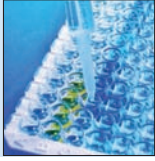
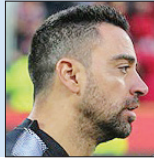




Iran not concerned about U.S. sanctions on metals industry **4**



Iranian firm manufactures Huntington's disease detection kit **11**



Xavi Hernandez to hang up his boots in Tehran **15**



Annecy festival adds more movies to its Iranian lineup **16**

U.S. carriers are vulnerable

See page 2

© ICANA / Mohammad Reza Zarendosh



Rival political activists meet Rouhani

TEHRAN — Late on Saturday a number of political activists from reform and conservative camps met with President Hassan Rouhani.

During the talks, Rouhani said none of the political factions can be removed in the country.

Among those present in the meeting were Behzad Nabavi, Ghoam-Ali Haddad

Adel, Mohammad Salamati, Ali Shakouri Rad, Ahmad Tavakoli, Elias Hazrati, Ghodrattollah Ali Khani, Mohammad Reza Bahonar, Mohammad Ali Abtahi, Assadollah Badamchian, Mohammad Atrianfar, Seyyed Reza Taqavi, Gholamreza Mesbahi Moqaddam, Hamid Reza Jalaiepour, Mohsen Hashemi, Hossein Marashi, and Morteza Bank. **→2**

ECFR: EU needs to set up mechanism for oil trade with Iran

TEHRAN — Europe should establish another mechanism similar to INSTEX to expand the “scope of trade to include oil imports from Iran,” the European Council on Foreign Relations suggested in a commentary on its website, ecf.eu, on May 9. The ECFR also said Europe should involve other countries for trade with Iran through such a financial mechanism.

Following is the text of the article headlined “Open letter: The U.S. and

the Iran Nuclear Deal”:

One year ago, on 8 May 2018, President Donald Trump announced that the United States would cease compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the nuclear agreement struck in July 2015 by the United States and Iran, along with China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom and the European Union. **→3**

Massive explosions rock Fujairah port

Several heavy explosions occurred early on Sunday in the port of Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates, a number of media reports say. The reports, citing eyewitnesses, further suggested that American and French warplanes have been seen flying over the port at the time of the incident.

Earlier in the day, the Lebanon-based al-Mayadeen broadcaster

said, citing local media that several heavy explosions occurred in the port of Fujairah.

The blasts were heard between 4:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. local time (00:00 — 03:00 GMT), the broadcaster reported, adding that from seven to 10 oil tankers were in flames. The broadcaster continued by saying that the real cause of the incident has still been unknown. **→13**

60 day ultimatum is indication that Tehran's patience running thin: Kamrava

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW
By Javad Heirannia

TEHRAN — Mehran Kamrava, a professor of the Middle East Studies in Georgetown University of Doha, tells the Tehran Times that “clearly, the status quo of where JCPOA is today has become untenable. Today Iran is the only party that is living up to the terms of the agreement. The U.S. pulled out a year ago, and the EU has done very little of what the agreement obligates it to do.”

Director of the Center for International and Regional Studies at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in Qatar also adds “On the one hand European Union have been calling on Iran to abide by the terms of the JCPOA while on the other hand they have neither stood up to the United States nor even fulfilled their own obligations under the agreement.”

Kamrava also adds that “While the agreement

has existed on paper, in practice it has actually become an agreement of only one actor, namely Iran. The 60 day ultimatum is an indication that Tehran's patience is running thin.”

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: The European Union has been trying to have its cake and eat it too. On the one hand they have been calling on Iran to abide by the terms of the JCPOA while on the other hand they have neither stood up to the United States nor even fulfilled their own obligations under the agreement. They have been dragging their feet because of their own Iranophobia and also because they are unable, or unwilling, to stand up to the U.S. Iran, meanwhile, has lived up to all its obligations under the agreement. So while the agreement has existed on paper, in practice

it has actually become an agreement of only one actor, namely Iran. The 60 day ultimatum is an indication that Tehran's patience is running thin. Although the EU has rejected the ultimatum, this may be a positive move that prompts the Europeans to finally deliver on their end of the bargain.

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

A: Clearly, the status quo of where JCPOA is today has become untenable. Today Iran is the only party that is living up to the terms of the agreement. The U.S. pulled out a year ago, and the EU has done very little of what the agreement obligates it to do. So there are two possible scenarios out of the deadlock: either the agreement completely collapses, with Iran formally pulling out; or the EU takes substantive and tangible measures to rectify what has become a farce. **→13**

‘Counterintelligence failure by CIA and NSA in Venezuela’

By Javad Heirannia

TEHRAN — Robert David Steele, a former Marine Corps infantry officer and CIA spy as well as an activist for Open Source Everything Engineering (OSEE), regularly answers questions for Tehran Times.

Q. The above graphic shows your latest publication of collected articles and your long-standing chart condemning the Human Intelligence (HUMINT) discipline in the USA. Tell us about these as a preamble to our questions on Venezuela.

A. The publication, available at Amazon, consists of all of the articles I have published

in Tehran Times and a few of the articles I have published in the American Herald Tribune, that are CENSORED by GoogleNews. The chart is one I devised after years of service as both a spy and as the pioneer for Open Source Source Intelligence (OSINT), and it is in my view an accurate reflection of just how terrible the US is at the art and science of HUMINT. Our President is being lied to every day about our capabilities and to his credit, he may now finally be realizing that he cannot trust the national security leadership.

■ On 9 May 2019 you published the full text in

English of a French article by Valentin Vasiliescu, “La plus grande défaite de la CIA depuis des décennies” (“The greatest defeat of CIA in two decades”) with some strong comments. Can you summarize the article's core points?

A. The author, Valentin Vasiliescu, has rendered a service in pointing out that CIA fell into a counterintelligence trap. I quote the author in English translation:

It is only now that the Americans have learned that all the opposition groups of the Caracas regime have been infiltrated by agents of the SEIN counterintelligence. **→7**

Netanyahu fails to form government, asks for more time

TEHRAN — Benjamin Netanyahu will ask Israel's president for more time to form a new government, a spokesman said.

Netanyahu won in an April 9 parliamentary election. He is negotiating terms with nearly all the right-wing, nationalist and religious parties that form his outgoing government. No party in Israel has ever won an outright majority in the 120-seat Knesset, making coalition governments the norm with political negotiations often dragging on.

In accordance with Israeli law, Netanyahu received an initial 28-day period to form a

government, with a possible 14-day extension. The initial period ends on Wednesday. His final deadline, if granted the delay, would be May 29.

A spokesman for Netanyahu cited a heavy schedule that included Jewish holidays, national memorial days and a surge of deadly fighting with Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip last week as some of the reasons for seeking the delay, Reuters reported.

Among the most pressing issues awaiting the new government will be U.S. President Donald Trump's Middle East peace plan to end the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The team drafting it, led

by Trump's Middle East advisor Jared Kushner, has said it will be unveiled in June and will require compromise by all parties.

A right-wing coalition in Israel would likely oppose any proposed territorial concessions to the Palestinians, who are boycotting the Trump administration over what they see as its pro-Israel bias.

Netanyahu's desired coalition would also be less likely to pressure him to step down if he is eventually indicted for corruption. The prime minister is under no legal obligation to resign if charges are brought against him. **→13**



EDITORIAL

Mohammad Ghaderi
Tehran Times editor-in-chief
@ghaderi62

Al-Fujairah: The result of crimes of Saudi and UAE

Though Emirates officials are trying to censor news of the firing of tankers in the port of al-Fujairah, Riyadh and Abu Dhabi appear to have faced the consequences of their terrorist acts in the West Asian region much earlier than they thought. Now, Riyadh and Abu Dhabi, as two failed actors in Yemen and the Western Asia region, feel the crisis in a few steps. Undoubtedly, in the near future, the severity and extent of the crisis will increase.

The fact that the killing of innocent and defenseless Yemenis, including thousands of women and children in Yemen by the hated and hated Saudi regime and the United Arab Emirates, has led to the anger of the Yemeni people and other Muslim nations from Riyadh and Abu Dhabi. It has been repeatedly emphasized that Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are considered to be the killers of the Yemeni nation and the United States, and they are doomed to failure.

The fact is that all the western and Arab countries that have been killing and massacring Yemeni people are involved in the numerous crimes committed in this country. The humanitarian crisis in Yemen continues. Famine has spread across Yemen. Meanwhile, the United States, and Germany, Britain and France as its allies continue to maintain arms support for the Saudi assassination regime. Undoubtedly, the role of Washington and its allies in the killing of Yemeni women and children is very high.

Finally, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and their western supporters have become closer to the final point of the defeat in Yemen. Following the announcement of the Riyadh and Abu Dhabi official failure in the Yemeni war, the leaders of these two countries must be the answer to the public opinion of Muslim countries and people around the world as a war criminal in Yemen. Undoubtedly there is not much time left to reach this point.



PERSPECTIVE

Hanif Ghaffari
Head of the Politics Desk of the TehranTimes

Iran's game just started

By announcing that Iran will begin keeping its excess uranium and heavy water, the Islamic Republic now sends a firm and clear message to the west, exactly one year after U.S. president, Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from its nuclear deal with Iran.

At this point, it seems that Iran has made a wise decision. Over the last year, the European troika has not only done nothing to revive the nuclear deal or bring any kind of benefit to the Iranian nation, but they have actually backed up U.S. by developing new plans to undermine Iran's “missile work”, and diminish its “power in the region” as well as its “nuclear technology”.

As stated in clauses 26 and 36 of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), if the other side fails to meet its obligations, Iran is entitled to partially or completely end its commitments as well. So, Iran's recent decision could be analyzed both on legal and strategic terms.

However, it seems that the strategic aspects of Iran's decision are even more important than its legal aspects. This decision is strategically important because it stops Washington and European troika to carry out their anti-Iran scheme, a dangerous scheme that they actually started devising when Trump took the office in 2017.

At the time, Theresa May, the British Prime Minister and Emmanuel Macron, the French president played a major part in carrying out the west scheme. A scheme based on enforcing Iran to keep its “nuclear promises” and stay committed to a “distorted nuclear deal” while “U.S. had abandoned the deal”, and at the same time, trying to “diminish Iran's power in the region” and “reduce its missile activities”.

All other actions of Europeans toward Iran were also simply targeted at carrying out this major plan, including how they constantly changed their strategies toward Tehran, and how Germany, U.K. and France intentionally delayed in launching the alternative trade mechanism (Instex) with Iran. **→6**

TENDER INVITATION NO.98/1002

IRAN ALUMINIUM COMPANY (IRALCO), Would like to invite eligible suppliers for the supply of 60.000 MT. ANODE CARBONE BLOCKS on tender basis. Interested companies are allowed to send their competitive offer till **28.MAY.2019** based on our required instruction to mentioned address in tender documents and receiving more information, please check:
www.new.iralco.ir www.iralco.ir

Public Relations Department of Iran Aluminum Company



Zarif reminds Trump of anti-Iran plan by Bolton and others in B-team beforehand

POLITICAL d e s k TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Sunday reminded President Donald Trump that John Bolton and his “cohorts” in the B-team were trying to drag the U.S. into a war with Iran before he decided to appoint Bolton as his national security advisor.

Zarif has classified Bolton, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (bibi), Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed as B-team who are working hard to push the U.S. toward a war with Iran.

“@realDonaldTrump: ICYMI, before you hired him, this was the plan that @AmbJohnBolton and his #B_Team cohorts had for Iran,” Zarif tweeted.

According to Israeli media, the Israeli intelligence service Mossad had provided the U.S. with claims that Iran was planning to attack U.S. forces or interests in the region. This prompted the U.S. to send more aircraft carriers and Patriot missiles to the CENTCOM region.

Zarif also called U.S. proposals for talks with Iran just “empty words.”

“A detailed blueprint for #FakeIntelligence, #ForeverWar and even empty offers for talks—only phone numbers were not included,” he added.

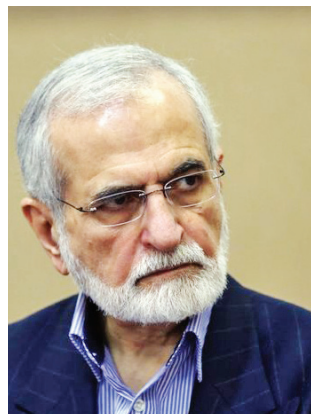
After Trump publicly appealed to Iran to call him amid heightened tensions with Tehran, the White House contacted the Swiss on Thursday to share a phone number the Iranians could call the president on, according to a diplomatic source familiar with the move.

“I’d like to see them call me,” Trump said of the Iranians in the White House on Thursday.

The source said the Swiss likely won’t hand over the number unless the Iranians specifically ask for it and it’s thought they are highly unlikely to do so.

Trump has left no room for ‘trust and negotiation’: Kharrazi

POLITICAL d e s k TEHRAN — Kamal Kharrazi, chief of the Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, said on Sunday that U.S. President Donald Trump’s act in quitting the landmark 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), “has left no room for trust and negotiation”.



“Trump’s performance in withdrawing from the JCPOA and imposing cruel sanctions against the Iranian people has left no room for trust and negotiation and his invitations to hold talks are just propaganda,” Kharrazi said during a meeting with a number of French think tanks directors.

He added, “Trump proved that he does not respect the former U.S. administration’s signature and also violates the Resolution 2231 of the [UN] Security Council and other international commitments.”

The JCPOA, signed in July 2015, was endorsed by the UN Security Council Resolution 2231.

On Iran’s missile program, he said the Resolution 2231 does not ban missiles which are not designed to carry nuclear warheads.

He noted that Iran will not hold talks on its missile program. Iran has repeatedly said that its missile program is purely deterrent.

The U.S. officials have consistently claimed that Iran’s ballistic missile tests have violated the UN Security Council Resolution 2231. Iran has dismissed the charges.

Majid Takht Ravanchi, Iran’s permanent representative to the United Nations, said on May 2 that Iran’s missile program is non-negotiable, noting it falls within “national defense”.

“We will not back down from our position on this program which is an issue of the national defense,” Takht Ravanchi told IRIB.

He noted that Iran’s conventional missile program will never be included in the Resolution 2231.

“This resolution which was approved by the U.S. itself and other countries explains that only missiles which are designed to carry nuclear warheads are banned,” stated Takht Ravanchi who acted as nuclear negotiator with the 5+1 group (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and Germany).

He added that Iran’s missiles do not carry nuclear warheads. Ali Shamkhani, secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, said in March that Tehran decides about its missile program based on its interests and the issue is “non-negotiable”.

“We take decision about range, precision, speed and destruction power of our missiles based on our interests and threats and this process is not negotiable,” Shamkhani stated.

Mohammad Ali Jafari, the former commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), said in June 2018 that the range of Iranian missiles is 2000 kilometers and the country does not need to extend it.

In a meeting with French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian in Tehran in March 2018, Foreign Minister Zarif said Iran’s military power is for deterrence.

Zarif said during Saddam Hussein’s war against Iran in the 1980s foreigners refused to sell weapons to Iran to defend itself.

“Iran has learned from the bitter experience of the imposed war that it must rely on its deterrence power to defend the people,” Zarif asserted.

During the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq War, the Saddam army rained down missile on Iranian cities. The Saddam army also gassed Iranian soldiers and civilians.

Iran will go ahead with the JCPOA deadline, MP says

POLITICAL d e s k TEHRAN —

Chairman of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee said on Sunday that Iran will go ahead with its 60-day deadline that the remaining parties to the 2015 nuclear deal, (officially called JCPOA) to offset U.S. sanctions or Tehran will take next steps.

“The Europeans are worried that the Iranians will end their cooperative approach. However, this issue does not affect Iran’s strategy and Iran will meet its deadline,” Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh told reporters on the sidelines of an open session of parliament.

As a retaliation against the U.S. pullout from the 2015 nuclear deal and reimposition of sanctions coupled with a failure by the European Union to offset sanctions, President Hassan Rouhani and the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) officially announced on May 8 that Iran stops selling stockpiles of enriched uranium and heavy water for 60 days from May 8.

Iran stated it would no longer observe limits for its stockpile of low enriched uranium (currently capped at 300kg under the JCPOA) and heavy water reserve (capped at 130 tons).

“This announcement is for 60 days. We have announced to the other side, the five countries [Germany, France, UK, Russia and China], that if they come to the negotiating table in 60 days and we reach a conclusion and safeguard our main interests which are oil [sale] and banking relations, we will return to the previous situation of May 7, 2019,” Rouhani told a cabinet meeting on May 8.



However, he warned, if a conclusion is not reached, Iran will accelerate its uranium enrichment activities and will not follow obligations under the JCPOA according to which the purity level of its uranium enrichment should not exceed 3.67 percent.

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. However, certain other countries such as China, India, Japan, South Korea and Turkey continued to buy oil from Iran under sanctions waivers.

■ **‘There will be no war with U.S.’** Falahatpisheh also said that a “strategic analysis” and the U.S. behavior show that Washington does not seek war with Iran. “Analysis of the U.S. behavior shows that

it does not seek war and their acts are just psychological warfare,” he commented.

In an interview with ISNA published on Saturday, Falahatpisheh said that U.S. President Donald Trump is seeking 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 imagined that he could bring Iran to the negotiating table through sanctions,” he said.

According to Al Jazeera, the U.S. has approved the deployment of a Patriot missile defense battery and another warship to the Middle East amid increasing tensions with Iran.

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 already passed through Egypt’s Suez Canal on Thursday, and is currently sailing in the Red Sea, according to CNN.

The U.S. says the deployments of military hardware to the region comes in response to what it claimed “heightened Iranian readiness to conduct offensive operations”.

The Patriot missile system is currently deployed in Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

“The Acting Secretary of Defense has approved the movement of USS Arlington (LPD-24) and a Patriot battery to U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) as part of the command’s original request for forces from earlier this week,” a Pentagon statement said.

IRGC chief: U.S. carriers are vulnerable

IRGC chief: Vulnerability of carriers would prevent U.S. to stage war on Iran

POLITICAL d e s k TEHRAN —

Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Hossein Salami said on Sunday that vulnerability of U.S. aircraft carriers would prevent Washington from starting a war against Iran.

“The U.S.-Iran war is not possible, because the U.S. does not have the power and will never dare to start a military war with Iran,” MP Mohammad Ali Pourmokhtar quoted General Salami as saying in a closed session of parliament.

“Dispatching the U.S. aircraft carrier to the regional waters is just a psychological warfare and the U.S. seeks to intimidate people and certain officials of war,” Salami

added, according to Pourmokhtar.

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, Al Jazeera 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 called “a number of troubling and escalatory indications and warnings” by Iran.

“The U.S.-Iran war is not possible, because the U.S. does not have the power and will never dare to start a military war with Iran.”

Rival political activists meet Rouhani

Rouhani says economic pressure is an “all-out war” against Iran

1 →

Rouhani told the attendees that all forces loyal to the Islamic Revolution should show unity, suggesting that the February parliamentary election should be turned into symbol of national unity.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Rouhani described the enemies’ economic and political pressure against Iran as an “all-out war” which is unprecedented in the history of the Islamic Revolution.

“Today, it cannot be said that the situation is better or worse than the Imposed War [1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war], but during the war we did not have problems in areas of banking relations, oil sale and importation and exportation and the only sanction on us was in purchasing weapon,” he stated.

He noted that surrender is not the solution.

“Surrender is not compatible with our culture and religion, and people will not accept it. So, we must not surrender



and we must find solutions,” he said.

The comments came three days after Rouhani sent a letter to the leaders of the remaining parties to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, announcing that Iran will

stop implementing some terms of the 2015 nuclear deal until the remaining signatories to the deal take action to mitigate the negative impacts of the U.S. withdrawal from the nuclear agreement.

“This announcement is for 60 days. We have announced to the other side, the five countries [Germany, France, UK, Russia and China], that if they come to the negotiating table in 60 days and we reach a conclusion and safeguard our main interests which are oil [sale] and banking relations, we will return to the previous situation of May 7, 2019,” Rouhani told a cabinet meeting on Wednesday.

The move came exactly one year after U.S. President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew his country from the nuclear agreement and started to pressure European parties to the deal to suspend their economic cooperation with Tehran.

It is a pity U.S. not honoring JCPOA commitments, French FM says

By staff and agency

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian has said that it is a pity that the U.S. is not honoring its commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

In an interview published online by Le Parisien on Saturday, Le Drian warned against a “bellicose spiral” of reactions on an international agreement on Iran’s nuclear activities.

The comments came after Iran announced on Wednesday that it will stop implementing some terms of the JCPOA until the remaining signatories to the deal take action to mitigate the negative impacts of the U.S. withdrawal

from the nuclear agreement.

Le Drian warned that the chain of reactions on the JCPOA could intensify into a “bellicose spiral”.

The top French diplomat described Iran’s decision to suspend sale of excess uranium and heavy water as a “bad reaction” in response to a similar “bad decision” by Washington to not honor its commitments, according to Press TV.

“Iran has had a bad reaction, faced with a bad U.S. decision to withdraw from the Vienna agreements and impose sanctions,” said Le Drian while urging Tehran to “show its political maturity”.

On May 8, Iran officially announced that it

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

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.



Iran may attack Israel if U.S. standoff escalates: Israeli minister

An Israeli cabinet minister warned on Sunday of possible direct or proxy Iranian attacks on Israel should the stand-off between Tehran and Washington escalate, Reuters reported.

The United States has increased economic and military pressure on Iran, with President Donald Trump on Thursday

urging its leaders to talk to him about giving up their nuclear program and saying he could not rule out an armed confrontation.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s government, which supports Trump’s hard tack against Iran, has largely been reticent about the spiraling tensions.

Parting with the silence, Israeli Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz said that, in the Persian Gulf, “things are heating up”.

“If there’s some sort of conflagration between Iran and the United States, between Iran and its neighbors, I’m not ruling out that they will activate Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad from Gaza, or even

that they will try to fire missiles from Iran at the State of Israel,” Steinitz, a member of Netanyahu’s security cabinet, told Israel’s Ynet TV.

The Israeli military declined to comment when asked if it was making any preparations for possible threats linked to the Iran-U.S. standoff.

‘Iran-Cuba Friendship Association firm to push for closer cultural ties’

By Mohammad Homaeifar

TEHRAN — The Iran-Cuba Friendship Association is determined to make every effort to boost the cultural ties between the people of Iran and Cuba, says Hadi Khansari, president of the association.

In an interview with the Tehran Times, Khansari voiced his admiration for Cuba and its people, explaining what the Iran-Cuba Friendship Association stands for and what activities it is involved in.

According to Khansari, the association was founded in 1381 (2002) by Naser Taqvae, Farrokh Tamimi, M. Azad and Shams Al Ahamd, but its activities got serious only after he himself got involved in it in 1382 (2003).

“As you know, friendship groups receive their permits as NGOs from the Interior Ministry. They work under the public diplomacy department of the Foreign Ministry and they must be confirmed by security and intelligence services,” he explained.

“Soon after I joined the Iran-Cuba Friendship Association, the association held the



first Chamran-Che Guevara commemoration in 1382,” he said, adding, “We repeated the event in 1384 (2005).”

Asked about the events held by the association since then, Khansari responded, “Tens of press conferences have been held for the Cuban ambassadors and other Cuban authorities who have visited Iran. We have



held a photography exhibition in the Cultural Center of Nations as well as tens of exhibitions on handicrafts and paintings in the Milad Tower, Niavaran Complex, Sa'dabad Complex, Ab-o-Atash Park, and exhibitions in other cities including Gorgan, Dezful, Qazvin, etc.”

“Nowadays,” he continued, “we hold events that are in line with expansion of friendly ties between Iran and Cuba, especially in cultural domains which are what we specialize in.”

“We recently held an event to commemorate Jose Marti, a Cuban poet, revolutionary and journalist, who is considered a national hero,” said Khansari, who is a poet himself.

He went on to say that the association have published books on Che Guevara and Cuba, and that it has some books by Jose Marti and other Cuban poets under translation.

He also pointed out that he and his colleagues have published articles about Iran and Cuba in different media outlets.

Khansari pointed to the association's achievements, namely receiving Cuba's highest diploma of peace from the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP).

“We are among few associations which have been invited several times to the national TV and radio,” he added.

Khansari said his association has actively participated in the events that the Iranian Interior Ministry, Foreign Ministry and its public diplomacy department have held on Cuba. “We have also travelled to Cuba several times. We held the Cultural Week in 2011 in Asia Culture House in Cuba and attended cultural festivals on literature and other subjects.”

Making a reference to the United States' sanctions on Cuba, he said, “As you know,

the United Nations and the ICAP in support of lifting sanctions,” Khansari added.

He pointed out that the association had held different events to support the five Cubans who were arrested and sentenced in the United States before they were released.

Asked about Café Collection, a special cultural center which he recently founded in the city of Karaj, near Tehran, Khansari said Café Collection is a mixture of café, collection, museum and gallery.

“It has a photo gallery with 200 photos embedded in its ceiling, showing all aspects of life in Cuba, such as politics, economy,



Cuba has been under 60 years of severe U.S. sanctions, which have created many problems for the country.”

In recent years, world countries in the United Nations have voted against the sanctions but the U.S. does not lift sanctions, he lamented.

“We recently wrote two separate letters to

industry, technology, music, handicrafts, food, sports, primary and higher education, athletics, old cars, beaches, etc.”

He added, “We have a specialized section on coffee which is very interesting, a section on handicrafts, and specialized sections on Cuban cigars, tobacco, pipe and musical instruments.”

Europe's JCPOA behavior has FATF implications: MP

POLITICAL DESK TEHRAN — A member of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee says the European countries' rejection of Iran's ultimatum on the 2015 nuclear agreement has a message for those who favor approval of the FATF-related bills in the Expediency Council.

Mohammad Hassan Asafari said the EU's rejection showed that the European countries are not trustworthy.

It is clear that their problem with Iran is not limited to the nuclear issue, Fars reported him as saying.

Asafari added that the Islamic Republic was entitled under articles 26 and 36 of the JCPOA to stop implementing some parts of its obligation under the JCPOA.

Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) issued a statement on Wednesday announcing that Iran will stop implementing some parts of its commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal.

According to the statement, Iranian President Hassan



Rouhani has informed leaders of the remaining countries to the nuclear deal of Tehran's decision.

The JCPOA was reached in July 2015 between Iran and

one side and the U.S., France, Britain, Germany, Russia and China on the other. However, U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew his country from the deal last year and ordered the toughest sanctions against Iran.

Under the JCPOA, endorsed by 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 the U.S. left the deal in May 2018, the Europeans have failed to compensate for the U.S. withdrawal and just paid lip service to the agreement.

According to the SNSC statement, the remaining signatories to the JCPOA have been given 60 days to fulfil their obligations in oil and banking areas.

“We will resume implementing the commitments when our needs are met, otherwise the Islamic Republic of Iran will stop implementing other obligations phase by phase,” the statement says.

ECFR: EU needs to set up mechanism for oil trade with Iran

1 → President Trump has argued that the JCPOA's provisions are insufficient to block Iran's progress towards a nuclear weapons capability, do not address Iran's expanding missile arsenal and do nothing to counter Iran's activities in the Middle East. He maintains that a strategy of “maximum pressure” is the only way forward and has consequently re-imposed all the U.S. sanctions that were suspended under the deal, including measures targeting foreign companies doing business with Iran (so-called secondary sanctions).

President Trump's concerns are not entirely misplaced. Withdrawing from the deal, however, will hardly contribute to achieving any of his stated objectives. In fact, his decision has been harmful in several respects.

First, it has undercut global non-proliferation efforts. The JCPOA is a technically sound agreement that has established significant constraints on Iran's ability to develop a nuclear weapons capability. As certified by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the UN nuclear watchdog, and publicly acknowledged by top officials from the U.S. intelligence community, Iran has continued to comply with the deal. However, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani's announcement that Iran is ready to restart certain activities prohibited by the JCPOA shows that, following the U.S. withdrawal, the benefits to Iran of staying in it diminish by the day. If Tehran restarts the full nuclear programme and limits the IAEA's inspection powers, that would leave only far weaker mechanisms for monitoring its work, including the work reflected in the nuclear archive that Israel claims to have seized from Iran. Other states in the region – notably Saudi Arabia – might be tempted to emulate it and engage in a regional nuclear arms race.

Second, President Trump's decision has undermined the value of multilateral diplomacy. The JCPOA is a significant instance of effective multilateralism and successful diplomacy, involving countries with very different foreign policy outlooks such as the U.S. and its European allies, Russia and China, and Iran itself. Whereas sanctions coupled with dialogue have proved to be effective in several international crises, the U.S. choice of “maximum pressure” over compromise devalues diplomacy as an effective way to address international disputes among rival states.

Third, the decision has weakened international law and institutions. The JCPOA derives its legitimacy from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which bans Iran from ever seeking a nuclear weapons capability, and its authority from the United Nations Security Council, which has endorsed the deal through its Resolution 2231. By reneging on U.S. commitments without proper cause, Washington has conveyed the message that international obligations can be disposed of at will.

Fourth, it has harmed transatlantic solidarity. The JCPOA was the culmination of over thirteen years of hard, unremitting transatlantic coordination. By pulling out from it and, worse still, by threatening to punish EU companies and banks for doing business with Iran, President Trump has shown utter disregard for Europe's foreign policy interests and eroded trust in the transatlantic partnership.

Fifth, it has contributed to exacerbating regional tensions. The JCPOA has removed the imminent prospect of a nuclear-capable Iran from a regional landscape deeply fraught with geopolitical tensions. By replacing it with a strategy of “maximum pressure”, the U.S.

has galvanised Iran's rivals and reduced the appeal of compromise solutions in Tehran. If Iran leaves the JCPOA, there will be far fewer diplomatic avenues to contain the risk of a military escalation that would plunge the region into further conflict.

Sixth, President Trump's decision has inflicted undue pain on the Iranian population, whom he claims to support. The JCPOA was supposed to end Iran's economic isolation in exchange for strict and verified limitations on its nuclear activities. By re-imposing sanctions with extraterritorial effects, the U.S. has scared companies and banks around the world into reducing, ceasing or not starting business with Iranian counterparts. Ordinary Iranians have seen living standards decrease because of a combination of inflation, higher costs for imports, scarcity of available goods (including food and medicine), and the impossibility of finalising transactions that were started before the re-imposition of sanctions.

The JCPOA is doing what it was designed to do: preventing Iran from getting a nuclear weapon. As such, the deal is too important to be allowed to die. Although all remaining parties to the JCPOA say they are committed to the agreement, current efforts to sustain it have not been enough to guarantee its survival.

Europeans should be applauded for the implementation of a Special Purpose Vehicle, called INSTEX, to help facilitate humanitarian trade. However, they should do more to ensure businesses have the clarity they need to conduct trade and should speed up the participation of other countries in the special vehicle. Europe should work to establish another special purpose vehicle expanding the scope of trade to include oil imports from Iran, again

open to participation by other countries. Europe should also deepen its technical and political consultations with Iran to reduce risks and build resilience on a range of topics including regional flashpoints and disaster relief.

Overall, JCPOA supporters across the world should increase coordination to make sure that U.S. sanctions do not hamper the economic stability and technical nuclear cooperation Iran needs to comply with the deal.

Most importantly, JCPOA supporters in Europe and elsewhere should re-articulate the merits of the agreement to various U.S. audiences – in the administration, Congress, the expert community and media – so it is clear that the only way to reap the full benefits of the JCPOA and build upon it is for the U.S. to rejoin it.

A U.S. return to the JCPOA would help contain the negative consequences mentioned above. It would also recreate a more cohesive international coalition applying pressure on Iran to curb activities – specifically its development of ballistic capabilities and support to its proxies – that contribute so much to instability in the region. That pressure would then be combined with a credible diplomatic attempt to lay the groundwork for détente and lead to a regional initiative on missile threats and an intra-regional dialogue on a security architecture for the Persian Gulf.

All of this stands a much better chance of success if the U.S. reconsiders its approach to the JCPOA. Much as Europeans spearheaded the process that eventually led to the agreement, so they could lead the way on any future diplomatic initiative with Iran. But for multilateralism to be effective, international law and agreements must be respected.

Rouhani, Raisi, and Larijani donate \$83,000 to Diya Foundation

POLITICAL DESK TEHRAN — Asadollah Jolaei, the managing director of the Diya (Blood Money) Foundation, has said heads of the three branches of government have donated 3.5 billion rials (nearly \$83,000) to the foundation to reduce sentences of prisoners.

Jolaei said President Rouhani donated 2.7 billion rials, Judiciary Chief Ebrahim Raisi 500 million rials and Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani 300 million rials for the cause, IRNA reported on Sunday.

He also said the foundation has held several fund raising events in Qazvin, Ardebil and Sistan-Baluchestan provinces to reduce the number of inmates who are in prison for debt and financial issues.

Iranian nationality transferrable through mother by new legislation



POLITICAL DESK TEHRAN — Iranian lawmakers have voted in favor of a bill that would grant citizenship to those born to an Iranian mother and a non-Iranian father.

During a parliamentary session on Sunday, the bill was passed by 188 votes in favor, 20 votes against and three abstentions, IRNA reported.

The bill had been proposed by the administration of President Hassan Rouhani back in April.

Vice President for Women and Family Affairs, Masoumeh Ebtekar, and Vice President for Legal Affairs Laya Joneydi attended the parliament's session.

Under the bill, thousands of children born to Iranian mothers abroad and inside the country would enjoy the rights of a citizen enshrined by Iran's Civil Rights Law.

Motahari praises stance on U.S. violation of JCPOA, calls it ‘courageous’

POLITICAL DESK TEHRAN — Deputy Majlis Speaker Ali Motahari on Sunday praised Iran's stance in face of the U.S. violation of the 2015 nuclear deal, describing it as a “courageous” move.

On May 8, 2018, U.S. President Donald Trump officially pulled Washington out of the nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and ordered sanctions against Iran. This happened despite the fact that the International Atomic Energy has repeatedly confirmed Iran's full compliance to the terms of the agreement.

“Timely decision of the Islamic Republic of Iran on some of its obligations under the JCPOA showed that Iran is not in the position of weakness,” he said in an open session of the parliament. He highlighted the importance of “resistance” and “unity” in the current situation.

On May 8, Iran announced that it 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.

During a cabinet meeting on May 8, President Hassan Rouhani said that Iran has not quit the JCPOA and his action is within the framework of the articles 26 and 36 of the deal.

“This announcement is for 60 days. We have announced to the other side, the (remaining) five countries [Germany, France, UK, Russia and China], that if they come to the negotiating table in 60 days and we reach a conclusion and safeguard our main interests which are oil [sale] and banking relations, we will return to the previous situation of May 7, 2019,” Rouhani explained.

Pointing to a letter he sent to the leaders of the remaining parties to the JCPOA, Rouhani said he has mentioned in the letter that Iran will give a firm response if the remaining parties refer the issue to the UN Security Council.

‘Liquidity must rear production to beat U.S. sanctions’

POLITICAL DESK TEHRAN — The Rouhani administration can give a firm response to U.S. sanctions by directing the country's liquidity towards production, says secretary-general of the Islamic Coalition Party.

Speaking on Sunday in Tehran, Asadollah Badamchian also said the international community is not in favor of Washington's anti-Iran plots, adding that Iran has two major nuclear states beside itself that do not follow the United States, Fars reported.

He underlined the fact that the Iranian nation have always been present at the arena and have not left U.S. plots unanswered. Tensions between Tehran and Washington have escalated in recent weeks.

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.

STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	204069.4
IFX	2494.24

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	\$70.62/b
WTI	\$61.66/b
OPEC Basket	\$69.66/b
Gold	\$1,287.30/oz
Silver	\$14.85/oz
Platinum	\$869.40/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

‘Domestic manufacturing of auto parts should be seriously followed up’

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The policy of domestic manufacturing of auto parts should be seriously followed up, Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Rahmani said on Sunday.



The minister also stressed that in this due the capable manufacturers should be seriously supported, IRNA reported.

Given that 1.25 million vehicles are anticipated to be manufactured in the country during the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 19, 2020), the part manufacturers will need 150 trillion rials of working capital (about \$3.571 billion) for the purchase of raw materials and other required items.

As previously announced by Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry, Iranian carmakers manufactured 42,623 vehicles during the first Iranian calendar month of Farvardin (March 21-April 20, 2019).

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

Pre-Brexit rush by factories boosts UK economy in early 2019

Britain's economy got a sharp one-off boost in the first three months of 2019, official figures showed on Friday, as manufacturers rushed to deliver orders before a Brexit that never came.

Reuters reported gross domestic product grew at a quarterly rate of 0.5% in the first quarter of 2019 after a sluggish 0.2% in late 2018, in line with expectations from the Bank of England as well as the consensus forecast in a Reuters poll of economists.

Year-on-year GDP growth picked up to an 18-month high of 1.8% in early 2019, up from 1.4% in the last three months of 2018, Britain's Office for National Statistics said.

Sterling was little changed by the figures, which showed household spending continued to fuel the economy as businesses grappled with Brexit uncertainty.

The "relatively strong growth figures for Q1 may just be a flash in the pan," said Tej Parikh, an economist at the Institute of Directors.

"Some businesses brought activity forward early this year in preparation for leaving the EU, so higher stocks and earlier orders have artificially bumped up the growth numbers."

In the event, with just days to go before Britain was due to leave, Prime Minister Theresa May asked the EU for more time to negotiate a deal. Brexit has now been delayed until Oct. 31 unless there is an early agreement.

Finance minister Philip Hammond said the data showed the economy remained robust.

The ONS said factories rushed to complete orders ahead of the original March 29 Brexit deadline, spurring a 2.2% jump in output in the first quarter and marking the sector's biggest contribution to overall economic growth in nearly 20 years.

Previous private-sector business surveys had shown manufacturers reported building up stocks of goods in case the country left without a transition deal, which they feared could cause chaos at Britain's borders.

The ONS data showed businesses bought an extra 4.6 billion pounds (\$6.0 billion) worth of stocks in the first quarter, the biggest increase since late 2016, which statisticians said added 0.7 percentage points to the first-quarter growth rate.

However, some sectors — such as car dealers, wholesalers and warehouses reported relatively little stockpiling.

Net trade took a record 2.2% off the quarterly rate of GDP growth and Britain's first-quarter trade deficit hit a record high 18.3 billion pounds, although the severity of the drag reflected imports of gold and vehicles which often cause big swings in the data.

Last week BoE Governor Mark Carney said he expected growth to fall back to 0.2% during the current quarter as the one-off boost from stock-building faded and businesses continued to hold off from investment as economic uncertainty lingers.

‘Iran not concerned about U.S. sanctions on metals industry’

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iran is not much concerned about the United States' recent sanctions on the country's metal exports, as Iranian steel, copper and aluminum have already their own customers, according to Iran's deputy minister of industry, mining and trade.

In an interview conducted by Tasnim news agency, Jafar Sarqini said that the fresh restrictive measures imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump on Iran's iron, steel, aluminum, and copper sectors, seem «unlikely» to significantly affect the country's metal industry.

«There is not much concern about these sanctions as Iranian steel, copper and aluminum have their own special customers in the world,» he said.

Sarqini also stressed that Iranian goods in the metal sector have high-quality and meet global standards.

«There is no specific problem regarding the selling of Iranian metals in the international markets because they always have their special customers due to their high quality and value,» he added.



The official also noted that Iran's exports in the metal industry sector did not decline over the past year following

Washington's withdrawal from the nuclear deal, but rather increased compared to its previous year.

‘Annual wheat production expected to exceed 11m tons by Mar. 2020’

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The managing director of Government Trading Corporation of Iran (GTC) announced on Sunday that the country's wheat production is expected to exceed 11 million tons in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 19, 2020) and there would be no need for importing the grain.

“To date, some 1.234 million tons of wheat has been purchased, which is 23 percent more than that of last year,” IRIB quoted Yazdan Seif as saying on Saturday.

Iran has been self-reliance in wheat production over the past three years and the Ministry of Agriculture announced last year that there was no need for importing wheat.

According to Deputy Agriculture Min-



ister Abbas Keshavarz, the country's self-sufficiency rate in wheat production has increased from 65 percent in the Iranian calendar year of 1392 (March 2013-March 2014) to 105 percent in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

Of the 8.5 million hectares of land under cultivation in Iran, some 60 percent is under wheat farming which shows the significance of this grain in the country.

‘Aluminum exports to neighbors not to be stopped’

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iran will not stop export of aluminum to its neighboring countries, the secretary general of Aluminum Industries Syndicate of Iran said in an interview conducted by the news portal of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA).

Abolfazl Rezaei said the U.S. fresh sanctions on Iran which targets the country's metal sector will not affect Iranian aluminum production and export significantly.

Although the country's aluminum sector need the government's support more than any other time, he stressed.

Last week, the United States imposed sanctions on Iran's metals and minerals sectors.

Last year, Iran produced 25 million tons of steel, which make up 1.5 percent of the world's steel output, he added.

Iran plans to boost steel output to 55 million tons a year by 2025, of which 10-15 million tons would be earmarked for export.

In a statement released on Wednesday, Trump said that the new anti-Iran sanctions target «Iran's revenue from the export of industrial metals - 10 percent of its export economy.»

He also warned other countries that «allowing Iranian steel and other metals into your ports will no longer be tolerated.”

The announcement was made on the first anniversary of Washington's unilateral withdrawal from the nuclear agreement — officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Since then, the Trump administration has reimposed sanctions on Iran's energy, shipbuilding, shipping, and banking sectors under a campaign of “maximum pressure” against the Islamic Republic.

Exports from Aras FTZ stands at \$251m in a year

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The value of exports from Aras Free Trade Zone in Iran's East Azarbaijan Province stood at \$251 million in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20, 2019), IRNA quoted the managing director of Aras Free Trade Zone Organization as saying on Saturday.

Mohsen Nariman named the Republic of Azerbaijan, Turkey, Russia, Iraq, Uzbekistan, Georgia, Afghanistan, Germany and the United Arab Emirates as the export destinations of the products, putting Azerbaijan on top of the list.

The official said that exports from the free zone has grown 35 percent year on year.

Some 2600 industrial, service and tourism units are operational in Iran's free trade zones, according to Secretary of Iran's Free Zones High Council Morteza Bank.

The official said 1.3 quadrillion rials (over \$30.95 billion) of investment have been made in Iran's free zones over the past five years.

He further noted that half a million jobs have been created in the country's free zones and \$6 billion foreign investment has been attracted in various areas.

Free zones play some significant role in development of the country, Bank noted.

Establishment of free trade zones in Iran dates back to Iranian calendar year 1368 (March 1989- March 1990) following the fall in the country's oil income in the preceding year which prompted the government to promote the non-oil exports.

The first two free trade zones of Iran were established in the south of country. The first one was Kish Free Trade Zone established in 1368 on Kish Island in the Persian Gulf and the second one was Qeshm Free Trade Zone established the year after on Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz.

Some five other free trade zones have been also established in the country since then, including Chabahar in southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan Province, Arvand in



southwestern Khuzestan Province, Anzali in northern Gilan Province, Aras in East-Azarbaijan Province and Maku in West-Azarbaijan Province, both in the northwest of the country.

The cornerstone industries to potentially boost China's economy

By Chen Jiahe

When we study a particular economy, we have to look at its details rather than just its figures such as CPI, GDP, etc. One of the most important details is the industries that serve as cornerstones. Only when an economy finds its suitable cornerstones can it thrive in the long term.

Usually, a smaller economy needs less “cornerstones”. New Zealand, for example, has only a few million people. Therefore, it can live on very well with one cornerstone industry only, i.e. the tourism. Australia lives upon agriculture, tourism and natural resources as a larger economy.

An even larger economy, such as Japan, has to find more and larger cornerstone industries. Japan is very good at finance, machinery, shipbuilding, electrical equipment, etc. Although Japan is also very famous for its tourism industry, the output of this industry alone is too small to support the economy of the whole of Japan.

China's economic structure is even more complicated. As a country with the largest population and one of the world's largest territories, China needs a more comprehensive and healthy industry structure to sustain its future economic development.

■ Huge consumption market

The consumption industry is on the top list. This is not only because China has a huge consumption market, but also because China's consumption industry is still developing at a low level.

On average, every 1,000 Chinese people own only around 170 automobiles, a level that is around one-third of Japan. Chinese people also save a much larger proportion of



their income compared with what they spend.

In order to develop the consumption industry, China is now relying heavily on the internet. The e-commerce industry is now growing at incredibly high speed which absorbs a large amount of labor supply with its offline delivery services.

Industries with sophisticated machinery are also likely to be a cornerstone industry for China. For example, as China is now weak in its production of large aircraft, the commercial aviation industry will certainly lead the Chinese economy in the coming decades.

Currently, there are only two dominant

players in the global commercial aviation industry: Boeing and Airbus. As the commercial aviation industry is extremely sophisticated, only the super large economies can afford to develop such a huge industry. China's economy size makes it possible for the future development of the aviation industry.

China will reinforce the financial industry in the future. Currently, almost all of China's financial service companies are local players who profit little from the global market. As China's companies become increasingly engaged with international players, its financial service companies should be able to gain an equivalent position for themselves.

■ Chinese companies

Although the IT industry is very lucrative, it is also under severe competition. For example, Intel and Microsoft are almost invincible in their own field. Chinese companies are currently too weak to compete directly with international giants in this industry.

But in the meantime, the good thing is that the IT industry also happens to be one of the most volatile industries in the world, where technology is being updated by the minute and the seats for the dominant players might also be replaced in the future.

Take the telecommunication industry as an example, in just over a decade, the dominant technology changed from analog signals to 2G, 3G, 4G and now the 5G era is coming.

In the era of the analog signal, Motorola dominated the industry. However, when it came to the era of the digital signal, Nokia suddenly took over a huge part of the market share and Motorola was gradually phased out. In the 3G era, Nokia was quickly wiped out by new competitors such as Apple, HTC and Samsung. Huawei jumped in the 4G era and HTC was uncompetitive. Now as the world is entering into the 5G era, who knows what will happen tomorrow? This might generate a new opportunity for a new player in this industry.

Apart from the industries discussed above, there are many others that China shall consider as its cornerstone industries in the future. After all, the growth of the economy is not just about the growth of the GDP figure. It requires an optimal transformation of industrial structure for China to have a thriving economy.

(Source: cgtn.com)

PGPIC petchem exports not affected by U.S. sanctions: director

E N E R G Y TEHRAN – The managing director of Iran’s Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Trade Company (PGPIC) said the U.S. sanctions haven’t had any effect on the petrochemical exports by this company.

“Our customers’ willingness for signing long-term contracts with us is an indication of our capability for sustainable supply to the market, and also their interest in importing from us despite sanctions,” Shana quoted Reza Ebadzadeh as saying on Saturday.

The official further noted that talks were under way for exporting cargoes to new destinations in near future.

“Although the current circumstances

have made things more difficult, but exports are continuing just like before the sanctions,” he added.

Earlier in April, General Secretary of Iran’s Association of Petrochemical Industry Corporation (APIC) said that U.S. sanctions are not going to have any significant impact on Iran’s petrochemical exports.

“The mechanisms of petrochemical exports differ significantly from oil exports and therefore U.S. sanctions will have no impact on the production and export of petrochemicals,” Ahmad Mahdavi Abhari said.

Petrochemical industry is one of the most important pillars of Iran’s economy and one of the main suppliers of foreign



currency especially euro for the country.

According to Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh, the country is currently producing 62 million tons of petrochemical products annually and with the new projects going on stream the number is expected to jump to 65.5 million tons further cementing the Islamic country’s stance as a major petrochemical supplier to the world markets.

Oil production in Iran’s flood-stricken regions back to normal

E N E R G Y TEHRAN — Oil fields in flood-stricken regions of Khuzestan Province in southwestern Iran are once again operational and the production is back to normal, IRNA reported on Sunday.

According to the Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh, the heavy rainfalls started in mid-March at the mentioned regions caused the oil facilities over 1 trillion rials (over \$238 million) in damage.

Destruction of pipelines and roads as well as closing up the wells in order to prevent the oil spill into the water were some of the damages caused by the devastating floods.

According to Ahmad Mohammadi, the managing director of National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC), despite the heavy floods there had been no problem with production in any of the fields, however in order to protect the



environment some wells were closed off.

Exceptional rainfalls since March 19 have flooded some 1,900 cities and villages across Iran, claiming over 70 lives and causing hundreds of millions of dollars of damage to Iranian water, oil, construction and agriculture infrastructures.

Floods have affected several provinces in the north and west of the country including, Khuzestan, Golestan, Mazandaran, and Lorestan.

IOOC voices support for domestic production

E N E R G Y TEHRAN – The managing director of Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC) has voiced his company’s readiness for establishing joint ventures with private manufacturers, Shana reported on Saturday.

“Given the fact that the reservoirs operated by IOOC were mostly in their second half of their lifespan, new research projects needed to be carried out to separate oil from water in the produced oil,” Hamid Bovard said on the sidelines of a visit to a knowledge-based private company called Fan Nirou Co.

He also called on private companies to join state organizations in order to maximize their efficiency.

“All our efforts at IOOC are focused on turning this company into a major workshop and coordinated with other domestic manufacturers so that all the domestic potentialities can be exploited where needed,” The official said.

IOOC is one of the world’s largest offshore



oil producing companies, with over a half century of experience. The Company shares one third of Iranian oil export, operating in Iranian side of the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea.

The main operation area of Iranian Offshore Oil Company is the Persian Gulf where four other oil producing countries are located in the other side. Accordingly, Persian Gulf has been known as the world’s most oil-rich region where the exploration activities and oil and gas production are very attractive.

No U.S. LNG exports to China in recent months as trade war reaches peak: reports

In an escalation of the U.S.-Chinese trade spat which began in June 2018, the Trump administration increased tariffs from 10 to 25 percent on about \$200 billion in Chinese imports on Friday.

According to a report by Sputnik, the past few months have seen no U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG) vessels arrive in China, which remains the second-biggest importer of the fuel in the world, according to shipping data revealed by the company Refinitiv Eikon.

Only two vessels (one in January and one in February) have departed the U.S., the world’s fourth-biggest LNG exporter, for China this year; it indicates a significant drop from the first four months of 2018, when 14 such ships docked at Chinese ports.

A total of 27 LNG ships sailed from the U.S. to China last year, with most of the vessels leaving U.S. ports before the beginning of the bilateral trade spat.

The trade war is “unproductive and creates some added costs for our Chinese consumers” but “hasn’t had an impact on U.S.” and isn’t likely have an impact in the future, officials from Cheniere Energy Inc, which owns several major operational U.S. LNG export terminals, was cited by Reuters as saying.



The developments come after the U.S., the world’s fourth-biggest LNG exporter, increased its tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese goods from 10 to 25 percent earlier this week.

In a series of tweets, President Donald Trump said, in turn, that the latest tariffs would produce “massive payments” that would go directly to the U.S. Treasury Department.

He added that there was “absolutely no need to rush” on

removing the higher tariffs, which he claimed would “bring far more wealth to our country than even a phenomenal deal of the traditional kind”.

Trump urged China to act now in terms of the ongoing Si-no-U.S. trade talks or the deal could become “far worse” for Beijing, i.e. if it has to be re-negotiated during his possible second presidential term.

The remarks came as the latest round of U.S.-Chinese trade talks wrapped up in Washington on Friday, during which the sides failed to clinch any deal but agreed to meet for further negotiations in Beijing.

China and the U.S. have been embroiled in a trade dispute since last June, when Trump announced the imposition of 25 percent tariffs on Chinese goods worth of \$200 billion in a bid to fix the U.S.-Chinese trade deficit, reflecting one of the pledges he made during his election campaign in 2016.

Even though the two countries are currently trying to negotiate a new trade deal, they have since then exchanged several rounds of trade tariffs. Beijing has already vowed to retaliate against Washington’s latest move.

U.S.’s coal to keep sliding for months to come

U.S. demand for coal to generate electricity will continue its slide in coming months, federal officials said Thursday, despite efforts by the Trump administration to shore up the struggling industry.

As per Omaha.com, renewable energy sources including wind, solar and hydro-power are expected to fill much of the gap left by coal’s decline, according to the Energy Information Administration.

That’s particularly true for Western states, where renewables will provide almost a quarter of the power to households and businesses during the peak summer season, the agency said in projections released Thursday.

Natural gas is expected to remain the fuel of choice for power generation with an expected 40% share of U.S. markets this summer.

Under President Donald Trump, officials have sought to ease coal plant regulations and mining restrictions. But after production briefly bumped up in the year after Trump took office, almost all coal mining states are now experiencing production declines.

Wyoming, Kentucky and Texas have seen the biggest drops so far this year. Among the top 10 coal states, only Montana has seen a slight increase in the volume of coal mined in 2019.

■ **The coal’s share in U.S.**

Coal’s share of power generation is projected to be 25% this summer. That’s down roughly half over the past decade and follows a wave of coal plant retirements by utilities seeking cheaper and cleaner-burning alternatives.

“This decline is relentless,” said Seth Feaster, who tracks the coal industry for

the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis. The Ohio-based group advocates for a transition to more sustainable energy sources.

The “question is how low can it go,” Feaster added. “Coal is really facing tremendous obstacles in terms of competition from natural gas from fracking and continuing price declines for renewables.”

A spokesman for the coal mining industry’s trade group said the government forecast was “a reminder of how quickly we are losing balance” on the nation’s electric grid.

“We are shifting from reliable, baseload generation that supports grid reliability to alternatives that undermine it,” National Mining Association spokesman Conor Bernstein said. He added that power market operators are failing to recognize the value of “fuel diversity” in their decisions about how to run the grid.

Meanwhile, plant retirements continue to stack up, including in the heart of coal country.

PacifiCorps announced in late April that one Wyoming coal-fired power plant and part of another could be retired as early as 2022 as the company tries to keep down costs for its customers. The Oregon-based utility plans to significantly increase the amount of electricity it generates from wind turbines and solar farms.

Beyond the changes in the number and types of power plants are shorter-term price considerations, analyst Stacy Macintyre with the Energy Information Administration said. Utilities this summer will pay about 3 percent more for coal and 12 percent less for natural gas compared with last year, she said.

Magnolia Oil & Gas Corp (MGY): Wilder MA above SMA on these shares

Watching the trading indicators on shares of Magnolia Oil & Gas Corp (MGY), we can see that the twenty one day Wilder Moving Average is presently above the 50 day Simple Moving Average. Traders following the signals may be on the lookout for the formation of a strong near-term trend.

Riverdale Standard reported traders are often looking for any little advantage that they can get when attempting to grab profits in the stock market. Traders might be closely watching insider buying and selling as well as what the successful fund managers are doing. Following the smart money can help investors get a grasp on the bigger picture of what is going on with certain equities.

There is no shortage of information that the individual trader can get their hands on. Figuring out how to best put that information to work is an important part of any trading plan. With so much data to track, traders may need to decide which information they will use when making the big investing decisions. Pinpointing the next great trade could be just around the corner, but it may take some hard work and enhanced focus.

■ **Mongolia’s oil and gas**

Tracking other technical indicators, the 14-day RSI is presently standing at 43.58, the 7-day sits at 37.98, and the 3-day is resting at 33.43 for Magnolia Oil & Gas Corp (MGY). The Relative Strength Index (RSI) is a highly popular technical indicator.

The RSI is computed base on the speed and direction of a stock’s price movement. The RSI is considered to be an internal strength indicator, not to be confused with relative strength which

is compared to other stocks and indices. The RSI value will always move between 0 and 100. One of the most popular time frames using RSI is the 14-day.

One technical indicator that may help gauge the strength of market momentum is the Average Directional Index or ADX. At the time of writing, the 14-day ADX for Magnolia Oil & Gas Corp (MGY) is standing at 18.39.

The ADX was created by J. Welles Wilder to help determine how strong a trend is. In general, a rising ADX line means that an existing trend is gaining strength. The opposite would be the case for a falling ADX line. Many chart analysts believe that an ADX reading over 25 would suggest a strong trend. A reading under 20 would suggest no trend, and a reading from 20-25 would suggest that there is no clear trend signal.

Looking further at additional technical indicators we can see that the 14-day Commodity Channel Index (CCI) for Magnolia Oil & Gas Corp (MGY) is sitting at -72.71. CCI is an indicator used in technical analysis that was designed by Donald Lambert.

Although it was originally intended for commodity traders to help identify the start and finish of market trends, it is frequently used to analyze stocks as well. A CCI reading closer to +100 may indicate more buying (possibly overbought) and a reading closer to -100 may indicate more selling (possibly oversold).

Active traders have a wide variety of technical indicators at their disposal for completing technical stock analysis. Presently, the 14-day ATR for Magnolia Oil & Gas Corp (MGY) is spotted at 0.40.

Aswan solar power park highlights Egypt’s renewable energy strategy

By Amr Emam

Egypt is preparing to open a huge solar power park in the southern city of Aswan, a project that indicates the country’s renewable energy plans.

Benban Solar Park, a photovoltaic power station under construction since 2017 by nearly two dozen major renewable energy companies and thousands of Egyptian workers, will produce 1,600 megawatts of electricity when it fully operates later this year.

The 37.2 sq.km site is one of several projects undertaken by the Egyptian government with the aim of increasing dependence on renewable energy.

“Dependence on renewable energy will help our country reduce traditional energy consumption,” said Mohamed al-Sobki, a professor of energy planning at Cairo University. “This will save money and advance the national commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement of 2016.”

Egypt plans to increase the contribution of renewable energy to electricity production from less than 3% now to 20% in 2022 and then raise that figure to 40% by 2035. Moves towards that goal include the construction of several major solar power plants and wind farms.

Thousands of state institutions, including schools, are turning to renewable energies by installing solar power equipment on their roofs. Some institutions are feeding the national electric grid, making money by selling electricity to the state-operated network.

To encourage investments in the renewable energy sector, Egypt has enacted laws to allow the sale of electricity by individuals and companies to the national network. The laws also permit the flow of investments in renewable energy.

“Renewable energy investments always have huge returns,” said Walid al-Khattam, the head of the Renewable Energy Program at Ain Shams University. “Egypt also has a competitive edge when it comes to all types of clean energy.”

There is no estimate of renewable energy investments in Egypt but the number of renewable energy companies and renewable energy projects are on the rise.

Renewable energy companies are constructing solar power plants on rooftops amid increasing demand by citizens and private and public institutions. The demand is increasing in part because of the rise in the price of electricity after the near total elimination of subsidies, a facet of Egypt’s economic reform program.

Renewable energy is empowering members of the general public who can provide the national network with electricity instead of waiting for the network to give them electricity.

■ **Major renewable energy projects**

Major renewable energy projects such as Benban are also empowering Egypt. The project is subdivided into 41 plots that make up the world’s largest solar power park. The park is expected to be connected to the national electricity network soon after it begins operations. Four new substations are being established for this purpose.

When operating fully, the Benban Solar Park will reduce up to 100,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent each year. This will help Egypt demonstrate commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement.

Together with growing production from the national network, the project will help Egypt implement its strategy of becoming a regional electricity-sharing center.

Egypt moved from an electricity deficit to a surplus in five years. The country produced less than 30,000 megawatts of electricity annually in 2014, which was far from enough to satisfy national consumption.

To increase production, the Egyptian government spent nearly \$25 billion to construct electrical power plants. The new plants increased national production to 28,000 megawatts of electricity a year.

Egypt shares 450 megawatts of electricity with Jordan and 150 megawatts with Libya. There are also plans to share electricity with Sudan and Saudi Arabia.

Apart from electricity sharing, the construction of the world’s largest solar power park promotes Egypt as a model for other African countries. This is something Egyptian companies working in the field of renewable energy look forward to.

“Local companies constructing the park have acquired enough expertise from the project,” said Khaled Abu Bakr, head of one of the companies working on the project. “We will work to transfer this expertise to other African countries, either through the transfer of power or constructing renewable energy plants in these countries.”

(Source: thearabweekly.com)

Bloomberg: LNG markets are in for a wild ride

The liquefied natural gas (LNG) market is in for an exciting five years, with major swings between demand and supply excess, BloombergNEF said in its latest LNG outlook.

According to oilprice.com, BloombergNEF analysts, this year, for one, will see a faster rise in supply than demand, with LNG available for export exceeding consumption and therefore pressuring prices.

Total LNG supply this year will add 33 million tons to a record-breaking 358 million tons annually. Demand, in the meantime, will only rise by 17 million tons — quite a gap with supply.

“This year’s expected excess supply of 16MMtpa will be hard for the market to absorb, unless we get a dose of ‘wild demand’ for either a hotter summer or colder winter in North Asia or Europe. If not, pressure will be on LNG prices,” said the head of commodities at BloombergNEF, Ashish Sethia.

This pressure could prove even greater if the trade deal between the United States and China falls through, which looks like it’s about to happen after President Trump hiked tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods effective May 11 and threatened tariffs on hitherto untaxed goods.

U.S. LNG would be a natural target for retaliatory tariffs especially since Beijing is already taxing the commodity at a rate of 10 percent in response to U.S. tariffs.

Going forward, however, prices will begin recovering some time in the early 2020s: from 2022 onwards, BloombergNEF analysts said, demand will start improving substantially as China expands its gas distribution network.

Another factor that will drive a return to balance between demand and supply is the growing use of LNG as fuel for maritime vessels, and the emergence of Pakistan and Thailand as important consumers of the fuel.

Supply will also increase as several LNG projects in the U.S., Mozambique, and Canada, as well as Russia, are completed also in the early 2020s. Seven of these — of which three in the U.S. and two in Mozambique — are about to get their final investment decisions this year.

Iran's game just started

1 → Now, Iran's decision to keep its Uranium and heavy water, is definitely in compliance with JCPOA, and more importantly, it will seriously undermine the "American-European" joint plan against Iran. This also explains why French government was so distressed by Iran's new nuclear strategy and had such a quick reaction, considering that Emmanuel Macron, the French president and Jean-Yves Le Drian, the French Foreign Minister both have had important roles in carrying out the American-European anti-Iran scheme.

At any rate, what is clear now is that the game has just started! And the Iranian political system and specially the foreign ministry have a great mission to run this game wisely.

In following days, the European troika might want to force Iran into changing its decision by threats such as reviving the European Union sanctions against Iran, or even taking Iran's case to the United Nations Security Council (so that Trump administration can meddle in Iran's affairs). But, it is time for Iran political system to be adamant in its decision.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry should clearly ask the Europeans to choose one of these options, either Iran will "further reduce its commitments to the nuclear deal" or the Europeans should do something practical to "protect the rights of Iranian nation".

It is also necessary that the Iranian political system reveals the American-European joint anti-Iran scheme to the people, so that the true nature of Europeans is showed to Iranians. In that case, Europe and specially the European troika will completely lose their reputation.

Iran should evade U.S. sanctions, maintain ties with EU, Russia, China: analyst

TEHRAN (Tasnim) — An American political scientist said Iran should maintain its normal ties with Europe, Russia and China and at the same time find some way to "isolate its economy" from U.S. sanctions.

"Given the overwhelming advantage the U.S. and its allies have militarily, Iran must find some way to isolate its economy from U.S. imposed sanctions and effectively combat the ideological/economic war being waged by the U.S./Saudi/Israel alliance against it. In the end, Iranian officials must find a way to maintain its normal (thus anti-U.S. regime change policy) relations with Europe, Russia and China. If successful, it will have built a diplomatic, economic 'counterweight' against U.S./Israel/Saudi aggression," Beau Grosscup, California State University Professor Emeritus of Political Science, told Tasnim.

Following is the full text of the interview.

■ Late 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." What is your take on the deployment?

A: The military deployment signals a new phase in the effort to demonize the Iranian government as the 'aggressor' in the Middle East. With the diplomatic (end of the nuclear pact) and economic (sanctions, end of oil waivers) components in place, the U.S. is now positioning its military force to 'react' to Iran's alleged, unspecified military provocations. By stressing the military threat to U.S. interests, the Trump Administration is using the time-worn 'Image of the Aggressor' to unify all members of the U.S. political establishment and rally support for the U.S./Israel/Saudi Arabia alliance plan for war against Iran.

■ 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." Why do you think Bolton, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and the Israeli PM are pushing the U.S. into a war with Iran?

A: The Trump Administration represents the return to power of the Neoconservative constituency (thought to be discredited by the Iraq War) and their openly acknowledged plan to shape the Middle East to serve U.S. and Israeli interests via regime change. John Bolton is the most aggressive advocate of using the military instrument (principally air power) to achieve this goal. In their view, Iran is the last major bastion of opposition power to their post-Cold War plan.

■ The deployment of the warship was reportedly based on claims of a possible attack on U.S. forces stationed in the region. So far, there is little detail from the Americans of the alleged Iranian actions that have prompted this warning nor of the specific U.S. deployments under way. It seems that the Trump administration is looking for pretexts to wage war. How do you see this? What is the goal of the administration?

A: As the world's major military power, the U.S. is in the privileged position of being able to tell the world who the aggressors are and who is not, and give meaning to that distinction without having to provide concrete evidence for their designation. This 'lack of specific detail/evidence of Iranian aggression' is a case in point. Having demonized Iran as the 'aggressor' and 'the cause of all Middle East instability and chaos,' any incident large or small' (especially 'evidence' provided by Israel) depicted as anti-U.S., Israel, Saudi or even anti-West, such as the threat to close the Strait of Hormuz, is to be laid at the feet of Iran and proof of the need for regime change in Iran. The goal is regime change in Iran, preferably via diplomatic/economic (sovereign) surrender (by domestic revolution) or by a 'reactive' military assault if necessary.

■ Many critics of the U.S. administration fear a developing drumbeat towards a conflict which, they fear, could erupt either by accident or by design. Iranian state and military officials have repeatedly stressed Iran will never start a war and it will only defend itself. What are your thoughts on this?

A: Though a formidable military presence, it makes no strategic or tactical sense for Iran to start a military war with the U.S. and its powerful allies. At the same time, as a sovereign state, Iran has the right and responsibility to defend itself. Given the overwhelming advantage the U.S. and its allies have militarily, Iran must find some way to isolate its economy from US imposed sanctions and effectively combat the ideological/economic war being waged by the U.S./Saudi/Israel alliance against it. In the end, Iranian officials must find a way to maintain its normal (thus anti-U.S. regime change policy) relations with Europe, Russia and China. If successful, it will have built a diplomatic, economic 'counterweight' against U.S./Israel/Saudi aggression. Whether the U.S. Neo-conservative Trump regime, under Bolton's leadership will allow Iran the time to do so, is the real question.

An overview of theories of international political economy

By Saeed Sobhani

TEHRAN — Barry Eichengreen tells how the actions of self-interested groups in national societies affect the making of foreign economic policy. In other hand he tries to explain how international political and market forces can influences the interests of social actors.

He presents a domestic societal explanation of the passage of the Smoot-Hawley tariff act of 1930. Eichengreen argues that economic interest groups were the key actor.

Eichengreen asserts that certain sectors of agriculture and industry supported each other's desire for protection and together pressured the government to pass the highly restrictive Smoot-Hawley tariffs.

Eichengreen believes emphasizes that economic history view the great depression and the Smoot-Hawley tariff as inextricably bound up with one another. They assign a central role to the depression in explaining the passage of 1930 tariff act and at the same time emphasizes the role of the tariff in the singular depth and long duration of the slump.

Eichengreen argues that economic interest groups were the key actors underlying the passage of the act. he believes that it is not hard to identify relationship linking the tariff to the depression and vice versa. the evidence examined here suggests that previous accounts have conveyed what is at best an incomplete and at worst a misleading impression of the mechanism at work.

Here we can concentrate on the role of agriculture. border agriculture and small-scale industry engaged in the production of specially goods. that coalition was able to obtain with its member substantial increases in levels of tariff protection because of an unusual conjuncture of distinct if related developments including reforms of congressional procedure, the rise of trade association and the growth of interventionist sentiment.

Finally, the experience of Smoot-Hawley documents how macroeconomic distress accompanied by import penetration gives rise to protectionist pressure, but does so only once the analyses transcend the model of monolithic agricultural and industrial blocs.

Are Your Wages Set In Beijing?

Richard Freeman tries to clear the main problems of collective actions in international economy.

He focuses on the "Wages" as a important factor in international economy. Freeman surveys a growing literature on the effect of trade on wages and employment. Freeman tells us that there are good economics reasons foe expecting trade to lead the Immigration of low-skilled workers in developed or capital-abundant states.

The consensus opinion is that trade may have contributed to the fall in real wage for real-skilled for low-skilled workers.

Reading the essay of Freeman, we can find out why in developed countries labor is moving into the protectionist camp.

Maybe your wages were not set in Beijing in yesterday and today but they will be on tomorrow.

Freeman emphasizes that in the past, other factors have been more important than trade in the well-being of the less skilled. here are some symbols that we can prefer to them: technological changes that occur independent of trade, unexpected political development, welfare states and related social policies.

Freeman mentions that he has a problem with prognostication. he believes that economists do not have a good record as soothsayers and neither trade nor labor economists are exceptions.

Here FREED MAN challenges the Alt&Gilligan theorem directly.

They emphasizes that the fundamental problem that international trade poses for states is this. trades offers cheaper goods



, with more choice with consumers and the greatest economic output for society as a whole. but at the same time, it is also very disruptive to individual's lives, who tying their incomes to the vagaries of international market.

Finally Freedman is not convicted that continued expansion of trade with less-developed countries spells doom for low-skill westerners.

International trade and domestic coalition

Peter Alexis Gourevitch in his mentioned the relation between agriculture and industry. he tries to assert this relation within international trade between 1873-1896. he examines the impact of upon the trade policies and political coalitions of four countries (France, Germany, United States, and Britain) of the great depression of 1873-1896, during which Germany and France adopted high tariffs on both agricultural and industrial products. Great Britain maintained its policy of free trade. it was Britain's historical approach. In other hand United States concentrated on industry and protected industry but not agriculture.

Here are four main factors to compare different approaches of four countries: political system explanation, focusing on domestic statist variables, international system explanation, and domestic social interests.

Maybe the main point of this essay that Gourevitch underlined is the case-study of United States. he mentioned the challenges between Democrats and Republicans in US. There were two different economic approach.

Two coalition faced each other. Each contained a variety of groups. compared to the losers, the winners comprised:

1- Groups for which the benefits of their policy goal were intense and urgent, rather than diffuse.

2- Groups occupying strategic positions in the economy.

3- Groups with structurally superior positions in each political system.

This is a historical and political challenge in US that we can find it today also. the uniformity of the winners economic characteristics, regardless of regime types, suggests that to the extent that the political advantages derive from economic advantages into policy does require action.

Finally we uphold that Gurevich not only gives a detailed and informative history of the trade policies of the four great economic power of the late 19th century, he also provides a useful test of several of the main approaches in international political economy.

State power and the structure of International trade

Stephene Krasner makes a partitions to explain relationship between state power and the structure of international trade.

He tells us about four principal goals of state action: political power, aggregate national income, economic growth, and

social stability.

Krasner combines this 4 factors with national abilities.

In the second step writer analyses some main factors like "Tariff levels", "Trade proportion" and "Regional trading patterns" during 1820-1976.

The main point of this essay is underlining of super power roles in international political economy.

Here we can realize writers realistic approach so easily. He mentions that international trades should be managed by states as a main players of the international relation.

Krasner underlines a super powers role frequently. super powers can scavenge the harmony of international political economy system.

The hegemony of powers is necessary for creation and continuance of free trade. here we need to kind of the great political and economic power. Already simple states have not that. therefore super powers do that.

Finally it is necessary for us to consider about the time that this essay is written. Krasner did his article in 1976. when us and soviet union recognized as a two main powers in the international system, but we can not deny a role of superpowers in this time too.

Factor Specificity, Collective action problems and Domestic Political institutions

Alt and Gillian in their article explain under what circumstances political coalitions will take the form broad classes, as predicted by Rogowsky, and under what circumstances they will organize along the lines of specific industries.

They emphasize that the fundamental problem that international trade poses for states is this. trades offers cheaper goods, with more choice with consumers and the greatest economic output for society as a whole. but at the same time, it is also very disruptive to individual's lives, who tying their incomes to the vagaries of international market.

Than authors examine how collective action costs and domestic political institutions influence the formation of political coalitions, and they conclude that these constraints may exert a more important effect than strictly economic consideration.

Recent studies have stressed economic factors such as important. these effects are interactive in authors opinion. the effects of some of these variables depending on the level of others. The Stopler-Samuelson model really requires that collective action costs be low for Rogowsky's broad trade policy coalition to emerge. If there are collective action problems and factors are perfectly mobile, trade policy coalitions will not form along alas lines and in fact may not form at all, due to familiar collective action problems.

Here authors compares Stolper-Samuelson theorem with Ricardo's model. the Stolper-Samuelson theorem is more con-

sistent with a none-majoritarian or interest group politics model.

But Rogowsky finds a direct relation between politics and economy. He wants to tell us how Trades affects domestic political alignments. According to the Stopler-Samuelson theorem free trade benefits locally abundant factors and productions. The Stolper-Samuelson theorem is a basic theorem in IPE. this theorem describes a relation between the relative prices of output goods and relative factor rewards.

Those theorem concentrates on two main factors: Real Wages and Real return to capital.

The theorem states that under some economic assumptions like constant returns, perfect competition, a rise in the relative price of a good will lead to a rise in the return to that factor used most intensively in the production of the good, and conversely, to a fall in the return to the other factor. this theorem is the base of Ronald's opinion.

He extends this theorem to reason that increasing exposure to trade-say because of falling transportation costs-will increase the political power of locally abundant.

He tells it is essential to recall what he is not claiming to do! he refers to political and historical and even religious factors. he examples French Revolution in the end of his essay.

Although not seeking to explain trade policy outcomes, Rogowsky provides a powerful explanation of the political coalitions and the politics surrounding trade policy.

Rogowsky shows how international economic forces can exert a profound effect on domestic policies.

Finally he is presenting here a theoretical puzzle, a kind of social-scientific "thought experiment".

A teasing of unexpected implications of theories already widely accepted. in fact, Rogowsky's main attempt is extending a Stopler-Samuelson theorem and he does it so completely.

Explaining Business Support for Regional Trade Agreement

Ronald Cox tries to tell us more about Regional Trade Agreements. as we know and here every day via political and economic news, one of the important developments in the international trading system has been the recent proliferation of regional trade agreements (RTA).

NAFTA is a best case study of RTA, also we heard enough about Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI).

Cox, in his article suggests that domestic societal explanation for the growth of these arrangements and argues that business interests are divided into two communities, both of which support an agreement, but for different reasons.

Cox in his article concentrates on NAFTA. in we focus of his analyze about NAFTA we can find the main point of his essay.

He emphasizes that NAFTA is a produce of the regional nature of the agreement, which attracts different multinationals for different reasons.

Multinationals analyze NAFTA as a important steps for reinvigorating GATT, regionalists view it as additional leverage against foreign competition. What is equally interesting is that, even with such a high degree of unity in the corporate community over NAFTA, the agreement is politically divisive, with nationalists begin led by the unlikely bedfellows of organized labor and Ross Perot in opposing the accord.

Multilateralists prefer the comprehensive trade negotiations of the world trade organization. In other hand, Regionalists prefer more limited RTAs because they give firms preferential access to both low-wage export platforms and rich country markets, and thus important advantages relatives to their foreign competitors.

Pompeo displays U.S. insolence to 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 Chinese telecom equipment company Huawei. He wanted Britain to treat China like the so-called Soviet threat to the West.

He also mocked Prime Minister Theresa May without naming her by mentioning former prime minister Margaret Thatcher. 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 U.S.. 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," not to mention European countries which have no obvious geopolitical disputes with China. Although European countries, including Britain, worry that China's development may affect their interests, they are more willing to explore their 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.

As 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. Washington wants to push the "China threat theory" to the extreme, but what it lacks most is reason. Getting European countries to align their China policies with those of the U.S. to help it contain China is certainly not something Washington can do. Expanding cooperation is the main theme of China-EU relations, which cannot be changed by a selfish U.S.

‘Counterintelligence failure by CIA and NSA in Venezuela’

An opportunity for Donald Trump to reform U.S. Intelligence

1 → The author begins with a short discussion of the failure of US technical intelligence in Venezuela, suggesting that the NSA was blocked in its collection efforts, seeking to monitor telephone calls and other communications including facsimiles, by a sophisticated Russian-led counter-signals blockade.

The author goes on to outline how all of the opposition groups CIA was dealing with, including so-called renegade generals willing to betray President Maduro, were in fact controlled by the Venezuelan intelligence services and used to lure the CIA into a series of fatal mis-steps. The author outlines a number of specific steps that were taken to deceive CIA, including a fake take-over of a 1000-man military facility by a small group of allegedly brilliant but actually controlled opposition supporters.

The author points out that a number of “leaks” were given to the US media in an operation intended to make the CIA look very effective until the moment came to completely collapse the charade.

■ At “Robert Steele: Counterintelligence Failure by CIA and NSA in Venezuela,” your personal blog, you offer some corrections to the author’s account. Can you summarize those for our readers?

A. The most important shortcoming in the article is its failure to mention the Cuban intelligence service, one of the best in the world, easily equal to the Mossad in the Spanish-speaking regions of the world, and one of the best services I have ever encountered in terms of holistic intelligence – full use of open sources and secret sources balanced by the very best counterintelligence I have ever known. All of CIA’s so-called agents in Cuba in my time “passed” CIA’s polygraph examinations, and as a result two of my CIA clandestine service classmates where covertly video-taped across a full spectrum of secret acts within Cuba, for a television documentary that should be standard viewing for every spy school. The Cubans are a class act and they are the leading foreign intelligence service embedded with the Venezuelan intelligence service.

Cuba places a lot of emphasis on Venezuela because this is where there is a large Cuban emigre community, and it is an excellent place from which to monitor CIA’s ham-fisted attempts to organize covert actions against Cuba.

The second flaw in the article is its as-



The author goes on to outline how all of the opposition groups CIA was dealing with, including so-called renegade generals willing to betray President Maduro, were in fact controlled by the Venezuelan intelligence services and used to lure the CIA into a series of fatal mis-steps .

without being bracketed by both Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) and counterintelligence. Is there a personal experience on the counter-intelligence front that informs your adamancy on this point?

A. I have had two counterintelligence experiences, the first institutional and the second very personal. On my return to Washington from three back-to-back tours in the clandestine service abroad, I was put in charge of offensive counterintelligence for a denied area target with a global presence. Within six months I flunked every Chief of Station (COS) world-wide for failing to address this top-priority target. CIA does not take counterintelligence seriously.

The second lesson was indirect but very powerful. I learned that a large number of operations that produced promotions and praise for all concerned, had in fact been totally controlled by the opposition. Every “success” was contrived by the local intelligence service with the support of other major power intelligence services, as a means of exposing CIA

employee that is a Zionist or places Israel’s interests ahead of America’s, is the single greatest counterintelligence failure – by design – within the USA. Ridding America of the Zionist parasite is the non-negotiable first step toward Making America Great Again (MAGA).

Amy Zegart, a protégé of Condoleezza Rice, wrote a superb book, Flawed by Design, in which she concluded that the CIA, Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) and National Security Council (NSC) were created from day one to serve the Deep State and were flawed by design – they are not intended to inform the President, protect America, or devise intelligence ethical grand strategy but rather to subvert and destroy the USA from within. Another book, by David Talbot, The Devil’s Chessboard, not only places CIA and Allen Dulles as the center of the assassination of John F. Kennedy, but also documents how CIA was created by Wall Street as a foundation for secretly taking over the entire U.S. Government to which I would add, as Governor Jesse Ventura and others have pointed out, state governments and the court system. CIA’s role in destroying US society in the 1960’s as an agent of the Deep State, is ably documented in Daniel Estulin’s Tavistock Institute.

Amy’s core point is that all three of these Deep State assets – CIA, JCS, and NSC – are so totally compromised that they cannot be reformed “on the margins.” We need to fix the entirety in one move.

■ Is there any aspect of the US failure in attacking Venezuela that was not covered by the article?

A. What a great question! Apart from having served in Venezuela and grown up in Colombia, I was also the founding senior civilian of the Marine Corps Intelligence Activity (MCIA) and the Study Director for its flagship study, Planning and Programming Factors for Expeditionary Operations in the Third World (1990). Anyone suggesting that the US can invade Venezuela from the sea or from the Colombian jungle is either a moron or a Zionist agent. Caracas, the capital, is surrounded by mountains with the international airport located by the beach isolated from the capital by a single major tunnel easy to blockade. From Colombia there is zero cross-country mobility to speak of, as well as bridge-loading constraints, and any invasion force will, at best, reach Maracaibo – and probably not if the Russians use electromagnetic warfare to neutralize US Navy ships and blind or silence US satellites. In addition I suspect we still do not have the necessary 1:50,000 maps for the two countries, which will be essential when our geospatial positioning satellites are blocked, making our digital laptops useless in the field.

For me this entire matter is an illustration of how complicit and unethical the US think tanks and media are, and of the lack of integrity in the Departments of State and Defense. Anyone suggesting we attack Venezuela, or that it would be possible to occupy Venezuela, should be fired immediately. For your reader’s convenience, here are the short summaries from my study for Venezuela, and Colombia. Although done in 1990, little has changed in terms of climate, hydrography, and topography, while the local military capabilities augmented by the Russians and perhaps also secretly by the Iranians and Chinese, are easily equal to the defeat of US forces that are roughly 60% capable within 60% available if not worse (some say 40%

capable within 40% available).

■ The President is known to be interested in intelligence reform. He ordered Mike Pompeo to talk to Bill Binney, the NSA Technical Director and your colleague. Did anything come of that? What do you and Binney think the President should do?

A. Very early on the President made it clear that he understood that the President’s Daily Brief (PDB) that is the “flagship” product of the US Intelligence Community, was largely worthless and not worthy of his time. He is a world-class businessman – Jack Welch was very impressed by our President’s acumen as reported in Cliff Sims’ Team of Vipers – and our President knows that when General Tony Zinni, USMC (Ret) says that the US intelligence community provides “at best” 4% of what a President needs to know, this is accurate.

Binney tells me – and I have his permission to share this – that Pompeo met with him and then ignored him. Binney told Pompeo he was being manipulated by trained liars and could not, should not, believe anything they told him. Pompeo chose to become one of the liars rather than serve the President and the public with integrity. Pompeo chose to ignore the President’s correct gut feeling that Binney’s views mattered, and in refusing to listen to Binney, Pompeo failed to serve the President with integrity.

Bill and I have discussed the future of US national intelligence many times, most recently over lunch where the above photograph was taken, and we agree on three general statements:

01 The President can safely eliminate the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) and eliminate a substantial portion of each of the technical agencies (NSA, National Reconnaissance Office, National Geospatial Agency), using the savings to fund the Wall and other needed infrastructure.

02 The position of Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) should be reinstated and Gina Haspel elevated. After CIA has itself been pared down, the surviving portions of the three technical agencies should be integrated into CIA as new Directorates for Signals, Imagery, and Geospatial Intelligence.

03 The President should create the Open Source Agency (OSA) as recommended by the National Security Act of 1992 (not implemented), the Aspin-Brown Commission, and the 9/11 Commission, and as twice approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) at \$2B a year. Bill Binney’s Thin Thread, the meta-search capability for low-cost real-time pattern analysis of all databases, is the backbone for the information access side of the OSA. The OSA with Thin Thread would also do what the FBI is incapable of doing: quickly and inexpensively expose networks of traitors, pedophiles, and white-collar criminals with a degree of precision that would delight the President.

The OSA is explicitly intended to create a new distributed Web 3.0 and a two-way truth channel connecting the President to all US voters and a local to global social ecology that cannot be censored or manipulated the way the Zionists are now censoring everyone who disagrees with them.

Apart from its communications value to the President, the OSA would have an immediate agricultural, economic, and energy impact (and therefore a considerable political impact) on multiple US states including Florida, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

Iran’s economy robust enough to foil U.S. sanctions: American prof.

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – A professor of anthropology at the University of Minnesota deplored Washington’s sanctions against Tehran as “unwarranted” and said the U.S. doesn’t seem to understand that Iran is enjoying “a very robust internal economy”.

“I do want to emphasize one thing: Iran has a very robust internal economy,” William Beeman said in an interview with the Tasnim News Agency.

“The United States doesn’t seem to understand this,” he said, adding, “Of course, most of Iran’s foreign exchange comes from oil sales, but Iran has enormous natural resources, and its manufacturing capacity is also very strong.”

William O Beeman is an internationally known expert on the Middle East and the Islamic World, particularly Iran, the Persian Gulf Region and Central Asia. He has also conducted research in Japan, India, Nepal, China and Europe. Beeman is also an actor, author, and singer.

Following is the full text of the interview:

Tasnim: On Friday, U.S. President Donald Trump’s administration renewed five of seven sanctions waivers that allow Russia and European nations to conduct civilian nuclear cooperation with Iran but revoked the other two as part of its pressure campaign against Tehran, according to the U.S. State Department. Washington also stopped issuing waivers to buy Iranian crude oil on Thursday. Before the U.S. moves, Iranian officials, including Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri, had warned against their consequences. What is your assessment of the developments and how do you think about Iran’s possible reaction to the U.S. decision?

Beeman: I believe the U.S. actions were unwarranted and will eventually be dangerous for the world. However, they were not sudden or unanticipated. The waivers were always temporary and had an expiration date last week that was announced some time ago. There is actually no restriction on Iran exporting petroleum products. The restriction is on the buyers. The United States has a stranglehold on Iranian oil purchases because they are denominated in U.S. dollars, or in transactions that pass through U.S. Banks. Also, the United States has threatened sanctions against any nation that purchases Iranian oil. The U.S. action has yet to be tested, however. There is an open question of what might happen if nations violate U.S. restrictions. Maybe the U.S. would retaliate, maybe it wouldn’t. I will guarantee one thing, and that is that the United States doesn’t know HOW it will enforce its threats, which remain just threats for the time being. My feeling is that Iran should go ahead and find customers for its oil that are willing to take a chance that the U.S. will not be able to enforce its restrictions--but I am not in charge. I still think it is a very good bet that the U.S. threats are mostly bluff and bluster, but Iran’s customers, such as Italy, Turkey, India, and Japan are nervous about what MIGHT happen, so they are hesitant to defy Washington.

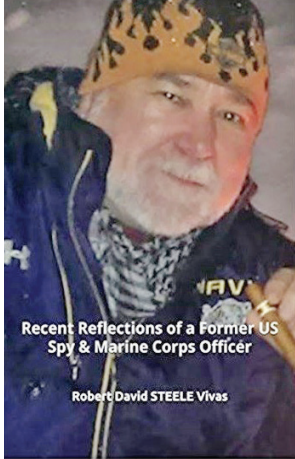
I do want to emphasize one thing: Iran has a very robust internal economy. The United States doesn’t seem to understand this. Of course, most of Iran’s foreign exchange comes from oil sales, but Iran has enormous natural resources, and its manufacturing capacity is also very strong. The nation is capable of producing enough food for itself and for export. So yes, the loss of income from oil will be very painful, but if the people of Iran are resolute and patriotic, Iran can not only survive but also forge ahead economically by continuing to support the internal economy.

Tasnim: In a statement on Sunday, John Bolton, the U.S. national security advisor who has spearheaded an increasingly hawkish U.S. policy on Iran, said Washington is deploying a carrier strike group and bombers to the Middle East in response to troubling “indications and warnings” from Iran. Zarif, who was recently in the U.S., in multiple interviews with U.S. media outlets and a roundtable with reporters in New York, made the case that a group dubbed “the B-Team” was goading the U.S. toward conflict with Iran, not Trump. The B-team is a group of advisers and foreign leaders whose names share the same letter: Bolton, Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin “Bibi” Netanyahu, Saudi Arabia’s de facto leader Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS), and the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan (MBZ). What is your take on Zarif’s remarks? How do you assess the message of his trip to the U.S.?

Beeman: These leaders who are spoiling for conflict with Iran are led by John Bolton, Mike Pompeo and many informal “advisors” in organizations like the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) and its subsidiary, the Washington Institute for Near East Policy (WINEP). These are sometimes identified as “neo-conservatives.” They have been calling for military conflict with Iran for more than 25 years. The America Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) has also called for conflict with Iran. Their main goal is “regime change.” They believe that if economic conditions worsen in Iran, the Iranian people will overthrow the Islamic Republic and install leaders that are more acceptable to Washington. However, they have no idea who these new Iranian leaders might be. Sadly, people like John Bolton have been courting the Mujaheddin-e Khalq (MEK) for many years. Not too long ago, he met with an assembly of MEK supporters in Europe and implied that the United States would support a MEK coup. The chances of this being successful are of course nearly zero, but that is indicative of the ignorance of people like Bolton. Nevertheless, with such a person in a position of power, the danger to Iran is still very important.

Tasnim: Zarif recently said he plans to visit North Korea in the near future. What do you think about possible objectives behind his trip and do you think that it would have links with his recent trip to the U.S.?

Beeman: Foreign Minister Zarif is going to North Korea in order to rattle Washington. There is no reason he should not go, but I don’t believe much can come of such a meeting in practical terms. It will get some press and will trigger some negative comments from Trump and Pompeo, but at a time when Trump is trying to emphasize that he “loves” Kim Jong Il, having Iran making overtures to North Korea creates bad political optics for Trump. Of course, the implication is that Iran might start its nuclear program again and that North Korea might help. Actually, that is the only thing that North Korea could offer Iran, except perhaps being willing to buy some petroleum products (insignificant market). Thus far I don’t see Iran making such a dramatic move, but that is what some people in the press and in Washington will claim.

TRUMP vs. THE DEEP STATE					
 <p>Recent Reflections of a Former US Spy & Marine Corps Officer</p> <p>Robert David STEELE Vivas</p>	USA HUMINT/OSINT 2012	Strategic	Operational	Tactical	Technical
	01 HUMAN INTELLIGENCE				
	02 HUMAN INTELLIGENCE				
	03 COUNTERINTELLIGENCE				
	04 COUNTERINTELLIGENCE				
	05 Service Covert/Hides,				
	Coast Watchers, Picket Lines				
	06 Service Interrogator-				
	Translator Teams (ITT)				
	07 Human Terrain Teams				
	(HTT), Maritime Teams (MT)				
	08 Defense Attaches, MAG,				
	Liaison, TDY				
	09 Overt Subject Matter				
	Experts (SME)				

sumption that Russian intelligence arrived in Venezuela recently. They have been there in force for decades, generally relying on the Cubans for day to day interactions with the Venezuelans, but always being “big brother with big pockets” as needed,

The third short-coming in the article is its evaluation of NSA’s failure. I do not believe that the Russians were instrumental in “shutting down” NSA coverage of Venezuela as much as NSA is inherently incompetent across most of the world. They simply do not have resources pointed at countries other than China, Iran, and Russia, and even when they do try to provide coverage, they fail for lack of dedicated antennas, linguists, and process – NSA’s dirty little secret is that it processes less than 1% of what it collects, and its collection capabilities in the Western Hemisphere stink. I would even hazard a guess that the Zionists fed “Signals Intelligence” to NSA, and that the Cubans and Russians, with great mirth, staged multiple conversations intended to be captured, as part of a grand drama to suck the Americans into the Venezuelan tar pit.

■ In your book, The New Craft of Intelligence, also a monograph The New Craft of Intelligence: Achieving Asymmetric Advantage in the Face of Nontraditional Threats, you list twenty six “new rules for the new craft of intelligence,” among which Rule 012 is Counterintelligence Matters More. In later years you have on repeated occasions stated that secret intelligence cannot be successful

capabilities and interests in that particular country, including its technical capabilities.

This is when I understood viscerally that all intelligence is a fraud unless it is rooted in absolutely rock-solid counterintelligence. No one in the US Government – not CIA, not NSA, not the FBI – takes counterintelligence seriously.

■ You are known to be a supporter of President Donald and have for decades been calling for the reform of the US Intelligence Community. How do you see the failure of CIA and NSA in Venezuela from a Presidential perspective?

A. The failure of CIA and NSA – and of the Zionist-controlled Department of State – in Venezuela is one of the most positive things to happen in recent memory because it opens up the possibility of Presidential-level recognition of both their incapacity – they lie to him every day – and the urgent need for change.

I despise the Zionists and their control of both the US Congress, where they are bribing and blackmailing all but perhaps three of the 535 Members, as well as their control of US national security policy that includes close to 10% of our Senior Executive Service (SES) and Senior Intelligence Service (SIS) being dual-Israeli-US citizens who have pledged loyalty to Israel First (in effect, each is a sworn agent of a foreign power in absolute betrayal of their Oath to support and defend the US Constitution). The treason of our Members of Congress and the treason by every Executive

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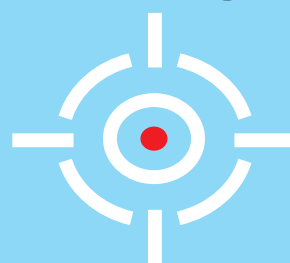
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Methane-consuming bacteria could be the future of fuel

Known for their ability to remove methane from the environment and convert it into a usable fuel, methanotrophic bacteria have long fascinated researchers. But how, exactly, these bacteria naturally perform such a complex reaction has been a mystery.

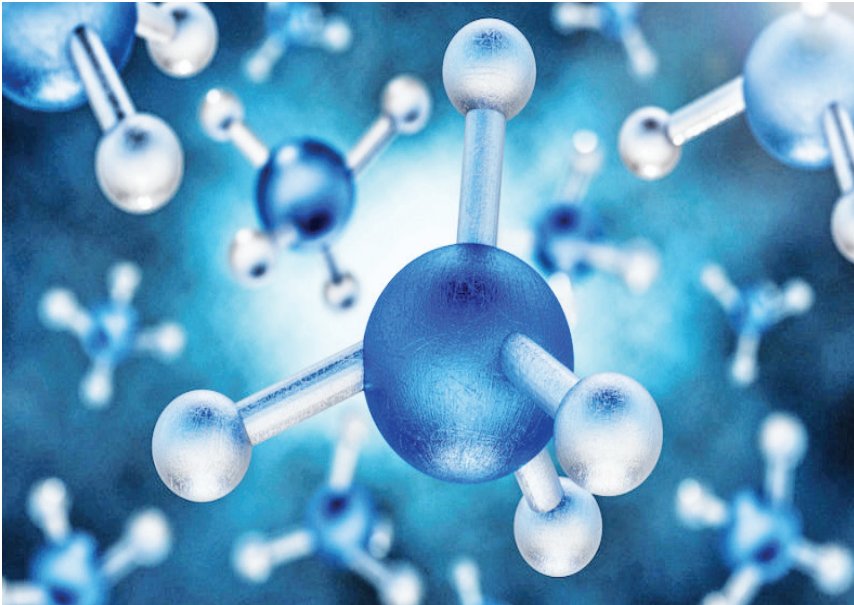
Now an interdisciplinary team at Northwestern University has found that the enzyme responsible for the methane-methanol conversion catalyzes this reaction at a site that contains just one copper ion.

This finding could lead to newly designed, human-made catalysts that can convert methane -- a highly potent greenhouse gas -- to readily usable methanol with the same effortless mechanism.

"The identity and structure of the metal ions responsible for catalysis have remained elusive for decades," said Northwestern's Amy C. Rosenzweig, co-senior author of the study. "Our study provides a major leap forward in understanding how bacteria methane-to-methanol conversion."

"By identifying the type of copper center involved, we have laid the foundation for determining how nature carries out one of its most challenging reactions," said Brian M. Hoffman, co-senior author.

The study published on Friday, May 10



in the journal Science. Rosenzweig is the Weinberg Family Distinguished Professor of Life Sciences in Northwestern's Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences. Hoffman is the

Charles E. and Emma H. Morrison Professor of Chemistry at Weinberg.

By oxidizing methane and converting it to methanol, methanotrophic bacteria

(or "methanotrophs") can pack a one-two punch. Not only are they removing a harmful greenhouse gas from the environment, they are also generating a readily usable, sustainable fuel for automobiles, electricity and more.

Current industrial processes to catalyze a methane-to-methanol reaction require tremendous pressure and extreme temperatures, reaching higher than 1,300 degrees Celsius. Methanotrophs, however, perform the reaction at room temperature and "for free."

"While copper sites are known to catalyze methane-to-methanol conversion in human-made materials, methane-to-methanol catalysis at a monocopper site under ambient conditions is unprecedented," said Matthew O. Ross, a graduate student co-advised by Rosenzweig and Hoffman and the paper's first author. "If we can develop a complete understanding of how they perform this conversion at such mild conditions, we can optimize our own catalysts."

The study, "Particulate methane monooxygenase contains only mononuclear copper centers," was supported by the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

(Source: Science Daily)

Arctic permafrost is melting so fast it's damaging the equipment scientists use to measure it

In the Arctic, a changing climate isn't something that might happen in the near future. In the uppermost stretches of the Northern Hemisphere, it's already happening now.

Temperatures are warming; sea ice is retreating. And a new study says permafrost is melting so fast in the Arctic that it's not only ripping up the landscape, but it's also wrecking scientific equipment and making climate change even worse for all of us.

As permafrost -- ground that is frozen year-round -- melts, it releases carbon and greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Current modeling for this is based on an expectation that permafrost thaws slowly, thus carbon would be released into the atmosphere at a certain rate. But this new study published last week in the journal Nature says since some Arctic permafrost is melting much more quickly, higher amounts of greenhouse gases and carbon could be released as well. That would warm the planet up more quickly.

Scientists at this point just don't know what all the consequences of such permafrost-induced carbon release could be, though in the study researchers estimate it could produce twice as much gas than what current models are predicting.

Rapid permafrost melt isn't just releasing more greenhouse gases into air: It's changing the landscape, too, since permafrost affects about a quarter of the land in the Northern Hemisphere.

The group of scientists who conducted the study talked of research sites in Alaska, now covered with lakes, that a year ago were a forest. And they also saw rivers filled with sediment that once flowed clear. All of these abrupt changes to the land made it more difficult for them to conduct research, since the scientific equipment they depend on was sometimes literally swallowed up by the land.

"We now know that ice-rich permafrost covers about 20% of the permafrost region, and in these ecosystems, the permafrost is literally the glue that holds the land together.



When it thaws, the land liquefies," Merritt Turetsky, an ecologist at the University of Guelph in Ontario and the study's lead researcher, told CNN. "In flat areas, before the permafrost thaws, ecosystems are dry enough to be forested. When the permafrost thaws, all the trees die, topple over, and the whole system flips to a lake. I have been monitoring permafrost temperature in interior Alaska for the past 10 years (outside Fairbanks), and we returned to our field sites only to find all our gauges and equipment totally under water. You can imagine that the electronics did not survive!"

Rick Thoman, a climatologist with the Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy, said he's seen similar changes in his state.

"Anything built on permafrost (like roads) will be affected," Thoman told CNN. "You can see it on the natural landscape as well."

Because of the possible changed working conditions brought on by the permafrost melt, scientists working in

the Arctic will need to develop new strategies and get more creative as they conduct research there, Turetsky said.

A thawing Arctic will contribute a lot more carbon to the atmosphere, she added, estimating it could be like the world absorbing the emissions of two more large countries.

Since scientists still don't fully know how all of this rapid melting will affect the environment, the study's researchers made a number of recommendations to help find out, including:

Improve the tracking of permafrost regions across the Arctic by using drones and lasers in surveying the land;

Increase funding for monitoring sites, especially in waterways;

Increase the number of observatories and experiments in the area so that more data can be gathered;

Improve reports, so that policymakers can get the best current estimates of the effects of permafrost melt on climate change.

Thoman, the Alaska climatologist, also noted that the most visible examples of climate change in his state could be seen in parts of western and northern Alaska. Those are vast, remote stretches of land which contain what he called "vulnerable communities" of people, many of them indigenous to the area and poor.

"The impacts are disproportionately borne by the people least equipped to deal with it," he said.

Despite the dramatic landscape changes seen already, Thoman said it's not too late to reverse the tide.

"Environmental change is entirely obvious and is well on the way. Some of that is baked into the system from the added heat of the oceans," he said. "I wouldn't say it's too late. It's never too late to do something. People are increasingly understanding that things aren't going back to the way they were. We have to adapt."

(Source: CNN)

New method developed to detect and trace homemade bombs

Researchers at King's College London, in collaboration with Northumbria University, have developed a new way of detecting homemade explosives which will help forensic scientists trace where it came from.

The approach uses ion chromatography -- high resolution mass spectrometry, published today in Analytica Chimica Acta. Scientists show that through using this technique, they can detect a very large number of components of homemade explosives down to very low

trace amounts.

Homemade explosives are frequently used in a number of different crimes, including the Boston Marathon bombing in 2013 and the Oslo attacks in 2011. They are also used in ATM robberies. They have traditionally been very challenging to detect and trace in samples submitted for forensic analysis.

Lead author Dr Matteo Gallidabino said: "The method we developed is less time consuming and represents a viable solution

for challenging explosives like these. By combining this approach with advanced data analytics, added intelligence can be retrieved from any evidence recovered. This has the potential to significantly impact criminal investigations and further enhance the role of forensics in the administration of justice."

The team successfully went on to use the new approach to interpret the time since explosives materials were handled by the original maker, analyzing sweat. They were also able to analyze gunshot residue to trace

the type of ammunition used.

Dr. Leon Barron from King's College London said: "The technique is able to tell us so much more than just the explosives content. It detects thousands of different compounds simultaneously, which means there is an element of in-built future-proofing capability to detect new types of explosives if needed or provide critical information about where a device came from or who it belongs to."

(Source: Science Daily)

Army researchers improve battery safety with new cathode chemistry

Scientists with the U.S. Army have developed a new type of cathode chemistry that makes batteries safer and more efficient.

Currently, soldiers must regularly carry batteries weighing between 15 and 20 pounds. But thanks to a new type of cathode and electrolyte, soldiers could soon be carrying safer and more efficient batteries weighing half as much.

Army researchers were able to boost lithium-ion battery energy density by using a totally aqueous electrolyte. The electrolyte is free of transition metal and boasts high capacity energy storage.

"Such a high energy, safe and potentially flexible new battery will likely give the Soldiers what they need on the battlefield: reliable high energy source with robust tolerance against abuse," Kang Xu, senior scientist at the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command's Army Research Laboratory, said in a news release. "It is expected to significantly enhance the mobility and lethality of the Soldier while unburdening logistics requirements."

By using a completely aqueous electrolyte, researchers were able to pair high-voltage cathodes with low-potential graphite anodes. The new type of



Soldiers regularly have to carry large, heavy lithium ion batteries to power communications devices and other remote technologies.

anodes enabled halogen conversion-intercalation chemistry.

"The energy output of water-based battery reported in this work is comparable to ones based on flammable organic liquids other than water, but is much safer," said lead researcher Chunsheng Wang. "It gets about 25 percent extra the energy density of an ordinary cell phone battery."

The successful pairing of a graphite-salt composite cathode with a pure graphite anode allowed scientists to keep their battery free of flammable and toxic elements, including cobalt and nickel.

Researchers suggest their new battery chemistry -- detailed this week in the journal Nature -- could be used in situations where battery safety is a priority, such as on airplanes or spacecraft.

"This work is mainly about a brand-new concept of Li-ion cathode chemistry, using the redox reactions of halogens -- Br and Cl in this case -- to store charges, and using their intercalation nature to stabilize their strong oxidizing products inside the interlayer of graphite, forming dense-packed graphite intercalation compounds," Yang said.

(Source: UPI)

Now you can explore a cave without actually going into a cave

Czech speleologists have come up with a way to explore flooded cave systems without strapping on scuba gear, wet suits, helmets and water-proof lamps: 3D mapping.

The new tool was developed by Geo-CZ, a company that uses the underlying technology to map historical and archaeological sites. The Cave Administration of the Czech Republic premiered it on Friday.

"The input data are not made by individual pictures, but videos," Geo-CZ's Jiri Sindelar said. "This makes the on-site mapping incredibly faster."

That means, of course, that somebody has to put on the gear and go into the cave, but only once and only long enough to film it. That is a great convenience, because caves are dark, confusing places that are somewhat dangerous on their best day and seriously dangerous when they're flooded.

Furthermore, the former can turn into the latter with no warning, as those 12 Thai schoolboys found out last summer when rain caused a flash flood in the cave they were exploring.

Geo-CZ used their system in Chynovska jeskyne, a cave about 100 kilometers (62 miles) south of Prague, that was discovered in 1863 and opened to the public in 1868. In the 1980s, spelunkers found lower, larger parts of the cave system that are filled with water. The exploration is still going on.

The new system will make that much easier, and more accurate, Sindelar said. "Within the 200 meters of the flooded corridors of the Chynov cave, with a drop of more than 46 meters and a very complex system, the deflection does not exceed tens of centimeters," he said.

When observing the cave as a whole in the computer model, the divers also can understand it better.

"In the 3D imagery, we can really realize the connections among the corridors and of the whole system... we can get much more information from it," Chynov cave specialist Frantisek Krejca said.

(Source: Reuters)

Under the right conditions, sand behaves like oil

To the surprise of scientists, sand behaves a lot like oil when conditions are right.

An improved understanding of the behavior of grain particles could help manufacturers more efficiently process granular materials.

The physical laws that govern liquids are well defined, but the behavior of granular materials remains poorly understood. Modeling the behavior of complex solution or mixtures is especially difficult. Through a series of lab tests, scientists determined granular mixtures, under just the right conditions, behave similarly to immiscible liquids like oil. Both follow similar physical laws.

For one of the tests, scientists put heavy and light grains into a cylinder and passed air through it from below. The grains became "fluidized" or began behaving like a liquid.

When scientists mixed lighter sand with heavy sand, the lighter, less-dense sand began forming globule-like structures as they migrated upwards.

"The grains actually behave similar as oil in water would," said Christopher McLaren, a doctoral student at ETH Zurich. "A complex interaction occurs between the two materials."

Globes of heavy grains embedded in lighter sand don't simply sink to the bottom. Instead, they dissipate. The disintegrated branches of heavy grains becomes stretched and fainter over time.

Researchers described their study of granular dynamics this week in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The findings could help engineers working with sands or food manufacturers working with flour and rice. An improved understanding of granular dynamics could even help drug makers.

"If, for example, a pharmaceuticals manufacturer wants to produce a very homogeneous powder mixture, it has to understand the physics of these materials in detail, so that it can control the process," said postdoctoral researcher Alexander Penn.

(Source: UPI)

Florida man returns piece of Stonehenge 60 years after restoration work

A nonagenarian retiree from Florida returned a piece of Stonehenge -- missing for six decades -- to caretakers of the monument, British officials said Wednesday.

The man, Robert Phillips, kept the 42-inch-long piece of stone after the company he worked for completed restoration work on one of Stonehenge's fallen trilithons. The company drilled bore holes horizontally through the stones in 1958 to reinforce the broken pieces with metal rods before erecting the structure.

A drilling machine produced three cores from the interior of the Stonehenge stones, one of which Phillips kept. He later immigrated to the United States, taking the artifact with him to his current home in Aventura, Fla.

Lewis Phillips said it was his father's wish that the stone be returned to English Heritage, the organization that cares for Stonehenge and other British monuments.

"Our father has always been interested in archaeology and he recognized the huge importance of the piece of the monument in his care," he said. English Heritage said the piece of stone may help archaeologists locate the original location from where the sarsen stones came. Researchers have already located the origin of Stonehenge's smaller bluestones, southwest Wales.

David Nash, a professor at the University of Brighton, is investing the chemical attributes of the core to try to pinpoint the source.

"Archaeologists and geologists have been debating where the stones used to build Stonehenge came from for years," he said. "Conventional wisdom suggests that they all came from the relatively nearby Marlborough Downs but initial results from our analysis suggest that in fact the sarsens may come from more than one location."

Heather Sebire, English Heritage's curator for Stonehenge, said the organization is interested in reclaiming the other two cores that were drilled as part of the 1958 restoration work.

"We are very grateful to the Phillips family for bringing this intriguing piece of Stonehenge back home," she said.

(Source: UPI)

Mihrab rugs on show in Tehran

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — The Carpet Museum of Iran is hosting an exhibition of handwoven rugs, which have been specifically woven for covering Mihrabs.



Mihrab is a semicircular niche in the wall of a mosque that points out the qibla; the direction of the Kaaba in Mecca and hence the direction that Muslims should face when praying.

The exhibit opened to the public on Saturday and will be running through June 7, CHTN reported.

Persian carpets are sought after internationally for their delicate designs and high quality. Official figures show handmade carpets have a significant share in Iran's non-oil exports.

There's now a helicopter service that will get you to any NYC airport in 5 minutes

An early evening flight is a New York City nightmare. The idea of getting trapped in rush-hour traffic on the way to the airport strikes fear into the most steadfast hearts. The minutes tick away, your palms start to get sweaty, you contemplate jumping ship and just walking the rest of the way down the highway because it seems faster.

But a helicopter company will now let you — quite literally — fly right over the inconvenience.

BLADE launched five-minute helicopter flights from Manhattan to JFK airport in March. And now the service has announced that it will fly regular service to all New York City airports, including Newark and LaGuardia. Never again need you panic while trapped in traffic.

"Since expanding our continuous flight service between Manhattan and JFK, we are seeing faster than expected adoption by people choosing to fly to the airport rather than driving," Rob Wiesenthal, BLADE's CEO, said in a statement. "It has become immediately apparent that fliers want the flexibility to fly between Manhattan and, not only JFK, but all area airports."

Although, of course, it does not come cheap. The service costs \$195 per seat per flight. Flights are bookable from the BLADE app and run all day, from about 6 a.m. until about 6 p.m.

Flights to Newark operate from the East 34th Street helipad, flights to LaGuardia take off from Wall Street and flights to JFK leave from West 30th Street. Flight time is about five minutes, although travelers should obviously figure in time to get to and from the helipad on either end of the journey.

(Source: travelandleisure.com)



ROUND THE GLOBE

Orkhon Valley Cultural Landscape

Covers 121,967 ha of grassland along the historic Orkhon River, the Orkhon Valley Cultural Landscape (OVCL) lies in the central part of Mongolia, some 360 km southwest of Ulaanbaatar. It also includes a buffer zone of 61,044 ha.

The archaeologically rich Orkhon River basin was home of successive nomadic cultures which evolved from pre-historic origins in harmony with the natural landscape of the steppes and resulted in economic, social and cultural polities unique to the region.



Home for centuries to major political, trade, cultural and religious activities of successive nomadic empires, the Orkhon Valley served as a crossroads of civilizations, linking East and West across the vast Eurasian landmass.

Subsequently the Valley was continuously occupied throughout the Prehistoric and Bronze ages and in proto-historic and early historic times was settled successively by the Huns, Turkic peoples, the Uighurs, the Kidans, and finally the Mongols.

At the height of its cultural ascendancy, the inscribed property was the site of historic Kharakhorum — the grand capital of the vast Mongol Empire established by Chinggis Khaan in 1220.

Erdene Zuu, the earliest surviving Mongol Buddhist monastery, the Tuvkhun Hermitage and the Shank Western monastery are testimony to the widespread and enduring religious traditions and cultural practices of the Northern School of Buddhism which, with their respect for all the forms of life, enshrine the enduring sustainable management practices of this unique cultural landscape of the Central Asian steppes.

(Source: UNESCO)

Iran ready to host Muslim tourists during Ramadan

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — Iran is ready to provide warm hospitality to religious tourists, particularly the ones from Muslim countries during the fasting month of Ramadan, a senior tourism official has said.

"Iran is ready to host Muslim tourists during the holy month of Ramadan," IRNA quoted Mohammad-Ebrahim Larijani, the director of advertising and marketing office of the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization, as saying on Sunday.

Iran has provided "appropriate" facilities for tourists to stay for at least 10 days, especially in religious cities, the official said, adding various Ramadan-related ceremonies and festivals lay "good grounds" for promoting tourism industry in the country.

According to Islamic rules, a Muslim traveler has to reside in a place for at least 10 days to be able to continue fasting.

The official also said that offering Halal tourism services in the country will help attract more Muslim tourists from neighboring states, especially Iraq, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan and Oman.

A fasting day during Ramadan begins before the sunrise and continues during the daylight hours. It comes to an end with the evening meal of Iftar served at sunset. Muslims break their fast at the time of the call for evening prayer.



Chinese travel agents on fam tour across Iran

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — A number of Chinese travel marketers and tour operators have recently finished an eleven-day familiarization tour across Iran with the aim of closely observing tourist destinations, changing natural landscape, local people and their traditions.

"A familiarization tour has been held for Chinese tour operations and travel marketers in order to be acquainted with tourist attractions in six provinces," Mohammad-Ebrahim Larijani, the director of advertising and marketing office of the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization, was quoted by Mehr as saying on Sunday.

"Conducting familiarization tours with the aim of introducing tourism potentials and its relevant facilities is a duty of the advertising and marketing office. So for the first step, we hosted eight tour operators and tourists from China and [such a] program will continue until the end of the [current Iranian calendar] year."

Tehran, Isfahan, Yazd and Fars were among provinces that the Chinese tourists visited, the official said, adding "China is a top priority of Iran's target markets."

In the past Iranian calendar year (ended March 20), the



Iranian and Chinese nationals pose for a photo in the UNESCO-registered Imam Square of Isfahan, central Iran. The picture depicts Safavid-era Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque in the background.

country held familiarization tours for eleven international groups, which were composed of 194 people including tour operators, journalists, bloggers, correspondents, radio and TV anchors and influential personalities, Larijani explained.

ijani explained.

"The Chinese are interested in traveling to Iran and understanding our country, and this exhibition could have such a capacity to introduce Iran to them," Hossein Khalifi, CHHTO representative in Shanghai, said in April.

According to data compiled by the CHHTO, Iran hosted 7.8 million foreign nationals during the year 1397 (March 2018-March 2019), a 52.5 percent hike from a year earlier. However, the number of Chinese tourists visiting Iran fell short of expectations as just 80,000 tourists visited the country in 2017.

Some experts believe that part of this failure comes from inside Iran, because Chinese restaurants are scanty across the country while the cuisine is of high importance for majority of the Chinese people.

Insignificant numbers of Chinese restaurants, Chinese-language guides or even inappropriate lodging facilities are also deemed to be among the main reasons behind the low number of Chinese tourist arrivals.

Over 100 million Chinese tourists traveled abroad during 2017, with Japan, Hong Kong, the U.S., South Korea, Thailand, Taiwan, Singapore, Vietnam, and France among their top destinations.

Egyptian tourism ministry, Italian media company produce documentary on Egypt



Egypt's Minister of Tourism Rania al-Mashat announced Saturday that the ministry and Italian news network "MediaSet" have cooperated to produce a documentary film about Egypt on the TV program "Freedom Oltre Il Confine".

MediaSet will show the documentary on May 22, with the production company stating that the Italian people are fond of Egyptian antiquities and civilization.

They added that famous TV anchor Roberto Jacobo will present the program alongside Egyptian archeologist Zahi Hawass to discuss the secrets of Egyptian civilization.

Mashat said that cooperation with MediaSet commenced in September, with around two million viewers watching the program in Italy. She explained that the ministry utilized modern technology for the tourist promotion on Egypt as part of the

structure reform program.

The minister added that Egypt is "a country full of history, culture and interesting tales. The ministry holds huge cooperation with the ministry of antiquities on the cultural and historical side of the Egyptian history."

Mashat said that the ministry has also cooperated with CNN to produce films on Egypt.

A recent report by the Arabian Travel Market (ATM) revealed that the yearly number of visitors to Egypt is expected to increase by 50 percent over the next three years from 1.49 million in 2018 to 2.23 million in 2022.

The report expects that travelers coming from Europe to Egypt will be the major tourism boosters, leading a significant jump in the growth rate to 9.1 million tourists in 2022 from 6.2 million in 2018.

(Source: Egypt Independent)

Japan tests world's fastest bullet train



Japan has started testing its fastest-ever bullet train -- capable of reaching 400 kilometers per hour (249 mph) -- as it continues to develop the revolutionary mode of travel.

The ALFA-X version of the Shinkansen train began three years' worth of test runs on Friday. Once it enters operation sometime around 2030, it will run at speeds of up to 360 kph (224 mph), comfortably making it the world's fastest bullet train.

It will also outpace China's Fuxing train, which runs at 10 kph slower despite being designed with the same top speed capabilities as the ALFA-X.

The model's futuristic design features 10 cars and a long pointed nose.

It'll be tested on the line between the cities of Sendai and Aomori, which are about 280 kilometers apart as the crow flies. Tests will take place after midnight, when the line is quiet, and will occur twice a week.

The ALFA-X marks a new stage of growth for the Shinkansen, pushing the world-renowned high speed rail service even faster towards the future.

Its testing debut comes as Japan's new high-speed Shinkansen N700S continues tests that began just over a year ago.

That model will enter operation in 2020, but its maximum speeds of 300 kph -- the same as other N700 series trains -- will be easily surpassed by the ALFA-X.

The flurry of new models coincides with Japan's preparations to host the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo.

No matter what speeds the train achieves during its test runs, it won't match the record-breaking pace of Japan Railway's magnetic levitation, or maglev, train which hit 603 kph (374 mph) on an experimental track in 2015.

(Source: CNN)

Myanmar National Airlines flight miraculously lands safely with no front landing gear

Passengers on a Myanmar National Airlines flight have a brilliant flight crew to thank for miraculously landing safely after the plane's front landing gear failed to deploy.

Flight UB103 touched down at Mandalay International Airport at 9:09 a.m. local time with all 82 passengers and seven crew members able to safely evacuate the plane after it scraped its nose down the runway and came to a perfect stop.

On approach, the captain tried to deploy the front landing gear, but found out it was malfunctioning and could not be activated, the airline said in a statement.

After circling the airport to burn off fuel, the captain



came in for a landing with no front wheel.

Video shot from inside the airport showed the plane landing on its back wheels, steadying and then eventually coming down on its nose -- sending a shower of sparks down the runway. Miraculously, it slid to a stop before passengers were able to be evacuated by inflatable slide.

"Myanmar National Airlines would like to express our deepest appreciation to all the passengers onboard and our crews," the airline said in the statement.

The plane, an Embraer 190, had taken off from Yangon, Myanmar, about an hour flight south of Mandalay.

(Source: ABC News)

Iranian researchers conducting project on autism disorder

HEALTH **TEHRAN** — A group of Iranian researchers are carrying out a pioneering project on robotic technology and smart systems to treat neurodevelopmental disorder in patients suffering from autism, IRNA reported on Saturday.

The neurodevelopmental disorder project is underway within the framework of three plans at the Sharif University of Technology, University of Tehran and Shahid Beheshti University with the support of cognitive sciences and technologies council of vice presidency for science and technology, council member Mohammad Hossein Maqami said.

He added that one of the plans is related to robotics and smart systems for rehabilitation of patients suffering from autism.

The second plan is in the area of primary screening of autism and rehabilitation of people suffering from autism, he said.

The third plan focuses on compiling and publishing eight educational packages of documentaries on autism, he said.

Four different groups carry out pioneering projects on autism, addiction, neurodevelopmental disorder and Deep brain stimulation (DBS) so far, he said.

Several researches have been done on laser and optic technologies nationwide, however, with the formation of the groups, the plans can be used for healing and cognitive treatment, an official with the council said.

In one of the groups named Neuroptic, the laser and optic engineers and cognitive professors provide homemade devices to deal



with neuro-disorders.

Autism spectrum disorders (ASD) are a group of complex brain development disorders.

This umbrella term covers conditions such as autism and Asperger syndrome. These disorders are characterized by difficulties in

Robotics and smart systems for rehabilitation of patients suffering from autism, primary screening of autism and publishing eight educational packages of documentaries are underway to treat people suffering from autism in Iran.

Nursing shortage alarming at 125,000

HEALTH **TEHRAN**— Iran is now facing with a shortage of 125,000 nurses, estimated based on the plans to increase hospital beds by 2021, said Asghar Dalvandi, the director of Nursing Organization.

Dalvandi made the announcement on International Nurses Day, May 12.

According to World Health Organization (WHO), there is a global shortage of health workers, in particular nurses and midwives, who represent more than 50% of the current shortage in health workers.

WHO estimates that the world will need an additional 9 million nurses and midwives by the year 2030.

According to Dalvandi, the theme of World Health Day, this year, is ‘Universal health coverage: everyone, everywhere,’ and it is also the slogan of International Council of Nurses who highlights that everyone should have equal rights to have access to medical services, ISNA reported.

“In most countries, the number of required nurses are estimated based on the population, but in Iran we estimate it according to the number of hospital beds because our medical plans are mostly concentrated in hospitals



that is the nurse job is mostly limited to the hospital area,” said Dalvandi.

“However, considering that the world population is growing older, we should focus more on the important role of nurses as the care takers and health supervisors,” he said.

“Many countries like Australia, Canada and Scandinavian countries have put great emphasis on attracting and training nurses and have greatly benefited from it as they are now giving many strategic roles in medical teams to nurses.”

“We need to have more fellowship programs to invite foreign experts and use their experience, or alternatively, we can send our nurses abroad, so that they obtain more professional knowledge and experience,” said Dalvandi.

Iranian firm manufactures Huntington’s disease detection kit

HEALTH **TEHRAN**— An Iranian knowledge-based company has manufactured a kit for detection and diagnosis of Huntington’s disease, Mehr reported on Sunday.

The production of the kit is a great step toward the early detection of the disease, the director of the company Sirus Zeinali said.

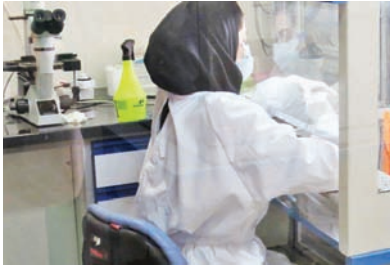
Huntington’s Disease (HD) is a neurological disease for which there is presently no known cure or effective treatment. HD causes gradual physical emotional and cognitive deterioration.

The company also produce a kit for detection of spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), which is prevailing disease worldwide, he said.

Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) is a rare neuromuscular disorder characterized by loss of lower motor neurons and progressive muscle wasting, often leading to early death.

The kit provides an opportunity for screening the disease in newborns and for couples before marriage, he added.

What is Huntington’s Disease? HD is a degenerative disease whose symptoms are caused by the loss of cells in



a part of the brain called the basal ganglia. This damage to cells affects cognitive ability (thinking, judgment, memory), movement, and emotional control. Symptoms appear gradually, usually in midlife, between the ages of 30 and 50. However, the disease can strike young children (juvenile form) and the elderly.

There is no treatment or cure for Huntington’s Disease, and the patient eventually becomes completely dependent on others for daily functioning. Individuals may also die due to other secondary complications such as choking, infection, or heart failure. Children who are diagnosed with Huntington’s Disease do not usually live to reach adulthood.

292 rare diseases identified in Iran

HEALTH **TEHRAN**— 292 rare diseases have been identified in Iran, among them the most common ones are dystrophy, neurofibromatosis, and Alopecia, also known as spot baldness, said the CEO of Rare Diseases Foundation of Iran.

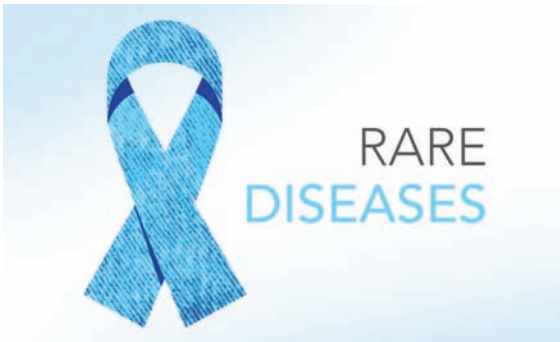
“Currently, 3500 people with rare diseases have been identified in the country, but unfortunately we know that their number must be more than that, and we need to identify them,” ISNA reported Hamidreza Edraki as saying on Sunday.

In May, Edraki had announced that with regard to the country’s population it is estimated that at least 50,000 to 60,000 patients are living with rear diseases nationwide.

According to Edraki, 85% of rare disease in Iran has a genetic basis, so it is necessary for couples to do screening test both before marriage and in prenatal stage.

“The patients with rare diseases who are under our support need to do screening tests if they or their family are going to have children,” he added.

According to Orphanet, rare diseases are diseases which affect a small number of people compared to the general population and specific issues are raised in relation to their



rarity. In Europe, a disease is considered to be rare when it affects 1 person per 2000.

Early detection is the priority

“Early detection of rare disease is our top priority, and we actually aim to identify and treat them in children before they reach the school age,” Edraki further remarked.

“For identifying the rare diseases we need a collective

incentive in society, so focusing on educational system is really important here.”

“We have had an agreement with the Ministry of Education about rare diseases, so that the health counselors in schools will be trained by us and can identify the students who have any type of rare diseases.”

“Currently, the university pharmacies supply the medication for such diseases, but we intend to collaborate with the Health Ministry and Food and Drug Organization, in order to open specialized pharmacies for rare diseases,” added Edraki.

Edraki also noted that the national document on rare diseases is going to be ready soon.

Drafting and completing the national document started since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21) in a collaboration between Tehran University of Medical Sciences and Rare Diseases Foundation of Iran.

In early April it was announced that at numerous requests put in by patients suffering from rare diseases Health Minister Saeed Namaki has tasked Tehran University of Medical Sciences with devising a national document on rare diseases.

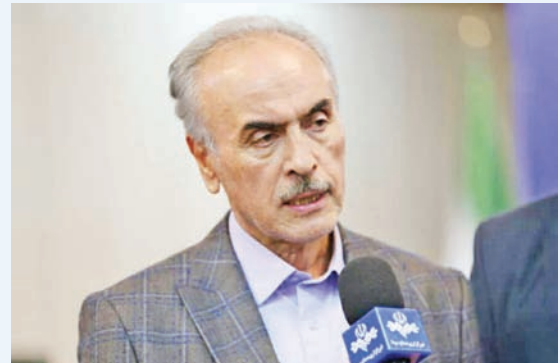
Republic of Azerbaijan accounts for large portion of exports in Aras Free Zone

Providing the possibility of active presence in regional and global markets, producing and exporting industrial and processing goods as well as presenting quality services in the mainland have been cited as one of the main objectives behind setting up free trade zone in the country.

Any kind of producing and exporting goods from free zones is tantamount to the export. Strategic situation of Aras Free Zone in northwest of the country, as large as 51,000 ha, bounded with three countries of Republic of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Nakhichevan self-autonomous republic as well as nearness to the three countries of Turkey and Iraq and finally, neighborliness with the Commonwealth Independent States (CIS) are the salient advantages of Aras Free Zone as compared to other zones in the country.

Mohsen Nariman Chief Executive of Aras Free Zone put foreign exports volume in the zone at \$86 million.

He pointed to Aras Free Zone’s export target markets and said, “countries including Republic of Azerbaijan, Turkey,



Russia, Iraq, Uzbekistan, Georgia, Afghanistan, Germany and United Arab Emirates (UAE) are main target markets of Aras Free Zone.”

He pointed out that Republic of Azerbaijan accounts for 77 percent export share of the zone, standing at the first rank in this respect.

Given the above issue, Republic of Azerbaijan has currently attracted 32 percent of exports of industrial and production units of the zone.

With purchasing 6,763,780 kg of goods, valued at \$28,020,283, Republic of Azerbaijan is at the focal attention of traders and merchants of this neighboring state, followed by Turkey, he added.

Nariman put the average price of exports goods to abroad in Aras Free Zone at \$1.2 and added, “fair and reasonable price of manufactured products due to existing infrastructures, technical knowhow and knowledge of companies and raw materials available in line with the policies of resistance economy are of the main factors behind inclination of Iran’s neighboring countries to cooperate with the industrial and productions units deployed in Aras Free Zone.

‘Video game addiction could start in very young ages’

HEALTH **TEHRAN** — Video game addiction could start from as soon as the age of three, so it is strongly advised that parents control such behaviors in their young children, said the director of Center for Addiction Studies.

“Unfortunately some parents think that by giving children technological gadgets from a very young age, they are helping their intellectual growth, or even use it as a means of keeping them busy,” said Afarin Rahimi Movaghar.

According to Dr. Movaghar, addiction to such gadgets usually reach a peak in teenage years. Boys are usually more prone to video game addiction and girls are more likely to get addicted to social media, Fars news agency reported on Saturday.



“Now in Center for Addiction Studies, we have established a new group to specifically work on behavioral addictions,” said Movaghar.

“We are also aiming to create new guidelines for prevention and treatment of such addictions, but this is a new branch of study and many results are still controversial.”

“After all, it was just some months ago that gaming disorder was officially categorized as a disease,” she added.

The World Health Organization included gaming disorder within the 11th revision of its International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems as of June 2018.

Video game addiction has been suggested by some in the medical community as a distinct behavioral addiction characterized by excessive or compulsive use of computer games or video games that interferes with a person’s everyday life.

Nurses and midwives are essential to achieving “Health for All by All”

Every year, International Nurses Day is celebrated on 12 May. This year’s campaign focuses on nurses as a voice to lead achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), attainment of health as a human right and achievement of universal health coverage (SDG 3.8) to ensure that no person is left behind without access to health care or impoverished because of their need for health care.

Strengthening nursing to support achievement of the SDGs has additional benefits, such as promoting gender equity (SDG 5) which tied into the theme of this year’s International Day of the Midwife “Midwives: Defenders of Women’s Rights”, celebrated globally on 5 May, and promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (SDG 8).

These themes resonate with the WHO Regional Office’s “Vision 2023 ? Health for All by All”, which outlines a set of strategic directions for WHO’s work with countries to address regional health priorities. WHO acknowledges the commitment, passion and motivation of nurses and midwives in saving lives and improving health and well-being and recognizes the critical role that they play in achieving health for all by all and global development targets.

The Eastern Mediterranean Region, with a population of more than 600 million, faces an unprecedented scale of emergencies. Countries are at different levels of socioeconomic, political and demographic development and many are experiencing rapidly evolving health challenges. In responding to these challenges, a well-qualified and motivated health workforce is essential in ensuring that people can access good quality health services. Nurses and midwives constitute 50?60% of the health workforce in the Region and they remain critical to providing primary health care, especially in the most challenging and remote settings where health care is most needed.

“Nurses and midwives are the backbone of any health care system and we commend their contribution to improving the health and well-being of all. Their ability to establish good relationships with the communities in which they work and their collaboration with other members of a health care team ensures the provision of good quality health care and coordinated services to individuals requiring those services,” said Dr Ahmed Al-Mandhari, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean.


The Region faces a shortage of nurses and midwives, especially in low- and middle-income countries. In addition, under-investment in the education of nurses and midwives has resulted in limited capacities to train a sufficient number of nurses and midwives with the appropriate competencies and skills to meet population health needs.

“Training an adequate number of nurses and midwives and deploying them where they are needed most requires considerable investment and strong political commitment and leadership. Increasing investment in this cadre of the health workforce will contribute to improved economic, social and health outcomes for countries of the Region. It will also improve women’s participation in the workforce in order that they can more greatly contribute to economic and social development,” Dr Al-Mandhari added.

To respond to the long identified shortage of nurses and well-trained midwives in the Region, the WHO Regional Office developed a framework for action to strengthen nursing and midwifery to provide Member States with a set of feasible, cost-effective short- and long-term actions to strengthen their nursing and midwifery workforces to support countries’ move towards universal health coverage and the SDGs. While some progress has been made, this progress has been patchy.

WHO and partners have declared 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and Midwife, in honor of the 200th birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale. WHO is a collaborating partner in the Nursing Now campaign, launched in early 2018. The 3-year campaign aims to improve health globally by raising the status and profile of nursing, demonstrating what more can be achieved by a strengthened nursing profession, and enabling nurses to maximize their contribution to achieving universal health coverage.

(Source: WHO)




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Second 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	Hall No.:113, 1 st floor, Foreign Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN
	Submitting Method	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	35 Days after the last time of Purchasing.
Documents Receiving Method	Address	Hall No. 107, 1 st floor, Tender Committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. Tel: +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569

Tender Guarantee

Value of guarantee	
	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

Several Saudi dissidents killed as regime forces storm Qatif

TEHRAN — Several political dissidents have been killed in Saudi Arabia when regime forces raided a village in the kingdom’s oil-rich and Shia-populated Eastern Province, as a crackdown led by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman against pro-democracy campaigners, Muslim preachers and intellectuals continues unabated in the country.

Local sources, requesting anonymity, said security forces stormed into Sanabes village of Tarout Island on Saturday afternoon, triggering an exchange of gunfire with local residents.

The sources added that a number of distinguished opposition figures were fatally shot in the process.

■ **‘Riyadh regime has Trump, Congress green light for its crimes’**

Meanwhile, a former head of the American visa bureau in Saudi Arabia’s port city of Jeddah says U.S. President Donald Trump’s administration and Congress have given the Al Saud regime the green light to press ahead with its brutal crimes, namely the ongoing atrocious military aggression against Yemen.



J. Michael Springmann told Press TV on Saturday evening that Saudi crude oil and the kingdom’s weapons contracts with Western countries, such as Germany and France, have pushed the West to ignore numerous

violations of international humanitarian law by Riyadh.

Springmann then described Eastern Province as the main center of Shia Islam, noting that followers of the radical ideology

of Wahhabism display extreme sensitivity to any sort of activism in the area, and tend to link the public unrest there to foreign powers.

Saudi Arabia has stepped up what appears to be politically-motivated arrests, prosecution and conviction of peaceful dissident writers and human rights campaigners.

According to Press TV, eastern Province has been the scene of peaceful demonstrations since February 2011. Protesters have been demanding reforms, freedom of expression, the release of political prisoners, and an end to economic and religious discrimination against the oil-rich region.

The protests have been met with a heavy-handed crackdown by the regime, with regime forces increasing security measures across the province.

Over the past years, Riyadh has also redefined its anti-terrorism laws to target activism.

In January 2016, Saudi authorities executed Shia cleric Sheikh Nimr Baqir al-Nimr, who was an outspoken critic of the Riyadh regime. Nimr had been arrested in Qatif, Eastern Province, in 2012.

Sri Lanka terror attacks: Saudi Wahhabi preacher arrested

TEHRAN — Authorities in Sri Lanka have arrested a Saudi-educated preacher over links with the suspected mastermind of bombings last month, throwing a spotlight on the role of Salafi-Wahhabi terrorism in South Asia.

Several bomb attacks hit churches and luxury hotels in the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo and two other cities on April 21, killing at least 253 people.

Sri Lankan police found the Nations Thawahid Jaman (NTJ) of having plotted the terrorist act and the group’s founder, Zahran Hashim, of having masterminded the blasts. Hashim blew himself up at a hotel in Colombo on the day of the carnage.

On Saturday, police announced the apprehension of Mohamed Aliyar, who is the 60-year-old founder of a religious center in Zahran’s hometown of Kattankudy on Sri Lanka’s eastern shores.

“Information has been revealed that the suspect arrested had a close relationship with ... Zahran and had been operating financial transactions,” the statement said.

Police said Aliyar was “involved” with training in the southern town of Hambantota for the group of bombers who attacked hotels and churches on Easter.

According to Press TV, reports said Aliyar worked the center in Kattankudy in 1990, a year after he graduated from the Imam Muhammad ibn Saud Islamic University in Riyadh.

The education reportedly marked a key moment in the spread of Salafi and Wahhabi doctrine in Kattankudy and the center was partly funded by Saudi and Kuwaiti donors, according to a plaque outside.

Residents also said Hashim frequented the center and was a troublemaker, who they had warned authorities about his extremist views.

Syrian army takes terrorist targets in Idlib under heavy fire

TEHRAN — The Syrian army has taken targets belonging to the Takfiri Jabhat Fateh al-Sham terrorist group in the country’s east under heavy retaliatory fire for another day.

On Sunday, government forces struck the terrorists’ hideouts in Bidama Village on the southern countryside of the city of Idlib, the official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) reported.

Over the past several days, the army has ratcheted up its operations on the outskirts of Idlib and the city of Hama, both provincial capitals, in response to attacks by terrorists targeting military positions and towns lying within a de-escalation zone located inside Idlib Province.

According to Press TV, on Saturday, the troops hit the same whereabouts near Idlib, killing and injuring a number of the terrorists. Three days earlier, the forces had worked to choke up the terrorists’ transit

routes during counterattacks in the villages lying around the cities.

Jabhat Fateh al-Sham was formerly known as al-Nusra Front.

The Syrian government has retaken almost all the territory that militant groups — including al-Nusra and other terrorist outfits — had overrun in the country since a conflict erupted in 2011.

Under agreements between Syrian peace guarantors Russia, Iran, and Turkey, remaining militants were given safe passage into Idlib, where they remain pending decisions by the three countries.

Iran and Russia represent Damascus, and Turkey acts on behalf of the Syrian opposition.

While agreements, including any cease-fire deals, apply to some militant groups in Idlib, terrorist groups such as al-Nusra are excluded from the peace process for Syria.

Deal of century will not be unveiled until at least Jewish holiday end

TEHRAN — The United States Middle East envoy, Jason Greenblatt, says President Donald Trump’s controversial proposal for peace between the Israelis and Palestinians, dubbed “the deal of the century,” would not be unveiled until at least mid next month.

Greenblatt told Fox News television news network in an interview published on Saturday that the deal not be unveiled until at least after the end of the holy Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, formation of a new Israeli administration and the Jewish holiday of Shavuot, known as the Feast of Weeks in English, which ends on the evening of June 10.

He emphasized that the so-called deal of the century would not endanger Israel.

“One thing we won’t do, the Trump administration won’t compromise on Israel’s security,” he said.

Greenblatt then blasted the Palestinian leadership’s decision to dismiss the deal before even seeing it, claiming



that he was “hopeful for the sake of the Palestinian people that they get a chance to see it.”

The Trump administration’s Middle East envoy added

that it’s “false to say that it’s only an economic plan. It’s both political and economic. Once everyone has read and given their thoughts on it, there is still a long way to go before a final signing agreement, and that will be up to the parties themselves to negotiate.”

According to press TV, on May 7, Israeli Hebrew-language daily newspaper Israel Hayom, which is close to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, published a leaked document circulated by the Israeli Foreign Ministry, detailing the elements of the U.S. back-channel peace plan. The plan is made up of the following main points:

A tripartite agreement will be signed between the Tel Aviv regime, the Ramallah-based Palestinian Authority (PA) as well as the Hamas resistance movement, which controls the besieged and impoverished Gaza Strip, and subsequently a Palestinian state will be established that will be called “New Palestine.”

Modi ‘deservingly mocked’ for saying clouds could help IAF ‘escape’ Pakistani radar

TEHRAN — Narendra Modi has stirred a Twitterstorm for a recent remark he made about a meeting to plan February’s Balakot airstrike. He suggested to Indian air chiefs that bad weather could actually help the country’s pilots.

The Indian prime minister made the comments during an interview with local TV on Saturday, when he discussed the retaliatory raid on the suspected jihadist training camp in Pakistani territory. The raid came

in response to a suicide bomb attack that killed 44 members of India’s police force in Indian-controlled Kashmir.

“The weather suddenly turned bad. There was a doubt about whether we can strike in bad weather,” Modi said of the meeting, noting that some military experts wanted to postpone the raid. Wanting to maintain secrecy of the mission, Modi urged the military brass to proceed, even suggesting that the clouds would help Indian warplanes evade

Pakistani radars.

The clip and quote from Modi were initially shared on Twitter by Modi’s BJP party but were later deleted. However, eagle-eyed political opponents had already spotted the tweet and were quick to deride Modi for the gaffe, RT reported.

“Looks like the tweet got lost in the clouds. Luckily there are screenshots floating around to help,” tweeted former MP and chief minister for Jammu & Kashmir, Omar Abdullah.

Sitaram Yechury, who heads India’s Communist Party, blasted Modi’s comments as “highly damaging,” adding that national security shouldn’t be “trifled with.” He later said that Modi had been “deservingly mocked” for his “ridiculous comments.”

Tweeting under the hashtag ‘Entire-CloudCover’, many outside of politics also did not pull punches on Modi. One person even summed up the situation with a quote from the writer Mark Twain.

Ansarullah urges UN to press ex-govt. to withdraw forces from key ports

TEHRAN — Yemen’s Houthi Ansarullah movement has urged the United Nations and its Security Council to pressure Yemen’s Saudi-backed former government to pull out its forces from the city of Hudaydah and two other Red Sea ports after Houthi fighters unilaterally began withdrawing from two of the ports according to a UN-brokered agreement.

The movement’s spokesman Mohammed Abdulsalam on Saturday strongly called on the UN and the UNSC to “prove, even once,” their “credibility on the ground” by pressuring the so-called government, led by Yemen’s ex-president Abd

Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, to pull out its forces from the key ports of Hudaydah, Salif and Ras Isa.

The movement, which has been significantly helping the Yemeni army against a Saudi-led military coalition for the past four years, signed a UN-brokered truce deal with Hadi’s so-called government in the Swedish capital of Stockholm on December 13, Press TV reported.

According to the agreement, Houthi fighters, who are in control of the three port cities, and Hadi’s militia, who have laid a tight siege on Hudaydah since June 2018, must withdraw their forces from the ports, particularly from

Hudaydah, through whose docks more than 70 percent of Yemen’s imports used to pass.

On Friday, Lt. Gen. Michael Lollesgaard, who heads the Redeployment Coordination Committee (RCC), a UN mission to monitor the deal, said that Houthis would make an “initial unilateral redeployment” of their forces from the three key ports between May 11 and May 14.

Later on Saturday, Mohammed Ali al-Houthi, the head of Yemen’s Supreme Revolutionary Committee, said that Houthi fighters began withdrawing from Salif and Ras Isa ports in Hudaydah province.

Ansarullah movement.

According to a December 2018 report by the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED), a nonprofit conflict-research organization, the Saudi-led war has claimed the lives of over 60,000 Yemenis since January 2016.

60 day ultimatum is indication that Tehran’s patience is running thin: Mehran Kamrava

➡ Over the last two years or so, the EU has been preoccupied with three primary concerns – namely Trump, Putin, and Brexit – and it has therefore put Iran and the JCPOA on the backburner. If it continues to ignore the JCPOA, it is bound to have another serious crisis on its hands.

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

A: I don’t think that’s the way this White House operates. Donald Trump has demonstrated a predictable pattern of behavior. This behavior is predicated on his innate distrust of and dislike for multilateralism and multilateral agreements. As a result, he has pulled the United States out of many multilateral commitments, the most notable of which are the Paris Agreement on climate change in 2016 and the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the UN Human Rights Council, and the JCPOA, all in 2018. In each instance, after pulling out of the agreement, he has engaged in bombastic rhetoric, condemning the terms of the previous agreement, and calling for a new one. In the process, he has sought to apply what he believes his “art of the deal” in order to get better terms for the United States. This is precisely what we are seeing today in the current trade standoff between the U.S. and China, and what we saw in 2017 in relation to North Korea, when Trump called Kim Jung Un “the little rocket man” and warned that his “fingers are on the trigger” are ready to be pulled at any moment. His actions against Iran are driven by the same logic. Trump himself does not seem to want war – wars are, after all, bad for business. But his rhetoric is empowering the wolves around him hungry for regime change in Iran. The real question is will he be able to rein in the likes of Bolton, Pompeo, and Giuliani, or will they become the tail wagging the dog.

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

A: The point is clear. Abide by the terms of the agreement, or there will be serious consequences to the EU’s continued foot-dragging.

Massive explosions rock Fujairah port

➡ Other reports, citing eyewitnesses, suggested that American and French warplanes have been seen flying over the port at the time of the incident.

Port of Fujairah is the only multi-purpose port on the Eastern seashore of the country and is connected to all other emirates within 300 km. The port stands some 70 nautical miles from the Strait of Hormuz, thus becoming increasingly important amid Iran’s threat to close the strait.

In July 2012, the UAE began utilizing the Habshan-Fujairah oil pipeline from the Habshan fields in Abu Dhabi to the Fujairah, effectively bypassing the Strait of Hormuz.

Currently, the UAE is building the world’s largest crude oil storage facility in Fujairah, capable of storing up to 14 million barrels of oil.

(Source: Sputnik)

Netanyahu can’t form government asks for more time

➡ Netanyahu denies any wrongdoing and has said he plans to serve Israel for many more years. He can also argue at a pre-trial hearing whose date has not been set yet, against the formal filing of bribery and fraud charges against him.

A leader of one of Netanyahu’s likely coalition partners, the national-religious Right Wing Union, has been advocating for legislation that could grant Netanyahu immunity against prosecution.

Turkish Democratic Left Party candidate withdraws from Istanbul poll

TEHRAN — An opposition candidate announced Sunday he was withdrawing from next month’s rerun of mayoral elections in Istanbul, in a move likely to aid the man who was declared the winner when the vote was initially held in March.

“I have resigned from DSP’s Istanbul mayoral candidacy as of today,” Democratic Left Party (DSP) mayoral candidate Muammer Aydin said on Twitter.

Ekmek Imamoglu’s surprise victory in March’s closely fought municipal election marked the first time in 25 years that President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s AKP or its predecessors had failed to win control of Istanbul, Reuters reported.

Imamoglu, of the Republican People’s Party (CHP), was declared mayor last month, beating former prime minister and AK Party candidate Binali Yildirim after weeks of wrangling over the result and a partial recount.

Erdogan and the AKP then called for the election to be cancelled, alleging widespread irregularities. The High Election Board ruled on Monday that the mayoral contest must be rerun on June 23.

Aydin, who has described the board’s decision as unlawful, attracted more than 30,000 votes when the election was first held on March 31. Imamoglu won by a margin of just 13,000 out of 10 million eligible voters.

It is not clear if DSP voters will support Imamoglu in the June vote but both parties have secular voter bases. However, several small parties have already signalled they could back him in protest at the decision to cancel the election.

The DSP said it would not field a replacement candidate in June, according to broadcaster NTV.

Fresh Saudi airstrikes claim lives of seven Yemenis

At least seven people, including women and children, have been killed after Saudi-led warplanes carried out airstrikes against an area in Yemen’s southwestern province of Dhale.

Yemeni Ministry of Public Health and Population said 17 others sustained in-

juries when Saudi fighter jets conducted aerial assaults against Qatabah district on Saturday.

Yemen’s al-Masirah television network said six children and a woman were among the killed, while the injured included 11 children, five women and an elderly man.

According to Press TV, Saudi Arabia and a number of its regional allies launched a devastating campaign against Yemen in March 2015, with the goal of bringing the government of former president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi back to power and crushing the Houthi

Real Sociedad women end Atletico double dreams with Cup win

Real Sociedad lifted the Copa de la Reina for the first time by coming from behind to beat Atletico Madrid 2-1 in Saturday's women's cup final, denying Atletico the double.

Esther Gonzalez opened the scoring for Atletico in the 15th minute in front of 17,000 supporters at a crammed and lively Nuevo Los Carmenes stadium in Granada, having scored a hat-trick in a 3-1 win at Sociedad last week to clinch the league title.

The strike was quickly cancelled out, though, by Mexico striker Kiana Palacios, and Spain international Nahikari Garcia put the Basque side in front on the hour mark.

Sociedad held on to their lead despite Kenti Robles and Ludmila da Silva hitting the woodwork for Atletico in the closing stages, winning their first major trophy.

(Source: Reuters)

Gasperini and Benitez on Roma list

Newcastle's Rafael Benitez and Atalanta Coach Gian Piero Gasperini are reportedly on the list of candidates to take over at Roma.

Claudio Ranieri won't be staying around after the end of the season, and the Giallorossi had been heavily linked with Antonio Conte, but the former Juventus tactician recently ruled himself out of joining the capital club.

According to newspaper Il Messaggero, Gasperini is seen as their Plan B after receiving the knockback from Conte, while President James Pallotta also likes Benitez, who could be leaving St. James' Park this month.

Benitez is no stranger to Serie A, having worked at Inter and more successfully with Napoli.

La Repubblica also reports that rumoured future sporting director Gianluca Petrachi spoke with Gasp, but the Atalanta Coach might be reluctant to move if his side qualifies for next season's Champions League.

Meanwhile, Sampdoria tactician Marco Giampaolo is further down the list of names to take over the hot-seat at the Olimpico.

(Source: Football Italia)

Pacquiao to fight Thurman in WBA welterweight showdown

Philippine boxing legend Manny Pacquiao and Keith Thurman will fight for World Boxing Association welterweight supremacy on July 20, promoters confirmed Saturday.

An announcement on the Fox television broadcast of the Premier Boxing Champions card featuring Jarrett Hurd and Julian Williams confirmed the bout.

Eight-division world champion Pacquiao, 40, is coming off a January victory over American Adrien Broner that took his record to 61-7-2 with 39 knockouts.

He holds the WBA's secondary "world" welterweight title.

In Thurman, he'll be taking on the WBA's "super world champion" in the division.

"In the biggest night of boxing this year, boxing's only eight-division world champion, Senator Manny 'Pac Man' Pacquiao, will take on undefeated WBA Welterweight World Champion Keith 'One Time' Thurman on Saturday, July 20 in a blockbuster showdown that headlines a Premier Boxing Champions on FOX Sports Pay-Per-View event," promoters said in a statement.

Venue for the bout was not announced, but the card will also feature a free-television clash between undefeated International Boxing Federation Super Middleweight World Champion Caleb Plant, making his first title defense against unbeaten contender Mike Lee.

Pacquiao, who last month polled his legion of social media followers on who he should fight next, took to Twitter to let them know the bout was coming.

(Source: France 24)

Athletics - Brazil stun U.S. in 4x100m final on day of upsets at IAAF World Relays

Paulo Andre Camilo de Oliveira powered Brazil to victory in the men's 4x100m event at the IAAF World Relays in Yokohama, Japan, on Sunday as they finished ahead of a strong United States quartet and world champions Britain.

Brazil clocked 38.05 seconds, 0.02 seconds ahead of U.S., who had Justin Gatlin in their ranks, in what was the smallest ever margin of victory in the competition.

Two hundredths of a second also separated the top two teams in the women's 4x100m event, with the U.S. edging out Jamaica to qualify for the World Championships in Doha later this year.

The U.S. men went slower in the 4x200m final than they did in the heats earlier on Sunday, but still proved too good for their rivals to finish first in one minute and 20.12 seconds on a cold evening at the Yokohama International Stadium.

Poor baton exchanges cost pre-meeting favourites U.S. and Jamaica in the women's 4x200m, allowing France to claim victory in one minute and 32.16 seconds with China finishing second while setting an Asian record of 1:32.76.

Machel Cedenio helped Trinidad and Tobago win the men's 4x400m event in 3:00.81 seconds, narrowly in front of the U.S. who were later disqualified. Jamaica were elevated to second.

(Source: AFP)

Nadal hoping for clay turnaround after Madrid semi exit

Rafael Nadal heads into the final fortnight of the countdown to the French Open facing uncertainty after crashing out in his bid for a sixth title at the Madrid Open.

Spain's formerly invincible king of clay - who in most years would have at least one dirt title to hand upon arrival at Roland Garros - will have a last chance in Rome to pick up a trophy.

His mission at the Foro Italico from Monday will be to try and rescue his form prior to the start of the Grand Slam where he dreams of collecting a record 12th title.

Nadal went down in the Madrid semi-finals to young gun Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece 6-4, 2-6, 6-3, with the ninth-ranked "El Greco" exposing some of the emerging fault lines in the game of the 17-time Grand Slam champion.

"Not winning here means that I'm not going back to my hotel happy," said Nadal, who also made semi-finals in Monte Carlo and Barcelona. "But I think I still have tennis ahead of me."

Nadal said his longer term focus was on Roland Garros, confident that an improvement would see him contesting titles later in the season.

"In Paris, I have 11 titles. Each week that I



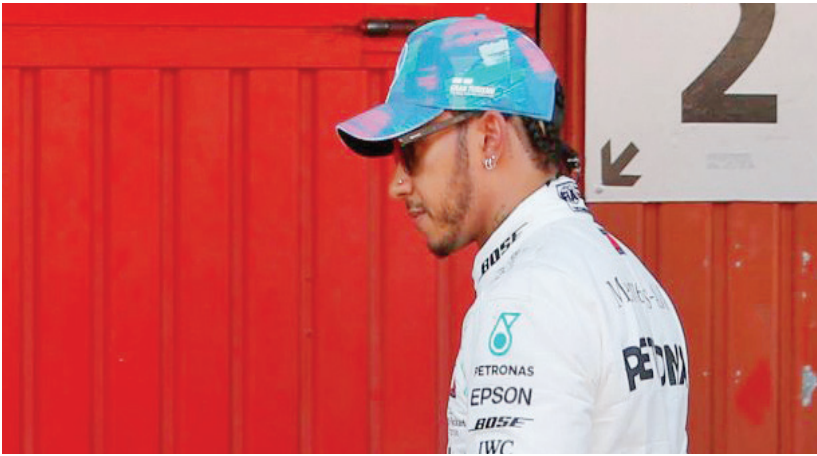
play in this tournament is a lot of memories, a lot of unforgettable memories," he said.

"What I have to do is to be fit and to play properly and have a high tennis level.

"If I manage to do that ... I think I will still have a very good opportunity to fight for titles for the rest of the year."

After starting slowly on clay last month

Mercedes have discussed Ferrari move with Hamilton - Wolff



Lewis Hamilton and Mercedes have discussed the possibility of the five times Formula One champion one day racing for Ferrari and such a move would be no drama, team boss Toto Wolff has said.

Hamilton, 34, has a contract with Mercedes until the end of 2020, by which time he could have equalled Ferrari great Michael Schumacher's unprecedented seven titles and broken other records.

"You have to simply acknowledge that probably it's in every driver's head to drive at Ferrari one day," Wolff told reporters at the Spanish Grand Prix.

"It's the most iconic, historic Formula One brand out there and I totally respect if a driver has the desire to drive at Ferrari.

"Even within the team we have discussed it and with Lewis we have discussed it and we have agreed on the topic," added the Austrian.

"We had the discussion when we negotiated the last contract and I think that you just have to be open-minded and understand that drivers will explore opportunities that exist and benchmark themselves."

Wolff said there was no suggestion at present that the Briton wanted to move.

Hamilton has won four of his titles with the German manufacturer after his first, in 2008, with McLaren.

"I think we are providing him with a car that is capable of achieving his objectives. If we continue to have a car that is performing on that level I think there is no reason to go and we would really love him to stay," said Wolff. "And if one day ways part, it will be very positive and each of us will try to achieve success with a different setup. So no drama."

Hamilton's boyhood idol Ayrton Senna, the Brazilian triple champion who died 25

years ago, had expressed a desire to race for Ferrari but never felt they could offer a winning car.

Ferrari last won a drivers' title in 2007 with Kimi Raikkonen, and have been eclipsed this season by Mercedes, who have racked up one-two finishes in the first four races after winning both championships for the past five years.

Asked about any Mercedes interest in Ferrari's four times champion Sebastian Vettel, Wolff said: "Why not Sebastian?"

"I think you need to consider there are probably six or seven drivers out there that have the skill and the intelligence to deserve to be in a race and championship-winning car," he added. "Two of them are with us and I hope it goes forever. There are a few others that we really enjoy watching perform. And Sebastian is definitely one of them."

Wolff's own future has been the subject of speculation, with sources linking him to a future role at Formula One's owners Liberty Media or the governing FIA.

The Austrian, who has been talked of as a possible replacement for Formula One chairman Chase Carey post-2020, acknowledged there was a lot of talk but said he was relishing his role at Mercedes.

"I am in a super situation...I'm a shareholder in the team, I love to be with the people, the relationship matters to me. I am in a happy place and motivated every single day I do this," he said.

"I think with all the other discussions you are having, with drivers for example, you need to be 100% with your head in your role. This is what I am. I haven't contemplated any change beyond 2020."

(Source: Reuters)

Serena looking to turn the clock back in Rome before Roland Garros bid



Serena Williams returns from injury in Rome next week looking to get back to winning ways as she prepares her bid to match Margaret Court's record of major singles titles at the French Open later this month.

Rome will be Williams's fourth tournament of the season and the first since being forced to withdraw from the Miami Open in April due to a knee injury.

The 37-year-old American -- now ranked 11th -- has completed just seven matches this year, also withdrawing from Indian Wells in March with illness.

There are now doubts that the veteran can add to her tally of 23 Grand Slams, something which has so far proved beyond her since returning last year after taking time out following the birth of her first child.

Her last Grand Slam singles title was won at the Australian Open in 2017, where she was pregnant, breaking a tie with Steffi Graf for the most in the professional era.

Her win in Melbourne moved her one behind Australian Court's record of 24 major singles titles. After giving birth to her daughter Olympia in September 2017, Serena made her return to Grand Slam tennis at last year's French Open, where she reached the fourth round.

She reached the finals of Wimbledon and the US Open, suffering a meltdown in Flushing Meadows, as she smashed her racquet and called the umpire a "thief" and a "liar" in a temper tantrum after losing to Naomi Osaka.

More drama followed in the quarter-finals of this year's Australian Open, when she suffered a spectacular collapse in a three-sets defeat by Karolina Pliskova.

Williams led 5-1 in the decider before

after another knee injury pause, Nadal is hopeful of quick progress.

"I've done a few steps forward, maybe not enough, but I have improved some things. We'll see (for how long) I can (continue to) play at a high level - and I think I will be able to continue.

"If I'm not able to do these things (play) properly, that is the end of the situation, period.

"This is a sport and in a sport it's a matter of winning and sometimes losing and accepting both as naturally as possible."

As in Monte Carlo and Barcelona, Nadal will be defending a title in Rome after beating Alexander Zverev in the 2018 title showdown.

The second seed behind Novak Djokovic opens in the second round against one of two Frenchmen, Richard Gasquet or Jeremy Chardy.

"I've played just three tournaments on clay this year," Nadal said. "It's not much.

"I play when I want to play and I play where I want to play.

"I just play for my happiness and I play when I really want to play. That's all."

(Source: Eurosport)

Tuchel: Neymar doesn't fit 'profile' for captain's armband

Paris Saint-Germain coach Thomas Tuchel has declared that Neymar is not of the "profile" to captain the side after the Brazil international scored one and assisted another in the 2-1 win away at Angers in Ligue 1 on Saturday.

Neymar, 27, playing in his final PSG match of the season before his three-game suspension for an altercation with a spectator during the Coupe de France final kicks in, opened the scoring with a diving header and teed up Angel Di Maria for another headed effort.

Asked after the final whistle if the South American has what it takes to wear the PSG armband in the future, Tuchel was frank in his appraisal of the topic.

"No [on Neymar being a future PSG captain], we have two captains in Thiago Silva and Marquinhos -- we will not be changing that," said the German. "For me, Neymar does not have the profile to be a captain with the armband.

"He is a technical leader through his creativity, but he is not an armband-wearing captain. It is not necessary that he wears it and I do not understand why everybody is suddenly speaking about this.

"We must be respectful -- we have Thiago and Marquinhos, who are fantastic."



After the match, Neymar took to social media to say "until next time" to Ligue 1 ahead of his ban.

Neymar was booed at times by the Angers crowd, particularly after a brilliant show of skill in the second half, which home coach Stephane Moulin confessed he could not understand.

"I applaud Neymar because I salute his talent," said the French tactician. "He does things that nobody else can do with the ball. He almost won this match by himself.

"It was his last game of the season in Ligue 1, and we felt like he was trying to finish on a good note.

"Neymar is a world-class player -- I do not understand him being booed. He is an artist and must be protected.

"Neymar creates a show that we pay to see. Those who whistle him are those who do not come when Neymar is not here."

Marco Verratti told PSG TV that he and his Parisien teammates have held some honest talks among themselves in order to arrest their alarming slump of form towards the end of this season.

"We have spoken a lot between ourselves to change things," the Italy international said. "We were on a bad run of away form, which we are not used to. "It was up to us at the end of the day. We had to change things, not only for ourselves, but also for those who love this club. We are now back on track."

Marquinhos saw red late on in Angers, which led to Flavien Tait halving the deficit after Gianluigi Buffon saved the initial penalty kick. Tuchel called the dismissal "surprising," while Marquinhos himself felt that the decision was "harsh and rushed" by referee Florent Batta.

(Source: ESPN)

Xavi to hang up his boots in Tehran

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Al Sadd captain Xavi Hernandez will officially hang up his boots in Tehran's Azadi Stadium.

The former Spain and Barcelona midfielder will travel to Tehran on May 20 for their last group stage match in the 2019 AFC Champions League, where they will face Iranian giants Persepolis at the Azadi Stadium in Tehran, Qatari daily newspaper Al-Raya reported.

The 39-year-old won eight La Liga titles and four UEFA Champions League trophies while at Barcelona.

The 2010 World Cup-winner will replace Manuel Jesualdo Ferreira as Al Sadd next year head coach and is excited to see "what the future holds".

In a statement released to Spanish news outlet AS, he added: "My philosophy as a coach reflects the style we developed for many years under the influence of Johan Cruyff and La Masia, and that has its greatest exponent in the way of playing football in Barcelona."

"I love seeing the teams take the initiative in the field, attack football and return to the essence of what we all love from our childhood days: possession football."

The midfielder - who scored 13 goals in 133 appearances for Spain - left Barcelona in 2015 and joined Al Sadd on a three-year contract.

He will continue his work with Generation Amazing, a Qatari program created "to ensure the 2022 World Cup leaves a human and social legacy".



Iran Professional League title still undecided

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — The Iran Professional League (IPL) title is still undecided between Persepolis and Sepahan football teams.

Persepolis were held to a 1-1 draw against Machine Sazi in Tehran's Azadi Stadium in front of 60,000 spectators.

Jai Quitongo silenced the stadium in the 16th minute after the Scottish striker coolly chipped the ball past Persepolis goalkeeper Bozidar Radosevic.

Persepolis dominated the match but their strikers failed to capitalize on their chances

With 10 minutes remaining, Persepolis striker Mario Budimir was brought down in the penalty area and Ali

Alipour equalized the match from the penalty spot.

In Mashhad, Padideh drew 1-1 with Sepahan. Amin Ghaseminejhad scored from the penalty spot in the 5th minute and Ali Ghorbani leveled the match with a header in the 53rd minute.

In Abadan, Esteghlal and Sanat Naft football teams played out a goalless draw. Esteghlal have no chance of winning the IPL title.

Week 29 Results:

- Persepolis 1 – 1 Machine Sazi
- Sepidrood 1 – 3 Nassaji
- Zob Ahan 3 – 1 Foolad
- Padideh 1 – 1 Sepahan

- Tractor Sazi 1 – 1 Pars Jonoubi
 - Esteghlal Khuzestan 1 – 2 Saipa
 - Sanat Naft 0 – 0 Esteghlal
 - Paykan 1 - 0 Naft Masjed Soleyman
- Persepolis remain top of the table with 58 points, three points ahead of Sepahan.

Esteghlal and Padideh are third and fourth with 54 and 53 points respectively.

On Thursday, Persepolis will meet Pars Jonoubi in Abadan and could win the title with even a draw.

Sepahan will host already-relegated Esteghlal Khuzestan in Isfahan and will win the title if they win their match and Persepolis lose to Pars Jonoubi.

Van Dijk wins Premier League Player of the Season



Liverpool defender Virgil van Dijk has won another individual award for his outstanding season after being crowned the Premier League's Player of the Season.

The Holland international has been Liverpool's key player in their Premier League title charge throughout the 2018-19 campaign.

Van Dijk has played every Premier League match for Liverpool this season, missing only 35 minutes of the season so far and, alongside goalkeeper Alisson, has transformed Liverpool's defence.

Van Dijk, 27, becomes the third defender to win the trophy after Nemanja Vidic and Vincent Kompany.

The winner was decided by a mixture of votes from fans, the captains of the 20 Premier League clubs and a panel of football experts.

Liverpool have kept 20 clean sheets in 37 games so far this season, the same

amount as Manchester City. Van Dijk has also scored four Premier League goals this season.

Last month, Van Dik edged Raheem Sterling to win the PFA Players' Player of the Season award.

Sterling, who has 17 Premier League goals to his name so far this season, beat out the Dutch defender to win the FWA player of the year prizes, handed out by journalists.

And Sunday's announcement that he is Premier League Player of the Year means he follows in the footsteps of his Liverpool team-mate Mohamed Salah by winning both of the awards.

Liverpool face Wolves at Anfield on Saturday, needing a win while hoping Brighton can take something off City in order for the Reds to win the league for the first time since 1990.

(Source: Daily Mail)

Ander Herrera confirms Old Trafford exit



Ander Herrera has confirmed he will leave Manchester United at the end of the season when his contract expires.

Spain international Herrera, 29, spent five years at Old Trafford after signing from Athletic Bilbao in 2014. He helped the club win the Europa League, FA Cup and League Cup and claimed the club's Sir Matt Busby Player of the Year award in the 2016-17 season.

Sources have previously told ESPN FC that Herrera is set to join Paris Saint-Germain as a free agent in the summer.

"There is red in my heart, I knew it from the first time I played here and in the moment I started to wear it," Herrera said in the video message posted on United's Twitter account. He made 189 appearances for United in all competitions and scored 20 goals.

"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.

"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. Thanks for these five amazing years."

Herrera's fellow Spanish midfielder Juan Mata is also out of contract at Manchester United at the end of the season, and talks are ongoing with the 30-year-old over a new deal.

United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer confirmed last month that Antonio Valencia will also leave the club this summer.

(Source: ESPN)

Sydney FC to face Perth Glory in A-League Grand Final

Former Bolton striker Adam le Fondre scored twice as Sydney FC defeated Melbourne Victory 6-1 on Sunday to end the defending champions' A-League campaign and set up a 2019 grand final against Perth Glory.

First-half strikes from Aaron Calver and Alex Brosque, along with a Leigh Broxham own goal, set them on their way, with Le Fondre ramming home the advantage with a penalty and a well-taken chance in the second period before Milos Ninkovic hit a sixth.

It put three-time champions Sydney into the decider next Sunday against Perth, the year's dominant team.

Perth made the grade by beating Adelaide United 5-4 in a dramatic penalty shoot-out on Friday after a white-knuckle game ended 3-3 in extra-time.

"We just got everything right tonight, was just one of those games," said delighted Sydney captain Brosque. "Perth is a big challenge of course ... they've been a great side all year. But tonight was a big challenge and we ended well."

Under A-League rules, the teams that finished the regulation 27-game season first (Perth) and second (Sydney)

FC) progressed straight to the semi-finals.

Third-placed Victory played sixth-placed Wellington Phoenix for a spot in the last four, while fourth-placed Adelaide faced fifth-placed Melbourne City.

In front of a home crowd, Sydney got the perfect start with an opener after just three minutes with Calver converting at close range after goalkeeper Lawrence Thomas spilled the ball from a corner.

They had to wait another 40 minutes for the second when Brosque volleyed home at the far post before a Broxham flying header made it 3-0.

Despite boasting Japanese star Keisuke Honda, Victory never got going and when Le Fondre cleverly won a penalty then converted it on 63 minutes they crumbled.

Le Fondre got his second five minutes later, sidefooting past the keeper, and Ninkovic rubbed salt in the wound with two minutes left before Ola Toivonen got a consolation for Victory in injury time.

On Friday, Glory looked to have the game sewn up when Diego Castro's second goal in the 74th minute gave them a 2-0 lead.

But Papa Diawara gave Adelaide hope by scoring in the 81st minute after a goal-mouth scramble, and with just seconds left Ryan Kitto snatched a dramatic equalizer.

Perth reclaimed the lead early in extra time from Scott Neville's header, before Adelaide's Marco Marrone responded to set up the shootout.

Respective skippers Castro and Isaías Sanchez had their penalties saved and it went to sudden-death at 4-4 before goalkeeper Liam Reddy stopped Nathan Konstantopoulos' shot and Joel Chianese stepped up to put Tony Popovic's team in the final.

"It was a crazy game and I think we learned in world football this week that anything can happen," said Glory coach Popovic, referring to dramatic wins for Liverpool and Tottenham Hotspur in the UEFA Champions League. "We led right until the end and Adelaide showed the incredible spirit they have as a team (to come back). Our character then was amazing."

Perth Glory and Sydney FC have sealed their places in the 2020 AFC Champions League.

(Source: AFP)

Beiranvand can play in big European teams: coach

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Pateadores Club coach Shayan d e s k Jahangiri believes that Iran goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand has the potential to play in the big European clubs.

Jahangiri, who maintains a US Soccer Federation "C" license and a NSCAA Level 3 Goalkeeper Diploma, is interested in finding goalkeeping talent across the world, especially in his homeland Iran.

Jahangiri has been invited to Italy by AS Roma club to continue his role as the goalkeeper coach for the soccer program.

"I follow Iran football in the national and club levels. I was in Brazil and Russia in two World Cups to attend Iran matches. I think Iran has plenty talents and we have to take advantage of them. We need to invest in them to have a bright future," Jahangiri said.

"Our country has so many talented players and is comparable to Brazil but there's some problems in finding the talents, however we see positive movements in the recent years," he added.

"I was at the stadium when Alireza Beiranvand saved Cristiano Ronaldo's penalty in Russia. It was the best moment in my career. I think he has the potential to play in big European teams," Jahangiri said.

AFC President and Japan FA President discuss plans to develop Asian football

AFC President Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa met with Japan FA President Mr Kozo Tashima in Bahrain to outline the plans for the future development of Asian football.



Shaikh Salman welcomed Mr Tashima, hailing the role of Japan FA in developing the game and the key position of Japanese football in Asia. The AFC President also congratulated Japan on their recent achievements - including reaching the final of the AFC Asian Cup 2019 in the United Arab Emirates.

The AFC President also detailed the Confederation's plans to develop the game at all levels - explaining that the coordination and co-operation between AFC and the Member Associations is the main tool to deliver these ambitions.

Mr Tashima stressed that the Japan FA will continue to support Shaikh Salman in his mission to lead Asian football to an even brighter future.

(Source: the-afc)

Iranian taekwondo practitioners still awaiting UK visa

MNA — With three days remaining to the start of 2019 World Taekwondo Championships in Manchester, UK has not yet issued visas for four Iranian athletes and federation officials.

The 2019 edition of World Taekwondo Championships is going to be held in Manchester on May 15-19 with more than 950 athletes in participation.

The Iranian team, comprised of 14 taekwondokas, was set to depart for Manchester on Friday night but four athletes, one coach, and three federation officials failed to make the trip due to UK's refusal to issue visas.

The Iranian federation says that it's a long time that they have done the required paperwork for obtaining visas. "It's very surprising that in an event at this high level, some try to create problems for Iran's national team," Arash Farhadian, director of Iranian national team's organization, told IRNA on Sunday. The UK should not treat the Iranian team, which is among taekwondo world powers, like this, he added, calling on the International Olympic Committee to investigate the case.

Meanwhile, the team's head coach Faribourz Asgari has not departed for Manchester, despite having his visa, in a bid to support his practitioners in face of these problems.

Iran's protests have proved effective as UK is going to reportedly issue visas so that rest of the Iranian team can arrive in Manchester on Monday.

Persepolis midfielder Bashar Resan to undergo surgery

TASNIM — Persepolis Iraqi midfielder Bashar Resan will undergo shoulder surgery on Tuesday.

He missed the match against Machine Sazi on Saturday and will be absent in the match against Pars Jonoubi, scheduled for May 18.

Resan will also miss two matches against Al Sadd of Qatar in the 2019 AFC Champions League and the match against Sepahan in Iran's Hazfi Cup semifinals.

The Iraqi iconic midfielder will be sidelined for two months.

Persepolis's title bid in Iran Professional League suffers a blow with missing the player.

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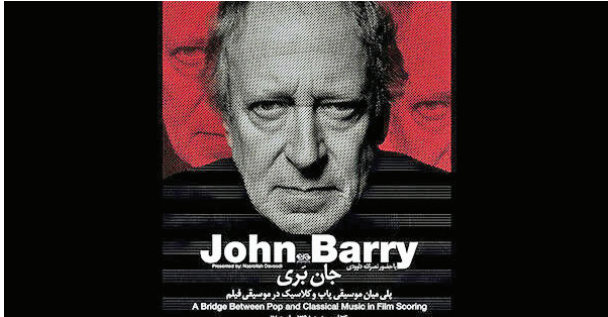
GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

No act can be performed except by three things: considering it trifling until it is done and its importance is revealed, hiding it until it is revealed, and haste in profiting by it to make it a success.

Imam Ali (AS)

Film scores by John Barry to be reviewed in Tehran

A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** — The Niavaran Cultural Center in Tehran will be holding a session on Thursday to review film scores composed by renowned English composer of film music John Barry.



A poster for a review session for John Barry's film scores at Tehran's Niavaran Cultural Center.

Musician Nasrollah Davudi is scheduled to attend the session, during which the audience will listen to soundtracks by Barry. Barry is the winner of five Academy Awards. He wrote some of cinema's best-loved scores including 11 James Bond films and three best film Oscar winners "Dances with Wolves", "Out of Africa" and "Midnight Cowboy".

"Antigone" coming to Tehran theater

A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iranian director Ehsan Kheirmand will take Sophocles' "Antigone" on stage at Tehran's Hafez Hall tonight.

Kheirmand will stage the play based on the Persian translation by Najaf Daryabandari, the author of the bestselling cookbook "From Garlic to Onion".



A poster for Ehsan Kheirmand's "Antigone".

Adnan Mohammadipur, Setayesh Zeinali, Alireza Amin-Atai, Kiana Amin-Atai and Hamed Mehdinejad are members of the troupe.

Antigone is the daughter of Oedipus, the former king of Thebes. She is willing to face the capital punishment that has been decreed by her uncle Creon, the new king, as the penalty for anyone burying her brother Polyneices. The play will be onstage until June 3.

Simon Armitage is named the UK's new Poet Laureate

LONDON (AP) — Simon Armitage has been named the U.K.'s new Poet Laureate, succeeding Carol Ann Duffy in the 10-year post.

Queen Elizabeth II has approved the appointment, Britain's highest literary honor. It dates back to the 17th century, and previous laureates have included John Dryden, William Wordsworth and Ted Hughes.

It is up to the poet to decide whether or not to produce poetry for national and royal occasions.

Armitage, a professor of poetry at the University of Leeds, has published 28 collections of poetry and his work is studied by British schoolchildren as part of the national curriculum. He said he hoped to "help poetry explore its potential" in a multimedia age.

Culture Secretary Jeremy Wright praised Armitage for his "witty and profound take on modern life."

Annecy festival adds more movies to its Iranian lineup

A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** — "Starvation" and "Trailer" have joined a lineup of Iranian movies, which will compete in the Annecy International Animated Film Festival and Market in France, the organizers have announced.

Directed by Zahra Rostampur, the short movie "Starvation" is scheduled to be screened in the Graduation Films category.

The movie is about a hungry wolf that gets stuck in the stereotypes of being the big bad wolf of the story. She has to flee when everybody accuses her of violence and murder, and she faces getting killed.

"Trailer" is the official teaser for the 11th Tehran International Animation Festival made by a group of 11 animators, each of whom created a few seconds around the festival's symbol, a fish.

The film will compete in the Commissioned Films category of the festival, which will take place in the alpine town in southeastern France from June 10 to 15.

Earlier in March, the festival announced that the Iranian movies "Am I a Wolf?" by Amir-Hushang Moein and "Son of the Sea" by Abbas Jalali-Yekta will be competing in the Perspectives Short Films in Competition.

Amelia Chiew, Zosie Golding and Fahim Arif Motahar are the members of the jury for this category.

"Am I a Wolf?" tells the story of children who perform the familiar story of the wolf and the yearlings in school as a puppet show. The nanny goat grieving its yearlings and the angry wolf in its solitude face each other.

"Son of the Sea" is about a man lives in a house with his wife and the illusion of their son on the wall! This hallucination gradually creates complications in their lives.



A scene from "Trailer" by Iranian animators.

Mohammad Fahimi on panel of Krakow Film Festival



Iranian filmmaker Mohammad Fahimi.

A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iranian filmmaker Mohammad Fahimi has been selected for the jury of the short film competition at the 59th Krakow Film Festival, the organizers have announced.

Fahimi is in charge of the International Department of the Iranian Youth Cinema Society and the artistic director of the Tehran International Short Film Festival.

Zbigniew Czapla from Poland, Alexei Medvedev from Russia and Sari Volanen from Finland are the other members of the jury, which is headed by Polish filmmaker Jacek Petrycki.

In addition, two films from Iran will be competing in the festival this year.

"A House for You", a documentary by Mehdi Bakhshi Moqaddam, and "Dissect" by Siavash Shahabi will be competing in the festival.

"A House for You" tells the story of Davud who has been diagnosed with lung cancer, and his dream is to build a house for his beloved wife.

"Dissect" is about a conflict between school students that ends with a tragedy.

The Krakow Film Festival will be running in the Polish city from May 26 to June 2.

Alongside Cannes mainstays, fresh faces try to stand out

NEW YORK (AP) — The 72nd Cannes Film Festival, which opens Tuesday will feature a lot of familiar faces who have long made Cannes their home, including Pedro Almodóvar, Ken Loach and Jim Jarmusch, whose zombie comedy "The Dead Don't Die" will open the festival and mark the director's ninth time in competition in Cannes.

But Cannes is also where a new cinematic voice can be catapulted onto cinema's world stage. Diop, who has made a number of acclaimed shorts and who starred in Claire Denis' "35 Shots of Rum," will make her feature film debut in Cannes. She's one of four female directors in the festival's 21-film main slate, which ties Cannes' previous high, in 2011.

"I've been through all kinds of different emotions from the announcement until now," said Diop by phone in Paris where she was busy putting the finishing touches on "Atlantics." ?But it's very stimulating for me to be part of this specific edition that is remarkable for its novelty. It's a selection in which there are more women, in which there are first feature films, where Africa is represented.

"This gives me the feeling of being part of some new excitement," she added. "In a way, it's a turning point for the festival."

Whether this year's edition of Cannes will indeed open a new chapter in the prestigious 72-year history of the French Riviera festival remains to be seen. Certainly, the tremors of last year's Cannes — where 82 women protested gender inequality on the red-carpeted steps of the Palais des Festivals — are still being felt.

One of the primary figures of that demonstration was Agnes Varda, the French

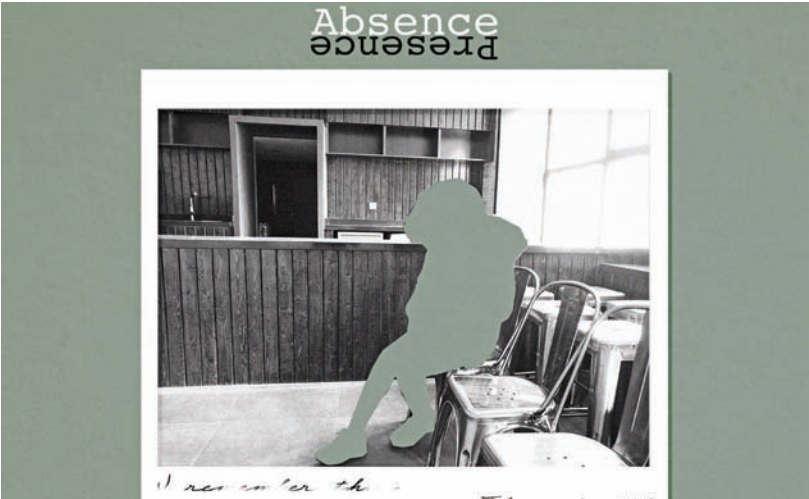
New Wave pioneer who died in March at 90. As a tribute, this year's official Cannes poster is a picture of Varda shooting her first feature, 1955's "La Pointe Courte," peering through a raised camera while standing on the back of a man.

Whether Cannes has done enough to adjust to the #MeToo era is sure to be a prominent subject throughout the festival. This year's selection committee, for the first time, was half women. Still, some have criticized the festival's selections — about 25 percent directed by women, in total — as a slight and unconvincing improvement. (By comparison, women directed 40 percent of the Berlin Film Festival's selections, and 46 percent of those at Sundance.)

"In the time that Agnès Varda started, it was hard for women to be directors," Thierry Fremaux, artistic director of Cannes, told IndieWire. "More and more, it's not easy, but it's easier. We have more female directors in films schools, in universities, and in the industry. It's logical that at a film festival like Cannes, we have had more women over time, because we have paid more attention."

Tradition and progress are always in tension at Cannes. For the second straight year, this year's in-competition selections will feature no Netflix releases. Alfonso Cuarón's "Roma" was last year set to premiere at Cannes before French distributors — aiming to preserve the country's theatrical window — pushed the festival to require that all films up for the Palme d'Or have a release planned in French theaters. Netflix withdrew its films, including "Roma." (This year, the streamer does have one movie, "Wounds," in the parallel section Directors' Fortnight.)

Iranian troupe to perform play on loneliness after migration at Canadian festival



A poster for "Absence/Presence".

A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** — An Iranian troupe is scheduled to perform a play titled "Absence/Presence" about the feelings loneliness coming over migrants during the 4th Windsor-Walkerville Fringe Festival in Canada, the organizers have announced.

Reza Basirzadeh is the director of the troupe, and four performances have been arranged for the play written by Erfan Ghafuri-Sanaati.

The play is about a couple that splits apart after one of them decides to migrate. In their loneliness, they

begin to imagine each other as if they live together. They have nothing but some memories to hold on to.

A cast composed of Ali Qasemian, Narges Shahriari, Keyvan Bafekr Layalestani and Mohammadreza Pasbantus will stage the play in four performances, which will be held at the Annex Theatre from May 23 to 26.

Performers and artists from around the globe have been invited to go on stage during the Windsor-Walkerville Fringe Festival, which will take place in the Canadian city of Windsor from May 22 to 26.

North and South Korean musicians perform together in China

SHANGHAI (AP) — A South Korean violinist and a North Korean singer on Sunday held a rare joint performance they hope would help bring the divided Koreas closer together via music — especially at a time of emerging tensions amid deadlocked nuclear diplomacy.

Violinist Won Hyung Joon and his North Korean soprano partner, Kim Song Mi, performed together at a Shanghai concert hall with a Chinese orchestra. Their concert came three days after North Korea fired two suspected short-range missiles in the second such weapons test in five days.

For both, it was their first concert with a musician from the other side of the Korean border, the world's most heavily fortified. They met several times last year in Beijing and agreed on a joint performance to help promote peace on the Korean Peninsula.

As a duet, Kim sang Antonin Dvorak's "Songs My Mother Taught Me" while Won played the violin. Kim later sang "Arirang," a Korean traditional folk tune beloved in both countries, while the Shanghai City Symphony Orchestra played the music.

"When I met her (Kim) for the first time, I felt like I was reuniting with an old friend who's been on the same wavelength with me," Won said before Sunday's concert. "This performance shouldn't be the end ... and what's important now is what other dreams we can have together."

In a pre-concert written interview, Kim also said she "heartily wishes" that her songs would help bring back reconciliation mood. "I'm nervous and anxious about what inspiration the audience would have and what reaction North and South Korean compatriots would show to our

joint performance," she said.

North and South Korean musicians performing together is extremely rare as their governments don't even allow their citizens to exchange phone calls, letter and emails without special approvals. Last year saw an unusual wave of cross-border exchanges after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un abruptly entered talks on the fate of his advancing nuclear arsenal. A group of North Korean dancers and singers performed in South Korea during the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, before South Korean K-pop stars flew to Pyongyang and sang in the presence of Kim and his young wife Ri Sol Ju. Both events were the first of their kind in more than 10 years.

But such exchange programs are now becoming a rarity again as North Korea is resuming provocative weapons tests in an apparent protest against the lack of progress in nuclear negotiations with the United States. Kim returned home empty handed from his second summit with President Donald Trump in Vietnam in February after Trump rebuffed his calls for major sanctions relief in return for his promise to conduct partial disarmament measures. No publicly known high-level meetings between Pyongyang and Washington have since been reported.

Won said when he first met Kim last spring, he felt it was easier for him to communicate with her and explain his dream than when he dealt with North Korean diplomats.

"When I talked about music with (North Korean) diplomats, I had to explain why we need music and why music is good ... But I didn't need to do that when I met Kim, and we could just get to the point," Won said.