



Those who caused problems for Afghans should bear responsibility **2**



Shamkhani thanks nation for backing JCPOA move **2**



Hamed Haddadi returns to Iran national basketball team **15**



Cartoonist Alireza Pakdel finishes first at Kosovar contest **4**

Europe should implement INSTEX soon



See page 2

Hakim, Malki reprimand U.S. moves against Iran

TEHRAN — Ammar al-Hakim, the Iraqi Shia cleric and leader of the National Wisdom Movement, has urged the Iraqi government to adopt what he described as a responsible position to prevent a “tragedy” and act as mediator between the two countries.

Speaking on Saturday in a local event in Iraq, Hakim warned that his country

will “not stand idle by” as Washington’s unabashedly aggressive and hawkish policies against Tehran risk jeopardizing Iraq, ISNA reported.

“We have to protect Iraq from any potential fallout of this conflict because when the call for war is made, reason and logic is forgotten,” said al-Hakim. **→3**

Saudi ship leaves France with arms cargo!

TEHRAN — Despite the release of news about the non-loading of French weapons into the Saudi “Bahri YANBU” vessel, the flotilla loaded the purchased weapons in a French coast and will soon move to Jeddah port.

According to the Western media outlets, it was announced that the ship, which was to load caches of weapons in northern France, did not stop in Le

Havre port due to pressure by human rights organizations.

The incoming news shows that according to information provided by the Mossad (the Zionist regime’s intelligence service) for the Saudi intelligence service, the Yemeni army and popular forces were aware of the ship’s cargo and planned to destroy it. **→13**

‘ Hamas has laser rockets and Israel knows nothing about it’

TEHRAN — High ranking Israeli officials said Palestinian Hamas resistance movement has a huge number of laser rockets and Tel Aviv knows nothing about these rockets, Raialyoum daily reported on Saturday.

“Over more than a decade, the Hamas group has built up a large arsenal of rockets and missiles. It started with crude short-range projectiles and now

possesses rockets that can strike virtually anywhere in Israel,” Israeli ynet news reported.

Meanwhile, the military wing of the Palestinian Hamas resistance movement said last week 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. **→13**

Reducing Iran’s commitments is the result of Trump’s operations: Nephew

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW
By Javad Heirannia

TEHRAN — Richard Nephew, who served as the lead sanctions expert for the U.S. team negotiating with Iran, is of the opinion that I can understand why Iran is preparing to halt its implementation of these key parts of the JCPOA and “do not deny at all the responsibility that the Trump Administration bears in this matter.”

The fellow at the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University, says that “I have long believed that the JCPOA could not survive without U.S. sanctions relief.”

He also says that “Today’s action shows why: Iran will not continue to provide nuclear concessions without economic access.”

Following is the text of the interview:

■ Iran is preparing to halt its implementation of some key parts of the JCPOA for 60 days. What is your assessment of this?

A: It is deeply concerning that Iran is preparing

to halt its implementation of these key parts of the JCPOA, especially on low enriched uranium.

Although I can understand why Iran is doing so and do not deny at all the responsibility that the Trump Administration bears in this matter, the reality is that restarting the buildup of uranium stocks will create further instability and threat in the Middle East and do nothing to solve Iran’s economic problems.

This action means that Iran has now joined the United States in escalating the situation and, ultimately, I think has contributed to the risk of conflict in the region.

■ What is the future of JCPOA according to new development?

A: I have long believed that the JCPOA could not survive without U.S. sanctions relief. Today’s action shows why: Iran will not continue to provide nuclear concessions without economic access.

I therefore believe that the JCPOA’s future is very bleak and that the agreement may expire as early as a few months from now.

■ What is the reaction of President Trump administration especially aggressive wing such as person like Bolton to Iran decision?

A: I do not believe that this is a reasonable assessment of Bolton’s role in the Trump Administration. He remains in the driver’s seat with respect to a variety of policies, especially on Iran, and even if he were to be removed, his views of Iran are shared by many others in the Administration.

■ What’s the point of President Rouhani message (JCPOA is a win-win or lose-lose game) for the other side?

A: Well, clearly, President Rouhani is trying to encourage the United States to return to the agreement and to generate pressure on the United States to do so from other participating countries.

I understand why he is doing it. I do think that, at this point, it is probably a futile gesture given the inadequacy of European, Russian and Chinese pressure on the United States to reverse course to date.

Reducing JCPOA commitments Iran’s appropriate long-overdue decision: prof.

By Payman Yazdani

TEHRAN — Professor of political science describes Iran’s decision to reduce its JCPOA commitments as an appropriate response that clear signals Iran’s patience with Europe’s non-performance of its obligations under the JCPOA is wearing thin.

President Hassan Rouhani said on Wednesday that Iran will stop selling its enriched uranium and heavy water in a reciprocal act to the U.S.’ withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal and re-imposition of sanctions.

The president noted that the decision “does not

mean that Iran will leave the nuclear agreement.”

Rouhani said Iran will give a 60-day moratorium to the remaining parties to the deal to remedy the breaches and preserve Iran’s interests enshrined by JCPOA.

He further said that the European signatories to the deal were doing well in lip service, but they were unable to implement what they vowed.

In light of this development, we reached to Nader Entessar, professor emeritus of political science from university of South Alabama.

Following is the full text of our interview with him:

■ The Iran has decided to reduce part of Tehran’s JCPOA commitment. How do you evaluate this decision from a legal point of view? Can one say that Iran has withdrawn from the deal?

A: I think this was an appropriate and long-overdue decision. Of course, it is a minimalist response but a clear signal that Iran’s patience with Europe’s nonperformance of its obligations under the JCPOA is wearing thin. The decision is a legal decision under the framework of articles 26 and 37 of the JCPOA. In other words, Iran is still abiding by its legal obligations and has by no means withdrawn from the nuclear deal. **→13**



© YJC/ Mehdi Mirsepassi

Intl. Holy Quran Exhibition kicks off in Tehran

TEHRAN — Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Abbas Salehi in company with a number of cultural officials opened the 27th International Holy Quran Exhibition at Tehran’s Imam Khomeini Mosalla on Saturday.

A variety of cultural and Quranic products are on display in different sections of the exhibit.

Pakistan is the guest of honor at this year’s exhibition, which is also playing host to guests from Lebanon, India, Turkey and several other countries. **→16**



PERSPECTIVE

Hanif Ghaffari
Head of the Politics Desk of the TehranTimes

Biden’s key weapon against the Trump

Recent polls in the state of New Hampshire indicate that former Vice President Joe Biden is leading the Democratic Party’s other candidates. After the Biden official announcement of the 2020 presidential election, many Democrat voters prefer to vote for Biden from him and other party candidates. That’s what Biden has made clear to his victory in the Democratic primaries. He is now focusing on the final competition with President Donald Trump of the United States.

As noted, Biden is leading in the latest polls in the United States compared to other Democrat candidates. As The Hill reported, Former Vice President Joe Biden leads Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) by a two-to-one margin in the first-in-the-nation primary state of New Hampshire, according to a new poll. The Monmouth University survey released Thursday found Biden winning 36 percent support, followed by Sanders at 18 percent. South Bend, Ind., Mayor Pete Buttigieg (D) is at 9 percent support, followed by Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) at 8 percent and Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) at 6 percent. Former Rep. Beto O’Rourke (Texas) and Sens. Amy Klobuchar (Minn.) and Cory Booker (N.J.) are each at 2 percent support, followed by former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, Rep. Tim Ryan (Ohio) and tech entrepreneur Andrew Yang at 1 percent each.

Biden also has the best favorability rating in the survey, at 80 percent positive and 15 percent negative. Sanders rings in at 73 percent favorable and 15 percent unfavorable. Biden is mopping up among older voters, with 53 percent of those 65 and older backing the former vice president, compared to only 9 percent for Sanders. Biden also leads Sanders 36 percent to 19 percent among those between the ages of 50 and 64. Sanders does better with younger voters, leading Biden 27 to 20 among those under the age of 50.

Fifty-eight percent of likely Democratic primary voters in New Hampshire describe themselves as moderates or conservatives, and Biden leads Sanders 45 percent to 10 percent among this group. Sanders leads Biden 29 percent to 23 percent among self-described liberals. Biden has sought to highlight his time as vice president under former President Obama, and the Monmouth poll provides evidence that could help him win over New Hampshire Democrats. **→6**



ARTICLE

Ebrahim Fallahi
Tehran Times Journalist

U.S. sanctions Iran’s metals; what’s the impact?

Earlier this week, in an attempt to [as the U.S. president Trump put it] “choke off the country’s largest non-petroleum related sources of export revenue”, Washington imposed new sanctions on Iran’s metals and minerals sectors.

At the first glance [considering Trump’s comments], this might seem to be a heavy hit to Iran’s economy in the near future but a close look into the country’s exports data could reveal Trump’s great miscalculations. In fact, this could even be considered a “blessing in disguise” for the country’s minerals and metal industry.

■ Iran’s metal exports Vs U.S. claims

When the U.S. President Donald Trump announced the new sanctions on Iran’s metals and minerals, he said these new sanctions are aimed to cut off about 10 percent of the country’s total revenues! Now let’s take a look at Iran’s foreign trade data to see how much this claim is close to reality.

According to Iran’s foreign trade data provided by the trade ministry and customs administration, the country sold near \$50 billion worth of oil in the past Iranian calendar year (March 2018-March 2019) while the total non-oil exports stood at about \$44 billion, so in total Iran’s exports revenues stood at about \$95 billion in the past fiscal year. That means, 10 percent of the country’s total exports revenue would be \$9.5 billion.

Now let’s take a look at Iran’s metal exports in the mentioned year. According to the customs administration data and the data provided by the ministry of industry, mines and trade, the value of exports from iron, iron ore and steel sectors stood at about \$4 billion while the value of copper chain exports hardly touched \$1 billion, so despite the great production levels, the value of metals and mineral that Iran exports hardly accounts for five percent of the country’s total exports revenues.

■ The impact of sanctions on exports

Although, as we saw, the portion of exports revenues from metals and minerals is quite insignificant compared to the country’s total exports, however we will also take a look at the possible impacts of these new sanctions on this sector as well. **→4**

Araqchi says those who caused problems for Afghans should bear responsibility

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister **d e s k** for Political Affairs Abbas Araqchi said on Saturday that Iran does not intend to deport Afghan refugees, however, those who have caused problems for the Afghan people should bear responsibility.

“The issue is not deportation of the refugees. The issue is that those who have caused problems for the Afghans should fulfil their responsibility. Our audience is not Afghanistan and Afghans. Our audience are Westerners and Europeans. They should fulfil their responsibility towards Afghanistan and help them solve their problems,” he said in a televised interview.

He noted that Iran has always helped and will continue to help the Afghan refugees.

“We have no problem with presence of the Afghan refugees in Iran. However, it cannot happen that the Westerners impose sanctions and economic pressure on us and forget their own responsibilities in this respect,” he remarked.



Araqchi said on Friday that the Western countries have caused many problems for the Afghan people and should fulfil their duties in helping the Afghan refugees.

“Iran has been hosting Afghan refugees for 40 years with generosity and the Western countries, which have caused many miseries for the Afghan people, should fulfil their duties in this respect,” Araqchi told IRNA.

The issue of refugees and asylum seekers is an international issue and helping them is also “an international responsibility”, he insisted.

He added, “The European governments should pay their share for hosting refugees be it through helping financially or granting them asylum.”

Elsewhere, Araqchi said, “It is obvious that under the current situation in which the U.S. administration has imposed cruel and illegal sanctions against Iran with no international justification and seeks to restrict the Islamic Republic’s financial resources, the Iranian people’s demands will find new dimensions.”

However, he said, it is not on Iran’s agenda to expel the Afghan refugees.

In a televised interview aired on Wednesday, Araqchi said that Iran hosts the Afghan refugees wholeheartedly, despite many financial costs.

“There are over three million Afghans in Iran who have taken more than two millions job opportunities and take three to five billion euros out of the country,” he explained.

He added that there are 468,000 Afghan pupils in Iran and each of them costs 600 euros for the education system per year.

There are also more than 3,000 Afghan university students in Iran whose education costs Iran about 15,000 euros annually, the senior diplomat explained.

The deputy foreign minister said Iran will be forced to adopt new policies when its income is reduced because of the U.S. sanctions.

Afghans made their way into the neighboring countries, mainly Iran and Pakistan, after the Soviet invasion and during the civil war that followed.

In May 2015, Ayatollah Khamenei issued a decree to the Ministry of Education allowing all Afghan children of school age, regardless of documentation status, to attend primary and secondary school education. In addition, all refugees of school-age are now exempt from paying costly refugee-specific tuition fees, which encourages even vulnerable and economically challenged families to send their children to school.

Ex-lawmaker rejects idea of referendum on FATF

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Former senior lawmaker Mohammad **d e s k** Reza Bahonar has rejected the notion of putting to a referendum accession to the FATF, saying such decisions should be decided by the country’s diplomatic body.

“In such issues, holding a referendum is basically meaningless,” Bahonar said in an interview with the Mehr news agency published on Saturday.



“Imagine if we wanted to decide whether to have relations with say Turkey or not, and we put this issue to a referendum; If the people voted in favor of this decision, Turkey would exploit this and would be able to bully us in every way.”

Bahonar, a politician close to the principlist faction, said the constitution has made it clear that the diplomatic apparatus is responsible for foreign policy issues and the Supreme National Security Council is tasked with supervising.

Those people who put such proposals forward should know that holding a referendum on such

issues is completely harmful, he added.

The FATF announced on February 22 that Iran has until June to fix its anti-money laundering and terrorism financing rules or face increased international scrutiny of its banks.

In October 2018, the global watchdog had given Iran until February to complete an action plan of reforms that would bring it in line with global norms, or face consequences.

The FATF concluded at its February 22 meeting that “there are still items not completed” and said in a statement it “expects Iran to proceed swiftly in the reform path”, according to Reuters.

One of the actions Iran is required to take to appease the FATF is joining the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), which is also called the Palermo Convention, a 2000 United Nations-sponsored multilateral treaty against transnational organized crime.

The other action is to ratify the CFT, the convention combatting financing of terrorism.

On October 7, 2018, the parliament voted in favor of the CFT. However, the oversight Guardian Council rejected the bill by finding 22 faults with it.

To become a law, the Guardian Council should vet the bill for compliance with the Constitution.

In cases when the parliament and the Guardian Council disagree on a bill, the issue is referred to the Expediency Council for final arbitration. The bill is now under study by the Expediency Council.

Shamkhani thanks nation for backing JCPOA move

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Ali Sham-**d e s k** khani, secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), has voiced his gratitude to the Iranian nation for their massive rallies on Friday in support of a recent decision by the SNSC to stop some of Tehran’s commitments under the 2015 nuclear agreement.

“The main unparalleled asset of the Islamic Republic of Iran to overcome threats and difficult crises has always been the popular support and strong relationship between the people and their servants at various levels of government,” Shamkhani said in a message issued on Friday evening, Tasnim reported.

“Undoubtedly, the meaningful and wise presence of our fasting people in the massive marches in support of the decisions of the Supreme National Security Council against the excessive demands and non-commitment of the U.S. government and the European Union’s passivity is the most important message that can be conveyed to the addressees of Iran’s new measures to make wise decisions,” the security chief stated.



On May 8, President Hassan Rouhani announced that Tehran would end its compliance with two particular conditions of the nuclear deal, officially called the JCPOA, if Europe

did not step in to protect the country from U.S. sanctions, re-imposed after President Donald Trump’s administration withdrew from the agreement on May 8, 2018.

Rouhani essentially gave Europe an ultimatum: Choose Iran over the U.S. by resuming Iranian trade in violation of sanctions, or see Iran return to higher levels of uranium enrichment.

In a statement on the same date, the SNSC threatened Iran would take further steps in 60 days if the remaining signatories fail again to ensure that Tehran benefit from staying in the nuclear accord despite the U.S. withdrawal.

“At the current stage, we are not committed to complying with restrictions on the enriched uranium reserves and heavy water supplies,” the SNSC stated.

The SNSC’s decision was welcomed by Friday prayer marchers in Tehran, who issued a statement calling for a full halt to the JCPOA if European signatories failed to uphold their obligations under the deal.

“We strongly demand full halt to unilateral implementation of commitments by the Islamic republic of Iran... and seek full exit from this treaty if European countries continue to violate their undertakings,” the marchers said in a statement.

Europe should implement INSTEX soon: Kharrazi

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Kamal **d e s k** Kharrazi, chief of the Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, said on Saturday that Iran’s 60-day ultimatum to the remaining parties of the 2015 nuclear deal is a good opportunity for them to accelerate the implementation of Europe’s financial mechanism, officially known as INSTEX.

Kharrazi made the remarks in a meeting in Paris with French Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee chairwoman Marielle de Sarnez.

On May 8, Iran announced a partial withdrawal from some “voluntary” aspects of the pact, saying that the country would

no longer adhere to some of the limits on its nuclear activities. It also threatened to step up uranium enrichment if it was not shielded from the sanctions’ effects within 60 days.

According to Kharrazi, the next two months will be an appropriate time for the European powers to fulfill their obligations with regard to the activation of the financial mechanism which was designed to counter the impact of U.S. sanctions, Mehr reported.

INSTEX was introduced in January 2019 by France, Germany and Britain — three parties to the 2015 nuclear deal — to facilitate legitimate trade between European economic operators and Iran.

On March 20, Iran’s central bank governor Abdolnaser Hemmati announced that a mechanism similar to INSTEX has been registered in Iran, officially called the Special Trade and Finance Institute (STFI).

Kharrazi, who was foreign minister from 1997-2005 under President Mohammad Khatami, said the mechanism “should become operational as soon as possible to fulfill its already delayed expectations.”

This is the least the EU could do to prove its commitments to the previous agreements, he said.

One year ago, U.S. President Donald Trump formally pulled the United States out of the

nuclear deal that was struck between Iran on the one side and the U.S., Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany on the other.

Since then, Trump has introduced economic sanctions on Iran and last month labeled Iran’s Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) a terrorist organization, a move that heightened the tensions between Tehran and Washington.

Kharrazi pointed to U.S. pressures on European countries after it pulled out of the JCPOA, saying the Iranian people are sceptic of Europe because it had failed to comply with the deal and had acted in accordance with U.S. policies.

IRGC commander: U.S. does not dare to wage a war on Iran

TEHRAN (Tasnim) — A senior official at the Islamic Revolution Guards Cops (IRGC) says the United States does not dare to wage a war on Iran despite its recent deployment of an aircraft carrier and bombers in the Persian Gulf.

“The American officials are suffering from some mess in their thoughts,” IRGC Deputy Commander for Political Affairs Brigadier General Yadollah Javani told the Tasnim news agency in an interview published on Friday.

The commander said the Americans think they can intimidate the Iranian nation and force officials to sit for talks by combining military rhetoric with economic pressure but the Iranian nation well knows the scenario, and considers the U.S. untrustworthy.

The aggressive rhetoric the U.S. has adopted against Iran is just part of a mechanism that the American officials have devised in line with their sanctions to make them more practical, the general added.

The U.S. Air Force acknowledged Friday that B-52 bombers ordered by the White House to deploy to the Persian Gulf to counter unspecified threats from Iran have arrived at a major American air base in Qatar.

Images released by the U.S. Air Force’s Central Command show B-52H Stratofortress bombers arriving at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar on Thursday night.

Others landed at an undisclosed location Wednesday in “southwest Asia,” the Air Force said. The U.S. military in the past has described its presence at both the Al Dhafra Air Base in the United Arab Emirates and Al Udeid as “southwest Asia.”

On May 5, the White House announced it

would send the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier strike group and the bombers into the Persian Gulf to counter Tehran. The Lincoln on Thursday passed through the Suez Canal on its way to the Persian Gulf.

The commander overseeing U.S. naval forces in the Middle East told Reuters on Thursday that American intelligence showing a threat from Iran will not prevent him from sending an aircraft carrier through the vital Strait of Hormuz, if needed.

Vice Admiral Jim Malloy, commander of the U.S. Navy’s Bahrain-based Fifth Fleet, did not say whether he would send the USS Abraham Lincoln carrier strike group into the strategic waterway off Iran, through which passes a fifth of oil consumed globally.

“If I need to bring it inside the strait, I will do so,” Malloy said in an interview by phone. “I’m not restricted in any way, I’m not challenged in any way, to operate her anywhere in the Middle East.”

U.S. Special Representative for Iran Brian Hook told BBC Persian on Thursday that the deployment of U.S. forces in the Middle East is a “defensive” move against Iran. Without elaborating on the details, he claimed the U.S. has relocated its forces in the region after it received reliable evidence from various sources, showing Iran is conspiring to attack the U.S. interests and those of its allies in the region.

Also in a highly unusual move, Bolton convened a meeting at CIA headquarters last week with the Trump administration’s top intelligence, diplomatic and military advisers to discuss Iran, according to six current U.S. officials.

The meeting was held at 7 a.m. on Monday,

April 29, and included CIA Director Gina Haspel, Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joe Dunford, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats, five of the officials said.

National security meetings are typically held in the White House Situation Room. The six current officials, as well as multiple former officials, said it is extremely rare for senior White House officials or Cabinet members to attend a meeting at CIA headquarters.

Despite all these claims, the Trump administration has yet to offer specific details of the threat allegedly presented by Iran.

On Tuesday, the American Daily Beast news website cited informed U.S. government sources as saying that the Trump administration had “inflated” the alleged “threat” from Iran.

“In this case, there is not a consensus in intelligence and military circles on whether the administration’s interpretation, used to justify the deployment of an additional U.S. aircraft carrier and Air Force bomber task force to the Persian Gulf, was accurate,” read the report.

Speaking on Thursday, Iranian permanent envoy to the UN Majid Takht Ravanchi slammed the allegations, saying they were based on “fake intelligence”.

“These are all allegations that are being produced by the same people who in the run-up to the U.S. invasion of Iraq, did the same,” he said, referring to the U.S. false claims of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) that led to the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Trump on Thursday said he wants Iranians to call him, and said the United States and Iran



could make a fair deal.

“What I would like to see with Iran, I’d like to see them call me,” Trump told pool reporters on the sidelines of an event in the White House on surprise medical billing.

“What they should be doing is calling me up, sitting down,” Trump said. “We can make a deal, a fair deal.”

He also reacted to his national security adviser’s hawkish remarks about Iran, saying that he sometimes serves as a counterbalance to Bolton.

“John’s very good. He has strong views on things which is OK. I’m the one who tempers him, which is OK. I have John Bolton and I have people who are a little more dovish than him,” said Trump, in remarks which apparently showed he was opposed to Bolton’s calls for a war with Iran.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo also said Wednesday the Trump administration doesn’t want war with Iran, but the U.S. will show a “swift and decisive” response to any attack.

He warned Tehran not to mistake Washington’s “restraint” for “a lack of resolve” and closed by repeating an offer from Trump.

Trump leaves telephone number for Iran to call

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Hoping that Tehran will **d e s k** contact U.S. President Donald Trump, the White House has contacted Swiss authorities to share a telephone number with Iran.

The White House contacted the Swiss on Thursday, the same day Trump publicly appealed to Iran to call him amid heightened tensions, CNN cited a source as saying.

The source, however, said Iran was “highly unlikely” to demand the number from Swiss authorities.

The Swiss embassy represents U.S. interests in Tehran, where Washington has had no mission since 1980. While Trump called for talks on Thursday, he did not rule out military action against Iran.

On Friday, Yadollah Javani, the IRGC deputy head for political affairs, said the U.S. thinks it can intimidate Iran into negotiations with a combination of military threats and sanctions, but to no avail.

Washington withdrew from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) last year and reimposed unilateral sanctions that had been lifted under the landmark 2015 agreement.

Iran on Wednesday informed the UK, France, China, Russia and Germany -- the remaining five signatories to the deal -- that it was suspending some of its com-



mitments under the deal.

Tehran also gave the three European signatories 60 days to meet their commitments, especially in the banking and oil sectors, and guarantee Iran’s interests in the face of U.S. sanctions.

On Friday, Germany’s leading news weekly Der Spiegel published an article highlighting how Washington’s bid to pressure Iran had endangered Washington’s European allies, specifically Germany.

“Trump’s confrontational Middle Eastern policy has

exacerbated the tensions between the U.S. and its European allies, because, unlike the situation in Venezuela, Europe would be directly affected. The continent’s very security is at stake,” read the article.

“Washington is exacerbating regional tensions with its policy of applying maximum pressure on Iran,” Niels Annen, a high-ranking official at the German Foreign Ministry, told the publication.

Jürgen Tritten, a member of the German parliament with the Green Party who sits the Foreign Affairs Committee, said, “The U.S. appears to be looking for a pretext to escalate the conflict with Iran.”

The paper also said the Europeans are in disarray in the face of Washington’s bid to pressurize Iran, with German foreign policy agreeing more with Tehran than its ally in Washington.

Deputy parliamentary group leader for the German SPD party, Rolf Mützenich, urged the German government to push for a UN Security Council resolution “requiring strict compliance with international law in the Middle East”.

The move, Mützenich said, will seek to counter U.S. policies in the Middle East which disregard international law, notably in the case of Trump’s recent dealings over Palestine and Iran’s nuclear deal.

VP Ebtekar calls on EU to behave logically

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** – Iranian Vice President for Women's and Family Affairs Masoumeh Ebtekar has called on the European Union to behave logically at the current juncture that Iran has decided to partially suspend some of its commitments under the JCPOA in retaliation to the U.S. exit from the pact and a failure by the EU to respect its commitments.

"Sanctions and economic pressure have increased against the country step by step and we express dissatisfaction with the European Union's lack of commitment to its obligations," Ebtekar said during a meeting with Belgian Ambassador to Tehran Veronique Petit.

For her part, Petit, whose country is the capital of the EU, said she will convey Iran's message to the 28-nation bloc.

Under the JCPOA, endorsed by the UN Security Council Resolution 2231, Iran was

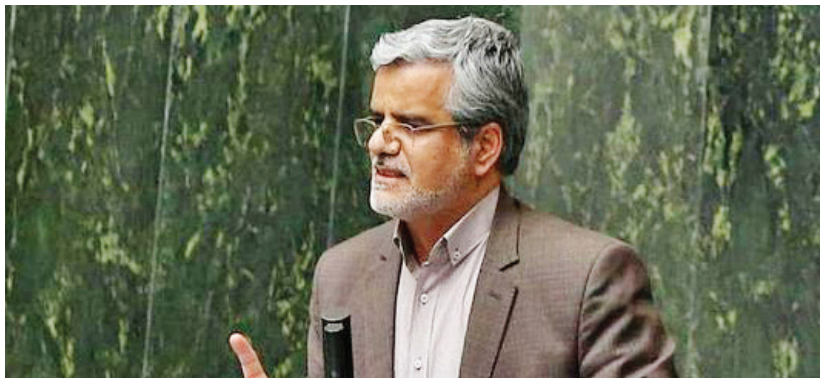
tasked to put limits on its nuclear activities in exchange for termination of economic and financial sanctions. However, since Trump pulled the U.S. out of the JCPOA, the European countries cut banking ties with Iran, stopped purchasing Iranian oil, annulled agreements, and their companies left Iran one after another.

Even when the oil sanctions were introduced against Iran first in November 2018, which exempted certain countries, including Greece and Italy, these two EU members refused to buy oil from Iran.

On May 8, Iran officially announced that it stops selling stockpiles of enriched uranium and heavy water for 60 days. However, Iran warned if any conclusion is not reached in this time period, it will take other measures step by step and will accelerate its uranium enrichment activities.



MP urges U.S. sailors to review their country's failures against Iran



POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** – Mahmoud Sadeqi, a reformist parliamentarian from Tehran, has reacted to the deployment of U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf, urging the U.S. sailors to review their country's past failures in confronting Iran.

In a Friday tweet, Sadeqi addressed the troops on the USS Abraham Lincoln carrier, which has recently entered the Persian Gulf waters, saying, "I advise the sailors on the [USS] Abraham Lincoln carrier to google 'Operation Eagle Claw' sometime."

Operation Eagle Claw, known as Operation Tabas in Iran, was a United States Armed Forces operation ordered by U.S. President Jimmy Carter to attempt to end the Iran hostage crisis by rescuing 52 embassy staff held captive at the U.S. embassy in Tehran on April 24, 1980.

Its failure, and the humiliating public

debacle that ensued, damaged U.S. prestige worldwide. Carter blamed his loss in the 1980 U.S. presidential election mainly on his failure to secure the release of the hostages.

The operation, one of Delta Force's first, encountered many obstacles and was eventually aborted. Eight helicopters were sent to the first staging area, Desert One, but only five arrived in operational condition. One encountered hydraulic problems, another was caught in a sand storm, and another showed signs of a cracked rotor blade.

During the operation's planning it was decided that the mission would be aborted if fewer than six helicopters remained operational, despite only four being absolutely necessary. In a move that is still discussed in military circles, the field commanders advised President Carter to abort the mission, which he did.

Iran high on Pompeo's Russia agenda: U.S.



POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** – U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will head to Russia next week for talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin amid heightened U.S.-Russia tensions over the crisis in Venezuela and the Trump administration's headline policy on Iran, the State Department said Friday, AP reported.

Pompeo's meeting with Putin and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Tuesday in the Black Sea resort of Sochi will be the highest-level face-to-face talks between the two countries since the release of special counsel Robert Mueller's report on Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election.

The State Department said Pompeo and Putin and Lavrov would discuss "the full range of bilateral and multilateral challenges" facing the two countries. A senior department official said in addition to Ven-

ezuela and Iran, the talks would include arms control, stalled U.S. nuclear negotiations with North Korea, Syria, Russia's support for separatists in eastern Ukraine and Washington's concerns about Russian election interference efforts.

As tensions between Washington and Tehran over re-imposed U.S. sanctions have heightened in recent weeks, Moscow has sided with Iran in calling for the 2015 nuclear deal to remain in place. Iran said on May 8 it would partially end its compliance with the deal unless European nations are able to circumvent the sanctions and provide it with benefits it was due under the accord, from which Trump withdrew last year.

This week, the U.S. said it was dispatching an aircraft carrier group and B-52 bombers to the Middle East in response to purported intelligence that Iran is preparing to retaliate for the sanctions with attacks on American interests in the region.

Trump has no military strategy against Iran: top MP

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** – Chairman of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee has said that U.S. President Donald Trump is seeking seeks to prevent formation of "military language" between Tehran and Washington, because he has no military strategy against Iran. "Trump's strategy against Iran has been economic. He had thought he could bring Iran to the negotiating table through sanction," Heshmatollah Fala-

hatpisheh told ISNA in an interview published on Saturday.

Trump is aware of Iran's power and is just seeking to make changes to the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, he said.

U.S. Acting Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan has approved the U.S. will deploy additional Patriot missiles to the Middle East, according to CNN.

The USS Arlington, which transports marines, amphibious

vehicles, and rotary aircraft, as well as the Patriot missiles, will join the USS Abraham Lincoln carrier strike group, which passed through Egypt's Suez Canal on Thursday, Aljazeera reported. U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton claimed on May 5 that the deployment of the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group to the U.S. Central Command region was a response to what he claimed "a number of troubling and escalatory indications and warnings" by Iran.

Hakim, Malki reprimand U.S. moves against Iran

Maliki says coercive measures against Iran violates international law

1 → The U.S. has recently announced military deployments in the region in a bid to counter what it claims "threats from Iran".

"The United States' push to cut Iran's oil exports to zero signals a transition from a policy of pressure to a policy of suffocating Iran, its government and people. This move will have very dangerous and tragic implications for the region, specifically Iraq," Hakim lamented.

Former Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has also slammed Washington's moves.

"The use of coercive measures and threats against our neighboring country Iran is a clear violation of international law," said Maliki, adding that the U.S. was seeking to challenge a "resilient Muslim nation".

The former prime minister added that Washington's provocations also risked destabilizing Iraq, noting that the country was still recovering from the Daesh menace.

The comments come after the U.S. announced earlier this week that it was deploying an aircraft carrier strike group and a bomber task force to the Middle East in a bid to send a "message" to Iran.

On Friday, the Pentagon announced that it will further reinforce its Middle East deployment with an amphibious assault ship and a Patriot missile battery further counter the "Iranian threat".

Iranian officials have, however, dismissed



"The U.S. push to cut Iran's oil exports to zero signals a transition from a policy of pressure to a policy of suffocating Iran, its government and people," Hakim notes.

the provocations as part of the Trump administration's "psychological warfare" against Tehran.

Addressing Washington's recently height-

ened rhetoric against Iran, Army's Ground Forces chief Brigadier General Kiomars Heidari has said that "no danger" threatens the country.

He said Iran's adversaries know that any move against the country will result in a swift response.

Washington's recent measures against Iran have, nonetheless, prompted concern among Iraqi officials, whose country still faces an ongoing U.S. military presence.

Trump has in the past described the U.S. mission in Iraq as a bid to "watch Iran", drawing condemnation from Iraqi figures with different political tendencies.

Also last week, al-Hakim strongly rejected any use of the country's territory "for aggression against other states".

Al-Hakim made the remarks in a meeting with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State David Satterfield in Iraq.

Hassan Salim, an Iraqi lawmaker and member of the al-Bana coalition in the parliament, has said an American attack on Iran will lead to the fall of Washington's international standing and will hasten "the dissolution of the Zionist regime".

He also said that such an aggression was equivalent to an attack on all Muslim countries, "regardless of the hostile positions held by some Arab and Muslim states against Iran".

Iran has greatly assisted its regional neighbors in their fight against terrorists, especially in Syria and Iraq where Daesh captured large swathes of territory in 2014.

Iran is target of fake news and disinformation: Guardian

POLITICAL d e s k In a commentary on Friday, the British newspaper Guardian said Iran is a victim of "fake news and disinformation about its past nuclear activities."

The commentary, titled "Trump's foolish Iran policy only makes war more likely", is written by Simon Tisdall, a foreign affairs commentator and former Guardian foreign editor.

Following is an excerpt of the article:

It is unclear what, if anything, Iran can do to induce the United States and its regional allies to halt their escalating war of attrition before it provokes all-out conflict. When Donald Trump reneged on the UN-ratified nuclear agreement with Tehran last year, he said he wanted a better deal. Iran must change its behavior, he said, and act like a "normal country".

This was always disingenuous. What Trump and his imperious advisers really meant was that they must do what America says, in conformity with American interests. What they want is an end to 40 years of post-revolution defiance. What they want is regime change in Iran.

Tehran's leadership now has three choices – capitulate, wait or resist. Capitulation is no real option at all.

John Bolton, Trump's neocon national security adviser and an architect of the Iraq invasion, should think twice. He and other myopic machinators must be careful what they wish for.

Iran's second option – waiting for Trump to be voted out of office next year – is fraught with difficulty. For a start, he may win a second term. It is also improbable that any Democratic successor would reverse the current policy. He or she might ease the pressure. But in the turgid present-day U.S. political climate, letting Iran off the hook is not on the cards.

The idea that the Europeans will ride to the rescue, implicit in Rouhani's 60-day deadline for a resuscitation of the nuclear deal, is also far-fetched. Neither Britain nor France is happy with Trump's tactics. But their hostile reaction to Rouhani's threat to resume some nuclear activities was cautionary. They expect Iran, not the U.S., to back down.

Attempts by some European Union countries over the past year to circumvent renewed American sanctions have come to nothing. The commercial reality is that they cannot protect energy companies, banks and other businesses seeking to trade with Iran from Washington's punitive secondary sanctions. Hopes that a discredited, divided UN Security Council will take the U.S. to task for breaking international law are similarly chimerical.

Even with Trump out of the picture, Iran would continue to face the visceral enmity of Israel and Saudi Arabia. Without his reactionary soulmate in the White House, it might only be a matter of time before Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, revived past threats to bomb Iran. For the House of Saud, it's an ancient blood feud.

Iran's last option, resistance, has a dreadful air of inevitability about it. Bolton's announcement this week of additional, nuclear-armed military deployments in the Persian Gulf, and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's melodramatic dash to Baghdad in the middle of a European tour, suggested that the White House was just spoiling for a fight.

(See the full story on the Tehran Times website)

Iranian Sunni clerics slam Saudi beheadings in letter to UN chief



TEHRAN (FNA) – Over 200 Iranian Sunni clerics in a letter to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres deplored the mass execution of tens of Saudi citizens by Riyadh, calling for independent investigations into the crime to prevent its repetition.

The letter which has been signed by over 215 prominent Sunni clerics, members of the Assembly of Experts, provisional Friday Prayers leaders and Sunni religious school teachers was written to Guterres after the UN inaction towards the recent beheading of 37 people by the Saudi government.

They called on the world body and its chief to effectively protest and condemn the crime and apply the necessary mechanism to precisely and independently investigate into the issue to prevent repetition of such catastrophes in the future.

Last month, the Saudi Interior Ministry announced that it had executed 37 citizens for their alleged "adoption of extremist, terrorist ideology and forming terrorist cells to corrupt and disturb security, spread chaos and cause sectarian discord". At least 33 of the victims belonged to Saudi Arabia's Shiite minority, according to Human Rights Watch.

The mass beheading was the largest in Saudi Arabia since January 2016, when 47 men were executed in a single day, including outspoken Shiite cleric Sheikh Nimr Baqir al-Nimr.

The mass execution sparked widespread condemnations amid reports that the convictions were based on unfair trials and that confessions were extracted through torture.

The UN human rights chief called Saudi Arabia's mass executions of 37 men "shocking" and "abhorrent", joining a growing chorus of condemnation by rights groups and activists.

"I strongly condemn these shocking mass executions across six cities in Saudi Arabia," UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet said in a statement.

"It is particularly abhorrent that at least three of those killed were minors at the time of their sentencing," she added.

Bachelet stressed that the executions were carried out despite repeated warnings from rights officials and UN rapporteurs about lack of due process and fair trial guarantees amid allegations that confessions were obtained through torture.

The UN official urged Saudi Arabia to review its counterterrorism legislation, expressly prohibit the death penalty for minors.

STOCK MARKET

| | |
|--------|----------|
| TEDPIX | 209155.0 |
| IFX | 2589.54 |

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

| | |
|-----|--------------|
| USD | 42,000 rials |
| EUR | 47,176 rials |
| GBP | 54,595 rials |
| AED | 11,437 rials |

Source: cbi.ir

COMMODITIES

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| Brent | \$70.79/b |
| WTI | \$62.10/b |
| OPEC Basket | \$69.88/b |
| Gold | \$1,286.45/oz |
| Silver | \$14.83/oz |
| Platinum | 864.90/oz |

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

NEWS IN BRIEF



Over 42,000 cars manufactured in a month

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iranian carmakers manufactured 42,623 vehicles during the first Iranian calendar month of Farvardin (March 21-April 20, 2019), IRNA reported citing the data released by Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry.

The ministry's data show that car manufacturing in Iran has fallen 47.2 percent in the first month of this year from 80,794 cars manufactured in the same month of the previous year.

Japan's economy likely shrank in first quarter on weak domestic demand, exports

Japan's economy likely contracted slightly in the first quarter as corporate and consumer spending weakened on Friday.

According to hellenicshippingnews.com, exports also deteriorated amid trade disputes and weaker global demand, hurting the trade-reliant economy.

Gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to have fallen 0.2% in January-March on an annualised basis, the poll of 18 economists showed, after it expanded 1.9% in the fourth quarter last year.

That would translate into a flat reading on a quarter-on-quarter basis, after the economy grew 0.5% in the October-December quarter, the poll showed.

"Firms likely postponed their capital spending on worries about the global economic slowdown and uncertainty over trade talks such as between the United States and China," said Kentaro Arita, senior economist at Mizuho Research Institute.

"We expect consumer spending declined as their sentiment deteriorated led by factors such as rises in food prices."

Capital spending likely fell 1.7% in the first quarter after 2.7% growth the previous quarter, the poll found.

Private consumption, which accounts for about 60 percent of GDP, was seen down 0.1% for the quarter, after rising 0.4% in October-December.

External demand – or exports minus imports – was still expected to add 0.3 percentage point to growth in the first quarter, the poll found, after it subtracted 0.3 percentage point from GDP growth in the previous quarter.

Analysts say a drop in imports due to weak domestic demand was larger than a decline in exports, which led Japan's net exports to improve for January-March.

"We project exports will grow moderately but they will lose momentum on the global economic slowdown," said Akane Yamaguchi, researcher at Daiwa Institute of Research.

Like other Asian exporters, Japan has been hit by China's economic slowdown and the 10-month-long U.S.-China trade war, which has disrupted global supply chains. Sluggish demand for electronic gadgets has also hit its hi-tech exports.

IMF warns of vulnerabilities in Ireland's nonbank financial sector

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has sounded a warning about "vulnerabilities" in Ireland's expanding nonbank financial sector, saying its large scale and rapid growth call for close surveillance.

As per ft.com, the Washington-based fund has also expressed anxiety about Dublin's increasing reliance on surging corporate tax revenues, noting that most of the additional money was being used to cover spending overruns in the health service and income tax cuts.

Inspectors from the fund highlighted such concerns in a statement issued from Dublin after meetings with the Irish authorities.

A decade after the financial crash that led Dublin into an IMF-EU bailout, they said the growing Irish economy has emerged as one of the most dynamic in Europe.

But close trade ties with Britain made the country "uniquely vulnerable" to Brexit, with a no-deal UK crash out from the EU likely to have significant and immediate adverse consequences for the Irish economy.

Although they said financial sector preparations for Brexit appeared "broadly adequate" to mitigate major disruptions, the growth of nonbank institutions meant the overall size of the financial sector now exceeds pre-crisis levels.

U.S. sanctions Iran's metals; what's the impact?

1 → Considering Iran's constantly growing industry sectors, the demand for iron and steel products as well as other metals is growing accordingly.

Based on the data provided by the ministry of industry, mining and trade, in the first ten months of the past Iranian fiscal year, the total production of crude steel, steel products, copper cathode, aluminum ingot and alumina as well as iron ore exceeded 65 million tons. The same data put the volume of the country's exports of metals in the same period at about 8 million tons that is less than 12 percent of the total production.

With all that said, however, Iran is still an importer of some metal products including steel sheets, since the country's production in the down-stream sector does not match the demand in the industry sectors. I mentioned the sanctions to be [potentially] a blessing in disguise, and this is where it applies.

Iran has more than enough raw materials to completely supply its domestic needs and the sanctions could in fact push the country's production and processing units to increase their capacities to process more instead of exporting raw materials. In this way, the need for importing such commodities will no longer pressure the economy.

In fact, many analysts believe that the U.S. sanctions on Iran's metals are not going to



have as a great impact on exports as on imports of such commodities.

As Iranian Deputy Industry Minister Ja'far Sargini said on Wednesday, the country's metals and minerals have their own specific customers around the world which will continue buying despite U.S. sanctions [as they have done it before].

"It seems unlikely that new U.S. sanctions would be very effective in impeding the country's [metals] exports and industry", he said.

"The U.S.' imposition Wednesday of new sanctions on Iran's metals and minerals trade may change little in the short term for Iran's steel exporters or their customers abroad..... Steel imports into Iran are however to expected continue to take a hit." S&G Global Platts wrote on Thursday.

Iran's minerals and metals market has already been wrestling with sanctions and anti-dumping actions, and adding new sanctions won't change much in the market's environment.

The country will, of course, continue its exports to the neighboring countries and other MENA nations as it has been doing so in the previous rounds of sanctions.

What is important is to take the new psychological warfare not as a negative hit but as an opportunity to thrive and come out independent and proud, like we always have.

Securities worth over \$8.3b traded at TSE since March 21

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** —Some 140.294 billion securities worth 352.259 trillion rials (about \$8.387 billion) have been traded at Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) since the beginning of current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2019), IRIB reported.

As reported, TEDPIX, the main index of TSE, which had begun the year at 178,659 points, has already experienced 18.3 percent growth through gaining 32,685 points.

Also, the first market index has risen 25,744 points and second market index has gained 57,269 points since the start of current year.

Some 55,000 new trading codes were issued in the Iranian stock market during the first month of current Iranian calendar year, Farvardin (March 21-April 20), IRNA reported last week quoting Hossein Fahimi, the managing director of Central Securities Depository of Iran (CSDI).

CSDI is the sole registrar, central custodian and clearing house for the Iranian financial market of four exchanges including TSE, Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market known also as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), and Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX).

Iran's exchange markets witnessed fruitful performances and results in the past Iranian calendar year 1397 (ended on March 20, 2019).

IFX, the main index of Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known also as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), touched a



new record high in the past year, as it gained more than 100% to stand at 2,258 points on March 19, 2019.

This index had started the previous year at 1,161 points.

As reported, the number and worth of trades at IFB increased 89 percent and 71 percent, respectively, in the past year compared to its preceding year.

Monthly average value of trades at the First and Second markets of Iran Fara Bourse amounted to 287.622 billion rials (about \$6.8 million) and worth of trades at the Base Market accounted for 170.418 billion rials (about \$4.05

India's 1st rice cargo for Afghanistan arrives at Chabahar Port

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — India's first consignment of rice to Afghanistan which is due to be delivered through India-Iran-Afghanistan trade route, arrived at Chabahar Port, IRNA reported on Saturday, quoting a deputy with Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI).

According to ACCI First Vice President Khan Jan Alokozay, the 500-million-ton cargo is the first of its kind and more shipments will be following in the near future.

India launched a trade route to Afghanistan via Iran through shipping its first consignment of wheat to Afghanistan on October 29, bypassing longtime rival Pakistan.

Also in February, the Afghanistan-Iran-India trade corridor in which Afghanistan will export goods to India through Iran's southeastern Chabahar Port was inaugurated.

Afghanistan's first 570-ton export cargo included 200 tons of grains and 370 tons of talc stone which was arrived in Chabahar

port late February.

Afghanistan is planning to boost is exports revenue to \$2 billion this year and according to Afghan officials, a significant share of the country's exports will be through Iran's Chabahar Port.

In 2016, Iran, India and Afghanistan decided to jointly establish a trade route for land-locked Central Asian countries.

India has committed \$500 million to Chabahar Port development as a way to by-

pass rival Pakistan and crack open a trade and transport route to landlocked Afghanistan, as well as the resource-rich countries of central Asia.

The country is expanding its economic diplomacy in Afghanistan, seeing itself as a regional power so it has framed its involvement in Chabahar's development as primarily about establishing a gateway to Afghanistan, more than Iran itself, Indian officials and a Western diplomatic source said.

Damaging trade war could destabilise the already slowing global economy

By Larry Elliott, Lily Kuo and Martin Farrer

Donald Trump has insisted that there is "no rush" to secure a deal with China despite growing business and Wall Street fears that the ratcheting up of U.S. tariffs risks a full-blown trade war between the world's two economic superpowers.

U.S. shares, which were falling for much of the day, staged a late rally on Friday night after Trump tweeted that trade talks "will continue" after the hiking of tariffs on \$200b of Chinese goods.

China's vice-premier Liu He left talks with U.S. Treasury secretary Steve Mnuchin and trade representative Robert Lighthizer after just 90 minutes in Washington, adding to speculation that the gap between the two sides was large.

Trump had earlier prompted a warning from the International Monetary Fund that the tariff war posed a threat to the global economy, but the president subsequently used a series of tweets to insist that tariffs were good for the U.S. economy.

Beijing has yet to respond to the new U.S. duties – which have been raised from 10% to 25% on \$200b of new Chinese imports into the U.S. – with tariffs of its own but has insisted that it will take retaliatory measures. Meanwhile, Trump threatened to expand tariffs to all Chinese imports into the U.S.

Traders seized on Trump's later comments over talks, and remarks from Mnuchin that negotiations had been "constructive". The Dow Jones industrial average rose 114 points, or 0.4% to close at 25,942, earlier it had fallen by more than 300 points.

Higher import costs

Trump sounded a defensive note after coming under fire from business lobby groups fearful that higher import costs would force U.S. companies and farmers to lay off workers.

Trump tweeted: "Tariffs will bring in FAR MORE wealth to our country than even a phenomenal deal of the traditional



kind. Also, much easier & quicker to do. Our Farmers will do better, faster, and starving nations can now be helped. Waivers on some products will be granted, or go to new source!"

Ignoring concerns that purchasing U.S. goods and food and then dumping them on developing world countries could put local firms and farmers out business, he said: "With the over 100 Billion Dollars in Tariffs that we take in, we will buy agricultural products from our Great Farmers, in larger amounts than China ever did, and ship it to poor & starving countries in the form of humanitarian assistance.

"In the meantime we will continue to negotiate with China in the hopes that they do not again try to redo deal!" he added.

China's ministry of commerce said in a statement just after the scheduled tariffs went into effect: The "Chinese side deeply regrets that it will have to take necessary countermeasures".

"It is hoped that the U.S. and the Chinese side will work together to resolve existing problems through cooperation and consultation," it said, noting that "high-level economic and trade consultations" were underway.

The increased tariffs apply only to goods leaving China after Friday's deadline and will go into effect only once shipments reach the U.S., which could take two or three weeks,

leaving room still for negotiations.

However, investors now face the prospect of a damaging trade war which many fear could destabilise the already slowing global economy and escalate tensions between the two superpowers over flash points such as the South China Sea and industrial espionage. Higher tariffs act like a tax, raising prices and cutting the spending power of consumers.

Paperwork for tariffs

Trump has also said he is preparing the "paperwork" for tariffs of 25% on an additional \$325b worth of Chinese imports, which would mean almost all Chinese goods exported to the U.S. would be levied. Chinese exports to the U.S. accounted for about \$540bn last year.

The U.S. action followed several days in which Trump had lambasted China for backtracking on a deal negotiated over the past five months by making extensive changes to a draft 150-page agreement. Analysts say Beijing may have believed the U.S. was in a weaker bargaining position, based on Trump's calls to cut interest rates.

After several days of near silence on Trump's threats – state media did not report the president's comments and social media platforms censored images of his tweets – China has now started to take a more strident stance.

Commerce ministry spokesman Gao Feng said on Thursday: The "U.S. side has given many labels recently: 'backtracking,' 'betraying,' ... China sets great store on trustworthiness and keeps its promises, and this has never changed".

An editorial published by a government-affiliated Wechat account said: "If you are willing to talk, we'll talk. If you intend to have a war, then we fight".

China's options for retaliation include blocking soybean purchases from the U.S., devaluing the yuan to counteract the tariffs, or setting up non-tariff trade barriers like delaying regulatory approvals for U.S. firms operating in China.

(Source: The Guardian)

Iran offers petrochemicals, naphtha at IRENEX

E N E R G Y **TEHRAN** — Iran has offered a variety of petrochemical products as well as 5,000 tons of light naphtha at the country's Energy Stock Market (IRENEX), Fars news agency reported.

As reported, dissolving agent 502, industrial butane gas, industrial propane gas, industrial liquefied natural gas (LNG), hexane, light naphtha, and liquefied natural gas (LNG) were offered for domestic buyers on Saturday at the internal ring of IRENEX.

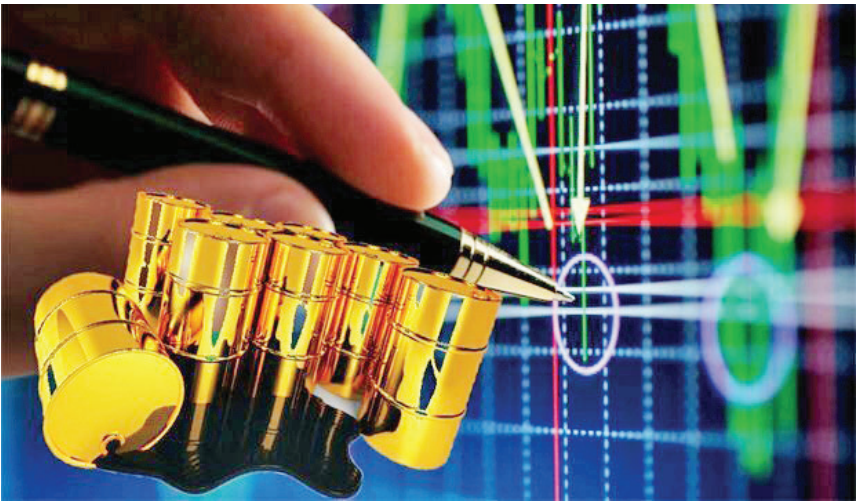
International buyers on the other hand were offered LNG from the Persian Gulf Star Refinery at IRENEX's international ring.

National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC)

offered crude oil at IRENEX first on October 28, 2018 just few days before new U.S. sanctions on Iran's petroleum sector took effect (November 4). In the first round, NIOC could sell some 280,000 barrels of crude oil at \$74.85 per barrel. With the daily supply amount of one million barrels, the market wrapped up by selling eight 35,000-barrel cargos of oil on the day.

In line with light crude offerings, NIOC has also sold 70,000 barrels of heavy crude oil at IRENEX for the first time on April 30.

Offering crude oil, oil products and petrochemicals directly at the energy stock exchange has become one of the main strategies that Iran is following in order to



defy U.S. sanctions and to help its oil and petrochemical exports afloat.

Last week, Iranian Deputy Oil Minister Amir Hossein Zamaninia declared that Tehran was fully prepared to sell oil in a "grey market", vowing to circumvent the U.S. unilateral sanctions against the energy-rich country.

"We sell oil at a recently discovered grey

market using all of our capacities," he said, "This is not smuggling. This is countering sanctions which we do not see as just or legitimate."

Grey market is referred to where the products and goods are bought and sold outside and not within in the original manufacturers authorized distribution channel.

Global Energy Saving Ball Mill market size growth rate by end user

MarketResearchNest announced that it has published an exclusive report on "Global Energy Saving Ball Mill market insights, forecast to 2025" in its research database with report summary, table of content, research methodologies and data sources.

According to marketresearchgazette.com, Ball Mill is mainly used for grinding in mining (metallic minerals and non-metallic minerals), cement, refractories, chemical, power plant, aluminum, building material, glass, ceramic, steel slag and fly ash, etc. It follows more crushing and less grinding principle to save energy.

The global Energy Saving Ball Mill market is valued at xx million \$ in 2018 and will reach xx million \$ by the end of 2025, growing at a CAGR of xx% during 2019-2025.



The objectives of this study are to define, segment, and project the size of the Energy Saving Ball Mill

market based on company, product type, end user and key regions.

This report studies the global market size of Energy Saving Ball Mill in key regions like North America, Europe, Asia Pacific, Central and South America and Middle East and Africa, focuses on the consumption of Energy Saving Ball Mill in these regions.

This research report categorizes the global Energy Saving Ball Mill market by top players/brands, region, type and end user. This report also studies the global Energy Saving Ball Mill market status, competition landscape, market share, growth rate, future trends, market drivers, opportunities and challenges, sales channels and distributors.

(Source: Marketresearchgazette.com)

Trade war cuts U.S. liquefied natural gas exports to China

No liquefied natural gas (LNG) vessels that left the United States in March and April have gone to China, Refinitiv Eikon shipping data shows, as the trade war between the two nations escalates.

Reuters reported on Friday, the United States increased its tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese goods to 25% from 10%, rattling financial markets already worried the 10-month trade war between the world's two largest economies could spiral out of control.

So far this year, only two vessels have gone from the United States to China - one in January and one in February - versus 14 during the first four months of 2018 before the start of the trade war.

The data, however, shows a handful of vessels from the United States are still sailing across the Pacific Ocean and some could end up in China.

In 2018, 27 LNG vessels went from the United States to China, down from 30 in 2017. Most of those, however, left U.S. ports before the trade war started, with 18 tankers going to China in the first half of the year and just nine during

the second half.

Executives at Cheniere Energy Inc, which owns two of the three big operating U.S. LNG export terminals, said this week that the trade war is "unproductive and creates some added costs for our Chinese consumers" but "hasn't had an impact on us" and is not expected to have an impact going forward.

The United States and China started imposing tariffs on each other's goods in July 2018. As the dispute heated up, China added LNG to its list of proposed tariffs in August and imposed a 10-percent tariff on LNG in September.

The United States is the fastest-growing LNG exporter in the world, while China is the fastest-growing importer of the fuel.

U.S. LNG sales jumped 61 percent in 2018 versus 2017, making the country the fourth-biggest exporter in the world, while China, the world's second-biggest buyer of the fuel, increased its purchases by 39 percent last year as it weans its power and industrial sectors off coal to reduce pollution, according to data from the International Gas Union.

Libya's \$60 billion push to double oil production

Mustafa Sanalla, chairman of Libya's internationally recognized National Oil Corporation (NOC), held meetings with U.S. companies at the Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) in Houston this week, to discuss \$60 billion worth of procurement contracts necessary to more than double Libyan oil production by 2023.

According to oilprice.com, Libya, which currently pumps around 1 million bpd in a fragile security situation, plans to have its crude oil production grow to 2.1 million bpd by 2023. Sanalla met this week with the top executives of several U.S. companies to "discuss the technology and expertise needed to achieve the corporation's stated production target," NOC says.

Sanalla met with Mikhail Potekhin, Caterpillar's EMEA director, to take stock of Caterpillar's operations in the North African OPEC producer. The managers discussed a \$150-million contract for Caterpillar's subsidiary Solar Turbines for power generation equipment, and potential future cooperation and projects with NOC operating companies.

NOC's chairman also met with John Wallace, chairman and chief executive officer at

petroleum consulting company DeGolyer and MacNaughton, to discuss possible cooperation and study of Libyan field reservoirs, field development, reserves evaluation, and overall technical assistance to NOC's subsidiaries.

At yet another meeting, Sanalla met with Halliburton's President and CEO Jeff Miller to discuss Halliburton's scheduled resumption of offshore and onshore activity in Libya and potential further closer cooperation, NOC said in a statement, without specifying when Halliburton would resume drilling in Libya.

Libya's long-term plans are to double its oil production within four years, but its immediate output may be threatened as the security situation has materially worsened after eastern strongman General Khalifa Haftar ordered last month his Libyan National Army (LNA) to march on the capital Tripoli.

The self-styled army has been clashing with troops of the UN-backed government in a renewed confrontation that could escalate and threaten to disrupt, once again, Libya's oil production and exports.

Sanalla said at the Houston conference on Wednesday that the "Tripoli assault and ongoing hostilities are a direct threat to Libyan oil sector development and procurement."

Gas, renewables outpacing coal for power generation, EIA says

By Darrell Proctor

The percentage of coal-fired generation in the U.S. electricity mix will continue to decline, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) said May 9, with gas-fired generation accounting for at least 40% of the nation's power this summer and output from renewables continuing to rise.

EIA's latest Short-Term Energy Outlook (STEO) said coal-fired units will produce only about 25% of the nation's electricity this summer, as renewables including solar, wind, and hydropower take more market share. EIA said renewables will supply nearly a quarter of the power needed in Western states this summer.

The agency said nuclear power, which supplies about 19% of the nation's electricity, will continue at that level at least through 2020. EIA forecasts that renewables will produce about 18% of U.S. power this year, rising to about 20% next year. The agency said it expects wind generation will surpass hydropower output this year for the first time, taking over the top spot for renewables.

The EIA report comes two weeks after the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) reported that data shows renewable energy — including hydro, biomass, wind, solar, and geothermal — in April for the first time generated more electricity in the U.S. than coal-fired power plants.

Renewable energy data

IEEFA analyst Dennis Wamsted said Texas is an example of a state where renewables have taken the top spot in generation, noting that "wind and solar generation topped coal's output in the first quarter of 2019, the first time that has happened on a quarterly basis."

The retirement of coal plants, which for years have provided most of the nation's power generation, has fostered concern about the reliability and resiliency of the U.S. electricity grid. Energy Secretary Rick Perry, during testimony Thursday before a House subcommittee in Washington, D.C., said the Trump administration wants to spend a half-billion dollars next year on fossil fuel research and development.

The administration and the Department of Energy have



discussed support for new, more technologically advanced coal-fired power plants, with Perry saying DOE's goal is to "increase the resiliency and reliability" of the power grid.

New technologies are being implemented, particularly in Asia, to make coal-fired plants more efficient while reducing emissions.

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), which oversees the grid in most of that state, on May 8 warned that continued "above-normal" growth in electricity demand could require it to enter Energy Emergency Alert (EEA) status to maintain system reliability this summer, in part due to the retirement of baseload coal plants. ERCOT President and CEO Bill Magnuson on Wednesday said, "ERCOT is prepared to use the tools and procedures that are in place to maintain system reliability during tight conditions."

An analyst with EIA said the trend of declining coal output, and increased use of natural gas and renewables for power generation, is supported by economics. EIA analyst Stacy Macintyre said utilities would pay about 3% more for their coal supply this summer, and about 12% less for natural gas, than a year ago.

The Sierra Club on May 9 noted that two more coal plants announced their retirements this week: the 364-MW C.D. McIntosh plant in Lakeland, Florida, and Kennecott Utah Copper's plant in Magna, Utah, where the 75-MW Unit 4 had

powered the company's local mining operations. Three other coal units at the Kennecott plant were shut down in 2016.

Coal-fired generation

The Sierra Club said the closures of the Florida and Utah plants would mean 289 coal plants have been closed or announced closure since the group began its Beyond Coal campaign in 2002, and also noted they bring the total of coal units retired during the Trump administration to 51, despite efforts by the administration to save coal-fired generation.

Mary Anne Hitt, senior director of the Beyond Coal campaign, in a statement said, the "latest coal retirement announcements make one thing clear—our nation keeps moving beyond coal, thanks to leadership from states and cities. From Florida to Utah, Americans are turning away from coal to clean energy, because renewable power is cheaper and doesn't pollute our air, water, and climate."

Michael Bloomberg, the United Nations Special Envoy for Climate Action, and former mayor of New York City, in a statement said: "Despite the Trump administration's efforts to prop up unhealthy and unprofitable coal-fired power plants, they are still closing as fast as ever.

The American people know that moving to cleaner, cheaper energy is good for their health and their pocketbooks—and for our environment. This milestone shows that America continues to move Beyond Coal no matter what anyone in Washington says."

Meanwhile, the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) on May 9 adopted regulations that require all the state's power plants to meet stringent emissions limits. The rules support the phase-out of the state's remaining coal-fired power plants by 2020. The state has just two operating coal plants: Cayuga Station, a two-unit, 323-MW plant in Lansing, and the 675-MW Kintigh Generating Station (also known as Somerset), in Somerset. Both plants were purchased in 2016 by Riesling Power, a subsidiary of Beowulf Energy, after the bankruptcy of former owner AES.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo earlier this year said he wants the state to have carbon-free power generation by 2040.

(Source: powermag.com)

Blasted Iranian oil pipeline back in operation

E N E R G Y **TEHRAN** — The 42-inch Omidiyeh-Ahvaz oil pipeline, located in Iran's southwestern Khuzestan Province is repaired and back to normal operation after it caught fire on Monday.

According to a report by Shana, the repair operations were carried out by an Iranian company called Aghajari Oil and Gas Production Company.

"The pipeline is operational after days of round-the-clock repair work by the company's teams", the company said in a statement.

The pipeline was used to transport oil to Isfahan Oil Refinery. After the incident, Isfahan Oil Refinery and Bandar Imam Petrochemical Plant were supplied with fuel through alternative fuel pipelines.



Now that the pipeline is back to normal, feedstock is supplied to Isfahan Refinery once again through this pipeline.

On Monday, the pipeline was being repaired and what caused the fire was a loader crashing into the pipeline and an oil spill that caught fire. The valves to linked oil and gas pipelines were shut off to prevent the fire from spreading.

Collapse in wind energy jeopardizes German renewables targets

The growth of onshore wind power is collapsing in Germany, jeopardizing both German and EU renewables targets. Germany installed just 134 MW of new onshore wind farms in the first quarter of 2019 — the country's worst first quarter for onshore wind turbines installations since 2000.

According to ewind.es, Germany is likely to install a total of just 1-2 GW of onshore wind this year. This is significantly down on the past five years when Germany installed an average of 4.3 GW per year.

This is well below what Germany needs to meet its own 65% renewable electricity target by 2030 and to deliver its share of the EU's 32% renewable energy target. Offshore wind will not fill the gap: Germany is due to build just 730 MW per year up to 2030.

This is in contrast with Spain, for example, which will build around 4 GW of new wind energy in 2019. Some of the slowdown in Germany is the result of failed auction systems in 2017, when a lot of community projects won without a permit. Many of these projects are still to be built due to more generous realization timelines.

The underlying problem

But permitting for new wind farms remains the underlying problem. The process used to take just 10 months but is now taking over two years.



Public authorities are not applying deadlines and many wind farm projects are getting stuck in legal disputes. Plus there is a lack of staff to process the applications, especially at Bundesland level.

Just 400 MW of new wind farm permits were awarded in Q1 2019, well below historical levels. All this has meant the last three onshore wind auction rounds were undersubscribed leading to rising prices.

WindEurope CEO Giles Dickson said: "Onshore wind energy in Germany is in deep trouble. The development of new wind farms has almost ground to a halt. The main problem is permitting — it's got much slower, more complex and there aren't enough civil servants to process the applications. It seriously undermines Germany's ability to meet its 2030 renewables target and contribute to the EU target. And it's affecting Germany's wind turbine industrial bases.

Half of Europe's 300,000 wind energy jobs are in Germany. But 10,000 have gone in Germany in the last five years. And this could get worse: there hasn't been a single turbine order recorded in Germany in Q1 this year.

The "German Government now needs to make clear how they're going to reach their 65% renewables target for 2030. It needs an annual build-out of 5 GW of onshore wind — and urgent action to speed up the permitting process.

For new wind farms

"They've a clear opportunity to figure things out now with their 'Public Acceptance Working Group'. The Group should agree to identify zones ripe for new wind farms. And ensure restrictions on things like distance or height of turbines aren't out of sync with the rest of Europe.

There's plenty of space available for new wind farms in Germany. And they can build them in industrial sites like the Dutch do or alongside motorways like in France and Belgium. Repowering the early wind farms that are coming to the end of their life will also help.

Replacing old turbines with modern ones doubles the capacity with one third fewer turbines. These are the kind of measures that Germany needs to stay on track with the Energiewende. But if the 'Acceptance Working Group' can't sort it out, then Germany's Climate Cabinet will have to step in with a proper action plan."

Pompeo, the most insolent U.S. Secretary of State in Europe

Global Times-The U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, in a speech at a London conference, almost imperatively asked Britain to change its attitude toward China and its telecom equipment company Huawei. He wants Britain to treat China like the Soviet threat to the West. He also quoted the example of former prime minister Margaret Thatcher in a speech in which he mocked current Prime Minister Theresa May without naming her. He said: "Would the Iron Lady be silent when China violates the sovereignty of nations through corruption or coercion? Would she allow China to control the internet of the future?"



Pompeo no longer considers the minimum respect for the special ally of the US. The British must have mixed feelings about Pompeo's display of arrogance. A commentary in The Guardian titled "Mike Pompeo: a bully boy calls at No 10" writes that Pompeo wants to discuss "shared global priorities" with Theresa May, but he himself is a problem.

The attitude of the U.S. toward European allies has never been as arrogant as it is now. Even during the Cold War, when Europe was most dependent on U.S. security, Washington gave credit to its allies.

But look at how the U.S. ambassador in Berlin urged Germany not to allow Huawei to provide 5G infrastructure to the country. The U.S. ambassador also threatened German companies building the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline between Germany and Russia by warning them about the risk of sanctions. And now look at what Pompeo said in Britain: Washington is increasingly not treating Europe as a partner that needs equal treatment and respect, but as a small follower who should listen to the elder brother.

China is fundamentally different from the Soviet Union. Even most Americans do not see China as "another Soviet Union." What's more, there are no European countries with obvious geopolitical disputes with China. European countries including Britain are more willing to actively explore their own development opportunities from the rise of China. They generally attach importance to expanding cooperation with China, and Britain has realistic thinking of the "golden era" in relations between China and Britain.

Because China is indeed not the Soviet Union, it will be hard for the likes of Pompeo to peddle the same defense against China as against the Soviet Union. The first thing to convince people is to convince them with reason. Washington wants to push the "China threat theory" to the extreme, and what it lacks most is reason.

Getting European countries to align their China policies with those of the US, or getting them to fully align themselves with the U.S. to help it contain China, is certainly not something Washington can do. European nations have their own interests. They are not in zero-sum competition with China. Constantly expanding cooperation is the main theme of China-EU relations, which cannot be changed by a selfish US.

China has no intention of driving a wedge between the U.S. and Europe, but the fundamentals of China-EU relations are not something Washington can destroy. If the U.S. is in too much of a hurry to get its own way, it will eventually backfire.

Biden's key weapon against the Trump

1 → Thirty-four percent said nominating someone who will build on Obama's legacy is very important to them, while 38 percent said it is somewhat important. Just 21 percent said it is not important at all. The poll also suggests Democrats are focused on picking the candidate who can defeat Trump. Sixty-eight percent of voters said they want to nominate someone who can beat Trump, even if they disagree with the candidate on the issues. The Monmouth University survey of 376 likely Democratic primary voters in New Hampshire was conducted from May 2 to May 7 and has a 5.1 percentage point margin of error.

Biden and the American economy

One of the problems that Biden faces with Donald Trump will be the issue of economics. Undoubtedly, Biden will criticize Trump's economic policy in the field of foreign trade in the 2010 presidential election race. However, it seems Biden does not only end up with this problem! AS Cnn reported, Congressional Republicans are pushing back against White House hopeful Joe Biden after the former vice president dismissed the notion that the U.S. should be worried about China as a geopolitical competitor, writes the Washington Post. "China is going to eat our lunch? Come on, man," said Biden at a campaign stop in Iowa City on Wednesday. Saying Beijing has its hands full dealing with its own domestic and regional problems, Biden said, "guess what? They're not competition for us." Republicans including Sen. Mitt Romney of Utah and Rep. Bradley Byrne of Alabama, who is running for Senate, rebuked Biden.



"Joe is plain wrong. China is absolutely a threat," said Byrne in a tweet. A Biden spokesman said the ex-vice president "believes it's never a good bet to bet against America and the fundamental strength, resilience, and ingenuity of its people."

As Biden seeks to win the Democratic nomination and take on Trump, the president has hit a new high on his economic approval ratings in a new CNN poll conducted by SSRS, reaching 56% of Americans saying he's doing a good job on the economy. Trump's previous high mark in CNN polling on handling the economy came in March 2017 when 55%

approved. As CNN noted, the economy is the president's best issue tested in the new poll, with his other approval ratings all below 50%.

How can Biden really overcome this situation? Undoubtedly, the former vice-president of the United States will focus on social services, including health insurance, in the 2010 presidential election race. In this case, Biden can bring the middle and poor Americans. It should not be forgotten that Trump in the field of foreign policy is not well placed in the polls, and only about 40 percent of American citizens confirm their policies in the face of the international

system. Biden, meanwhile, specializes in foreign policy, and his vision is more than approved by American citizens. Meanwhile, Biden's only concern is the tramp control in the economy. The former vice president of the United States is trying to get support from Barack Obama.

As Forbes reported, The health insurance industry is preparing to expand individual coverage offered under the Affordable Care Act in 2020 just as Joe Biden talks about implementing some improvements to the law.

The ACA, also known as Obama care, is yet again expected to be an issue in a U.S. presidential election with Democrats like former Vice President Biden already talking about some fixes to the law and adding a "public option." Meanwhile, others like U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders want wholesale changes that would end the private insurer's role in coverage. The debate will heat up just as it appears health insurance companies are expanding coverage for the second year in a row after a period of retrenchment and departures of big-name players like United-Health Group, Aetna and Humana. Insurers that exited the Obama care business were unable to successfully manage the costs of newly insured sick patients.

Ultimately, the re-issue of social insurance in the United States, also from Joe Biden, can partly lead to a shift in balance in economic and welfare surveys (at the expense of Trumps). A matter that the President of the United States and his entourage are deeply concerned about.

Trump not seeking war with Iran, trying to please Israeli lobby: U.S. analyst

TEHRAN (Tasnim) — A senior American analyst and journalist said U.S. President Donald Trump is not seeking war with Iran but is merely trying to please the Israeli lobby ahead of the 2020 presidential election.

"I don't think there will be a war, though of course such intemperate and foolish moves as this risk that outcome. Trump does not want a war. He knows that would all but destroy his presidency for the 2020 election," Philip Weiss, the founder and co-editor of Mondoweiss.net, told Tasnim when asked about Washington's recent move to deploy a carrier strike group to the Middle East in a "message" to Iran.

On Sunday night, the White House made an announcement that the USS Abraham Lincoln and a bomber task force were being deployed in response to unspecified "troubling and escalatory indications and warnings."

A statement from National Security Adviser John Bolton said the deployments were intended "to send 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."

Weiss added, "He (Trump) is merely trying to please the Israel lobby in U.S. politics. He needs them for the 2020 race. He needs Sheldon Adelson's money. And other older Israel supporters who take Netanyahu at his word. This is all performance by Trump."

"Though his administration is now loaded with foolish neoconservatives, Trump will hold off on any real belligerence, I believe. Though again, this is foolhardy behavior."

Weiss further said the U.S. press is not being skeptical enough, that is also a danger, though the Democratic opposition is being outspoken on these plans, and that is a good thing.

"Many Democratic candidates have promised to restore the U.S. participating in the Iran deal, too. We all hope cooler heads will prevail, and soon," he said.



INVITATION TO A ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT

55/97/3646
12/05/2019

Agricultural Support Services Company



Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture

AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY

The Agricultural Support Services Company, hereinafter will be referred as ASSC, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Agricultural Jihad of I.R. of Iran, is considering the purchase of 2×35000±5% MTS of Granular Potassium Chloride (GMOP) in bulk through one step international tender.

All of the qualified and interested companies are invited to receive tender documents from Saturday dated 11/05/2019 until Sunday dated 19/05/2019 (7 working days) from our purchasing committee (located at the 9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi st., Tehran, Iran).

The bidders are requested to submit their letters of introduction, along with remittance bill of I.Rials 1,200,000 to ASSC's account no. 4001039704005791 with SHEBA no. IR250100004001039704005791 at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran through payment order of SATNA or PAYA with the 30 character identification code of 358039782263500650000000000006.

The bidders are required to submit their sealed and stamped envelopes containing offers latest on Tuesday dated 18/06/2019 (during official working hours) to our security office, located on the 8th floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelopes will be on Tuesday dated 25/06/2019 at 2:00 PM with the presence of bidders' representatives in our purchasing committee (9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

The bid bond value should be:

- At €271415 or in equal value of any other foreign currencies, except US dollars, based on exchange rate of CBI on 7/5/ 2019 for each lot of 35000 MT ± 5% in bank guarantee.

– The bidders are permitted to submit the bid bond in Iranian Rial. Therefore, the value of bid bond for each lot of 35000 MT ± 5% will be IR12774000000, which must be only submitted by the bidders.

- After approval of ASSC 's Financial Manager, the bidders are permitted to use their previous and definite outstanding claims as bid bond.

For more information, you may refer to our **website www.assc.ir**, and **<http://iets.mporg.ir>** or contact us by phone no. 00982188776325.

PR & Intel Affairs Dept. of Agricultural Support
Services Company (ASSC)



INVITATION OF ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT

55/98/3645
12/05/2019

Agricultural Support Services Company



Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture

AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY

The Agricultural Support Services Company, hereinafter will be referred as ASSC, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Agricultural Jihad of I.R. of Iran, is considering the purchase of 2×35000±5% MTS of Granular Di Ammonium Phosphate (GDAP) in bulk through one step international tender.

All of the qualified and interested companies are invited to receive tender documents from Saturday dated 11/05/2019 until Sunday dated 19/05/2019 (7 working days) from our purchasing committee (located at the 9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi st., Tehran, Iran).

The bidders are requested to submit their letters of introduction, along with remittance bill of I.Rials 1,200,000 to ASSC's account no. 4001039704005791 with SHEBA no. IR250100004001039704005791 at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran through payment order of SATNA or PAYA with the 30 character identification code of 358039782263500650000000000006.

The bidders are required to submit their sealed and stamped envelopes containing offers latest on Tuesday dated 18/06/2019 (during official working hours) to our security office, located on the 8th floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelopes will be on Sunday dated 23/06/2019 at 2:00 PM with the presence of bidders' representatives in our purchasing committee (9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

The bid bond value should be:

- At €301720 or in equal value of any other foreign currencies, except US dollars, based on exchange rate of CBI on 7/5/ 2019 for each lot of 35000 MT ± 5% in bank guarantee.

– The bidders are permitted to submit the bid bond in Iranian Rial. Therefore, the value of bid bond for each lot of 35000 MT ± 5% will be IR 14200000000, which must be only submitted by the bidders.

- After approval of ASSC 's Financial Manager, the bidders are permitted to use their previous and definite outstanding claims as bid bond.

For more information, you may refer to our **website www.assc.ir**, and **<http://iets.mporg.ir>** or contact us by phone no. 00982188776325.

PR & Intel Affairs Dept. of Agricultural Support
Services Company (ASSC)

Trump Box

By Mohammad Bahrapour

TEHRAN — What is going on? This is a \$1M question when we want to understand Donald Trump and its Administration. But I have a dream to be a millionaire! So let's do it. Before the winning of the presidential election, most of the analysts, especially in CNN, said that world will be madder with Donald Trump as the U.S. president. It seems that they have come true. But I think slightly different and want to see other side of it.

His slogans were "Make America Great Again" and "America First". Those are the best proofs for declinists' arguments. It is easy to find them around ourselves. Dennis Prager, a declinist, said that American family, education and morality are in decline. He saw movements such as LGBT as decay of American family and society. Recent approaches in trying to pass antiabortion laws in the U.S. are first steps toward opposing this decay or decline. Likewise, Noam Chomsky wrote in 2011 that "the decline has in fact been proceeding since the high point of U.S. power shortly after World War II, and the remarkable rhetoric of the several years of triumphalism in the 1990s was mostly self-delusion".

But we should see ourselves to believe it. Generally, U.S. power is based on its military, economy and soft power.

Based on Globalfirepower.com, U.S. is first in world military strength. But in the last decade, U.S. military has seen a shrinkage in size and becoming old in personnel and equipment. Heritage Foundation reported in October 2018 that "the active component of the U.S. military is two-thirds the size it should be, operates equipment that is older than should be the case, and is burdened by readiness levels that are problematic. Accordingly ... Marine Corps (is) Weak ... (and) the current U.S. military force is likely capable of meeting the demands of a single major regional conflict ... but that it would be very hard-pressed to do more and certainly would be ill-equipped to handle two nearly simultaneous major regional contingencies". U.S. cybersecurity situation after the allegations of Russian intervention in its presidential election is the other sign of the weakness of U.S. power.

In the economy, there is a trade war between China and US. In many forecasts about the future of the world economy, name of China is at first. Based on the statistics reported by United States Census Bureau, in the first quarter of 2019, U.S. trade in goods with china has experienced the \$27213M of exports and \$118825M of imports. They call it trade deficit. The U.S. trade in Goods and Services in the 2018 with China saw the \$378734M of trade deficit with \$179917M exports and \$558651M of imports from china. The trade deficit in Goods trade with France,



Reagan used to call America a "shining city on a hill" and Donald Trump Administration knows that the US has lost its shining and only tries to keep its hill. What will jump out of Trump Box will be threatening for a while but after it, there will be a fun, as a jack in the box. So be calm, the king is naked.

Germany, Japan, Mexico, Italy and India in the first Quarter of 2019 is respectively \$5152, \$17225, \$18093, \$23547, \$8477 and \$5838M. The most notable positive numbers in the balance column of the chart is for Brazil (\$2627M), Hong Kong (\$7037M) and United Kingdom (\$2720M). This gap is haunting on the U.S. economy and latest efforts by Donald Trump to impose many tariffs on Chinese goods are a way out of it.

In the soft power area, the U.S. situation is worse. The U.S. is (or was) the model of freedom, democracy and prosperity by the name of Happiness. Its freedom statue with its shining torch is (or was) the symbol of its soft power. But it seems that the Dark Age has come. By the latest report of the Freedom House, freedom in the world has recorded global decline in political rights and civil liberties for an alarming 13 consecutive years, from 2005 to 2018. It accents on "the United States in Decline" and reports that the score of U.S. is 86 (out of 100) and is less than UK, France and Germany and that "while democracy in America remains robust by global standards, it has weakened significantly over the past eight years, and the current president's ongoing attacks on the rule of law, fact-based journalism, and other principles and norms of democracy

threaten further decline". In this regard, a Global Ranking of Soft Power, published by USC Center on Public Diplomacy, has assessed the U.S. on 4th of the global ranking in 2018, after UK, France and Germany. Its methodology is based on Government, Culture, Education and Foreign policy, to name some. The 2018 report asserts that "America first" does not play well with audiences abroad. Last year's international polling data for the U.S. was unequivocal in showing a severe drop in favorability towards the US.

Donald Trump is the son of this decline. He tries to reverse it and make America great "again". He knows best that its military capability is shrinking and the U.S. is being to lose its military edge with China and Russia. Look at latest reports on the new military activities of Russia or China – especially about the second Chinese aircraft carrier. They are full of fear of losing the ground to them. The uproars about Huawei is the other sign of this fear in American policymakers. In other areas of economic and political power the U.S. is losing the ground to other players and seeks to reverse it by withdrawing from global treaties and organizations and tries to make new ones, to impose its power "again". But all of them is (and will be) futile.

In 8 May 2019, The Foundation for De-

fense of Democracies (FDD - a conservative think tank in the US), held a conference by this title: "Rising to the threat: Revitalizing America's Military and Political Power". There is no need to interpret the written words. In that conference CENTCOM's Commander General McKenzie said that: "Let me be perfectly clear: the long-term, enduring, most significant threat to stability in CENTCOM's areas of responsibility is Iran".

In response to this threat, the Trump Administration withdrew from the JCPOA and now has imposed new sanctions on the Iranian mining and steel sectors and threatens Iran by sending its B-52s and USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier to Mideast to confront the so called "Iran Threats". Let me be perfectly clear, the U.S. has lost its superiority in power. The power is symmetrical and asymmetrical. Iran has its tools in both areas.

In my view, U.S. strategy before conflict is "Gunboat Diplomacy". It means that, it uses every means of preventing the conflict by threatening to do very drastic things, but does nothing. When there is a real confrontation, it seems the U.S. is deaf and blind. Recent North Korean missile tests are the best examples. Venezuela is the other. Everything was ready to topple Maduro by the coup d'état. But the response of the Trump Administration was: we are supporting you without any spending our resources. This shows us the second part of U.S. strategy, i.e. in the field. In the conflict or confrontation or even war, the U.S. is off-shore. It is the advice of John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt. In "Offshore Balancing", great power seeks to use regional powers to achieve its goals.

In Iran's case, these regional balancers are Terrorist Groups, UAE, KSA and Israel. So there will be no confrontation with US, in war sort of thing. There is also the probability of using the drones or missiles by US' "brave" commanders but the aftermath is by Iran. So there will be no war and Trump will seek to negotiate with Iranian government and all the rhetoric is a tactic to demoralize Iranians.

Global players are also in the same boat with Iran. Best approach to recent escalations by Trump Administration is to strengthening the relations with other global players around the conceptions such as multilateralism. Germany and France will seek to establish an "Alliance for Multilateralism" in the next UN General Assembly, and Iran should seek to join it.

At the end, it should be said that, Reagan used to call America a "shining city on a hill" and Donald Trump Administration knows that the U.S. has lost its shining and only tries to keep its hill. What will jump out of Trump Box will be threatening for a while but after it, there will be a fun, as a jack in the box. So be calm, the king is naked.

Asylum seekers in Ireland are intimidated into silence over their poor treatment

By Emer O'Toole

Guardian - In the year 2000, asylum seekers were formally removed from Ireland's welfare system and institutionalised under a system called direct provision. Direct provision provides compulsory communal accommodation, three meals a day at strict times and a small monetary allowance. Direct provision centres – located in old hotels, hostels and guest houses; on paved caravan sites; in disused barracks; and, in the case of one centre, a defunct holiday park – are run by private contractors for profit. By now, they are big business. Direct provision was supposed to accommodate people for no more than six months. Some people have been there for years – children have grown up in these institutions.

The architects of the scheme believed that placing accommodation in Dublin would attract more people. Thus, direct provision centres are often in isolated locations poorly served by public transport. If the residents want to eat, they cannot leave for more than a few hours. The 2015 McMahon report revealed that asylum seekers feel they live in prison-like conditions. For years, reporting on direct provision has revealed a mental health crisis. As Primrose, a mother of two who spent eight years in direct provision, told the Irish Times' Lives in Limbo series in 2014, "some of us came here when we were normal, but now we are abnormal". Noreen, a single mother who had spent five and a half years in the system, testified that living in direct provision had left her with clinical depression.

Tales of petty cruelties and Kafkaesque injustices facing asylum seekers continually leak into the public domain. In February, a homelessness charity reported that it had been prevented from delivering toys left over from its Christmas drive to children living in direct provision. Bulelani Mfaco, of the Movement for Asylum Seekers in Ireland (Masi), writes of a mother being refused a slice of bread for her sick child. The government suggested the mother report the incident to the Ombudsman. But the Ombudsman has already declared direct provision "wholly unsuitable" for children.

In the wake of the McMahon report, there have been some improvements. In October last year, the weekly allowance was increased from €21.60 (£18.60) to €38.80 for adults and from €21.60 to €29.80 for children. Also last year, asylum seekers gained the right to work, although many barriers to employment remain. One of the most chilling aspects of life under direct provision is the oft-reported fear that any complaint or attempt to assert one's human rights will be met with retribution. Threats of "troublemakers" being transferred to centres in less desirable locations or, worse, that acts of protest will negatively impact asylum claims, intimidate those who might otherwise speak out.

On 25 April, residents at the Mosney direct provision centre in County Meath staged a protest, which, Masi explained in a statement, responded to the hospitalisation of a single mother moved against her wishes to a hotel in Cavan with her three children. In a video of the protest circulated online, Phelim McCloskey, the businessman who owns the facility, can be heard telling protesting women: "This will have an impact on you."

Irish society now knows of the abuses committed in its institutions of yesteryear – in its Catholic industrial schools, Magdalene laundries and mother and baby homes. I often hear people ask how a whole society could have looked the other way. Public discourse surrounding direct provision gives us the answer: dehumanisation. When you can be convinced that the people hidden behind those walls are liars, are immoral, are lesser, then you do not care what they are suffering.



Agricultural Support Services Company

INVITATION TO A ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT

55/97/3648
12/05/2019



Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture

AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY

The Agricultural Support Services Company, hereinafter will be referred as ASSC, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Agricultural Jihad of I.R. of Iran, is considering the purchase of 4×30000±5% MTS of Granular Triple Super Phosphate (GTSP) in bulk through one step international tender.

All of the qualified and interested companies are invited to receive tender documents from Saturday dated 11/05/2019 until Sunday dated 19/05/2019 (7 working days) from our purchasing committee (located at the 9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi st., Tehran, Iran).

The bidders are requested to submit their letters of introduction, along with remittance bill of I.Rials 1,200,000 to ASSC's account no. 4001039704005791 with SHEBA no. IR250100004001039704005791 at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran through payment order of SATNA or PAYA with the 30 character identification code of 358039782263500650000000000006.

The bidders are required to submit their sealed and stamped envelopes containing offers latest on Tuesday dated 18/06/2019 (during official working hours) to our security office, located on the 8th floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelopes will be on Saturday dated 22/06/2019 at 2:00 PM with the presence of bidders' representatives in our purchasing committee (9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

The bid bond value should be:

- At € 252486 or in equal value of any other foreign currencies, except US dollars, based on exchange rate of CBI on 7/5/ 2019 for each lot of 30000 MT ± 5% in bank guarantee.

– The bidders are permitted to submit the bid bond in Iranian Rial. Therefore, the value of bid bond for each lot of 30000 MT ± 5% will be IR11883000000, which must be only submitted by the bidders.

- After approval of ASSC 's Financial Manager, the bidders are permitted to use their previous and definite outstanding claims as bid bond.

For more information, you may refer to our website www.assc.ir, and <http://iets.mporg.ir> or contact us by phone no. 00982188776325.

PR & Intel Affairs Dept. of Agricultural Support Services Company (ASSC)



Agricultural Support Services Company

INVITATION OF ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT

55/98/3647
12/05/2019



Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture

AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY

The Agricultural Support Services Company, hereinafter will be referred as ASSC, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Agricultural Jihad of I.R. of Iran, is considering the purchase of 2×30000±5% MTS of Granular Potassium Sulphate (GSOP) in bulk through one step international tender.

All of the qualified and interested companies are invited to receive tender documents from Saturday dated 11/05/2019 until Sunday dated 19/05/2019 (7 working days) from our purchasing committee (located at the 9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi st., Tehran, Iran).

The bidders are requested to submit their letters of introduction, along with remittance bill of I.Rials 1,200,000 to ASSC's account no. 4001039704005791 with SHEBA no. IR250100004001039704005791 at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran through payment order of SATNA or PAYA with the 30 character identification code of 358039782263500650000000000006.

The bidders are required to submit their sealed and stamped envelopes containing offers latest on Tuesday dated 18/06/2019 (during official working hours) to our security office, located on the 8th floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelopes will be on Monday dated 24/06/2019 at 2:00 PM with the presence of bidders' representatives in our purchasing committee (9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

The bid bond value should be:

- At € 311400 or in equal value of any other foreign currencies, except US dollars, based on exchange rate of CBI on 7/5/ 2019 for each lot of 30000 MT ± 5% in bank guarantee.

– The bidders are permitted to submit the bid bond in Iranian Rial. Therefore, the value of bid bond for each lot of 30000 MT ± 5% will be IR14655000000, which must be only submitted by the bidders.

- After approval of ASSC 's Financial Manager, the bidders are permitted to use their previous and definite outstanding claims as bid bond.

For more information, you may refer to our website www.assc.ir, and <http://iets.mporg.ir> or contact us by phone no. 00982188776325.

PR & Intel Affairs Dept. of Agricultural Support Services Company (ASSC)

Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

Apartment

Apt in South Qeytarieh
3th floor, 140 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.
3 bath rooms, furn, equipped
kitchen, sauna, swimming pool
indoor Jacuzzi, parking
\$1300
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Velenjak
1th floor, 180 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.
fully furn, equipped kitchen
spj, gym, billiard table
2 parking spots, **\$2500**
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Zafaranih
1th floor, 135 sq.m with
3 Bdrs. unfurn, spj, parking
\$1800
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Saadat Abad
5th floor, 235 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.
Modern furn, fire place renovated,
storage, parking
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Penthouse in Farmanieh
brand new, 10th floor, 630 sq.m 5
master rooms, unfurn, spj
gym, roof garden, 2 terraces
7 parking spots
\$3500
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Jordan
120 sq.m, 2 Bdrs., furn parking
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Villa

Villa in Elahieh
800 sq.m land, 600 sq.m
built up, 10 Bdrs., unfurn outdoor
swimming pool, yard
4 parking spots
\$7000
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Villa in Zafaranih
triplex, 1000 sq.m land
1300 sq.m built up, 3 Bdrs.
4 master bedrooms, spj
Renovated, CCTV camera
parking, **\$12000**
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

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 Niavaran
600 sq.m land, 700 sq.m built up, 5
Bdrs., fully furn
outdoor swimming pool
yard, parking
\$9000
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Villa in North Kamranieh
duplex, 750 sq.m land, 500 sq.m
built up, unfurn, servant quarter,
renovated
2 parking spots
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 Zafaranih
brand new, 5 floors, 250 sq.m
spj, elevator, roof top
storage, 10 parking spots
Price: negotiable
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 North Shirazi
administrative office license
brand new, 6 floors, 6 units
each unit 120 sq.m flat
5 parking spots
\$12000
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Whole Building in Jordan
3 floors, 500 sq.m land, totally
650 sq.m built up, swimming pool
renovated, parking
\$7000

**Suitable for
Embassies, International companies
& Guesthouses**

Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Whole Building in Pasdaran
almost new, 5 floors, each floor 2
apts, 10 apts totally, 90 sq.m to 100
sq.m, storage, parking
Price: negotiable
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Ideal Offers

Apt in Fereshteh
185 sq.m, 2 master room with one
room, furn, spj, parking **\$1700**
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Mirdamad
2 apts, each apt has 1 Bdr. fully
furn elevator, long & short term,
parking spot
\$23 daily
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Suite in Yusef Abad
63 sq.m, 1 Bdr, fully, equipped
kitchen, renovated, yard
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Andarzgoo blvd
3th floor, 100 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.
fully furn, parking, **\$1200**
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Elahieh
4th floor, 150 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.
2 bath rooms, furn, balcony
swimming pool, Jacuzzi, billiard
table, parking, **\$1700**
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Jordan
sq.m with, 3 Bdrs 270
furn, parkign, **\$1100**
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Elahieh
1th floor, 70 sq.m, 1 Bdr.
unfurn, spj, gym, **\$800**
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

مالکین محترم

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

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت

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

مالکین محترم

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

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

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Shahrak-e-Gharb 200sq.m, 3bdrs (\$1400) F.F | Aghdasieh (\$1800) 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, F.F | Elahieh Villa 2000sq.m, 6bdrs (\$4000) yard |
| Farmanieh Apt 220sq.m, 3bdrs (\$2300) F.F | Jordan (\$1500) 3bdrs, S/p F.F | Vanak office 300sq.m, 3bdrs (\$20 per sq.m) |
| Zafaranih (\$2200) 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, F.F | | |

TEHRAN TIMES
Iran's Leading International Daily

ENGLISH PERSIAN GLOSSARY

واژه نامه اصطلاحات مطبوعه عالم
انگلیسی - فارسی

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

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

For more information contact:
Tel: 021 - 430 51 450
times1979@gmail.com

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

Advertising Dept:
times1979@gmail.com

+9821 430 51 450
www.tehrantimes.com

TEHRAN TIMES
Iran's Leading International Daily

Advertising Dept

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

Amazon’s Bezos says he’ll send a spaceship to the moon

Amazon tycoon Jeff Bezos said Thursday he’s going to send a spaceship to the moon, joining a resurgence of lunar interest half a century after people first set foot there.

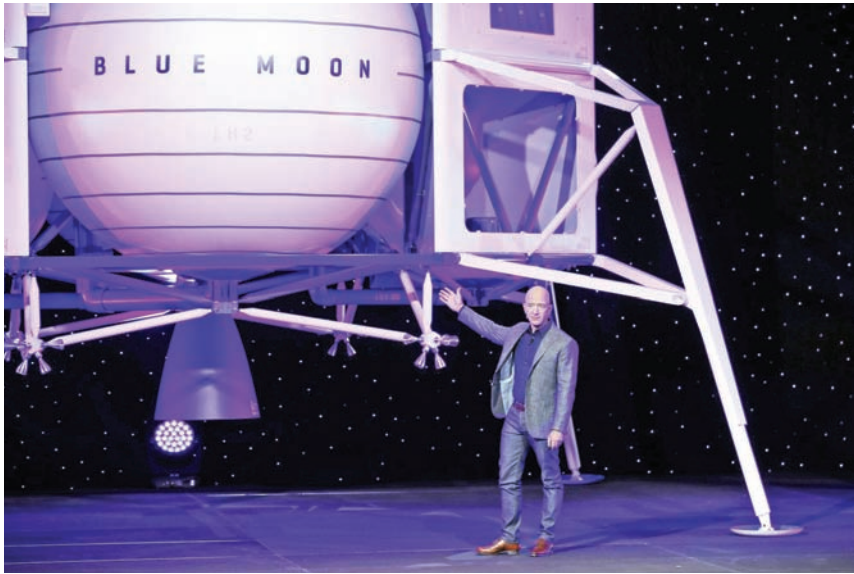
Bezos said his space company Blue Origin will land a robotic ship the size of a small house, capable of carrying four rovers and using a newly designed rocket engine and souped-up rockets. It would be followed by a version that could bring people to the moon along the same timeframe as NASA’s proposed 2024 return.

Bezos, who was dwarfed by his mock-up of the Blue Moon vehicle at his presentation Thursday, said, “This is an incredible vehicle and it’s going to the moon.”

He added: “It’s time to go back to the moon. This time to stay.”

The announcement for the usually secretive space company came with all the glitz of an Apple product launch in a darkened convention ballroom bedazzled with shimmering stars on its walls. Astronauts and other space luminaries sat in the audience under blue-tinted lighting before Bezos unveiled the boxy ship with four long and spindly landing legs.

Bezos, who also owns The Washington Post, walked off the stage without providing details, including launch dates, customers and the plan for humans on his rockets. He spent more time talking about his dream of future generations living on orbiting space station colonies than on concrete details



about Blue Origin missions.

Blue Origin officials gave conflicting answers to questions about when the company would land on the moon with and without people. Blue Origin Vice President Clay Mowry said 2024 was not a concrete goal for a mission with people and said it was more up to NASA as a potential customer.

Former U.S. Rep. Robert Walker, a private space consultant who is working with Blue Origin, said it plans for a 2023 launch without

people.

Blue Origin in 2017 revealed plans to send an unmanned, reusable rocket, capable of carrying 10,000 pounds (4,500 kilograms) of payload, to the moon. The company had a successful launch earlier this month, reusing one of its New Shepard rockets, which barely goes to the edge of space, for a fifth time.

The new moon race has a lower profile than the one in the 1960s. It involves private

companies, new countries and a NASA return mission to place astronauts back on the lunar surface by 2024.

While a \$30 million prize for private companies to send robotic probes to the moon went unclaimed last year, one of the competitors, from an Israeli private nonprofit, crashed last month as it tried to land.

China has landed a rover on the moon’s far side. SpaceX last year announced plans to send a Japanese businessman around the moon in 2023. And the Israeli nonprofit said it will give it a second shot.

The first successful moon landing was by the Soviet Union in 1966 with Luna 9, followed by the U.S. four months later. NASA put the first — and only — people on the moon in the Apollo program, starting with Apollo 11 in July 1969.

“The next leap in space will be fueled by commercial companies like Blue Origin and commercial innovation,” said former Obama White House space adviser Phil Larson, now an assistant dean of engineering at the University of Colorado.

Space companies have in the past made big announcements with goals that never came true.

Former NASA deputy administrator Dava Newman, an MIT professor working as a customer of Blue Origin, said this time it’s different. The new engine is the reason, she said, “It’s for real.”

(Source: AP News)

New species of “fierce” tiny dinosaurs with bat-like wings is discovered in China



A “fierce” new species of little dinosaurs with bat-like wings has been discovered in China.

Palaeontologists have uncovered the fossilized remains of a 163-million-year-old creature that would have been around the size of a magpie, weighing just 300g.

Named *Ambopteryx longibrachium*, it had bat-like membrane wings which were previously unknown among predatory theropod dinosaurs. This suggests that when dinosaurs were beginning to fly they were experimenting with a range of wing structures.

The find “completely changes our idea of dinosaur evolution”, lead researcher Min Wang from the Chinese Academy of Sciences told The Independent.

“We imagine dinosaurs have feathered wings but this latest discovery changes how we understand the origins of flight,” he said.

The feathered dinosaur lived during the Upper Jurassic period in what is now Liaoning province in north eastern China. It would have spent most of its time in the trees, or flying between them, according to

the paper published in the journal Nature.

It lived around the same time and place as dinosaurs with feathered wings.

However, feathered wings were ultimately more successful and led to the evolution of birds – bats did not evolve until after the extinction of dinosaurs 66 million years ago.

Fossilized stomach contents showed the creature had undigested bone material suggested it hunted other animals.

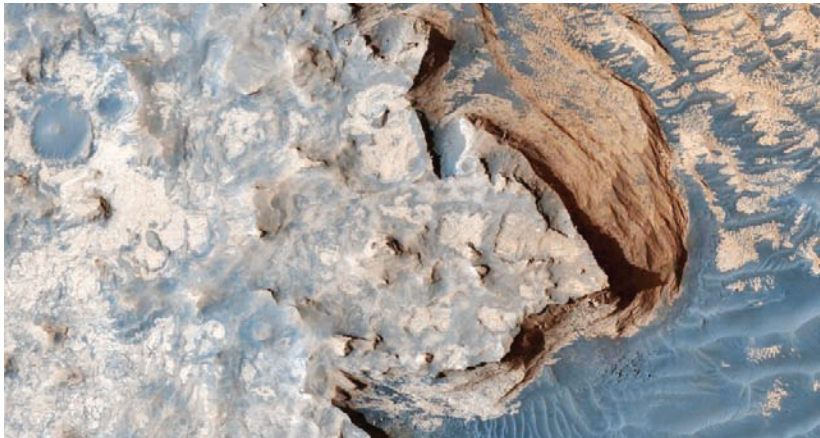
“It was probably quite fierce,” said Dr Wang. The new specimen belongs to a group called the scansoriopterygids which are tree climbers with very long hands and fingers.

Ambopteryx was related to a similar dinosaur named *Yi Qi* which was found by a farmer in China in 2007. *Yi Qi* was the first specimen to be found with bat-like wings.

“At least eight to ten species of dinosaurs at the time had feathered wings, but only two had membrane wings,” said Dr Wang. “The fossil record is not complete and the feathered wing is more widely distributed so I think they probably evolved earlier.”

(Source: The Independent)

Scientists call for better research on planetary internal dynamics



In the search for potentially habitable worlds and alien life, scientists often focus on a planet’s surface or atmosphere, but new research suggests it’s what’s inside that counts.

An international group of planetary scientists, geologists and chemists published a letter in the journal Science calling for more researchers to explore the role a planet’s interior dynamics play in producing and maintaining a habitable environment.

Given that Earth is the only confirmed habitable world, the authors of the new letter recommend researchers begin by investigating the link between Earth’s livability and the makeup of its interior.

“We need a better understanding of how a planet’s composition and interior influence its habitability, starting with Earth,” Anat Shahar, researcher at the Carnegie Institute for Science, said in a news release. “This can be used to guide the search for exoplanets and star systems where life could thrive,

signatures of which could be detected by telescopes.”

The abundance of many of the elements that coalesced during Earth’s formation -- and the cooling and heating they experienced -- influenced Earth’s internal chemistry, its evolution and the size of the planet’s oceans. They played a role in facilitating a habitable world, but scientists aren’t sure whether other combinations of elements can produce a habitable planet, too.

“One of the big questions we need to ask is whether the geologic and dynamic features that make our home planet habitable can be produced on planets with different compositions,” said Peter Driscoll, Carnegie scientist.

If scientists can determine which kinds of interior compositions are most likely to produce stable, habitable conditions on a planet’s surface, planetary scientists and astronomers hunting for alien life could narrow their search parameters.

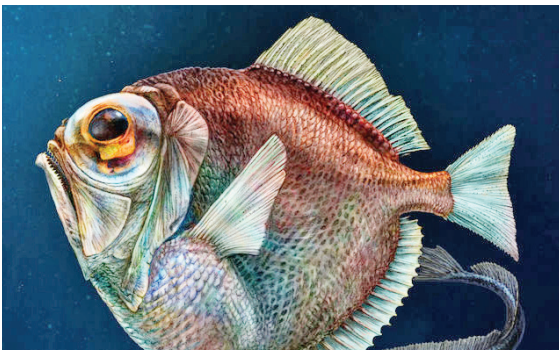
(Source: UPI)

In the deep, dark ocean fish have evolved superpowered vision

When the ancestors of cave fish and certain crickets moved into pitchblack caverns, their eyes virtually disappeared over generations. But fish that ply the sea at depths greater than sunlight can penetrate have developed super-vision, highly attuned to the faint glow and twinkle given off by other creatures. They owe this power, evolutionary biologists have learned, to an extraordinary increase in the number of genes for rod opsins, retinal proteins that detect dim light. Those extra genes have diversified to produce proteins capable of capturing every possible photon at multiple wavelengths—which could mean that despite the darkness, the fish roaming the deep ocean actually see in color.

The finding “really shakes up the dogma of deep-sea vision,” says Megan Porter, an evolutionary biologist studying vision at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu who was not involved in the work. Researchers had observed that the deeper a fish lives, the simpler its visual system is, a trend they assumed would continue to the bottom. “That [the deepest dwellers] have all these opsins means there’s a lot more complexity in the interplay between light and evolution in the deep sea than we realized,” Porter says.

At a depth of 1000 meters, the last glimmer of sunlight is gone. But over the past 15 years, researchers have realized that the depths are pervaded by a faint bioluminescence from flashing shrimp, octopus, bacteria, and even fish. Most vertebrate eyes could barely detect this subtle shimmer. To learn how fish can see it, a team led by evolutionary biologist Walter Salzburger from the University of Basel in Switzerland studied deep-sea fishes’ opsin proteins. Variation in the opsins’ amino acid sequences changes the wavelength of light detected, so multiple opsins make color vision possible. One opsin, RH1, works well in low light.



Found in the eye’s rod cells, it enables humans to see in the dark—but only in black and white.

Salzburger and his colleagues searched for opsin genes in 101 fish species, including seven Atlantic Ocean deep-sea fish whose genomes they fully sequenced. Most fish have one or two RH1 opsins, like many other vertebrates, but four of the deep-sea species stood apart, the researchers report this week in Science. Those fish—the lantern-fish, a tube-eye fish, and two spinyfins—all had at least five RH1 genes, and one, the silver spinyfin (*Dierytmus argenteus*), had 38. “This is unheard of in vertebrate vision,” says K. Kristian Donner, a sensory biologist at the University of Helsinki.

To make sure the extra genes weren’t just nonfunctional duplicates, the team measured gene activity in 36 species, including specimens of 11 deep-sea fish. Multiple RH1 genes were active in the deep-sea species, and the total was 14 in an adult silver spinyfin, which thrives down to 2000 meters. “At first it seems paradoxical—this is where there’s the least

amount of light,” Salzburger says.

Researchers can predict the wavelengths that an opsin protein is most sensitive to from its amino acid sequence. The deep-sea fish had a total of 24 mutations that alter the function of their RH1 proteins, fine-tuning each to see a narrow range of blue and green wavelengths—the colors of bioluminescence. “Some of these opsins might be tuned to detect particular bioluminescent signals associated with food, danger, or social interactions,” says Gil Rosenthal, a behavioral ecologist at Texas A&M University in College Station.

The four deep-sea species belong to three different branches of the fish family tree, indicating that this supervision evolved repeatedly. “This indicates that animals living in extreme light environments may be subject to extreme natural selective pressures to improve visual performance,” says Eric Warrant, a visual ecologist at Lund University in Sweden.

The bountiful opsins also help explain the unusual anatomy of the spinyfin retina. Some of its rod cells are much longer than usual, and many are stacked one on top of another rather than arranged in a single layer. The enlarged cells and the stacking help ensure more incoming photons are detected, but researchers have long assumed these rods all had the same opsin. Now, it appears that, like the layers in old photographic film, rods of different sizes might capture different wavelengths of light. “We now have to accept that our view [of deep-sea vision] has been too limited,” Donner says.

Because of the depths these fish inhabit, it’s impossible to collect live specimens to test their vision. But the multiple rod opsins may enable them to distinguish color, Salzburger and others agree. For these fish, the faint bioluminescence in the inky depths could be as vivid and varied as the bright surface world.

(Source: sciencemag.org)

Bird that went extinct 136,000 years ago comes “back from the dead” after evolving again

A bird that previously went extinct rose from the dead after it evolved all over again, scientists have found.

The last surviving flightless species of bird in the Indian Ocean, a type of rail, has actually been around before, the research found. It came back through a process called “iterative evolution”, which saw it emerge twice over, the researchers found.

It means that on two separate occasions – tens of thousands of years apart – a species of rail was able to colonize an atoll called Aldabra. In both cases it eventually became flightless, and those birds from the latter time can still be found on the island now.

Iterative evolution happens when the same or similar structures evolve out of the same common ancestor, but at different times – meaning that the animal actually comes about twice over, completely separately.

This is the first time it has been seen in rails, and one of the most significant ever seen in a bird of any kind.

White-throated rails are roughly the size of a chicken. They come from Madagascar, but repeatedly colonize other isolated islands, growing in number and then heading out of the island where they began.

Many of those that left to go north or south either died or were eaten. But some of the ones that headed eastwards went to live on the other ocean islands in the area, which includes Aldabra.

Aldabra does not have predators, and so the rails gradually lost the ability to fly. But then the island completely disappeared when it was covered by the sea, and the rail was wiped out, along with everything else on the island.

But after that event, some 100,000 years ago, the sea levels fell again and the atoll was once again taken over by flightless rails. By comparing the bones of those after and the ones before, researchers found that the evolution happened twice over a few thousand years ago.

“These unique fossils provide irrefutable evidence that a member of the rail family colonized the atoll, most likely from Madagascar, and became flightless independently on each occasion,” said lead researcher Dr Julian Hume, avian paleontologist and Research Associate at the Natural History Museum.

“Fossil evidence presented here is unique for rails, and epitomizes the ability of these birds to successfully colonize isolated islands and evolve flightlessness on multiple occasions.”

There is no better evidence of such a process happening to a bird, the researchers said.

“We know of no other example in rails, or of birds in general, that demonstrates this phenomenon so evidently. Only on Aldabra, which has the oldest palaeontological record of any oceanic island within the Indian Ocean region, is fossil evidence available that demonstrates the effects of changing sea levels on extinction and recolonization events,” said co-author Professor David Martill, from the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Portsmouth.

“Conditions were such on Aldabra, the most important being the absence of terrestrial predators and competing mammals, that a rail was able to evolve flightlessness independently on each occasion.”

(Source: The Independent)

Laser-triggered shockwaves help scientists study superionic ice

Scientists at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory successfully imaged the structure of superionic ice using giant lasers. Shockwaves produced by the laser caused the water to flash-freeze, while X-ray diffraction patterns revealed the atomic structure of the ice’s exotic phase change.

Superionic ice is a unique phase that forms under extreme conditions, like the high pressure and frigid temperatures found on Uranus and Neptune. The phase features a solid lattice of oxygen and liquid-like hydrogen.

Using lasers and X-ray imaging, scientists for the first time revealed the formation process and inner structure of the exotic ice phase.

“We wanted to determine the atomic structure of superionic water,” LLNL physicist Federica Coppari said in a news release. “But given the extreme conditions at which this elusive state of matter is predicted to be stable, compressing water to such pressures and temperatures and simultaneously taking snapshots of the atomic structure was an extremely difficult task, which required an innovative experimental design.”

Models have long predicted the existence of superionic ice. Over the last few years, LLNL scientists have been working on various techniques for combining extreme pressures and temperatures using laser shockwaves to produce unusual phase changes in ice. Last year, scientists reported the first evidence of superionic ice in their test facilities at LLNL.

For the latest experiments, researchers used the giant lasers at the University of Rochester’s Omega Laser Facility.

“We designed the experiments to compress the water so that it would freeze into solid ice, but it was not certain that the ice crystals would actually form and grow in the few billionths of a second that we can hold the pressure-temperature conditions,” said LLNL physicist Marius Millot.

To image the crystallization process and the structure of the superionic ice, scientists directed additional laser pulses onto a small piece of iron foil, producing an intense flash of X-rays.

“The X-ray diffraction patterns we measured are an unambiguous signature for dense ice crystals forming during the ultra-fast shockwave compression demonstrating that nucleation of solid ice from liquid water is fast enough to be observed in the nanosecond timescale of the experiment,” Coppari said.

Last year’s experiments only provided imprecise signature of superionic ice, but the latest efforts -- described this week in the journal Nature -- allowed scientists capture high-definition images of the exotic ice phase.

The new findings will help scientists improve the accuracy of computer simulations of superionic ice, as well as the models used to predict the composition and behavior of the interiors of ice giants like Uranus and Neptune.

“Because water ice at Uranus and Neptune’s interior conditions has a crystalline lattice, we argue that superionic ice should not flow like a liquid such as the fluid iron outer core of the Earth,” Millot said. “Rather, it’s probably better to picture that superionic ice would flow similarly to the Earth’s mantle, which is made of solid rock, yet flows and supports large-scale convective motions on the very long geological timescales.”

(Source: UPI)

Iran to establish ecomuseum dedicated to nomadic people

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** — Tourism officials of Iran’s southwestern Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province plan to establish an ecomuseum dedicated to the province’s nomadic people and their everyday life.



“Over the past couple of years, the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization has made great strides to promote culture and customs of nomadic tribes of the province,” local official Majid Alipour said, CHTN reported on Saturday.

Having many pristine yet diverse natural setting, Iran has many to offer to nature lovers. Sightseers may live with a nomadic or rural family for a while or enjoy an independent stay and assist them with day-to-day routines. It also opens up an opportunity to feel rustic routines, their agriculture, traditions, arts and culture.

Delta is about to test free Wi-Fi on 55 flights daily

If you’re boarding a Delta Air Lines flight, you may soon be able to surf the web for free. The airline announced that it is beginning to test free in-flight Wi-Fi on May 13.

Starting then, the airline will offer free internet access on 55 flights per day. This is the start of the airline’s testing period to roll the service out for free across its fleet.

It’s not that the airline doesn’t have the technology to make the service free. Instead they will be testing how many passengers per flight make use of the unlimited free Wi-Fi. Currently, Gogo (Delta’s inflight internet provider) says that about 12 percent of passengers pay and use the in-flight internet connection. Obviously, if the service were to be free, that percentage would increase.

“Testing will be key to getting this highly complex program right,” Delta’s director of onboard product told The Wall Street Journal. “This takes a lot more creativity, investment, and planning to bring to life than a simple flip of a switch.”

The testing program is likely to take months, if not years. Passengers are unlikely to see free Wi-Fi on all their Delta flights for at least another year or two. Right now, it’s a game of chance to see if one of your flights will be among the lucky 55 every day.

The airline currently charges \$16 per day to access Wi-Fi on domestic flights. Delta passengers currently have access to free in-flight messaging using apps like iMessage, WhatsApp, and Facebook Messenger.

(Source: travelandleisure.com)



ROUND THE GLOBE City of Potosi

Potosi in Bolivia is the example par excellence of a major silvers mine of the modern era, reputed to be the world’s largest industrial complex in the 16th century. The historical city has been inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage list.

A small pre-Hispanic-period hamlet perched at an altitude of 4,000 m in the icy solitude of the Bolivian Andes, Potosi became an “Imperial City” following the visit of Francisco de Toledo in 1572.



It and its region prospered enormously following the discovery of the New World’s biggest silver lodes in the Cerro de Potosi south of the city. The major colonial-era supplier of silver for Spain, Potosi was directly and tangibly associated with the massive import of precious metals to Seville, which precipitated a flood of Spanish currency and resulted in globally significant economic changes in the 16th century.

The whole industrial production chain from the mines to the Royal Mint has been conserved, and the underlying social context is equally well illustrated, with quarters for the Spanish colonists and for the forced laborers separated from each other by an artificial river.

Potosi also exerted a lasting influence on the development of architecture and monumental arts in the central region of the Andes by spreading the forms of a baroque style that incorporated native Indian influences.

By the 17th century there were 160,000 colonists living in Potosi along with 13,500 Indians who were forced to work in the mines under the system of mita (mandatory labor).

The city and region retain evocative evidence of this activity, which slowed significantly after 1800 but still continues. This includes mines, notably the Royal mine complex, the biggest and best-conserved of the some 5,000 operations that riddled the high plateau and its valleys, dams that controlled the water that activated the ore-grinding mills, aqueducts, milling centers and kilns.

This inventive architecture, which reflects the rich social and religious life of the time, had a lasting influence on the development of architecture and monumental arts in the central region of the Andes.

(Source: UNESCO)

Fire incurs \$1.3 million loss to historic bazaar of Tabriz

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** — A blaze which erupted late on Wednesday at the historic bazaar of Tabriz, northwest Iran, is estimated to have caused about 200 billion rials (\$1.33 million) to the UNESCO-registered site.

Mohammad-Hassan Talebian, a deputy at Iran’s Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization, announced the figure on Saturday, adding the renovation of the marketplace, which dates back to 1,000 years, will commence as soon as possible, Mehr reported.

“An agreement will be forged between the CHHTO and all the associated organizations to commence the reconstruction project of the bazaar in the near future,” he said.

There was no word on what started the fire. However, the bazaar has seen several fires over the past years due to the disregard of safety measures, the report said.

The fire left had no fatality but hurt 29 people. Around 100 shops were seriously damaged and 50 ones suffered slight damage.

It took some six hours for firefighters to extinguish the fire.

A labyrinth of interconnected covered passages that stretches for about 5 km, the historic bazaar of Tabriz has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2010 and was mentioned by Marco Polo when he travelled the Silk Road in the Middle Ages.

It embraces countless shops, over 20 caravanserais and inns, and a number of vast domed halls, bathhouses, and mosques.



A firefighter approaches a fire inside the historic bazaar of Tabriz on May 8, 2019. The vaulted marketplace dates back 1,000 years, and has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2010.

32 historical sites temporarily ceded to private investors

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** — A total of 32 Iranian historical places and monuments have been temporarily ceded to the private sector as of October-November 2017, Mehr reported.

Since then, 32 historical monuments have been privatized in the country, fetching 390 billion rials, said Parham Janfeshan who presides over Iran’s Revitalization and Utilization Fund for Historical Places.

Of the mentioned number, 16 have so far been restored and are operational, providing services for domestic and international travelers, the official said.

The monuments used to be mansions, badgirs (wind-towers), caravanserais and public bathhouses, he added.

The Fund is in charge of concession with the aim of historical sites receiving better maintenance by repurposing them into thriving eco-lodges, traditional restaurants or other profitable niches.



Parham Janfeshan speaks in an undated photo

Ali Kazemi, a senior official with the Fund had earlier said that through restoring historic sites the [traditional]

culture of the country will be preserved. Moreover, a tourism-based economy will grow, leading to creation of jobs and improvement of living standards.

“This sort of investment seems attractive for the private sector, because accommodation in [well-preserved] monuments is attractive for both domestic and foreign tourists, in addition these steps are carried out without the need for [excessive] administrative bureaucracy.”

Upon an initiative scheme, the Fund (known by its Persian acronym Saabta) provides opportunity for privately-owned businesses to run certain old structures in order to be maintained and repurposed into hotels, traditional restaurants or lodging places.

Iran hosts some of the world’s oldest cultural monuments including bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, gardens, rich natural, rural landscapes as well as 22 UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Why the area around Notre Dame is now coated with toxic levels of lead

French officials are warning people near Notre Dame Cathedral that lead contamination is high in the closed-off plazas and streets surrounding it.

The reason? Building practices reaching back thousands of years. The medieval structure and its later additions — including the famous spire — contained lead, which fell to the ground during the fire that broke out on April 15.

“Lead was used in roofing since antiquity,” said Richard Wittman, a historian of architecture at the University of California, Santa Barbara. “It was really common in medieval buildings.”

■ **Lead and Notre Dame**

Lead made for an appealing building material for a few reasons, Wittman told Live Science. First, it is malleable. That made it useful for domes or spires, which have complex shapes, Wittman said. Second, lead is durable. It doesn’t rust in the elements, making it a popular roofing material.

“If a lead roof is built correctly, which requires a lot of know-how, it lasts basically

forever,” Wittman said.

Notre Dame’s now-destroyed roof was made of virgin oak cut into timbers in 1160, overlaid with large, thin panels of lead. Media reports on the fire estimate the weight of that lead at 210 tons (182 metric tons). The spire, also made of wood and lead, dated back to a 20-year restoration project started in 1844 and led by architects Eugene Emmanuel Viollet-le-Duc and Jean-Baptiste Lassus. Media reports put the weight of the 300-foot (91.4 meter) spire they designed at 750 tons (680 metric tons).

According to the Associated Press, much of that lead is now contaminating the Notre Dame site. Lead levels in the plaza and in areas closest to the cathedral were between 10 and 20 grams per kilogram, according to the AP — up to 65 times the recommended limit of 0.3 g per kg. Lead can accumulate in body tissues and cause damage to the nervous system.

■ **Hardy material**

Cleanup may not be as difficult as those numbers make it sound, because of lead’s

nearly infinite malleability. If the lead isn’t too corrupted, it might even be possible to scrape up the remnants of the panels, melt them down again and recast them into new plates, Wittman said.

Rebuilding Notre Dame’s roof out of lead would also be possible, Wittman said, though there are certain things builders have to know. For example, lead contracts and expands with temperature changes, Wittman said, so it can gradually start to shred over time. Even ancient architects learned to install lead roofs with a little extra space for this contraction and expansion, similar to the way that sidewalk panels have gaps between them, he said.

Restoration projects have also been tripped up in the past by lead’s quirks. In the 1800s, architects rebuilding Gothic cathedrals often didn’t realize that wood sap and lead together can create corrosive chemical reactions. They had to learn to start soaking their timbers to draw out the sap before construction, Wittman said. Medieval builders did this naturally, because they

shipped most of their timbers by floating logs downriver, he said, but in the 1800s, most lumber moved by rail.

French authorities are recommending that homes and businesses near Notre Dame Cathedral use damp cloths to clean any possible lead dust from the fire from surfaces and floors. Children and pregnant women in the area should also wash their hands frequently, as children and fetuses are the most sensitive to lead’s neurological damage. Construction workers are also at risk of lead exposure, according to the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), which sets safety standards such as exposure time and protective (often disposable) clothing to limit the danger. France also sets limits for occupational lead exposure.

It’s unclear whether Notre Dame’s roof will be rebuilt with lead panels. Modern buildings typically use lighter, cheaper materials, Wittman said, but lead roofing is still used in historical restorations.

(Source: Live Science)

Want to see Amsterdam? How about Groningen instead?

By Iliana Magra

Straining under the weight of the millions of tourists who visit every year, the Netherlands has decided to stop promoting its most famous attractions in favor of trying to encourage travelers to go to the country’s lesser-known destinations.

In some ways, the Netherlands is a victim of its own success: Government campaigns to attract visitors have been so fruitful that the hordes have caused problems in places such as the capital, Amsterdam, which receives an asphyxiating 19 million tourists per year.

A report by the Dutch tourism board summed up the problem: “More isn’t always, and certainly not everywhere, better,” the study said. By 2030, the Netherlands could see an influx of up to 42 million tourists, the report predicted — a gargantuan number for a country of around 17 million. The change in policy was introduced in October, but it made headlines only after an article this year in the Dutch newspaper De Telegraaf.

Elsje van Vuuren, a spokeswoman for the board, said marketing campaigns would now have a different focus.

“We do promotion, but that is only for the regions and the cities that are not well known abroad,” she said by phone on Tuesday.

Amsterdam, with its iconic canals, myriad museums and cultural attractions — plus the draw of the red-light district and the looser regulations on cannabis use — has gained huge popularity as a relatively low-cost, versatile destination.

The city has already taken some steps to manage the influx: The authorities announced in March that guided tours of the red-light district would be banned and that an additional tax on other tours of the capital would be introduced.



The police patrolling in the red-light district of Amsterdam last year.

Those measures followed moves brought in last year by the administration of Amsterdam’s mayor, Femke Halsema, to tackle bad behavior. Those actions included bolstering street-cleaning efforts; collecting on-the-spot fines of up to 140 euros, or about \$160, for public urination, drunkenness or excessive noise; and starting a campaign to persuade visitors to respect the city and its rules.

Other Dutch attractions have also come under siege. The famous tulip fields have suffered from swarms of tourists seeking the perfect profile photograph.

Concerned that visitors were trampling the flowers and damaging fields, the tourism board released a guide of dos and don’ts for taking selfies.

“It is incredibly tempting, of course, to walk into a tulip field and shoot a picture in the sea of wonderful flowers,” the board said. “But did you know that every year, flower

growers suffer hundreds of thousands of euros’ worth of damage due to people wading through their flower fields?”

During the Easter weekend last month, Keukenhof, one of the world’s largest flower gardens, in Lisse, about 25 miles southwest of Amsterdam, had more than 200,000 visitors in four days, the attraction said in a statement. Eighty percent of them came from abroad.

The traffic was so bad that officials asked citizens to stay home, news outlets reported. “This situation is unacceptable for residents and local businesses,” Bart Siemerink, the director of the garden, told the newspaper Het Parool.

By contrast, other parts of the Netherlands, such as the province of Zeeland or cities like Groningen, are relatively overlooked. Ms. van Vuuren said that highlighting the sights in those places was the board’s priority. “The promotion has a different purpose now,” she said, “which is stimulating other visitors to visit other places at other times.”

Although overtourism is rare, the Netherlands is not the only destination in Europe that has struggled with it. Venice has grappled with the problem for years, while the Greek island of Santorini has also buckled from the crushing number of visitors.

Some blame the rise of cheap booking sites such as Airbnb for exacerbating the issue. The Spanish city of Barcelona has been cracking down on unlicensed listings, and in Paris, hosts cannot rent out their properties for more than 120 days a year.

Airbnb has defended its role. The company said in a statement last year that it accounted “for just 7 percent of guest arrivals in the world’s most popular destinations at risk of overtourism.”

(Source: The New York Times)

‘Iran advanced in brain electrical activity research’

TECHNOLOGY **TEHRAN** — Iran is one of the advanced countries in the field of brain electrical activity research, said Hamed Ekhtiari an official with the National Brain Mapping Laboratory.

Neurons in the brain communicate via rapid electrical impulses that allow the brain to coordinate behavior, sensation, thoughts, and emotion. Scientists who want to study this electrical activity usually measure these signals with electrodes inserted into the brain, a task that is notoriously difficult and time-consuming.

The Iranian researchers are manufacturing devices for different medical services to synchronize with global society in coming years, he said.

The technologies dealing with cognitive science is tangible in everyday life and people and patients suffering from neurodegenerative diseases, he said.

Addiction, uncontrolled seizures and even depression, which do not respond to medicines are problems, which can be solved with cognitive technologies, he said.

“Now we are working on a project, which focuses on electrical stimulation for better habits, those who suffers from obesity can eat less and those who are addicted can control drug consumption,” he added.

Although the projects are now in research phase, they will lead to solution later, he explained.

The medical treatment affected the chemical part of the brain but the electrical activity can affect another part of



the brain for treatment, he said.

■ Using electrical stimulation to cure brain diseases

According to sapienlabs.co, electric stimulation of the brain is hardly a new concept. Luigi Galvani discovered that electricity stimulated nerves and muscles in the 1780s. From there the idea that electricity might help to cure ailments of the brain was within reason. Of course, our knowledge and finesse has matured greatly since then. Each contributing researcher and medical practitioner has added discovery upon discovery, break-

through upon breakthrough.

■ Stimulating pathways within the brain

Deep brain stimulation (DBS) has been used to treat conditions as diverse as Parkinson's, Pain and Depression with real success. DBS has relieved symptoms of tremor and muscle stiffness in patients with Parkinson's and has had success for treatment-resistant depression patients, with researchers showing it to be 71 percent more effective than sham treatments.

DBS typically targets major nerve pathways within the brain stimulating connections

between distinct regions. This is, however, a highly invasive procedure that involves brain surgery to implant a small battery operated stimulating device within the brain called an implantable pulse generator and is usually a last resort therapy.

■ Stimulating from the outside

Beyond major pathways however, there are other non-invasive ways of stimulating the brain such as transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS), alternating current stimulation (ACS) and repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS).

These methods manipulate the overall electrical field of the brain in some way either by external electrical stimulation through electrodes placed on the scalp or by applying a magnetic field. A review of a number of studies where stimulation was used to counter the effects of Alzheimer's and mild cognitive impairment found a reasonable success. So has the effects of these techniques on Stroke.

■ Stimulation for everyday life

The success of brain stimulation has led entrepreneurs to wonder if hijacking the electric dance of our minds might be useful to the everyday consumer. What if a quick, safe machine zap could put you to sleep? What if it could make you the life of the party? Help you study for a tough exam?

That there might be a revolution at all, however, is something to get excited about. If eventually we were able to read individual brain activity and stimulate in a manner that was individually tailored rather than one stimulus fits all, this could change things profoundly.

Iranian professors, experts attend research management workshop in Berlin

TECHNOLOGY **TEHRAN** — Iranian professors and researchers attended an international workshop on research management in Berlin, Germany, on Friday.

The Iranian professor Gevork Gharehpetian was amongst the lecturers at the workshop, which was held for professors and officials of Iran's Ministry of Science, Research and Technology as well as Energy Research Institute.

The event was cosponsored by the Iran's Ministry of Science and Energy Research Institute as well as Germany's Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Leibniz Association,

Helmholtz Association of German Research Centers, German Research Foundation (DFG), German Aerospace Center (DLR).

The German research management methodology can adopt for Iran's research centers according to the local characteristics, Amirkabir University of Technology's professor Gharehpetian said during the event.

Iran's Energy Research Institute proposed holding joint workshop with German research centers, he said.

German professors and experts shared their knowledge and experiences during the workshop.

Digital economy startups to be supported

TECHNOLOGY **TEHRAN** — The council for development of digital economy plans to improve investment and business venture environment for startups active in the field of digital economy, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

The council, which is affiliated to the vice presidency for science and technology, aims to pave the way for interaction between entrepreneurs and students with industry men and investors.

The council inked an agreement with the private sector for financial support through interaction between innovators and investors.

The agreement aims to boost entrepreneurship ecosystem and connect industry and



startups nationwide.

Digital economy refers to an economy that is based on digital computing technologies, although we increasingly perceive this as conducting business through markets based on the internet and the World Wide Web. The digital economy is also sometimes called the Internet Economy, New Economy, or Web Economy.

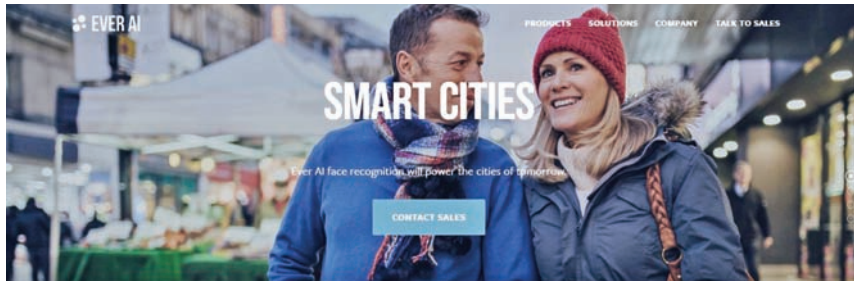
Ever quietly trained facial recognition AI using its photo storage app

Ever, a free photo storage app, has been using the billions of photos and videos uploaded by its users to train a facial recognition tool it plans on selling to private companies and the U.S. government. Users who rely on the app's facial recognition to tag friends or group together photos are unknowingly helping its algorithm learn to identify faces, NBC reported today.

Ever hasn't kept its facial recognition component a secret, at least from potential buyers or government agencies. Ever's facial recognition tool was even applauded by NIST, the U.S. agency which sets standards for technology, back in November. Ever placed number one in the US in a ranking of facial recognition vendors by NIST, scoring over 99 percent in both of the benchmarks used.

Doug Aley, Ever's CEO, told NBC that the company does not share photos or any identifying information with the parties who purchase its facial recognition tool. The user photos are used by Ever to train an algorithm to recognize faces. Aley argued that it the company is clear about its facial recognition practices, but only in its privacy policy -- which is very rarely, if ever, read in full by the vast majority of users.

The ACLU called out Ever's handling of its users photos in a tweet. "Companies shouldn't use people's private information to build surveillance tools without their



consent," the ACLU tweeted.

While Ever's privacy policy does mention it uses facial recognition technology, the reference is fairly vague. "To organize your Files and to enable you to share them with the right people, Ever uses facial recognition technologies as part of the Service. Your Files may be used to help improve and train our products and these technologies. Some of these technologies may be used in our separate products and services for enterprise customers, including our enterprise face recognition offerings, but your Files and your personal information will not be," writes Ever.

Even more worrisome is that deleting or deactivating your Ever account won't wipe your photos from Ever's servers immediately. Ever states that it may need to retain user information for a period of time in order to "comply with legal re-

quirements, resolve disputes, and enforce our agreements." Ever does not state how long it will need to hold on to the data of deactivated users. Furthermore, Ever won't delete files you have in common with other users from its servers.

So if you want to erase your photos from Ever's servers, you'll have to make sure your friends deactivate the service as well. "Please note, however, that there might be latency in deleting information from our servers and backed-up versions might exist after deletion. In addition, while we will delete requested Files from your account, we do not delete from our servers Files that you have in common with other users," states Ever in its privacy policy.

Facial recognition isn't mentioned once (see update below) in the marketing language for the Ever app on Apple's App Store description, which trumpets "Never run

out of photo storage again!"* Ever consistently ranked #1 in Productivity apps for both iOS and Android back in 2016, according to App Annie. But it has since fallen in the rankings, overtaken by other free cloud photo storage apps like Google Photos and Dropbox.

Ever has taken care to separate the marketing for Ever, the photo app and Ever AI, the facial recognition service it's hawking to interested parties. A look at Ever AI's website indicates its looking to sell its data to a wide range of clients, including retail, financial services, government and security services. The company touts its "private global database" of 13 billion photos and videos, but doesn't specify that they were acquired from the Ever photo storage app. A section on "Smart Cities" suggests that Ever can be used to help cities create "fully integrated identity networks." NBC reported that Ever AI has so far only secured contracts with private companies, and has yet to take on any government clients.

"Ever AI's face recognition technology enables smart-cities to prepare for the future with start-of-the-art identification and attribution technologies. Cities can improve urban planning initiatives by building fully integrated identity networks across sectors such as transportation, education, healthcare, and more," wrote Ever AI on its website.

(Source: NBC News)

Construction to kick off on world's first 3D-printed neighborhood

A noble plan to improve housing access for those in need through cutting-edge construction technology is gathering momentum, with a blueprint now in place for what is billed as the world's first 3D-printed community. Set to take shape in Latin America, the cluster of homes is designed for families living on less than US\$200 a month, and will ideally serve as proof of concept for low-cost housing solutions around the world.

The project is a joint initiative from non-profit New Story, Yves Béhar's design firm Fuseproject and construction technology company Icon to provide housing solutions for the homeless. At the SXSW festival in Texas last year, the team revealed an impressive example of how this vision might take shape, showing off a full-sized proof of concept model of a 350 sq ft (32 sq m) home.

The use of 3D printing in architecture has taken significant steps forward of late. We've seen the technology

put to use to construct offices, a castle and even 10 houses in 24 hours by one particularly ambitious Chinese firm. While there will be variations in how it is tuned to these different projects, generally speaking, large 3D printers for construction extrude a mortar through the nozzle in programmed patterns, layer by layer, until the basic structure of the building is formed.

In this case, a 3D printer from Icon dubbed Vulcan laid down the walls of the model home before humans came in to fill in the blanks with windows, roofing and other odds and ends. This proof-of-concept home took 48 hours to make and cost US\$10,000.

Now, armed with a successor to the original, Icon says with its Vulcan II printer it can print the structural elements in 24 hours. The printer is portable, produces close to zero waste and remains functional in testing scenarios where there may be a lack of power, water, or typical

labor infrastructure. This last point is important, as it is hoped it can be used to construct low-cost housing for remote communities.

The team has now added the finishing touches to its first blueprint for a village in Latin America, which will serve as housing for impoverished families. The design for this village was a collaborative effort, with the farmers and palm-weavers that will call it home taking an active part in the process through workshops on the ground, and the designers incorporating their habits, cultures and needs into the finished product.

"As we spoke to the community members, we realized that a single house design doesn't respond to the needs and expectations," says Fuseproject founder, Yves Béhar. "This led us to design a system that allows for different programs, climate factors, and growth for families and spaces."

(Source: newatlas.com)

Young adult boys on top list of Iranian video game users: report

TECHNOLOGY **TEHRAN** — The addiction to video games is more among Iranian young adult boys than girls while girls are on the top list of social media users, Iran's Center for Addiction Studies reported.

The video game addiction is now categorized as an official disease during past decade, the head of center Afarin Rahimi Movaqqar said, IRNA reported on Saturday.

The video game addiction begins from three years old and unfortunately some parents think that these games make their children smarter, she lamented.

While the video games lead to addiction, which leads to insufficient physical activity among children, she said.



Children less than 3 or 4 years old should not get involved in video games, she noted.

She said that the 13th addiction knowledge congress will be held from August 21 to 23 with the theme of knowledge-based decision making.

■ What is a video game addiction?

Video game addiction is real, and the World Health Organization will soon officially classify it under the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11).

Gaming Disorder is characterized by a pattern of persistent or recurrent gaming behavior, which may be online or offline, manifested by: impaired control over gaming (e.g., onset, frequency, intensity, duration, termination, context); increasing priority given to gaming to the extent that gaming takes precedence over other life interests and daily activities; continuation or escalation of gaming despite the occurrence of negative consequences.

The behavior pattern is of sufficient severity to result in significant impairment in personal, family, social, educational, occupational or other important areas of functioning.

■ Over ten million addicted gamers

With conservative estimates by the World Health Organization of 3-4% of gamers struggling with addiction challenges, there are can be tens of millions of addicted gamers worldwide, with this figure expected to continue to grow for the years to come. A large-scale study 5 in Canada recently found 13% of students grades 7-12 reporting symptoms of a video game problem, a 4% increase since 2007.

Virtual dentistry and the culture of technological control

As a parent of two small children, getting them into brushing is not as easy as I would have thought. Kids love water, mirrors, and playing, but somehow getting my three-year-old into brushing his teeth is no easy feat. Then I read about Kitten Planet's Brush Monster, an app that teaches children how to brush their teeth. Through augmented reality and a smart toothbrush, parents are able to monitor how well their children are brushing their teeth. While this might appeal to many parents who wish to have verifiable information that their children will grow into adulthood with all 32 teeth, it troubled me as a child of a periodontist who was taught about healthy teeth and gums that perhaps this finite control over children's brushing patterns, all recorded virtually for parents to later check, was a step too far.


The lessons imparted by parents to children such as dental hygiene are important parts of lifelong habits that children do not appreciate until grown adults. Yet, this particular type of app could be seen as excessive, even attempting to substitute the necessary parental lectures on dental hygiene and time spent together every day at the bathroom sink. Are apps replacing the real-life experiences we share with our children? And are we surrendering our efforts to teach our children the lifelong tools of good hygiene with technology?

It is undeniable that virtual dentistry is quite successful for professional uses, such as the various apps that assess dental esthetics. Yet, it seems that we ought to scrutinize how health apps can dangerously tread upon the necessary social space of real-life lessons that parents need to be a participant in. Recent data suggests that children are forgetting to regularly brush their teeth and that 50 percent of parents are not actively engaged in showing their children proper toothbrushing habits. The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) states that "dental caries in the baby teeth of children from 2 to 11 declined from the early 1970s until the mid-1990s. From the mid-1990s until the most recent (1999-2004) National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, this trend has reversed: a small but significant increase in primary decay was found."

New technology has become so good in dealing with healthcare and dentistry, that dentists are now using a number of apps within their practices. Dental Manager allows dentists to organize treatment plans for patients which they later send to your patients and this app allows dentists and patients to coordinate future appointments and follow-up care. Happy Space's DCStory allows dentists to explain complex clinical information to patients in a simple-to-understand format through 3D images along with the ability to transmit treatment plans and provide educational counseling. This app allows patients to better understand their treatment as well as automatically receiving data input from doctors.

There are also apps which go into diagnostics such as Toothpic which relies on disruptive technology to increase a consumer's access to dental care. With this app, those who were unable to afford dental care can have a cheaper consultation with a virtual dentist within their region for a precise diagnosis based on primarily Q&A and photos before an in-office visit with a specialist dentist. Dentists even have a social networking app, Denti-Pro, which allows them to network and receive informative content on their profession which they can bring into their practice and other secondary apps like Brand Monitor which keeps tabs on company brands and affiliated trademarks.

(Source: forbes.com)



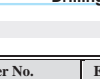
N.I.O.C
1398.858

First Announcement

Call for public tender (First/Second publish)

One/Two-Stages (compressed-semi compressed) tender

Subject of Tender: (Equipment/Spare parts/Material purchase)
(Supplying services)



National Iranian Drilling Company

• Tender descriptions: p/f: mud logging unit differential pressure sensor for use mud logging type of measure

| The Tender holder | Registration No. through national electronic tendering system | Tender No. /Indent No. | Estimated value (Rial/Euro) |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|
| National Iranian Drilling Company | 3,199,887 | Tender No.: FP/ 05-98/019 Indent No.:23-08-9745129 | 4,000,000,000 |

• 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/ supply announcement up to latest changes) which should be related to tender subject. |
| | 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 similare 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 seventh day thereof. | |
|---|--|--|
| | Distribution Place Submitting Method | Hall No.:113, 1 st floor, Foreign Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of 510.000 Iranian Rials under account number 4001114004020491 in name of 'NIDC Incomes Centralized Fund' issued by I.R. of Iran Central Bank. Submitting format Request for the purpose of receiving Tender Documents. |
| | Closing date Documents Receiving Method | 35 Days after the last time of Purchasing. Hall No. 107, 1 st floor, Tender Committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. Tel: +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569 |

• Tender Guarantee

| Value of guarantee | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| | 200,000,000 Rial/4,267 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 should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one time in initial validity duration. |

(Foreign Procurement Dept.)

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

تهران تایمز نویت اول ۹۸/۲/۲۲ نویت دوم ۹۸/۲/۲۳

‘ Hamas has laser rockets and Israel knows nothing about it’

➡ 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.

“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.

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.

Houthis begin unilateral withdrawal from Hudaydah ports

TEHRAN — Yemen’s Houthi forces have started unilateral withdrawal from Saleef and Ras Isa ports in Hudaydah province under a United Nations-sponsored peace deal, a news agency says.

Reuters quoted witnesses as saying Saturday that UN teams were overseeing the withdrawal, breathing a fresh lease of life into the peace deal which had been stalled for months.

Mohammed Ali al-Houthi, the head of Yemen’s Supreme Revolutionary Committee, said in Twitter post earlier Saturday that the withdrawal would begin at 10 a.m. local time (0700 GMT).

He said the intention to unilaterally redeploy from the ports was due to the Saudi coalition’s refusal to implement the truce agreement reached between Yemen’s warring sides in Stockholm last December.

Under the deal, representatives from the Houthis and Yemen’s Saudi-backed former government agreed to withdraw their troops from Hudaydah’s main port and two other nearby ports, as well as Hudaydah city and allow deployment of UN monitors.

Yemen faces a humanitarian catastrophe amid a Saudi war and blockade which does not allow the country to import and distribute vital food, fuel and medicines.

Al-Houthi said he holds the UN responsible for the

humanitarian crisis in Yemen because of its failure to put an end to the blockade, the closure of Sana’a airport and disruption of salary payments.

On Friday, the UN’s Redeployment Coordination Committee (RCC) said the Houthis would make an “initial unilateral redeployment” between May 11 and May 14 from three Yemeni ports.

The redeployment, it said, should allow the UN to take “a leading role in supporting the Red Sea Ports Corporation in managing the ports” and to enhance checks on cargoes.

The process, it emphasized, must be followed by “the committed, transparent and sustained actions of the parties to fully deliver on their obligations.”

In Stockholm, it was hoped that the redeployment would take place in January, but its implementation has repeatedly been stalled due to a lack of trust between the rival parties.

Yemen’s former information minister Moammar al-Eryani said on Friday the Houthis’ redeployment offer was “misleading” and unacceptable if it did not allow for “joint monitoring and verification”.

Hudaydah, a lifeline for millions of Yemenis, has seen some of the heaviest fighting in the four-year Saudi aggression against the impoverished nation.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE launched the Hudaydah offensive in June 2018, but they have faced strong resistance



put up by Yemeni armed forces – led by the Houthis -- and the city’s residents.

The Saudi-led coalition claims that the Houthis are using the port city for weapons delivery, an allegation the fighters reject.

Saudi Arabia and a number of its regional allies launched the war on Yemen in March 2015 with the aim of crushing the Houthis and bringing the Riyadh-backed former regime back to power. They have failed to achieve either of the objectives.

Trump says N. Korea’s recent missile launches not breach of trust

TEHRAN— U.S. President Donald Trump said he does not consider North Korea’s recent launch of short-range ballistic missiles “a breach of trust.”

In an interview with Politico, Trump downplayed the missile tests by North Korea, calling them “very standard stuff.”

“They’re short-range and I don’t consider that a breach of trust at all. And, you know, at some point I may. But at this point no,” Trump told Politico.

North Korea fired two short-range missiles on Thursday, its second such test in less than a week.

Trump said he might eventually lose

faith in his friendly relationship with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, which he has previously described as “very strong.”

“I mean it’s possible that at some point I will, but right now not at all,” Trump said.

On Thursday, Trump appeared to hold the door open for more talks with North Korea.

“The relationship continues ... I know they want to negotiate, they’re talking about negotiating. But I don’t think they’re ready to negotiate,” he told reporters.

The Pentagon said Thursday’s launches consisted of multiple ballistic missiles that flew in excess of 300 km (185 miles) and landed in the ocean.

Venezuela’s former intel chief was ‘CIA mole’: Maduro

TEHRAN— Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro says his former intelligence chief, who joined opposition figure Juan Guaido during a recent coup attempt, was a “mole” recruited by the CIA to overthrow his government.

“He was captured by the CIA a year ago and was working as a traitor, mole and infiltrator,” Maduro said of Chief General Christopher Figuera, who was sent to a military prison in the capital Caracas.

According to Press TV, Maduro said the general was “the one who orchestrated the coup d’etat” by contacting a small group of armed troops to join pro-Guaido protests on April 30.

During that day, a small group of army defectors accompanying Guaido clashed with Venezuelan army at the anti-government rally, in an attempted coup. More than 100 people were reportedly injured as a result of the violence.

The putsch quickly petered out, however, and some 25 renegade soldiers sought refuge at the Brazilian Embassy in Caracas.

Maduro said that Figuera was going to be fired and arrested on April 30, and that was what apparently prompted him to set the coup in motion.

The president said that he had been warned by his top defense and intelligence officials about Figuera’s “strange behavior.”

Taliban fighters double as reporters to wage Afghan digital war

TEHRAN— Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban’s chief spokesman and editor-in-chief of the insurgent group’s daily news bulletin, starts every day by collecting reports of overnight fighting with U.S. and Afghan forces.

Mujahid says he gets his team of writers to cross-check facts shared by some of the headline Islamist groups fighters, who double as reporters in the 34 provinces across the country. The writers prepare press statements in five languages and gather footage and photographs shot on smartphones.

According to Press TV, the editor-in-chief then approves final drafts of the reports - highlighting the group’s claimed victories in its war aimed at toppling the U.S.-backed Afghan government - before they are published by IT specialists based outside the country.

While some Afghan journalists say its accuracy is patchy, and its opponents accuse it of spreading “fake news”, the Taliban’s slick media operation has emerged as a key weapon in the information war that often leaves the Western-backed government and its U.S. partners struggling to catch up.

Last month, for example the Taliban was swift to deny involvement in a suicide attack on the communications ministry in Kabul later blamed on Islamic State, while information from the government was slower to emerge.



Taliban spokesmen say they have also stepped up their outreach as the pace of direct talks between its negotiators and the United States on ending the war in Afghanistan has picked up in recent months. They are often quicker than U.S. officials to give their read-out from the talks - the sixth round of which wrapped up in Qatar on Thursday.

“Whatever developments occur during the Doha talks, we share it with journalists,” said Mujahid, adding that the messages were aimed at domestic and international audiences.

did and constructive” in a series of tweets, Press TV reported. “The relationship between President Xi [Jinping] and myself remains a very strong one, and conversations into the future will continue.”

However, in a meeting with Chinese Vice Premier Liu He, U.S. officials laid out their bottom line and informed him that Beijing had three or four weeks to agree to a deal or face additional 25 percent tariffs on a further \$325 billion in exports to the U.S.,

according to people familiar with the talks.

“For the interest of the people of China, the people of U.S. and the people of the whole world, we will deal with this rationally,” Liu said in an interview with Chinese state broadcaster CCTV on Friday.

“But China is not afraid, nor are the Chinese people. China needs a cooperative agreement with equality and dignity.”

The Chinese vice premier had earlier stated that the prospects for the talks were

“promising,” but warned that raising tariffs would be “harmful to both sides.”

In several tweets later on Friday, Trump sought to justify his decision to hike tariffs as well as to convince businesses and financial markets that he had no plans to walk away from a deal with China.

The Chinese commerce ministry, however, lamented the U.S. move on Friday and reiterated Beijing’s pledge to take “necessary countermeasures.”

Reducing JCPOA commitments Iran’s appropriate long-overdue decision: prof.



■ Don’t you think that Iran’s measure is a response to European countries’ lack of commitments?

A: Yes. The European parties to the JCPOA have been toying with Iran for a long time now. While paying lip service to the JCPOA, they have caved in under the U.S. pressure, and in essence, have demonstrated their own inability or unwillingness to implement their obligations. Most everybody knew that once the U.S. withdrew from the JCPOA, Europe would not be able to challenge the U.S. and would follow U.S. diktat.

■ Can this decision reduce U.S. pressures on the country or convince Europe to do more to safeguard Iran’s interests under the deal?

A: Probably not. I think now the U.S. will try to put even more pressure on Europe to act as Washington’s junior partner in this sordid affair. Europe is not an independent player in Wahington’s “Game of Thrones” against Iran; it is clearly a secondary instrument in Washington’s hands.

Saudi ship leaves France with arms cargo!



As a result, Western media outlets, including EuroNews, topped the “Weapons Failure” lie to distort the Yemeni intelligence system.



On Wednesday, the Saudi cargo ship anchored by shutting down the ship identification systems in the French coastal waters, and shipments of weapons were transferred by small vessels.

The Mossad and the Saudi intelligence agency have been seeking to launch this false news through the Western media outlets. This indicates the cooperation of some Western media with the intelligence and security agencies of the Zionist regime and Saudi Arabia.

It should be noted that non-governmental organizations in France, especially the independent human rights institutions in the country, had opposed the presence of the Saudi ship in the waters of France. Direct support from countries such as France, Germany and Britain for the slaughter of Yemeni women and children has led to anger in the world’s public opinion of these countries supporting terrorism.

ISIL claims ‘province’ in India for first time after clash in Kashmir

TEHRAN — ISIL terrorist group claimed for the first time that it has established a “province” in India, after a clash between militants and security forces in the contested Kashmir region killed a militant with alleged ties to the group.

ISIL’s Amaq News Agency late on Friday announced the new province, that it called “Wilayah of Hind”, in a statement that also claimed ISIL inflicted casualties on Indian army soldiers in the town of Amshipora in the Shopian district of Kashmir.

According to Reuters, the ISIL statement corresponds with an Indian police statement on Friday that a militant called Ishfaq Ahmad Sofi was killed in an encounter in Shopian.

ISIL’s statement establishing the new province appears to be designed to bolster its standing after the group was driven from its self-styled “caliphate” in Iraq and Syria in April, where at one point it controlled thousands of miles of territory.

ISIL has stepped up hit-and-run raids and suicide attacks, including taking responsibility for the Easter Sunday bombing in Sri Lanka that killed at least 253 people.

“The establishment of a ‘province’ in a region where it has nothing resembling actual governance is absurd, but it should not be written off,” said Rita Katz, director of the SITE Intel Group that tracks Islamic extremists.

France arms sales to Saudi Arabia, UAE ‘evident hypocrisy’: Ansarullah

TEHRAN — The spokesman for Yemen’s Houthi Ansarullah movement has fiercely criticized the French government for supplying Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) weapons that have been used in their war on Yemen, describing the move “a clear hypocrisy to evade crimes.”

“The persistence of French President (Emmanuel Macron) on selling arms to Saudi Arabia on the pretext that they are not used against (Yemeni) civilians is a clear hypocrisy to evade crimes,” Yemen’s Arabic-language al-Masirah television network cited Mohammed Abdul-Salam as writing on his official Twitter page on Friday.

According to Press TV, the Houthi official then called on France and other countries to stop selling weapons to Saudi Arabia and the UAE, which have been involved in an atrocious military aggression against Yemen for more than four years.

“The move is an attempt by France to evade responsibility for the crimes being committed against Yemeni people,” Abdul-Salam noted.

U.S. gives China one-month ultimatum for trade deal: Sources

TEHRAN— U.S. President Donald Trump President has reportedly given China a one-month ultimatum to seal a trade deal or face tariffs on all its exports to the United States.

The decision was relayed by people with knowledge of the talks between the two sides, hours after the Trump administration raised tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese imports from 10 percent to 25.

Even though, the U.S. president hailed the talks with the Chinese delegation as “can-

Van Persie wants to bow out with dignity

To finish with dignity is how Robin van Persie wants to end his playing days on Sunday when he hangs up his boots after an 18-year career. "The goal was go out with honor because football is my passion," the 35-year-old told Dutch media on Saturday before he plays his last game for Feyenoord against ADO Den Haag in Rotterdam. Van Persie's 50 goals in 102 appearances make him the top goalscorer for the Netherlands national team and his club achievements include winning the FA Cup with Arsenal and the Premier League with Manchester United.

He also played in Turkey before returning to his first professional club to see out his career, making the decision to retire one year ago already. "I'm glad I made that choice already because I've had a whole year to get mentally prepared for retirement."

"If I had only taken the decision a few weeks ago, it would have been difficult to let it sink in such a short period of time," he told a news conference.

Sunday was due to be the last round of the Dutch season before a change in fixtures, to accommodate Ajax Amsterdam in the Champions League, saw a round move to next Wednesday.

But Van Persie plans to finish in front of family and friends at the Feyenoord Stadium.

After, he says he wants to find something to do in the game but not coaching. "To become a coach means stress. If you do it the way Pep Guardiola does, you're busy with football day and night."

(Source: Mirror)

Herrera confirms Manchester United exit in emotional farewell video

Manchester United midfielder Ander Herrera has confirmed he will leave the club at the end of the Premier League season when his contract expires, the 29-year-old said on Saturday.

The Spaniard, who joined United in 2014 from Athletic Bilbao, announced his departure in an emotional farewell video on the club's Twitter account.

British media have linked Herrera with a move to French side Paris St Germain, but the tenacious midfielder chose not to disclose his next destination. "There is red in my heart, I knew it from the first time I played here and in the moment that I started to wear it," Herrera, United's player of the year in 2017, said.

"A club with thousands of fans who respect and remember all the players who give everything. I felt special when I heard my name chanted. I felt proud when the fans decided I was part of this incredible history. "Every time I represented this club, in every game, in wins and losses, even when I couldn't help from the grass, I understood what this club means."

Herrera made 189 appearances for United in all competitions and scored 20 goals. He won the FA Cup, League Cup and the Europa League in his time at the club.

"I am going to remember each of the almost 200 matches that I have played with this jersey. Because playing for the greatest club in England, has been a true honour," he added.

"Thanks for these five amazing years."

Manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer had said in his pre-match news conference that Herrera could feature against relegated Cardiff City in the final game of the season on Sunday.

(Source: Independent)

Former FIFA boss Blatter says money risks ruining the sport



Sepp Blatter, the former boss of soccer's world governing body FIFA who was ousted during a corruption scandal, has said money risks ruining the sport.

FIFA's Ethics Committee banned Blatter, who led FIFA for 17 years, from "all football activities" in 2015 after finding him guilty of unethical conduct related to a global corruption scandal which rocked the organization.

Switzerland's attorney general is still investigating cases of suspected corruption involving FIFA, which is based in Zurich, dating back to 2014 and Blatter's presidency.

"People already pay a lot to get into the stadium. Prices are getting higher and higher, because clubs need more money," Blatter said in an interview with Swiss newspaper Schweiz am Wochenende published on Saturday.

The 83-year-old added his belief that viewer numbers are falling this season in the French, Italian, English, Spanish and German leagues.

"That is a bad sign. Football must remain accessible," he said. Blatter has told various media that he plans to take legal action against his successor Gianni Infantino over damage done to his reputation by the corruption scandal and information FIFA made public about payments to him that he says was inaccurate.

Blatter told Schweiz am Wochenende that FIFA bodies signed off on all payments made to him, including a bonus of 10 million Swiss francs (7.62 million pounds) he received for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

Asked if he would drop his planned lawsuit against Infantino if his collection of luxury watches, which he left at FIFA's offices, were returned to him, he said: "The watches are of lesser importance. What is important to me is my moral rehabilitation."

(Source: Goal)

‘Fearless’ Curry lifts Warriors with 33 in 2nd half

Warriors superstar Stephen Curry scored all 33 of his points in the second half, including 23 in the fourth quarter, to propel Golden State to a series-clinching 118-113 Game 6 win over the Rockets on Friday night.

After shooting 0-for-5 from the field in the first half and failing to register a point in the first 24 minutes of a postseason game for the first time ever, Curry responded with one of the most prolific second-half performances in his storied career.

"That's what Steph does," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "I actually told his mom and dad after the game, I said, 'If that game didn't personify Steph Curry, I don't know what did.' He's a guy who can make some plays that leave you scratching your head -- the fouls, some of the turnovers, not tonight, but sometimes he just makes plays and you kinda look around and think, 'What is he doing?' But most of the time, he makes these incredible plays, and he's just fearless. And that's what makes him who he is."

Curry, who struggled at various points throughout the series to find a rhythm against a tough Rockets defense, was given a huge ovation by his teammates after walking into the Warriors' locker room after the game.

"It did not surprise me one bit," Warriors swingman Klay Thompson said of Curry's performance. "The man is a competitor, a champion, and on top of all that he just plays with such great heart. He's our leader. His composure is unbelievable as well."



As the Warriors continued celebrating long after Game 6 was over, even Curry couldn't help but smile when asked to describe how poorly he played in the first half.

"I was pretty terrible," Curry said. "I just didn't make a shot, fouling. I think the only thing I did well was not turn the ball over for the 12 minutes I was out there on the floor. So I find a positive in everything."

Curry's performance was even more crucial than usual, given that Warriors star

forward Kevin Durant was back in the Bay Area, unable to travel because of a calf injury suffered in Game 5.

With the win, the Warriors will host the winner of the Portland Trail Blazers-Denver Nuggets series in Game 1 of the Western Conference finals on Tuesday night at Oracle Arena. They will do so with the expectation that Durant, who will be reevaluated in a week, will return at some point during the series.

Curry and his teammates know they will need Durant healthy to win a third straight NBA championship, but they enjoyed the fact that they were an underdog heading into Game 6.

"We had an opportunity to -- it's kind of weird to say -- prove a lot of people wrong knowing what we accomplished," Curry said. "But it's a lot of talking in the last 24, 48 hours about what we should and should not do in this series with KD out. I talked about it a lot, K has been unbelievable in this playoff run. We don't get to a Game 6 opportunity to close it out without him playing unbelievable and spectacular basketball and carrying us the first 11 games."

"The least we can do is come in here and get a win. Get some rest before the Western Conference finals and give him the chance to get healthy and go chase another championship. It's special. I know he's back at home celebrating and can't wait to get back and prepare for the next series."

All the chatter surrounding his game and his struggles at times during this series clearly motivated Curry, who suffered a dislocated left middle finger in Game 2 and went 7-for-23 in Game 3 and 9-for-23 in Game 5. He said he understood that people were questioning his game, and he took it upon himself to carry the Warriors down the stretch even though his finger was still clearly bothering him.

(Source: ESPN)

Arsenal ‘hugely concerned’ Mkhitarian could miss Europa League final



Arsenal are "hugely concerned" Henrikh Mkhitaryan may not play in the Europa League final because of political tensions between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

The final against Chelsea will be held in Azerbaijan capital Baku on 29 May.

Armenia captain Mkhitaryan has missed games in Azerbaijan for Arsenal and former club Dortmund in recent years.

"The safety and security of all of our players is of paramount importance," an Arsenal spokesperson said.

"We are seeking guarantees from Uefa that it will be safe for Henrikh Mkhitaryan to travel to Baku for the Europa League final, which both Arsenal and Micki require for him to be included within our squad."

"Acceptable guarantees have not been received yet, and we hope that Uefa will be able to supply these promptly."

"We are of course hugely concerned that the location of the final could lead to Micki not being able to play in a European final."

Uefa's standard procedure is to send letters of support to associations, clubs or embassies to obtain visas for footballers so that they will be able to play in Uefa matches. Uefa says the issue is currently a "work in progress".

There are no diplomatic relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan because of a longstanding conflict over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region. Azerbaijan usually does not allow foreign nationals of Armenian descent to enter the country.

While playing for Borussia Dortmund in 2015, Mkhitaryan, 30, did not travel for a Europa League tie against Azerbaijan Premier League side Gabala because of security concerns. And he also missed Arsenal's 3-0 Europa League win at FK Qarabag in October, with manager Unai Emery saying "he cannot travel here", despite Uefa offering their support over a visa application.

(Source: BBC)

Federer still pondering Rome entry after Madrid exit



Roger Federer said that he will spend the weekend deciding whether to play next week in Rome after falling to Dominic Thiem in the Madrid Open quarter-finals on Friday.

Federer, defeated 3-6, 7-6 (13/11), 6-4 by the Austrian, was back on clay this week for the first time since May 2016, when he was beaten by Thiem in Rome.

The Swiss said that he will leave it late before making his decision on whether he wants to take up a wild card entry organisers in the Italian capital have been holding back for him.

"I had to wait and see how this match plays out today, if it was going to be 6-Love 6-Love or 7-6 in the third," said Federer.

"Winning or losing, it all matters, so it was an early ask for me to take that decision. I wanted to keep my options open and that is why I'm in the (Rome) draw."

"I'll probably only decide on the week-

end, but I'm not sure if I'm going to go."

After failing to capitalise on two match points during the second set tie-break, Federer was unable to hold off Thiem in the third, but is still happy with his display in Spain.

"I feel very good about my game. I thought I had some good matches here," the 20-time Grand Slam champion said. "I feel good on the clay right now."

With the altitude of the Spanish capital speeding up the courts to suit his game, Federer said he's glad he picked the venue for his return after skipping clay in 2017 and 2018 to concentrate on grass and hard courts.

"I had a great week, people couldn't have been friendlier to me. I thought I played good."

"It was frustrating, clearly -- losing with match points is the worst. But nevertheless, if I take a step back, it's all good."

(Source: AFP)

Cash or competition? What is behind England’s domination of Europe?

England's Premier League has claimed a clean sweep of all four places in the finals of Europe's two club competitions as the most commercially successful league in the world finally translated its financial power into success on the field.

Liverpool will face Tottenham Hotspur in the Champions League while in the Europa League Arsenal take on Chelsea. No country has ever produced the finalists for the Champions League and the Europa League in the same year before now.

The Premier League's money has been invested in some of the top players in the world. According to FIFA's 'Global Transfer Report' in 2018, \$5.14 billion was spent on players by Europe's top five leagues, with English clubs alone spending \$1.98 billion on transfers from abroad.

But while player purchases, such as the 76 million pounds Liverpool spent on Dutch defender Virgil van Dijk and 56 million on Brazilian goalkeeper Alisson Becker, have been significant, it is perhaps the investment in coaching that has paid the most dividends.

England is now home to some of the sport's elite managers such as Manchester City's Spanish coach Pep Guardiola, Liverpool's German boss Juergen Klopp and Tottenham's Argentine coach Mauricio Pochettino.

There is no question that money talks in football and the Premier League generates the most revenue in European game.

European governing body UEFA's 'benchmarking' report, released in January, showed, based on 2017 figures, that England's 20 Premier League clubs snapped up more than one quarter of the total revenue in European football, totalling 5.3 billion euros (\$5.95 billion).

This put them comfortably ahead of Spain's La Liga (2.9 billion euros), the German Bundesliga (2.8 billion euros),



Italy's Serie A (2.2 billion euros) and France's Ligue 1 (1.6 billion euros).

Italian dominance

It is perhaps no coincidence that when Conte was a Juventus player, a Champions League winner in 1996, Serie A had a level of competition similar to the Premier League's current 'big six'.

The 'sette sorelle', or 'seven sisters' was made up of Juve, AC Milan, Inter Milan, Lazio, AS Roma, Parma and Fiorentina, all of whom were contenders at the top of the table and in Europe.

Between 1989 and 1998, there was only one Champions League final that did not feature an Italian club. The same period also saw four 'all Italian' UEFA Cup finals (the predecessor to the Europa League).

Having intense competition at home doesn't necessarily translate into European success, after all England has only one Champions League winner in the past 10 years with Spain winning the last five editions, but it is likely to have an impact.

Certainly Liverpool, who overturned a 3-0 first-leg deficit in their semi-final with Barcelona, to reach the final with a 4-0 victory at Anfield, look to have benefited from their tough season, in which they have lost just once in the league.

The Saturday before the Barca return, Liverpool had to fight to the end with a 3-2 victory over Newcastle United thanks to a late winner from Divock Origi.

Intense competition

Crucially the influx of talent in the Premier League has not been limited to the top teams.

Unlike most of their European counterparts, the Premier League shares television revenue in such a way that the middle to lower ranked teams are also able to bring in quality from abroad or retain their own players more easily.

Burnley manager Sean Dyche, whose team beat Champions League finalists Tottenham in February, says European coaches in England, that he has spoken to, notice how tough the games against lower teams can be.

"They say their biggest shock is teams like ourselves will take them on, home and away. Absolutely take them on," he told Reuters.

This may be England's year but there is a long way to go before Premier League teams match the dominance of Spain -- winners of seven of the last 10 Champions Leagues and six of the last 10 Europa League campaigns.

(Source: Reuters)

Hamed Haddadi returns to Iran national basketball team

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Former NBA center Hamed Haddadi has returned to Iran national basketball team after three months.

Team Melli missed the service of the 2.18m in the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2019 Asian Qualifiers against Japan and Australia after he faced a problem with the country's basketball officials.

Samad Nikkhah Bahrami had also withdrawn from the games in support of Haddadi.

Now, it seems the Iranian federation and Haddadi have buried the hatchet.

Iran NOC President Reza Salehi Amiri played an important role in mediating between the federation and Haddadi.

"First, I have to criticize Mr. Shahintab (Iran coach) after he accused me of being disloyal to my country. I will play for Iran national basketball team even with a broken foot. Basketball is my love and I will die for my national team," Haddadi had said in an interview with Fars news agency.

"It's a great honor to play for my country. We were in the training camp for six months and we didn't ask for anything but they didn't respect the players. They told us playing for Team Melli is our responsibility and we also said that's right but in Japan the team's members were taken to the venue with public transport," he added.

Iran booked a place at the 2019 FIBA World Cup and the Persians are also going to qualify for the 2020 Olympic Games.

The 2019 FIBA Basketball World Cup will be held in China from Aug. 31 to Sept. 15.



Iran compound mixed team win World Cup bronze



S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iran compound mixed team claimed a bronze medal at the second stage of the 2019 Archery World Cup underway in Shanghai, China on Saturday.

The Iranian team consists of Mohammadaleh Palizban and Vida Halimian defeated their rivals from Hong Kong 153-152 to finish in third place.

US pair Matt Sullivan and Alexis Ruiz defeated Belgium's Brend Frederickx

and Sarah Prieels in the final match.

Recurve women team will compete for bronze medal on Sunday.

The 2019 Archery World Cup is the 14th edition of the international archery circuit organized annually by World Archery.

The 2019 World Cup will consist of five events, and will run from 22 April to 7 September 2019.

The next stage will be held in Antalya, Turkey.

Iran 3x3 basketball team advance to 2019 FISU University World Cup



S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iran's women's Azad University 3x3 basketball team booked a place at the 2019 FISU University World Cup - 3x3 in Xiamen which will be held in October-November.

The Iranian team lost to Chinese Taipei A 15-6 in the final match on Saturday.

Chinese Taipei B also defeated China B in the bronze medal match.

Azad University of Iran earned four successive wins in the competition which

was held at the Kinmen, Chinese Taipei.

The Iranian team narrowly defeated China's representative 14-13 in their first match and then beat Mongolian university 19-12.

Azad University also defeated a team from Chinese Taipei 8-5 and registered their fourth win against Hong Kong's basketball team, where the Iranian team beat them 19-13.

A total of 20 elite university teams took part in the competition.

Matchday Five: What They Said

The penultimate round of Group Stage matches in the AFC Champions League concluded this week and with it came plenty of exciting action across the breadth of Asia.

History-makers, baby-cradlers, hard-workers and hulking strikers all feature as the AFC.com talks to those involved in the latest edition of the Continent's most prestigious competition.

"When people talk about forwards, it'll surely be about the foreign players. For me, the absence of foreign players give me an opportunity and this was the time for me to prove what I can do and provide for the team."

Johor Darul Ta'zim (JDT) match-winner Syafiq Ahmad took full advantage of his chance to start up front due to the suspension of Brazilian star Diogo. The young forward scored the game's only goal as JDT defeated holders Kashima Antlers to win their first-ever AFC Champions League tie.

"We were a bit tired, especially as this is the first day of Ramadan and many of the players were fasting. Fatigue impacted us, especially in the second half, but the players fought hard and we got the all-important three points, so we are extremely delighted with that."

Al Sadd's Tarek Salman commended his side for earning a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Al Ahli which sent the Qatari side to the 2019 AFC Champions League Round of 16.

"We understand that we're in a tough situation now to qualify for the Round of 16 and we'll be facing a difficult opponent. We need to do our best, train hard and set our sights and aims on reaching the knockout stage. I still feel we have a good chance to make it."

Yu Dabao insists that Beijing FC can still make the knock-out rounds of the 2019 AFC Champions League despite suffering a 1-0 home defeat to Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors.

"After I scored, Edgar picked me up and cradled me like a child. This is because he thinks of me like his son within the team, like his own child. It's a nice feeling and it was a good moment."

Kim Dae-won's Goal of the Week-winning strike in Daegu FC's 4-0 win over Melbourne Victory was the pick of the bunch, and led to teammate Edgar coming up with a unique celebration.

I would like to commend the coach for the confidence he gave to everyone in the squad, including the youngsters. It is true that some players may get less playing time than others, but if you keep training hard, you will look good on the pitch when your chance arrives."

Al Nassr midfielder Abdulaziz Al Jebreen hailed coach Rui Vitoria for his selections in the side's 3-1 victory over UAE's Al Wasl.

"I think box-to-box midfielder is my best position and it allows me to add my presence to the attack when needed. So it was definitely a good action to attack the penalty area during this team move. I got into the box and was able to take the opportunity."

Marouane Fellaini reflects on his part in Shandong Luneng 2-1 win over Gyeongnam FC that secured the Chinese side a place in the last 16 of the AFC Champions League.

"We worked hard in training in the build up to this match and it showed with our display on the pitch and the way we imposed our football on the opponents. We deserved to walk away with the three points, but we are satisfied with the result since it means we qualify to the next round."

Al Dhail coach Rui Faria credited work on the training ground for his side's qualification to the 2019 AFC Champions League Round of 16 after a 1-1 draw against Esteghlal at Azadi Stadium.

"Yes, I had some injuries but now I am 100 percent recovered and I will try my best to help the team win the crucial final match in the group."

Nervous times for defenders across Asia with Shanghai SIPG star striker Hulk confirming he's back to his best after a brace against Kawasaki Frontale.

(Source: the-afc)

Asian legends to assist at Official Draw of FIBA Asia Cup 2021 Qualifiers

Two Asian star guards will be dropping another big time assist at the Official Draw of the FIBA Asia Cup 2021 Qualifiers which will take place at the Shangri-La Hotel Bengaluru in Bengaluru, India on Saturday 8 June.

Philippines national team superstar Jimmy Alapag and legendary Japanese floor general Asami Yoshida will be present at the event to help the process of grouping the qualified teams for the Asian Cup 2021 Qualifiers. The 24 teams will be separated into 6 groups of 4 team each, playing towards the FIBA Asia Cup in 2021.

This is the first time ever that the FIBA Asia Cup has had a qualification round of such heading towards the event. The teams have qualified through to this stage either via playing in the FIBA Asia Cup 2017 or proceeding successfully through the Pre-Qualifiers in 2018. The next step towards the tournament to crown the best team in Asia will begin in November 2019.



Jimmy Alapag is known for his passion and leadership playing for the Philippines national team and is a living example of "heart

of height". The feisty shooter has starred in 3 FIBA Asia Cups for the Philippines in 2007, 2011, and 2013. Alapag had plenty of

memorable moments, though maybe none more impressive than his clutch performance against Korea in the 2013 semi-finals which lead to the Philippines' best Asia Cup finish in nearly 3 decades.

Asami Yoshida is one of the most successful players in Women's Asia Cup history for her stretch with the Japanese national team since 2007. Appearing in 6 Asia Cups, she won 3 bronze medals from 2007 to 2011 before achieving a rare three-peat from 2013 to 2017. Yoshida was always one of the most impressive players on the team, resulting in her being named to the tournament's All-Star Five team twice in 2013 and 2015.

The official draw will be held on Sunday, June 8 and will be featuring special entertainment performances along with the attendance of Alapag and Yoshida as guests of the event.

(Source: FIBA)

Ex-Iran coach Julio Velasco announces retirement

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Argentine volleyball coach Julio Velasco has called time on his glittering career on Friday.

Former Iran coach has retired after a 40-year career. His decision was announced by the Modena Volley website, the last team he coached, in a statement released on Friday.

Velasco was named as the head coach of the Iran men's national team in 2011 and helped Team Melli win Asian Men's Volleyball Championship twice in 2011 and 2013.

Under guidance of Velasco, Iran earned their best ever position in the FIVB Volleyball World League when they came fourth in Florence, Italy in 2014.

Velasco, 67, started his career in Argentina in 1979 and then took charge of the Italian team between 1989 and 1997. He won two world championships, three European championships, five World Leagues, one FIVB World Cup and a silver medal at the 1996 Olympics with the Italian team.



Spartak Moscow eye Iranian winger Milad Mohammadi

IRNA — Russian football giant Spartak Moscow has shown interest in signing Iranian international winger Milad Mohammadi.

The 26-year-old is out of contract at Russian Premier League side Akhmat Grozny this summer and his availability on a free transfer has alerted a number of clubs across Europe.

Mohammadi had been previously linked with a move to Scottish giant Celtic, Promotion-chasing Bristol City and Fulham. The left back also was a target of Russian champion Zenit St Petersburg.

Mohammadi, who has made 28 international caps for Iran, was a member of Team Melli at the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

Iranian taekwondokas at Manchester World Championships

TASNIM — Iranian taekwondokas will participate in the 2019 Manchester World Taekwondo Championships.

A total of six women athletes will represent Iran in the competition, while eight taekwondokas will participate in the men's division.

The women's team consists of Mahla Momenzadeh, Nahid Kiani, Parisa Javadi, Yalda Valinejad, Kimia Hemati and Akram Hemati. The team will be headed by Mahroo Kamrani in the event.

Armin Hadipour, Mohammad Hassan Palangafkan, Soroush Ahmadi, Mirhashem Hosseini, Amir Mohammad Bakhshi, Mehran Barkhordari, Erfan Nazemi and Sajad Mardani will feature Iran's men's team. Fariborz Askari will lead the team.

In total, 975 athletes from 150 countries and one refugee team under World Taekwondo's flag will be competing in 16 weight categories.

The Manchester 2019 World Taekwondo Championships will take place in Manchester, Britain, from May 15-19.

Iran, Cuba, symbol of resistance against the U.S. unjust sanctions

MNA — Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Masoud Soltanifar said that Islamic Republic of Iran and Cuba are the symbol of resistance against the U.S. unfair sanctions.

He made the remarks on Tuesday in his meeting with the Cuban Ambassador to Iran Alexis Bandrich Vega in Tehran and said, "the two countries of Iran and Cuba have established fair and amicable relationship in the best possible level."

He reiterated that Cuban and Iranian people are record holders of resistance against the U.S. unjust sanctions.

Sports relationship between these two countries have always been at the best possible level, he said, adding, "I ordered all sports federations to invite Cuban champions and athletes to Iran especially competitions held during Ten-Day Dawn ceremonies, marking the glorious victory of the Islamic Revolution."

He thanked Cuban coaches in Iranian sports field and pointed to organizing 17 joint commissions between the two countries and added, "this level of ties indicates the depth of strategic and friendly relationship between Islamic Republic of Iran and Cuba."

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is ready to expand bilateral cooperation between Iran and Cuba, Soltanifar emphasized. For his part, Cuban Ambassador to Iran Alexis Bandrich Vega said, "The U.S. sanctions have made the two countries stronger and more determined, so that Cuba is ready to enhance its relations with Iran particularly in sports field."

He invited Iranian Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Masoud Soltanifar to take part in Cuban Local Sports Festival in Havana.

Jose Murcia linked with Iran's Esteghlal

TASNIM — Iranian football club Esteghlal are reportedly going to hire Spanish coach Jose Murcia.

Murcia is currently leading Qatari club Al Shahania and is a target to replace Winfried Schaefer, Al Kass reported.

Esteghlal parted company with the German coach in late April following poor results in the Iran Professional League.

Assistant coach Farhad Majidi replaced Schaefer until the end of the season.

Esteghlal general manager Amir Hossein Fathi had already said the team's next coach will not be an Iranian coach.

INTERNATIONAL DAILY

www.tehrantimes.com

■ Managing Director: Ali Asgari

■ Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Ghaderi

» Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895

editor@tehrantimes.com

» Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000

» Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051450

» Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807

» Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603

» www.eshterak.ir Distributor: Padideh Novin Co.

Tel: 88911433

» Webmaster: webmaster@tehrantimes.com

» Printed at: Hamshahri No. 3(Rooztab) - ISSN: 1017-94

Tehrantimes79

Tehrantimesdaily

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran

P.O. Box: 14155-4843

Zip Code: 1599814713

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

O God you know me better than I know myself and I know myself better than others. O God, raise us above what others suppose us, and pardon our sins of which they are unaware, and cover up our wickedness.

Imam Ali (AS)

“A Jewish Girl” comes to Iranian bookstores

CULTURE **TEHRAN** — Tunisian writer Khawla Hamdi’s bestselling novel “A Jewish Girl Lies within My Heart” has recently been published in Persian by Ketabestan-e Marefat Publications in Tehran.



Front cover of the Persian version of Tunisian writer Khawla Hamdi’s novel “A Jewish Girl Lies within My Heart”.

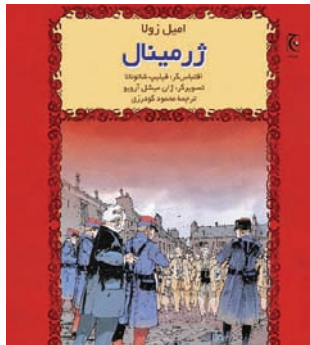
Asma Khajehzadeh is the translator of the 2012 book that tells the story of a young orphan Muslim girl, Reem, who is forced to leave her homeland of Tunisia to live with a Jewish family in southern Lebanon, where she becomes a friend of a Jewish girl, Nada, from a Muslim father and a Jewish mother.

Nada falls in love with a Muslim jihadist boy, who loses his memory during one of his resistance operations.

Their relationship is based on one question: whose religion is the right one?

Emile Zola’s “Germinal” published in Persian

CULTURE **TEHRAN** — A Persian translation of French writer Emile Zola’s graphic novel “Germinal” has recently been published by Chatrang Publications in Tehran.



Front cover of the Persian version of Emile Zola’s novel “Germinal”.

Mahmud Gudarzi has translated the book into Persian based on an adaptation by Philippe Chanoinat.

The book carries illustrations by Jean-Michel Arroyo.

The story centers on the unemployed Étienne Lantier who has left his town of Plassans to look for work. In Montsou, in the north, he is hired at the mine as a herder, a worker who pushes carts filled with coal on rails, a grueling job, whose working conditions are appalling.

“Germinal” is the thirteenth novel in Zola’s twenty-volume series, “Les Rougon-Macquart”.

Intl. Holy Quran Exhibition kicks off in Tehran

1 → Pakistan is the guest of honor at this year’s exhibition, which is also playing host to guests from Lebanon, India, Turkey and several other countries.

Copies of the Holy Quran published by various Iranian and international publishers are on view at the exhibit, which is organized every year during the holy month of Ramadan, known as the spring of the Holy Quran.

The exhibit has also dedicated sections to display top translations and interpretations of the Holy Quran.

A number of meetings, seminars and art exhibitions on the Holy Quran are scheduled to be organized on the sidelines of the event, which will be running until May 25.

James Cameron salutes “Endgame” for sinking “Titanic” record

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Filmmaker James Cameron has no bad blood with the Avengers, even though “Endgame” has eclipsed “Titanic’s” worldwide record and bumped the 1997 blockbuster to third place.

Cameron tweeted a note Wednesday to Marvel president Kevin Feige and its employees congratulating the company for its success. Cameron writes that an iceberg sank the real Titanic, but it took the Avengers to sink his “Titanic.” The accompanying image shows the Titanic crashing into a massive Avengers logo.

The studio, he says, has shown that the movie industry is alive and well and bigger than ever.

Cartoonist Alireza Pakdel finishes first at Kosovar contest

A R T **TEHRAN** — Iranian cartoonist Alireza Pakdel has won the Golden Hithi Award at the 1st Ferizaj International Cartoon Contest in Kosovo, the organizers announced on Friday.

Pakdel received the award for his cartoon “Occupation: to Rescue”, which depicts a number of firefighters and clergymen, who try to rescue people’s lives and souls.

Second prize was awarded to Seyran Caferli from Azerbaijan.

An exhibition displaying a selection of 80 cartoons from 40 countries opened at the Ferizaj Art Gallery on Friday.

Pakdel’s works have been acclaimed in numerous international events.

His cartoon “Immigrants”, which shows some European people watching a group of Middle Eastern refugees drowning in an aquarium, won the grand prix of the 43rd International Exhibition of Piracicaba Humor in Brazil in August 2016.

The cartoon also received the grand prix of the World Press Cartoon, one of the world’s largest and most prestigious annual press cartoon contests held in Lisbon, Portugal in June 2017.

In February 2019, an untitled cartoon by Pakdel on the theme of “Unity in Diversity” won first prize at the PAPB International Cartoon Festival in Indonesia.



“Mausoleum” by Iranian photographer Alma Monshibaghan won the PSA bronze award at the NYC Manhattan Exhibition.

Alma Monshibaghan wins PSA medal at NYC Manhattan Exhibition

A R T **TEHRAN** — Iranian photographer Alma Monshibaghan has won the bronze award of the Photographic Society of America (PSA) at the NYC Manhattan Exhibition, the organizers have recently announced.

She received the award in the Open Color category for her single photo titled “Mausoleum”, which depicts an Afghan woman clad in a burqa reading the Quran on a grave.

PSA gold award in this category went to Marcel Egger from Austria for “Sandstorm”, while Kai Lon Tang from Macau

IIDCYA animations to come into focus at Cologne Visions of Iran

A R T **TEHRAN** — The Visions of Iran, a festival of Iranian films that is organized every year by Museum Ludwig in the German city of Cologne, will put its spotlight on animated movies produced at Iran’s Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA).

A lineup of seven animations will be reviewed during the event running from May 30 to June 2, the organizers have announced.

“Black or White” by Mohammad-Ali Soleimanzadeh, “The Shadow which Turned into Light” by Nazanin Sobhansarbandi and “My Moon, Our Moon” by Mohammad Nasserri are

among the movies.

The lineup also includes “Cloudy Goats” by Hamid Karimian, “Scarecrow’s Heart” by Gholamreza Kazzazi, “The Trees Thief” by Rashin Kheirieh and “Butterfly” by Maryam Khalilzadeh.

The festival also presents strong feature films including Arash Lahuti’s “Orange Days”, Alireza Motamedi’s “Reza” and Hooman Seyyedi’s “Sheepie”.

A number documentary films, including “Mouth Harp in a Minor Key” by Maryam Sepehri and “Karoo” by Mohammad Ehsani, which provide new insights into Iranian society, will be screened at the festival.

Renee Zellweger transformed as Judy Garland for movie “Judy”



Cast member Renee Zellweger poses at the premiere for “Same Kind of Different as Me” in Los Angeles, California, U.S., October 12, 2017. (Reuters/Mario Anzuoni)

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Fans of screen legend Judy Garland on Friday got their first glimpse of an upcoming movie focusing on the last year of her life, with Oscar winner Renee Zellweger almost unrecognizable as the “Wizard of Oz” star.

The first trailer for “Judy” sees Zellweger singing a downbeat version of Garland’s signature song “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” in the film, which is set in London in 1968 and 1969.

“Judy”, which will be released in September, focuses on the period when Garland struggled with her health on a trip to London for a series of concerts. Garland died at age 47 of an accidental

drug overdose in London in June 1969. Zellweger, 50, best known for the “Bridget Jones” series of comedy movies, told People magazine she took voice lessons and spent two hours a day in make-up getting prosthetics and wigs for the Judy Garland role. Zellweger won a supporting actress Oscar in 2004 for her role in the drama “Cold Mountain.”

Garland’s daughter, Liza Minnelli, has distanced herself from the film, saying she never met or spoke with Zellweger.

“I do not approve nor sanction the upcoming film about Judy Garland in any way,” Minnelli wrote in a Facebook posting in June 2018.

Jim Fowler, former host of “Wild Kingdom”, dies at 89

NORWALK, Conn. (AP) — Jim Fowler, a naturalist who rose to fame on the long-running television program “Wild Kingdom” and who famously bantered with Johnny Carson on “The Tonight Show,” has died. He was 89.

Fowler died peacefully Wednesday at his home in Norwalk, Connecticut, surrounded by family, said Jennifer Whitney, a spokeswoman for Mutual of Omaha, which sponsored the show.

“Jim was one in a million, and with his passing we’ve lost a true wildlife icon,” she said in an email. “His memory will remain through the work he did on Mutual of Omaha’s Wild Kingdom, as well as through the many parks, wildlife centers and nature preserves to which he lent his expertise. But perhaps his most important legacy will be the role he played in inspiring the next generation of naturalists and

wildlife experts.”

“Wild Kingdom” debuted in 1963. Fowler began as an assistant and later became a co-host with Marlin Perkins before taking over as host.

Fowler had his arm swallowed by an anaconda and was charged by a gorilla and other creatures.

He was an athlete in college and turned down offers from the Philadelphia Phillies and New York Yankees to pursue his career in wildlife, according to a biography on the “Wild Kingdom” website.

He had a special interest in training eagles and became an internationally recognized authority on predatory birds.

He also made appearances with exotic animals on talk shows, including “The Tonight Show,” where his educational

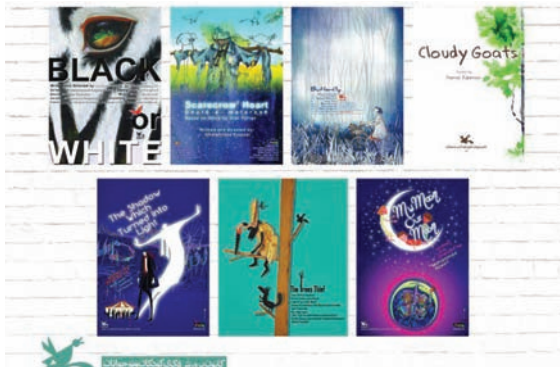


“Occupation: to Rescue” by Iranian artists Alireza Pakdel won the Golden Hithi Award at the 1st Ferizaj International Cartoon Contest in Kosovo.

won the Fédération Internationale de l’Art Photographique (FIAP) gold award for “Beauty in the Fog”. Kai also was honored with the FIAP Blue Badge.

In the Open Monochrome section, FIAP gold award was presented to American photographer Jie Fischer for “Zebra Crossing the River”, and Suk Han Chan from Hong Kong received the PSA gold award for “Walking on Sand”.

A selection of the entries and winning photos will be showcased in an exhibition at the Gallery MC from September 25 to October 2.



This combination photo shows posters for seven IIDCYA animations, which will go on screen at the Visions of Iran in Cologne. (IIDCYA)

Orchestra finds child who charmed crowd with ‘wow!’



This summer 2018 photo provided by Al Mattin on Friday, May 10, 2019 shows his father, Stephen, and son, Ronan, at Stephen’s home in Kensington, N.H. (AP/Al Mattin)

BOSTON (AP) — A performing arts group has found the child who was literally wowed by a recent classical music concert.

The Handel & Haydn Society had just finished a rendition of Mozart’s “Masonic Funeral” at Boston’s Symphony Hall on Sunday when a youngster blurted out: “WOW!”

The group was so charmed that they launched a search for the “Wow Child” with the help of audio of the moment captured by WCRB-FM. The child is 9-year-old Ronan Mattin, of New Hampshire. WGBH-FM reported Thursday. He attended the concert with his grandfather Stephen.

Ronan’s grandmother had seen a report

on TV that said the society was looking for the child.

Stephen Mattin said Ronan is on the autism spectrum and expresses himself differently from how other people do. He said his grandson is a huge music fan.

“I had told several people because I thought it was a funny story,” Stephen Mattin said. “About how he was expressing his admiration for the performance and put everybody in stitches.”

Handel & Haydn President David Snead said he is setting up a Skype meeting with Ronan and Harry Christophers, the society’s artistic director who was conducting the night of the performance.

talks often also served as a foil for the humor of Johnny Carson.

He shook his head when asked by The Associated Press in 1993 about his reputation for wrangling some of the world’s most fearsome beasts while Perkins watched and narrated. Perkins died in 1986 at age 81.

“Johnny Carson started that and I can’t seem to shake the image,” Fowler said. “It isn’t true, you know. Marlin was right there with me on almost all of the stuff.”

He met Perkins on the “Today” show in 1961 and became his sidekick.

Fowler also was there as host when the last episode of the original “Wild Kingdom” — “Tigers of Ranthambhorn” — was filmed in 1991. The show was revived on Animal Planet in 2002.