.

(Source: Goal)

Queen’s wildcard reserved for Murray

A wildcard has been reserved for former world number one Andy Murray to play at the Queen’s Club Championships in June but the Scot has been given time to confirm his participation, organisers said on Tuesday.

Murray, a three-times Grand Slam champion, has not played competitively since his first round exit at the Australian Open in January. He has since undergone hip resurfacing surgery.

The 31-year-old said last month he was pain-free but under no pressure to return and that he would attempt to make a comeback only if his body allowed it.

“A wildcard is being held for five-time champion Andy Murray, who will confirm closer to the time if he’s fit enough to compete,” organisers said in a statement. The tournament’s main draw begins on June 17.

The Queen’s Club Championships, where Murray last won the title in 2016, has traditionally been a warm-up tournament for Wimbledon.

Also in the field are defending champion Marin Cilic, 2018 Wimbledon runner-up Kevin Anderson, Juan Martin del Potro, Stefanos Tsitsipas, Stan Wawrinka and Nick Kyrgios.

(Source: Eurosport)

Iker Casillas unsure over future after heart attack

Former Spain and Real Madrid goalkeeper Iker Casillas says he “does not know what the future will be” after suffering a heart attack earlier this month.

The 37-year-old Casillas was taking part in training with current club Porto when he suffered an acute myocardial infarction, which occurs when a part of the heart doesn’t receive enough blood.

Speaking to reporters from outside the hospital in Porto after being discharged on Monday, Casillas paid tribute to the medical staff that had cared for him over the past week, and expressed his gratitude for the messages of support.

But he also stressed that he would take his time over making a decision about whether to return to football in the future.

“I will have to wait a couple of weeks or a couple of months, the truth is I don’t care (how long),” Casillas said.

“I don’t know what will happen in the future but the most important thing is to be here and to be able to speak with calm.”

A World Cup champion with Spain in 2010, Casillas spent 16 seasons with Real Madrid, winning three Champions League titles and five La Liga crowns.

The Spaniard, who turns 38 later this month, moved to Porto in 2015 where he won the Portuguese title last season.

Widely considered one of the greatest goalkeepers of all time, Casillas made his professional debut as a teenager for Real Madrid and went on to make 725 appearances for the club.

He was an integral part of the Spanish national team as it dominated international football for four years, captaining his country to victory at Euro 2008, the 2010 World Cup and Euro 2012.

Casillas signed a new two-year contract with Porto in March and has helped the club qualify for the knockout stages of the Champions League for the past two seasons.

He currently holds the record of most career Champions League appearances with 177.

(Source: CNN)



‘No shoot Vinnie, no shoot!’- Guardiola glad Kompany ignored his calls



Manchester City captain Vincent Kompany said he ignored calls “not to shoot” from his team mates as he fired in from long range to earn his side a crucial 1-0 win over Leicester City in the Premier League on Monday.

With Liverpool having reclaimed the top spot in the standings after their win at Newcastle United on Saturday, City looked nervy as they reached the hour mark at the Etihad without scoring a goal.

Kompany then came to the rescue by arrowing in a stunning strike into the top corner in the 70th minute to score his first goal of the season, his first-ever from outside the box in the Premier League, to win the match for City.

“Everyone was saying don’t shoot but I’ve not come this far in my career to be told when I can and can’t shoot,” Kompany told Sky Sports.

“I’ve had 15 years of top-level midfielders telling me not to shoot but I always told them one day I am going to have a shot from outside the box and I’m going to score a goal.”

City manager Pep Guardiola said he was one of those urging his captain not to shoot but praised the impact Kompany has had on the club.

“There are players who help us to be who we are today — Joe Hart, Pablo Zabaleta and Vincent Kompany,” Guardiola said.

“When he (Kompany) is fit, he is an incredible centre-back. Not just for the goal. He is a leader. I am happy for him for the club, and for everyone.”

Guardiola also said a new contract for Kompany will be discussed at the end of the season.

“We spoke with him one month ago. We are going to take a beer together (at the end of the season) and decide what is best, especially for the club.”

A 14th consecutive league win for City at Brighton and Hove Albion on Sunday will mean they will retain the Premier League title for the first time in the club’s history, but Guardiola said the pressure is still very much on his side.

“Liverpool play without pressure because they know it is not in their hands,” Guardiola added. “It is easy. We have the pressure.”

“Brighton got a result against Arsenal. We ... know how tough it will be. They are strong with set-pieces. It is in our hands, one more game.”

(Source: BBC)

Atletico Madrid captain Godin confirms Atletico exit



Atletico Madrid captain Diego Godin announced on Tuesday that he will leave the club at the end of the season.

Godin has been one of the best central defenders in the world under Atletico coach Diego Simeone, who attended an emotional press conference at the Wanda Metropolitano, along with several players and president Enrique Cerezo.

The 33-year-old would not confirm his next club but indicated regret at not being able to agree a new contract.

“I’m nervous, even more than for a match,” said a tearful Godin. “These will be my final days at Atletico Madrid. I want to communicate all the love I have for this club, this shirt.”

“I am Atletico, because this is not a club, it’s a family and a way of life. It has been my home and it’s very hard to say goodbye. I never imagined this moment would come and I am not prepared.”

Godin has made 381 appearances for Atletico and remains a key figure in the team, but the Uruguayan has rejected offers to extend his contract, which expires on June 30.

He is unlikely to be the last high-profile player to leave Atletico this summer.

After a disappointing season, Lucas

Hernandez has already agreed to join Bayern Munich, while uncertainty hangs over the futures of Filipe Luis, Juanfran, Thomas Partey, Saul Niguez and even Antoine Griezmann.

“In short, I am captain of the team and have been here many years,” said Godin. “We have not reached an agreement to continue so my time here is over. It has been the best of my career and my life.”

Godin added: “I would like to play here until I’m 40 but it’s impossible. For me the priority has always been the club, the team, my teammates.”

“But we could not reach an agreement so I have decided to leave. There’s nothing more to it than that.”

Since joining Atletico from Villarreal in 2010, Godin has won La Liga, the Copa del Rey and the Europa League twice. He also reached the Champions League final in 2014 and 2016. Atletico lost both to Real Madrid. The timing of the announcement means Atletico’s fans can bid Godin farewell at their last home game of the season, against Sevilla on Sunday.

“As a kid I dreamed of playing football, playing for Uruguay, playing in Europe and being a big player,” Godin said.

(Source: Mirror)

Favourite Son: Spurs star’s brother details tough path to the top

The South Korean star leading Tottenham Hotspur’s charge for a place in the Champions League final had a unique football upbringing. But that was only one component of his success, his brother told AFP.

Striker Son Heung-min, 26, has been instrumental in Spurs’ run to the semi-finals of Europe’s top club competition, scoring three times over two legs against Manchester City to reach the last four.

But he was suspended for the first leg of the semi, a 1-0 home defeat to Ajax, and will be crucial to their efforts in the Netherlands on Wednesday, despite picking up a petulant Premier League red card at the weekend.

Around 8,500 kilometres (5,300 miles) away, his elder brother and fellow striker Son Heung-yun -- three years his senior -- will be watching closely.

For years, the two boys were trained by their father, Son Woong-jung, a former professional footballer who aimed to take his sons to the top with a strict and disciplined regimen.

“Everything we did revolved around football,” said Heung-yun. “Our father told us we had to go to bed early to play football and that we had to eat well to play football.”

“He always said that life was short and we should do things we liked and when we did, we should pursue it to the point of going a little bit crazy about it.”

Renowned for concentrating on ball skills and not allowing them to shoot or join a team -- where they might be distracted by trying too hard to win games -- their father laid a foundation for the rising Son.

The brothers would exchange glances as they endured the tough daily sessions.



Heung-yun remembers training one New Year’s Day on a snow-covered lot in bitter cold as a 13-year-old. Before he knew it, he covered his ears with his hands, only for his father -- who was showing his sons how to dribble -- to turn back and immediately berate him, as he often did when he felt they were not trying their best.

■ **Fermented cabbage**

Both boys looked up to their father -- who spent hours picking up the tiniest pebbles on a dirt lot before his sons came for practice -- and took his words as “law”.

But the older brother often clashed with their father, taking after his hot temper, while Heung-min accepted everything that was thrown at him.

“Even when he was reprimanded by our father, Heung-min was able to shake it off and smile,” Heung-yun told AFP.

Son’s transformation from Korean hopeful to European star was catalysed by the youth academy at Hamburg SV, which he joined aged 16, leaving school to do so in a highly unusual decision backed by his father.

But it started inauspiciously. Soon after Heung-min arrived in Germany, he called his family to say he was missing them and even kimchi, the fermented cabbage dish that is a mainstay of the Korean table.

“He never really liked kimchi but he was crying and said he wanted to eat kimchi and missed our family,” Heung-yun said, noting his brother also had to face language barriers and racism.

In elementary school Heung-min snacked on junk food and was quite chubby, his brother said, but was always determined to make it as a footballer.

“He had a strong sense of purpose,” added Kwon Soon-young, Son’s homeroom teacher in middle school.

“He tried to learn English and kept a journal where he wrote that he will achieve his dream as a football player.”

Son was bright and friendly and known as a happy kid, says his brother, but adds that he was always very competitive.

“When we were young, we played video games a lot and Heung-min is quite good and we both hated losing so we would practice video games on our own,” he said.

But ultimately, he added: “Both Heung-min and I shared the goal of joining the national team, and in that sense I did not succeed while Heung-min did.”

Heung-min had been “crying from anger”, his brother said. “I think you need to have that much desire to win.”

(Source: AFP)

Next Iran coach to be introduced soon, Taj says

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — The new head coach of Iran national football team will be introduced by the end of the week, Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) president Mehdi Taj says.

The local media had reported that the next Team Melli coach will be an Iranian coach since the federation faces huge financial problems due to sanctions imposed on Iran.

However, Taj says the next coach is a great European coach.

“The next coach, who is a European big name, will travel to Iran by the end of the week. It shows that the sanctions have not negative impact on the Iranian sports and the other countries are not going to cut ties with Iran,” FFIRI president said.

Mahmoud Eslamian, a member of FFIRI board of directors, has also said the next coach will lead Team Melli in the next friendly matches with Syria and South Korea.

Iran will host Syria on June 6 in Tehran’s Azadi Stadium and travel to South Korea to meet the Taeguk Warriors at the Seoul World Cup Stadium on June 11.

Iran are without a coach since Carlos Queiroz left to take over as Colombia coach after Team Melli’s AFC Asian Cup 2019 campaign in the United Arab Emirates in January earlier this year.

Under guidance of the Portuguese coach, Iran lost to Japan 3-0 in Asian Cup semi-finals.

Team Melli are preparing for the 2022 World Cup qualifiers that begin in the second half of this year.



ACL: Ulsan Hyundai beat Sydney FC

Mix Diskerud’s cheeky backheel earned Ulsan Hyundai a narrow 1-0 win over Sydney FC on Tuesday that ensured the 2012 champions will progress to the knockout rounds of the 2019 AFC Champions League from Group H.

The three points earned from Ulsan’s third win of the group phase mean Kim Do-hoon’s side cannot finish outside the top two places and they will advance to the Round of 16, while Sydney FC crash out.

Diskerud’s goal came 14 minutes into an even second half when the United States international’s quick thinking allowed him to score after the ball had been deflected into his path in the penalty area, and his improvised finish gave Andrew Redmayne no chance in the Sydney goal.

It was a bitter blow for a Sydney side that needed a win to haul themselves into contention for a place in the next phase of the competition and who had dictated the tempo of much of the first half, with Anthony Caceres impressive in midfield and Michael Zullo a threat down the left as Steve Corica’s side camped out in Ulsan territory.

Zullo’s crossing twice threatened to unlock the home



defense in the opening 45 minutes with the winger’s center eventually finding Paulo Retre 15 minutes into the game, only for his shot to be skied off target.

Midway through the half, Zullo was to the fore again, this time providing the cross from which Reza Goochannejhad headed over the bar.

Ulsan looked short of the form they have shown throughout the group phase, but Kim’s side still created chances; Junior Negrao’s header was steered just wide soon after Retre’s opportunity while Redmayne moved sharply to his right to deny Kim Bo-kyung four minutes before the interval.

Zullo continued to cause the Ulsan defense problems after the interval, with his center from the left finding Adam Le Fondre’s head six minutes into the half only for the Englishman’s effort to fly wide of Oh Seung-hoon’s goal.

Ulsan pressed forward with captain Park Jo-hoo denied by Redmayne’s reactions three minutes before Diskerud put Ulsan in front while at the other end Le Fondre could have levelled the scores in the 64th minute, but he fired his shot straight at Oh.

Substitute Daniel Da Silva also went close, forcing Oh into making a save with his feet as Ulsan held on to take the win and secure their spot in the knockout rounds.

(Source: the-afc)

Iran, where women are making their mark in canoe slalom



Katayoon Ashraf knew what she wanted to do, and she was pretty confident she knew how to do it. But when you’re a female, and your passion is paddling a canoe in a male-dominated society like Iran, it is never going to be as easy as it should be.

“Women aren’t strong enough to go in the river alone,” was one comment she heard often.

Other times it was open hostility. She travelled the country with her daughter and they paddled in rivers where the locals had never seen a woman paddling before, and a lot of them did not like it.

But she persevered. She had fallen in love with canoeing, and wanted more Iranian women to experience the exhilaration of rushing down rivers and navigating through rough and tumble obstacle courses.

Ashraf love of water began as a life-saver, and then she was introduced to canoe polo. It was a natural fit, and before long she was selected in Iran’s first women’s canoe polo team at the Asian Championships in Tehran.

Canoe polo also taught her how to eskimo roll, so the natural next step was to take these skills to the river.

Her first challenge was overcoming the doubts that had been drilled into her by people who thought slalom was no place for women. She even started questioning if she could paddle in a river without the

help of men, and felt petrified she would be criticized by “men who made heroes of themselves”.

“When I passed the hard part of a river, the thing I heard most of the time was that I should stop, instead of being offered advice to help me improve,” she said.

But those doubts didn’t last long. Katayoon Ashraf was not the first to be mesmerized by the beauty of a canoe in the wild.

“The experience of paddling in nature was so wonderful,” Ashraf said.

“I entered the first slalom national women’s team and from that time I started to know myself better. I came out of my cocoon, made new friends, and had new experiences.

“I got to travel to other countries and meet successful women in this field, and I had a chance to talk about how we could change and make our life better.”

■ ON HER OWN

Ashraf points out there were many men who were very supportive of her, and let her join their paddling groups. While this was a big step forward, Ashraf said she still felt stress in case she made a mistake and brought trouble to the team. So Ashraf decided to head out on her own.

“I decided to collect more information to make myself stronger,” she said.

“I travelled to many places sometime paddling in raft with my teenage daughter

who was always with me in her green kayak.

“Day after day other girls trusted us and the number of people like us became more and more. We got stronger by helping each other in the paddling and we passed all those hard days.”

Katayoon Ashraf was rewarded for her perseverance by being appointed coach of the women’s national team. But then many of the real challenges began.

Canoe sprint and canoe polo were already established in Iran, but canoe slalom was new territory. Once again Ashraf and her determined band of female paddlers were facing challenges from those who believed they knew better.

■ EEWK

Ashraf was invited to an ICF expand and extend women’s canoeing (EEWK) camp in Turkey with two of her athletes. It was very much the turning point for her.

Many in the group had experienced similar issues, and each had different ways to deal with them. From those dinner-table conversations ideas flowed, and Ashraf returned to Iran full of thoughts and dreams to finally make slalom an important part of her country’s canoeing culture.

She had learned how to organize a similar camp in Tehran, and went to work to turn her dreams into reality. People were still telling her that putting women in a river alone was dangerous, and that it was not possible for women to put gates in a river.

But what would they know? And there were men who not only trusted Ashraf and her group, but also offered financial and spiritual help.

The first camp was five years ago, and attracted athletes from Turkey, Greece, France, Morocco, Tunisia and from three different provinces around Iran.

“We were training slalom, respecting our cultures, cooperating and learning from each other,” Ashraf said.

“They made a small course and they had different kinds of experiences in the river. They capsized and swam, they made mistakes without any stress of feeling incapable.

“There was happiness and peace.”

It was the acorn that turned into a giant oak tree. At that time Ashraf was the only female coach in Iran, there were no women judges, and only a handful of

paddlers brave enough to take on a river.

Four years later, Iran could boast more than 20 female coaches, 25 judges, 70 athletes, boys and girls, across ten Iranian provinces.

Iran ran a very successful project with the help of the IOC identifying talent, training coaches and teaching Olympic values, that attracted 120 athletes and 25 coaches across canoe sprint and slalom and rowing.

From that project, two athletes, a boy and girl, qualified for last year’s Youth Olympic Games in Argentina, with Nirvana Asadbeki finishing fourth in girl’s slalom.

In the space of just five years, Iran has progressed from a country with next to no female canoe slalom activity, to a vibrant environment which is very much a prototype for canoe development around the world.

They develop their own canoes and equipment, organize and run major events like Asia’s first U23 and junior canoe slalom championships, have training courses throughout the country, and have international women judges who officiate at the top level competitions.

There’s also been fantastic spin-offs, like developing a world-class rescue team of slalom paddlers who played an important role in helping people in the recent Iran floods.

And last month, Iran hosted another EEWK camp. This time Ashraf was joined by three other young women to organize and provide coaching. It’s a mobile camp, with the quartet travelling to villages and cities throughout the country introducing canoe slalom.

These camps are for men and women and put a lot of emphasis on fairness.

“We were in the places that parents didn’t permit girls to come in the river, and it is so wonderful to see how they come down to the river with a big smile on their faces,” Ashraf said.

“This capable group of women can be a very good example of cooperation, responsibility, hard working and peace for all girls and boys .

“What I can say to all is - Be like a river always, move if water stay still it will become bog. If river stopped with a rock, will change its way to reach the sea.”

(Source: canoeicf.com)

Esteghlal eliminated from AFC Champions League

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Esteghlal football team of Iran failed to book a place at the 2019 AFC Champions League Round of 16.

On Monday, the Iranian team were held to a 1-1 draw by Al Duhail of Qatar in Tehran’s Azadi Stadium in Group C.

Esteghlal defender Roozbeh Cheshmi pounced on the loose ball to fire home from close range in the 54th minute but the hosts’ joy was short-lived as Al Duhail fired back instantly after resumption of play. Ali Afif exchanged passes with Almoez Ali down the left flank before crossing for El Arabi. Esteghlal goalkeeper Hossein Hosseini was first to the ball, but his clearance only went as far as Edmilson and the Brazilian converted the second ball into the back of the net to bring the game back to square one.

With the draw, Al Duhail advance to the round of 16 with a game to spare. The Qatari side have eight points to their name and hold a superior head-to-head record against both Esteghlal and Al Ain, meaning neither of the two sides can catch them. The result also confirms Al Hilal SFC’s progression to the next round.

Matchday Six will see Al Duhail hosting Al Hilal to decide the group leaders, while Esteghlal’s trip to Al Ain will be merely for bragging rights.

Iraqi midfielder Humam Tariq dropped from Esteghlal

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iraq international midfielder Humam Tariq will not even be in Esteghlal

after he protested the team’s officials due to lack of playing time.

Humam left the team after he understood that he is not in the list for the match against Al Duhail of Qatar in the AFC Champions League.

Newly-appointed Esteghlal coach Farhad Majidi said there is no place for Humam as soon as he is Esteghlal coach.

Esteghlal were held to a 1-1 draw by the Qatari giants and were knocked out of the AFC Champions League.

The media reports suggest that Esteghlal has not paid Humam’s salaries and the Iraqi player will part company with the team at the end of the season.



Behnam Yakhchali a candidate for “Best Guard in Asia”

Behnam Yakhchali of Iran is a candidate to overtake the title as the “Best Guard in Asia”.

He made his Asia Cup debut in 2015, but it wasn’t until the recent 2017 edition of the tournament that he took the huge lead forward as a star for silver medalist Iran.

The 1.95M (6’5”) guard put up modest 4.0 points, 3.1 rebounds, and 1.3 assists in 2015. It was an impressive line for a 19-year-old going up against Asia’s best, but it would be nothing compared to his breakout in the most recent Asia Cup.

In 2017, Yakhchali led all players in three-point shots made with a ridiculous conversion rate of 57.9 percent and was among Iran’s top scorers with 16.0 points per game.

Yakhchali plays with precision and efficiency which makes life for everyone else on the Iran national team a little bit easier. At the rate he’s improving and his age, he’ll be among the top guards in Asia for years and years to come.

Yakhchali will vie with Shea Ili from New Zealand, Japanese Yuki Togashi, Wael Arakji from Lebanon and Chinese Guo Ailun for the “Best Point Guard in Asia”.

(Source: fiba.basketball)



Fans #UnfollowManUnited social media accounts

After Manchester United missed out on Champions League football for next season, the backlash against the club’s ownership by irked fans has kicked up another notch.

An underwhelming 1-1 draw against relegated Huddersfield at the weekend ended United’s hopes of muscling into the top four, opening the door for scorn and derision to be lumped upon the people running the club -- particularly chief executive Ed Woodward.

Woodward has been in situ at Old Trafford for seven years during which, as well as forging numerous lucrative corporate partnerships around the world, he has regularly cited United’s massive, ever-growing online following as a marker of success and progress.

However, on the pitch things have stagnated somewhat, leaving supporters feeling a little short-changed by Woodward’s incessant obsession with his social media metrics.

As such, a protest hashtag has been launched with fans banding together to boycott United’s various platforms via the #UnfollowManUnited campaign -- the plan being to lower the club’s follower count and therefore hit Woodward where it really hurts.

(Source: ESPN)

INTERNATIONAL DAILY
www.tehrantimes.com
 ■ Managing Director: Ali Asgari
 ■ Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Ghaderi

» Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
 editor@tehrantimes.com
 » Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
 » Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051450
 » Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
 » Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
 » www.eshtarak.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

When wisdom reaches perfection, words diminish.

Imam Ali (AS)

Tehran photo exhibit to explore Ramadan in Afghanistan

A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** — Photos by Afghan photographer Mohammad-Musa Akbari and his daughter, Fatemeh, about daily life in Afghanistan during the holy month of Ramadan will be showcased in an exhibition at Tehran's Niavaran Cultural Center on Friday.

Entitled "Afghanistan, Culture, Life, Ramadan", the exhibit will raise funds for Afghan children deprived of their basic right to an education.

The 48-year old Mohammad-Musa has so far held several exhibits to introduce the rich culture and history of his country.

The exhibit will run until May 21.



A poster for the exhibition "Afghanistan, Culture, Life, Ramadan".

Iranian Academy of Arts to review illustrations of Shahnameh

A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** — The Iranian Academy of Arts is scheduled to organize a meeting on May 15 to review illustrations of Ferdowsi's Persian epic, Shahnameh.

The meeting has been organized to celebrate Ferdowsi Day, the academy announced in a press release on Tuesday.

A number of Iranian artists and literati, including Aidin Aghdashlu, Mehdi Hosseini and Bahman Namvar-Motlaq, are scheduled to deliver speeches during the session.

A rare manuscript of the Shahnameh, which was commissioned by Prince Ibrahim, the grandson of the great Timur and governor of Shiraz in southern Iran from 1414 to 1435, will be put on display at the session.

The academy also plans to organize an exhibition of illustrations of the Shahnameh, which will run until May 28.



A poster for a meeting on illustrating Ferdowsi's Shahnameh.

“We’re sorry!” says “Game of Thrones,” as Starbucks makes a cameo

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — “Game of Thrones” may be a medieval fantasy but Sunday’s episode had a distinctly modern touch when a stray Starbucks cup made an unexpected cameo in the fictional Westeros kingdom of dragons and zombies, sending fans into a frenzy.

The distinctive paper cup with plastic cover was spotted on a table at a feast in Winterfell within reach of characters Jon Snow and Daenerys Targaryen during episode 4 of the final season, “The Last of the Starks.”

Bernie Caulfield, one of the executive producers of HBO’s global hit television series, apologized to fans.

“I can’t believe (it),” she said in an interview with New York’s WNYC radio on Monday. “Our onset prop people and decorators are so on it a 1,000 percent.

“We’re sorry! Westeros was the first place to actually have Starbucks,” Caulfield quipped.

In a tongue-in-cheek comment, HBO said that “the latte that appeared in the episode was a mistake. Daenerys had ordered an herbal tea.” Starbucks, the world’s biggest coffee chain, had its own take on the unexpected publicity in a series that is watched by more than 30 million people in the United States alone.

“TBH we’re surprised she didn’t order a Dragon Drink,” the company said on Twitter, referring to its summer menu addition of a bright pink fruit and coconut milk beverage that contains the tropical dragon fruit, also known as pitaya.

Fans lit up social media with memes and jokes about the stray cup, with some inserting the company’s green and white logo on photos of castles featured in the series.

GAA Foundation to display works by Iranian sculptor in Venice

A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** — Two sculptures by Iranian artist Masud Akhavanjam are scheduled to be put on display by the Global Art Affairs Foundation in Venice alongside the Venice Biennale this year.

“Dilemma of Man” and “Metamorphosis” will be showcased in the Giardini Marinaressa, East Garden from May 11 to November 24, Art Critique, a Parisian art news website, announced on Monday.

The sculptures made of stainless steel combine multiple figures representing Persian mythology, contemporary socio-political themes and philosophy.

About four meters tall, “Dilemma of Man” is a man with a wing of an angel and wing of a bat representing the battle between good and evil.

Akhavanjam has drawn inspiration from Persian mythical figures of the Achaemenid period to create “Metamorphosis”, which is smaller in size. It features a combination of a bull, an elephant and a deer.

Educated in both Germany and the U.S., Akhavanjam began his career with sculpting ceramics as a teenager. Working as the manager of the Design Department at his family’s household appliance manufacturing company inspired Akhavanjam to establish his own workshop where he brought together the knowledge he garnered in the manufacturing industry and his passion for sculpting.

He made his first bronze sculpture in 2011. He went on to utilize stainless steel, a material more commonly associated with appliances and household fixtures, transforming it from rough and sturdy into “delicate, beautiful and gleaming form[s].”



“Dilemma of Man” by Masud Akhavanjam.

London art fair to display works by Iranian artists

Affordable Art Fair Hampstead Heath, London



Capital Art London Stand H9

A poster for the Affordable Art Fair in London.

A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** — The Capital Art London, an art center for art lovers and investors, will display works by Iranian artists during the Affordable Art Fair.

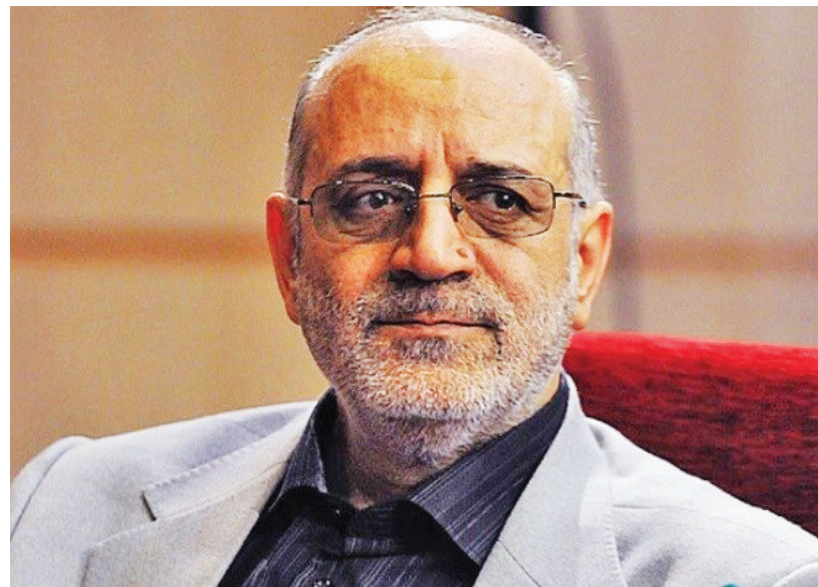
The Iranian artists in the fair are Bahram Hanafi, Erfan Shahyad, Mohammad Bozorgi, Omid Hallaj and Siamak Azmi, the organizers have

announced.

Exhibitors from all over the world will showcase a wide range of products at the fair running from May 9 to 12.

The Affordable Art Fair features a diverse and inspiring collection of original and contemporary paintings, prints and sculptures in price ranges to suit any taste.

Filmmaker Jamal Shurjeh released from hospital



Director Jamal Shurjeh in an undated photo.

A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iranian filmmaker Jamal Shurjeh returned home on Monday after spending about a week at a Tehran hospital for a brain disease.

“He is in good condition and needs to stay home to recover from the illness completely,” producer Ahmad Miralai who is working with Shurjeh on the TV series

“Prophet Moses (AS)” told the Persian service of MNA on Tuesday.

Shurjeh filled in for director Farajollah Salahshur, who died in 2016, to complete the TV series “Prophet Moses (AS)” in 2018.

His latest movie “Ahmed Bey”, a co-production between Iran and Algeria about the last Ottoman Bey who ruled Algiers during the 19th century, has not been released yet.

Tehran Municipality removes bust of Jamshid Mashayekhi for corrections

A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** — The bust of Jamshid Mashayekhi has been removed for corrections, the Tehran Municipality announced on Tuesday, just four days after its installation.

The bust, which was set up near the actor’s house, was criticized for its poor resemblance by many people including Tehran City Council member Ahmad Masjed-Jamei.

“According to sculptor Reza Hassanzadeh, the bust was not complete and needs to be modified. It has been taken back to the master’s workshop for some corrections,” the director of the Public Relations Office of the Tehran Municipality, Majid Salehi Firuzabadi, said.

Sculptor Hassanzadeh, a member of the Association of Iranian Sculptors, has made the bust based on a portrait selected by Mashayekhi’s family.

“We are sure about the quality of works by master



A bust of legendary actor Jamshid Mashayekhi is seen in the Velenjak neighborhood in Tehran on May 3, 2019 just a few minutes after being set up on Moqaddas Ardebili Street. (Tehran Picture Agency/ Shayan Mehrabi)

Hassanzadeh, however he became ill and could not complete the bust until the planned date,” Salehi Firuzabadi added.

During the Sunday session of the City Council, Masjed-Jamei lamented that the bust of Mashayekhi bears no resemblance to him.

“The bust looks nothing like the actor, and it does not deserve his name and position, and I hope the bust will be replaced soon,” he said and asked the Tehran Municipality to be more sensitive about national figures.

Tehran City Council chairman Mohsen Hashemi also expressed his criticism over the bust, and asked sculptors to more careful in making statues of national luminaries.

The bust of the actor was unveiled near his house in the Velenjak neighborhood on Friday during a ceremony attended by Mashayekhi’s family, Tehran Mayor Piruz Hanachi and several art and cultural figures.

Afghan publishers happy with response at Tehran book fair

1 → Farzam has bought copyrights of some Iranian authors at low price and printed their books in Kabul. Due to high cost of paper in Iran and expenses related to transportation, he says it is better to print the books in Afghanistan.

Participating in the fair though is not without difficulties for Afghanistan-based publishers. They have to overcome many hurdles and spend a lot of money to ensure their participation.

Dispatching books from Afghanistan to Iran is still a huge problem for these publishers, which takes at least two days. They are also not happy with the cooperation offered by the Afghan embassy in Tehran, especially its cultural department.

“Neither last year nor this year, our government or our embassy in Tehran helped us. They don’t know how to manage such events”, said Farzam, with a hint of exasperation.

The depreciation of Iranian currency



is other big problem that affects their sales and profits. “When we convert price of books from Afghani to Rial, our books look very expensive to customers in Iran, since the value of Rial has depreciated,”

said Mohammad Jawad Khawari, founder of Nashr-e-Kodakaneh Afghanistan Publications.

This year, the stall of Afghanistan publishers was not ideally located, some

participants complained. “Our stall was located on the margin of the hall, which affected our sales,” said Mosavi. “We were barely able to cover the rent of hall and other expenses.”

Despite the problems, the publishers from Afghanistan are happy with the response of readers. And they are optimistic and hope all the issues would be resolved next year.

“We need better and more accessible location inside the hall because the idea of coming from Afghanistan under difficult conditions is to promote our works,” said Khawari.

We encourage readers to visit our stall, even if they don’t buy the books, said Farzam, adding that there are plans to have an Afghan publishing center in Tehran.

“I urge the publishers based in Kabul to join hands and establish a book publishing center in Tehran. We would need the support of Afghan government in this endeavor,” he said.