



### Nasrallah warns against changes in Middle East

hese days, Middle East is facing a torrent of events that seem to be born out of conspiracies and compromises. The changes that will threaten the peace in the region. It seems that U.S. President, Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu are trying to draw their own advantages by carrying out new plans in Middle East.

On the one hand, we see that the West, U.S. and the Zionist Regime are increasing their measures against Syria, after years of war and military activity in Syria was proved to be fruitless and the western countries did not gain what they wanted, they are now trying to reach their goals by exerting enormous pressure on Syria and placing the country under a new round of sanctions. These countries, On the other hand, are doing their best to prevent the Syrian refugees from going back to their country and they have now come up with new ideas such as chemical attacks in Syria. In the same time, the Deal of the Century is taking its first steps. The deal starts from Bahrain in the form of sessions and economic workshops and will gradually expand to other areas. Everything is moving on quickly and Trump seeks to serve the Zionist regime the best. For carrying out the Deal of the Century, Trump is trying to put the maximum amount of pressure on Arab countries, but he shows them no respect and expect them to follow his orders without no question. Âmid all these tensions, Sayed Hassan Nasrallah, the secretary general of the Lebanese political and paramilitary party Hezbollah pointed out some critical issues in his recent speech:

## Iran and U.S. game, chicken game or prisoner's dilemma?

AHTRIBUNE — According to game theory, the type of Iran-US behavior can be studied in the form of models. This theory also enables us to create a model for their behavior. Based on this, in the critical circumstances of two countries chicken game can indicate the behavior of Iran and America behavior and determine their strategy towards each other.

Chicken game is an effective model for studying intersections of two players in Game theory. The worst result is gained when none of two players -

who are not inclined to give up - stop fighting. I this game two drivers with high speed drive towards each other, one of them must deviate from the way otherwise they will clash with each other and will be killed. The driver that has deviated from the way because of being coward is called Chicken and is the loser and the driver who still remains in the path is the winner.

In fact, the status and reputation that you gain because of this game are very high; continuing and not continuing it the game both leads to a lose-lose result. In other words, the players will

## Will Hillary Clinton support Biden?

TEHRAN — Although Hillary Clinton, a U.S. Democrat candidate in the 2016 presidential election, is no longer in the 2010 presidential election but seems to be trying to play a strong role in supporting the Democratic candidates in the upcoming US presidential election. . Hillary Clinton's goal is to restore his position in the Democratic Party. Hillary Clinton is keen to gain

his previous position in the Democratic Party after defeating the two presidential elections (2008 and 2016). This is while Hillary Clinton no longer has any hope of conquering the White House and attending the top political and executive

President Joe Biden is the overwhelming favorite of people who formerly supported Hillary Clinton's successful 2016 bid to be the Democratic Party's presidential nominee, a new poll released Thursday found.In a Hill-HarrisX survey of registered voters who identified as Democrats or Democratic-lean ing independents who backed Clinton, Biden was named by 41 percent as their pick to be the party's 2020 presidential nominee.  $\rightarrow 6$ 

be trapped in a vague situation. If they continue

the game, then death or perpetual palsy will be

inevitable. And if they continue competing despite

being survived, they will lose their reputation

like this game. On another hand, Trump in this

game has tried to pretend himself an unpredict-

able and moody person who might behave in

various ways (Madman Theory). In this way, his

baselessness words mostly seem realistic rather

than a bluff.  $\rightarrow$  7

Trump's behavior towards Iran is something

and status which somehow is equal to death.

tons during the four-month period of this year, indicating 4.8 percent growth from the same time span of

Association indicated that Iran has produced 2.165 million tons of crude steel in April 2019, rising 2.8 percent from 2.106 million-ton output in April 2018.  $\rightarrow 4$ 

just want to make that clear. We are looking for no nuclear weapons," Trump said.

In his Twitter post, Zarif insisted that Iran was not seeking nuclear weapons, referring to an edict by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei who has declared production, stockpiling and use of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), including nuclear arms, as haram

Jean-Yves Le Drian on Tuesday reiterated calls for Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to end a conflict in Yemen that he described as a "dirty war".

Meanwhile, a Saudi Arabian cargo ship is set to arrive in the south of France to pick up munitions, according to a media report, rekindling criticism of weapons are being used in the devastating war in Yemen, AFP reported.

The shipment was revealed by investigative website Disclose, whose reporting on a similar shipment of French weapons earlier this month led to pressure that prompted Riyadh to renounce loading the weapons.  $\rightarrow$  13



### Iran's potentials despite economic sanctions must be realized eventually

rom afar one can't help thinking d about how lucky Iran really is in

many respects. I mean this sincerely. Sure, the economy over the past year has dropped nearly 10 percent, according to some economists, and Iran's people are hurting as they watch whatever standard of living they had decline while inflation has taken a toll and put out of reach many of the goods, especially luxury goods, average peo-ple want, even if – probably – the economic problems have not much impacted Iran's elite. And the reasons for the declines over the past year have mostly but not exclusively been attributed, and rightly so, to the harsh economic sanctions imposed by the U.S. in the wake of the abnegation of the JCPOA for no good reason. But there is a different way Iranians might think about all this, taking a longerterm view. First, consider how utterly rich Iran really is compared to maybe four or five other countries in the world, even if Iran can't currently sell nearly as much of its riches - mostly petroleum-as was possible a year ago. Also consider what it was mostly selling its riches for: what will ultimately be worthless paper. And further consider these factors: even with a population of some 83 million people, it will be generations, if Iran could never sell much if any of its oil any longer, before Iranian citizens would ever be without more than enough subsidized energy resources for transportation and heating and the myriad other uses for oil. You can't say this about more than a handful of other countries. Moreover, Iran has a relatively educated population, and the gene pool might be labelled "SMART". No one else likely could have invented chess! One might imagine that the U.S., with five percent of the world's population (but burning up nearly 30 percent of the world's energy resources annually) and living relatively "high on the hog", is eventually going to suffer worse than Iran ever has or will. Yes, the U.S. is allegedly generating over 10 million barrels of oil a day where a few years ago the figure was maybe 6 million BPD. This is because of the recent discoveries of shale oil in the Dakotas and in the Southwest of the U.S.  $\rightarrow$  7

• Warning that the Deal of the Century is based on an ominous plot to destroy Palestines' hopes and dreams.

• U.S. and the Zionist regime have conspired so that Palestinian refugees lose their right for going back to their country.

• The first stage of the Deal of the Century will begin by Manama session.

• Advising Lebanese and Palestinian officials to devise plans against the plot for prohibiting Palestinians from returning to their home land.  $\rightarrow$  13

equations of the United States.

In the presidential elections of 2020, Hillary Clinton seems to finally announce her support for Joe Biden.As The Hill reported,Former Vice

#### The traditional German parties are in danger

#### a**nif Ghaffar**i

TEHRAN — As much time passes, Merkel's power is at the head of the political and administrative equations of Berlin. It should not be forgotten that the German Chancellor was in the past a symbol of unity in the European Union and the Eurozone. However, today Angela Merkel has become the symbol of EU power cuts! Now, the two Christian and Social Democrats, which are the most traditional German parties, are not very popular with German voters. This could lead to profound changes on the political, economic and social scene of Germany. On the other hand, it is widely accepted that any change in Germany will also affect other European countries.

Now, the German Chancellor is concerned about his political future, on the one hand, and worried about the fate of the European Union and the European. However, it must be admitted that Angela Merkel is also involved in shaping the situation! The

economic policies of austerity imposed by the German Chancellor and his unnecessary accompaniment to many of the Democratic and Republican Party policies and policies in the United States have played an important role in creating the current situation. It's a difficult time for the Chancellor of Germany! She had to pass the power inside the Christian Democrat Party to her rival, Kramp-Karenbauer. In a conference, Karenbauer rejected claims that she was the "mini Merkel".  $\rightarrow 6$ 



## **Relief foundation** puts achievements of the selfemployed on show

Financially struggling individuals under assis-tance of Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation, who are self-employed and have achieved financial independence showcased their products at an exhibition in Tehran.

Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation is a charitable organization, founded in March 1979, after the Islamic Revolution, to provide support for families who are struggling financially. The aim is to help such families regain financial stability. Boosting job creation is one of the primary objectives of the foundation.

## POLITICS

#### Abe prepares to visit Iran

**POLITICAL TEHRAN** – Japan's government officials are d e s k making final adjustments for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's planned visit to Iran, NHK reported on Monday. NHK said the visit will take place next month.

INTERNATIONAL DAILY

**TEHRANTIMES** 

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi also confirmed on Tuesday that preparations are being made for Abe's visit.



During his talks with U.S. President Donald Trump in Tokyo on Monday, Abe reiterated his intention to act as an intermediary between the U.S. and Iran.

At a joint press conference with Trump, Abe said Japan "would like to do whatever it can. Japan and the U.S. should collaborate closely so that tensions surrounding Iran are lessened and do not result in armed conflict."

Tensions have been rising between Tehran and Washing-

ton since the U.S. withdrew from the UN-endorsed nuclear agreement in May last and ordered sanctions on Iran.

Tensions entered a new stage since April when the U.S. designated the IRGC (part of the Iranian military) as a terrorist organization, announced that it does no renew the waivers for the eight major buyers of the Iranian oil, and started beefing up its military presence in the region, particularly in the Persian Gulf. Japan was a major buyer of Iranian oil for decades before

#### the sanctions. •We listen to points by friendly states expressed out of goodwill'

Mousavai also said it is natural that different countries be worried about tensions between Iran and the United States.

However, Mousavi said he does not use the world "intermediary" because intermediary entails certain things which does not exist now.

"Now, we are not at the intermediary stage."

But he said "we listen" to countries which raise the issue of tension between Iran and the United States out of "goodwill". "We listen to the points of friendly countries.

He added, "Attention should be paid to the root of tensions between Iran and the United States

Mousavi said the roots of the problem lie with Washington's violation of the nuclear agreement and its "economic terrorism" against Iranians.

NHK reported on May 24 that Abe is considering a visit to Iran as early as mid-June.

No Japanese prime minister has visited Iran since 1978. Abe met with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in Tokyo on May 16.

"Japan is concerned about surging tensions surrounding the Middle East," Abe said during the visit.

During his trip to Japan, Zarif said Iran was committed to its obligations under the international nuclear deal despite the U.S. withdrawal from the landmark agreement. He called the reimposition of sanctions "unacceptable"

On May 8, Iran officially announced that its "strategic patience" has come to an end as the remaining parties to the JCPOA have failed to compensate for the sanctions against Iran by the Trump administration.

In the first step, Iran 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, Iran's stockpile of low enriched uranium is capped at 300kg and heavy water reserve at 130 tons.

#### Ryabkov to visit Iran to discuss nuclear deal

**POLITICAL TEHRAN** — Russian Deputy Foreign Minister e s k Sergey Ryabkov is scheduled to visit Iran on May 29 to discuss the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

# Iran says doesn't see a prospect for talks with **U.S., asks Washington to change behavior**

**POLITICAL** d e s k eign Ministry spokesman Abbas Moussavi said on Tuesday that Tehran does not see any "prospect" for talks with the U.S, saying Washington must change its approach and behavior.

Mousavi said what is important for Iran is a change in behavior rather than words.

"The Islamic Republic does not pay attention to words and rhetoric. What is important is that change of language leads to change of approach and behavior. We decide based on what we see. We see confusion in the U.S. administration, but change of approach is important for us," Mousavi told a press briefing.

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Monday that his administration is not seeking a regime change in Iran and does not want to see any terrible thing happen in the region. During at a joint press conference with

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Tokyo, Trump said that his main goal is to ensure that Tehran will not be developing what he



called nuclear weapons. Moussavi said that Iran does not intend

international agreements. They illegally left the nuclear deal. So, we do not see a prospect for negotiation. However, we should wait and see the developments and situation,' he stated. Elsewhere, he urged the European coun-

United States. They should return to the

tries to fulfil their obligations under the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

On January 31, France, Germany and Britain, the three European parties to the JCPOA, announced the creation of INSTEX, a special purpose vehicle aimed at facilitating legitimate trade between European economic operators and Iran.

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

Iran has criticized Europeans for repeated delays in taking actions in line with keeping the JCPOA.

## Senator Sanders says war with Iran would be 'disaster'

to negotiate with the U.S.

"Currently, we have no talks with the

#### By staff and agency

U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders has warned that a military confrontation between the U.S. and Iran would be more disastrous than the Iraq war.

"Right now if you can believe it, Trump and his people in his administration apparently have learned nothing from that horrific war in Iraq. And you have (national security adviser) John Bolton and others talking about the need to go to war in Iran," Fox News quoted him as saying on Monday.

Sanders, who is making his second straight bid for the Democratic presidential nomination, said, "If you think the war in Iraq was a disaster, my strong belief is a war with Iran would be much worse...Not only would a war with Iran be a disaster, it happens to be unconstitutional."

He told MSNBC on May 14, "It is almost impossible to imagine that after the horror of the war in Iraq when we were lied to by the Bush administration and one of the leading architects was this very same, John Bolton."

Sanders also tweeted that "If we go to war with Iran, we will destabilize the entire region and thousands of Americans and Iranians will die.

"I am working right now with my Republican colleagues to stop this disastrous rush to war," he added.

More than 70 retired American military leaders wrote an open letter to U.S. President Donald Trump urging him to avoid war with Iran.

The former generals advised Trump in the letter published Thursday in War on the Rocks to take "crisis de-escalation measures.

"As President and Commander-in-Chief, you have considerable power at your disposal to immediately reduce the dangerous levels of regional tension," the letter read.

the Iranian leadership at the senior levels of government as a prelude to exploratory diplomacy on matters of mutual concern.'

Trump said Friday that he would send about 1,500 troops to the Middle East.

Tension has been rising between Iran and the U.S. since the Trump administration ended sanctions waivers for the remaining importers of the Iranian oil and the Pentagon sent the USS Abraham Lincoln carrier strike group and a bomber task force to the Persian Gulf and made military threats against Iran.

The USS Årlington transports marines, amphibious vehicles, and rotary aircraft, as well as the Patriot missiles, are planned to join the carrier strike group.



Oman's Foreign Ministry tweeted on Friday that Muscat is trying "with other parties" to reduce tensions between the U.S. and Iran.

"There is a danger that a war breaks out, hurting the whole world ... Both parties, the American and the Iranian, are aware of the danger," the tweet cited Omani Foreign Minister Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah as saying in an interview with an Arabic publication, according to Reuters.

## Zarif says 'actions' and 'not words" will show Trump's intent

1 → "Ayatollah Khamenei long ago said we're not seeking nuclear weapons-by issuing a fatwa (edict) banning them," Zarif stated.

However, Zarif said the harsh economic sanc-tions, which he has called "economic terrorism", is

"hurting" the Iranian people. Zarif holds the "B-Team", which includes Trump's national security advisor John Bolton, Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel (known as bibi), Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed (MBZ) as the motivators of "economic terrorism" against Iran.

"The B Team's economic terrorism is hurting the Iranian people and causing tension in the region," Zarif remarked.



Subject of Single-Stage Tender :

"Crisis de-escalation measures should be established with

"Ŷes, I plan to be in Iran tomorrow. Questions related to the JCPOA will be discussed," UrduPoint quoted him as saying on Tuesday.



On May 8, Iran announced a partial withdrawal from some aspects of the pact, saying that the country would no longer adhere to some of the limits on its nuclear activities. It also threatened to step up uranium enrichment if it was not shielded from the sanctions' effects within 60 days.

Under the JCPOA, Iran agreed to put caps on its nuclear work in exchange for termination of economic and financial sanctions. However, U.S. President Donald Trump unilaterally pulled Washington

out of the nuclear deal in May 2018 and ordered reimposition of sanctions against Iran. The first round of sanctions went into force on August 6 and the second round, which targets Iran's oil exports and banks, were snapped back on November 4.

Also, on April 22 the U.S. announced that Washington has decided not to extend waivers allowing major importers to continue buying oil from Iran. The waivers ended on May 2.

On January 31, France, Germany and Britain announced the creation of INSTEX, a special purpose vehicle aimed at facilitating legitimate trade between European economic operators and Iran.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron held a phone conversation on May 21, discussing ways to preserve the 2015 nuclear deal and continuing economic and trade cooperation with Iran.

"Discussing developments related to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on the Iranian nuclear program, the leaders noted the importance of preserving this agreement that is a key factor in maintaining international stability and security. They confirmed the commitment of Russia, France and Germany to continuing mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation with Iran," the Kremlin said in a statement.

Zarif has already said the B-Team is seeking to drag the United States into an "unending" war with Iran.

In his tweet, Zarif also held the B-Team as responsible for the U.S. military build-up in the region, particularly in the Persian Gulf.

In an interview with CNN aired on May 21, Zarif said that the U.S. is playing a "very very dangerous game" by increasing its military presence in the region.

## **First VP blasts Trump** for repetition of 'atomic bomb' lies against Iran

TEHRAN (FNA) — Iranian First Vice-President Eshaq Jahangiri lashed out at U.S. President Donald Trump for repetition of lies about Tehran's intention to acquire atomic weapons despite the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirmation of the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program for 14 times.

Our enemies have been raising a lie for 20 years that Iran wants to make an atomic bomb. Of course, the IAEA and other bodies have repeatedly visited Iran, extensive talks were held and 6 world powers (the group 5+1) admitted that Iran is not going towards a nuclear bomb," Jahangiri said in Tehran on Tuesday.

He referred to Trump's recent remarks that "we are looking for no nuclear weapons" in Iran, stressing that his country was not seeking nuclear weapons, which its supreme leader had banned in an edict and released it as a document at the UN.

'The IAEA visited Iran (several times) and presented 14 reports that Iran has not had any diversion towards nuclear weapons," Jahangiri said.

He warned the U.S. and its allies that they will certainly regret if they initiate a military conflict with Tehran, adding that Iran's presence in the region is a source of tranquility and it is better for the Americans to make wise decisions, stop pressures and leave the region secure.

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#### **Deadline and how to receive the tender documents:**

From 29th May 2019 (1398/03/08) by 04:00 p.m. on Monday 03th June 2019 (1398/03/13) with presentation of introductory letter by company or its representative and the receipt of paying the documents fee.

#### **Place of receiving the tender document:**

Interested participants may refer to purchasing (KALA) Dept., 4th Floor of IRIB Administration Complex, Hotel Esteghlal St. Vali – Assr Ave, Tehran, Iran

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Submission of payment receipt for the amount of 1,000,000 Rials to account 4101029171204273 with BIC No.IR 310100004101029171204273 IRAN Central Bank in the name of IRIB.

#### Type and amount of guarantee for participation to tender:

The amount of deposit for participant in tender is USD 32150 fixed or its equivalent in Rials 4/500/000/000 which should be in the form of Bank Guarantee.

#### Time and place of delivering Bidding Envelopes:

The sealed packages/envelopes should be submitted in another big sealed package/envelope no later than 4 p.m. on Saturday 06<sup>th</sup> of July 2019 (1398/04/15) and at the address mentioned in 4<sup>th</sup> clause.

#### Time and place of opening envelopes:

The date of opening the envelopes is on Sunday 7th July, 2019 at 03:00 p.m (1398/04/16) in the office of Financial Vice President . In case of complete content in the envelope A, the envolope B including contract draft ,Technical specifications and qualitative assessment analysis will be considered and opened. The Envelope C will be opened of only those eligible participants who meets the qualification criterion and approval of Technical and Commercial committee at the same time and place.

Fore more information please see :

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**POLITICAL** d e s k **TEHRAN** — The Iranian ambassador to Paris has said that Tehran is ready to clear up misunderstandings with certain neighboring Arab countries on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf.

Bahram Qassemi made the remarks while addressing a conference titled "Reducing Tensions in the Persian Gulf" at the French Senate on Monday.

Qassemi underlined the need to adopt collective measures by all countries in the region to guarantee peace and security.

Among the six countries on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf, only Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain have been trying to demonize Tehran.

"We are and have been ready to interact, negotiate and clear misunderstandings with certain Persian Gulf littoral states," Qassemi remarked. Ambassador Qassemi, who recently left his post as spokesman of the Iranian Foreign Ministry to head Iran's mission in France, criticized some regional states for their failure "to respond to Iran's call to reduce tensions and make efforts to consolidate peace and stability in the region.

Qassemi was echoing comments by Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif who during a visit to Iraq on Sunday offered that Iran is ready to sign a regional non-aggression pact with the Persian Gulf states, and that Tehran would welcome any proposals for dialogue and de-escalation.

Recently U.S. President Donald Trump has heightened his anti-Iran campaign, backed by some regional states, on the ground that

**POLITICAL TEHRAN** — The Pales-

against the Israeli occupation of their land has

improved from launching "rocks to rockets",

and Iranian official said on Tuesday, noting

it shows that the new Palestinian generation

is more determined than ever to defend their

Quds Department of the Coordinating Council

of Islamic Propagation, made the remarks at a

press conference in Tehran as he outlined the

programs of International Quds Day rallies in

Ramezan Sharif, chairman of the Intifada and

territory

e s k tinian people's resistance



#### "Nuclear weapons have never had any place in the defense doctrine of the Islamic Republic," Qassemi says.

Iran has been posing threat to U.S. interests in the region as well as those of the neighboring countries.

Trump's businessman-like campaign bore big fruit as it was reported last week that he has ordered the sale of billions of dollars' worth of weapons to Saudi Arabia, citing Iranian threats to its arch rival.

In 2018 Trump withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal, formally referred to as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and started reimposing sanctions on Iran's oil, steel, copper and many other industries. The months that followed presented Saudi Arabia as a rival to Iran in the global oil market, with assumptions going that the

for blood are unexampled in the world", noting

that most of the corruption and problems

across the world can be traced back to Zi-

onists, including one of their latest efforts,

which was the formation of Takfiri terrorism

despite the fact that Zionists have used all

their forces and allies to occupy (Palestinian)

Sharif, who is at the same time the spokes-

man of the Islamic Republic Revolution Guards

(IRGC), also said Iran does not fear a possible

"Today, Palestinians are the main victor

to fight the Islamic World.

territories," added Sharif.

Arab kingdom would replace the slump in supply after the Iran boycott.

In his address to the French Senate, Qassemi further noted that Iran has repeatedly voiced its readiness to sign a non-aggression pact with Persian Gulf Arab states in an effort to "build trust and allay concerns."

Establishing peace and security in the region could be guaranteed when the interests of all Persian Gulf states are taken into consideration, he said.

Describing the Persian Gulf as "the most important strategic region in the globe," Qassemi warned that any insecurity and instability in this region would rapidly affect the entire world. "Iran firmly believes that no country can guarantee its own peace, stability and security single-handedly," he said.

Lasting peace, the diplomat added, requires collective efforts and firm determination on the part of all regional countries.

Élsewhere, Qassemi stressed the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program, adding that the country is not seeking atomic weapons, which have been clearly banned in a fatwa (religious decree) by Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

"Nuclear weapons have never had any place in the defense doctrine of the Islamic Republic," he said.

Qassemi pointed to 14 consecutive reports by the International Atomic Energy Agency confirming Tehran's adherence to its end of the 2015 multinational nuclear deal.

Having access to peaceful nuclear technology – as stipulated in the deal – is Iran's "inalienable right," he pointed out.

The remarks by Sharif come as tensions

between Washington and Tehran soared re-

cently over America deploying an aircraft

carrier and B-52 bombers to the Persian Gulf

over a still-unexplained threat it allegedly

troops to the 600 already in the Mideast and

force doesn't "support engaging in any war but it doesn't "fear occurrence of a war."

The U.S. also plans to send 900 additional

Sharif told reporters that the paramilitary

## Iraqi PM to visit Tehran, Washington soon

**POLITICAL TEHRAN** – Iraq's Prime Minister, Adel k Abdul Mahdi, announced on Tuesday that he will be visiting Tehran and Washington in the near future

Citing regional developments and rising rifts between Iran

and the U.S., the Iraqi leader welcomed U.S. President Donald hammad Javad Zarif's recent trip to Iraq also had a clear

Palestinian resistance has improved from 'rocks to rockets'

He said his country will make attempts to reduce tensions between Washington and Tehran in order to reduce repercussions of U.S. sanctions against Iran on Iraq. Abdul Mahdi raised concern over the United States' sanctions against Iran, warning that continued pressure will affect all.

war with the United State.

perceives from Tehran.

extending their stay

## Iran to continue step-by-step modification of nuclear deal undertakings

INTERNATIONAL DAILY TEHRANTIMES

TEHRAN (FNA) — Spokesman of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Keivan Khosravi has said that the country will continue its staged reduction of undertakings under the 2015 nuclear deal until the trend of its oil sales and banking ties is back to normal.

"As the honorable president declared, concurrent with the Council statement, Iran will continue subsequent and staged steps to stop nuclear deal undertakings based on the Council's statement until the status quo of its oil sales and banking transactions return to the conditions that prevailed before the American withdrawal from the nuclear deal," Khosravi wrote in a note for ILNA published on Tuesday.

Washington withdrew from the internationally-endorsed 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, reimposed the toughest-ever sanctions against the country and started a plan to zero down Tehran's oil sales.

Under the nuclear agreement reached between Iran and six world powers in July 2015, Tehran undertook to put limits on its nuclear program in exchange for the removal of nuclear-related sanctions.

In 2018, all the other signatories — Russia, China, Germany, France, the UK, and the EU — refused to follow the U.S. example and confirmed their commitment to the accord, trying to save the deal with the Islamic Republic.

Iranian officials then warned that the European Union's failure in providing the needed ground for Tehran to enjoy the economic benefits of the nuclear deal would exhaust the country's patience.

Yet, Iran continued compliance with deal, stressing that the remaining signatories to the agreement had to work to offset the negative impacts of the U.S. pullout for Iran if they want Tehran to remain in compliance.

Europeans' honesty in dealing with the Iran nuclear deal has always been seriously doubted by Iranian masses that were discontent with talks with European states.

Almost a year later, however, the EU failed to provide Tehran with its promised merits. Then, the U.S. state department announced that it had not extended two waivers, one that allowed Iran to store excess heavy water produced in the uranium enrichment process in Oman, and one that allowed Iran to swap enriched uranium for raw yellowcake with Russia.

Until now, Iran was allowed to ship low-enriched uranium produced at Natanz to Russia before it hit the 300-kg limit and the U.S. measure leaves no way for Tehran other than exceeding the ceiling for storing the enriched uranium in violation of the 2015 nuclear deal.

Also, the United States would no longer waive sanctions that allowed Iran to ship heavy water produced at its Arak facility beyond a 300-ton limit set in the 2015 nuclear deal to Oman for storage which again forces Tehran to store it inside country in violation of the nuclear deal.

#### It is not America's objective to negotiate with Iran: MP



**POLITICAL TEHRAN** — A member of the National Sek curity and Foreign Policy Committee of the Majlis believes that despite what it claims, Washington is not seeking negotiations with Iran.

## Iran has demonstrated it won't succumb to outside pressure: National Interest

**POLITICAL** d e s k **TEHRAN** — Writing in National Interest on May 27, Daniel DePetris, a fellow at Defense Priorities, says Iran has demonstrated it will not



mitted a series of atrocities that have caused misery to millions of people. It was the crown prince, for instance, who kidnapped Lebanese prime minister Saad Hariri and forced him to sign a resignation letter; who launched a war of choice in Yemen which has destroyed that country's already meager infrastructure and condemned over twothirds of the population into destitution; who blockaded Qatar in an attempt to turn the small Persian Gulf emirate into a vassal state.

Trump's latest statements that he does not seek war with Iran. The prime minister also said Iranian Foreign Minister Mo-

message.

Iran, which falls on Friday, May 31. Initiated by the late leader of Islamic

Revolution Ayatollah Khomeini in 1979,

International Quds Day is being held an-

nually on the last Friday of Ramadan in many

countries across the world to support the

Palestinian people against the occupation

are more determined than the previous gen-

erations and this counts as an achievement of

International Quds Day," Sharif pointed out.

He said the Israeli "corruption and thirst

"The new generation of Palestinian people

of their land by Israel.



succumb to outside pressure.

DePetris says U.S. President Donald Trump's maximum pressure campaign on Iran is in many ways a continuation of the status-quo policy, which may result in a crisis or war.

DePetris, also a columnist for the Washington Examiner and The American Conservative, suggests that the Trump administration's top priority in the immediate term should be to deescalate the standoff with Iran before it leads to another disastrous, unnecessary war in the Middle East.

The following is an edited version of DePetris's article:

With American B-52's being dispatched to the Persian Gulf, Washington and Tehran are one miscalculation away from a large military confrontation neither the American or Iranian people want. The ascendance of National Security Advisor John Bolton and Secretary of State Mike Pompeotwo public figures who have spent their careers pushing for regime change in Iran-has helped instigate an unnecessary and unwise escalatory spiral when President Donald Trump prefers to negotiate with Iran.

But as dangerous as the situation is today, Washington's Iran policy has been pock-marked by errors for decades. The counterproductive drive toward a war with Iran-either to eliminate their undesirable weapons capabilities or by accident-is based on unsupported dogma about Iran's supposed regional power; the Middle East's strategic importance; and a misreading (intentional or otherwise) about what sanctions and military pressure can achieve.

Yet Washington foreign-policy elites try to sell the American people a bill of goods about the Middle East. The Washington establishment has not adjusted to the strategic reality in the region. They overstate the region's importance and over define U.S. interests there (if they ever define them at all). To them, the region is of immense political and economic significance due to its abundance of oil reserves

U.S. interests in the Middle East are actually quite narrow: avoiding major disruptions to the flow of oil, primarily by preventing a regional hegemon, and eliminating anti-American terrorist threats. These are important and achievable goals—in fact, little is required from the United States to achieve them.

The global energy market has diversified to alternative sources, and the United States has vastly expanded its own crude oil production. The United States is the biggest oil

**Bolton and Pompeo** have helped instigate an unnecessary and unwise escalatory spiral when **Trump prefers to negotiate** with Iran.

producer on the planet and a major oil exporting country, having sent a record high of 3.6 million barrels per day to consumers in February. Imports from the Middle East have become less of an imperative. What this means is that the Persian Gulf is no longer the geopolitical issue for U.S. foreign policy it was in the past—certainly as it relates to the Western Hemisphere, Europe, or Asia.

Second, the establishment tends to pin all of the blame for the Middle East's security problems on Iran's shoulders.

Yet this is hardly a threat to the United States-it's been the reality for forty years—and Iran is hardly the only actor in the region. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Egypt have also engaged in activity in the Arab world.

For years, Egypt has sent military material, economic support, and political cover to Libyan General Khalifa laftar—a man who is now trying to kick the UN-recognized Libyan government out of Tripoli and replace it with a military-backed regime he leads. Under the management of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Riyadh has com-

In short, it's simplistic and untrue to pin the Middle East's problems on Iran alone.

Third, Washington assumes it can weaponize its economic power to deal with Iran. Trump's "maximum pressure" campaign is hardly the first attempt to change Iran's behavior-since the 1979 Iranian hostage crisis, the United States has enacted an increasingly stringent regime of economic sanctions on Tehran's economy to deprive it of revenue and compel it change its foreign policy. With few exceptions, sanctions and isolation have substituted for diplomacy. President Trump's maximum pressure campaign is in many ways a continuation of the status-quo policy—but it is more effectively backing Iran into a corner, which is likely to result in a crisis or war.

Like any other nation, Iran has demonstrated it will not succumb to outside pressure. The Iranians are far more likely to respond with defiance than capitulation. The United States would not accept another nation making demands on it, so it should be no surprise Tehran likewise refuses to do the same. This is a country, after all, that weathered eight years of conventional war in the 1980s against a militarily superior Iraqi army supported by the West-all at a time when Tehran was isolated from the international community and under an arms embargo.

Indeed, as we see it playing out today, Washington's hostility against Iran will not change Tehran's behavior-it will only result in greater hostility directed at the United States. This is how wars start.

The Trump administration's top priority in the immediate term should be to deescalate the standoff with Iran before it leads to another disastrous, unnecessary war in the Middle East. But over the long-term, the United States should completely reset its entire policy toward the region. U.S. national-security interests are not served by taking sides in a part of the world full of bad actors. Better to focus on what matters to Americans, rather than trying (and failing) to fix the region's problems.

The Americans have adopted the policy of carrot and stick This is a double sided coin, one side is the threats and movement of warships and aircraft carriers and forces as well as the call to counter Iran, and the other side is calling for talks, given phone number to Iran, and stressing the point that they do not seek a military war, but an economic war only. They are pursuing these schemes but these are none of their objectives," Hossein Naqavi Hosseini told ISNA in an interview published on Tuesday.

Elsewhere in his interview, the MP said Americans are not "the men of war or negotiations".

The Americans are not men of war, because they know our capabilities and their own situation in the region, realizing that if a war breaks out, they will be the one to suffer the greatest damage. On the other side, they are not faithful to agreements or talks, having shown that in practice. The conclusion is that the Americans are not men of war or negotiations. Their objective is to create psychological war in our country.'

Elaborating on the strategies pursued by the Trump administration against Iran, he said, "The scheme that the Americans are pursuing is to maximize sanctions in order to empty the dinner tables of the households in Iran, create problems for production, and worsen unemployment rates.

Then, by maximizing economic hardships, they plan to divide the people of Iran into two groups, one that favors negotiations and one that does not, therefore intensifying tension in the Iranian society.

'Under such circumstances with America's psychological war being waged, we have no way but to resist. The only path to victory for us lies in resisting the psychological war. We should not be fooled by their game.

He added that part of Trump's behavior is motivated by his eye on the 2020 presidential elections which he is working hard to win again.

"Trump is planning for the future election, because he has to provide answer to the Democrats and tell them what plan he has had for Iran.'

After Trump announced his intention to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal back in 2017, the Iranian currency, rial, started a downfall in value, going from 42,000 to now 14,000 against the greenback.

The U.S. exited the deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in May 2018, vowing to drive Iran's oil exports down to zero.



STOCK MARKEI

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

IFX

## CURRENCIES

2787.74

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	46,965 rials
GBP	53,228 rials
AED	11,437 rials

Source: cbi.ir

## COMMODITIES

Brent	\$68.95/b
WTI	\$59.11/b
OPEC Basket	\$67.40/b
Gold	\$1,284.45/oz
Silver	\$14.52/oz
Platinium	\$811.75/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

## **Capital market optimistic** about integrated forex market

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Iranian capital market's experts e s k are optimistic about launching the integrated forex market, as this market promotes the performance of domestic industries which will lead to positive performance of the capital market, IRNA reported on Tuesday quoting some of these experts including Homayoun Darabi and Mohammad Eqbal-Nia.

These experts also believe that launching such market while supporting domestic industries will strengthen the country's economic status against the sanctions.

Establishment of this market has been approved by the Money and Credit Council (MCC), the highest banking policy-making body of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), on January 8 as the CBI aims to explore the real volume of demand and supply in the foreign currency market through a new mechanism.

The chairman of the Economic Committee of Majlis has announced that an integrated forex market will be launched in the country by the end of current Iranian calendar month of Khordad (June 21).

Mohammadreza Pour-Ebrahimi said by launching this market the other exchange rates like the Sana rate will be omitted gradually.

# **Iran's 4-month** crude steel output up 6% yr/yr: WSA

ΝΟΜΥ

→ Iranian Deputy Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Jafar Sarqini announced two weeks ago that Iran will inaugurate steel projects with the capacity of at least 10 million tons during the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 19, 2020).

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Also, Ardeshir Sa'd Mohammadi, a deputy director in Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), has recently announced that the country's crude steel production capacity will increase by 25 million tons within the next four years. He said that through such increase in crude steel output, the required feedstock for the plants will be properly supplied. The official further lamented that of the 35 million tons of crude steel produced in the past Iranian calendar year, 25 million

tons were used in the production process. According to WSO, Iran became the world's tenth largest steel producer in 2018. Iran which stood at the 13th place in 2017 could lag behind three major steel

producers in the world, namely Italy, Taiwan, and Ukraine to stand at the 10th place in 2018, despite the re-imposition of sanctions by the U.S.



According to the WSO's report, Iran produced 25 million tons of crude steel in 2018 which indicates 17.7 percent growth from 21.2 million tons in 2017.

Over 40% of crude steel produced in Iran is exported to different markets worldwide, according to IMIDRO Head Khodadad Gharibpour. Iran is one of the top 10 mineral-rich

countries where 68 types of minerals have been identified so far, including the world's largest deposits of copper, zinc and iron ore, which are tempting international investors.

## Chabahar Port's loading, unloading of goods rise 30% in 2 months

**ECONOMY TEHRAN**— Loading and unloading d e s k of commodities in Iran's southeastern port of Chabahar during the first two months of current Îranian calendar year (March 21-May 21) rose 30 percent compared to the same period of time in the past year, IRIB reported quoting a deputy at Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO).

Hossein Shahdadi, the deputy head of Sistan-Baluchestan Province's Ports and Maritime Department, also announced that Chabahar is ready for on-time unloading of essential goods required inside the country.

The official further underlined the port's various advantages for exports and imports as well as transit of commodities.

In last November, the United States announced



that it would grant a sanctions waiver for the Iranian-Indian port project at Chabahar.

After years of negotiations, Iran has awarded the development project of its strategic Chabahar port to India, and the South Asian country committed \$500 million to build two new berths in this port.

Chabahar Port's exemption from the new round of the U.S. sanctions on Iran is an opportunity for development of transit via this port, according to PMO Head Mohammad Rastad.

This port's exemption from the sanctions provides the opportunity for benefitting from the potentials and infrastructures of Chabahar which will definitely boost exports and imports, Rastad said, adding that it would be an achievement for the country's economy.

## Iran to hold 3 specialized exhibitions in Iraq by June 21

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** – Three d e s k specialized Iranian exhibitions are due to be held in Iraq during the current Iranian month of Khordad (May 22-June 21), the portal of Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) reported quoting the Iranian commercial attaché to Iraq.

According to Naser Behzad, the exhibitions include Iran's Ramadan Sales and the Exhibition of Persian Handmade Carpets in Baghdad, and an exclusive exhibition for Iranian goods in Erbil. "Iran will also have pavilion in Erbil

Communication, Electronic and Media Expo 2019," the official said.

HE noted that the aim of these exhibitions is to strengthen the presence of Iranian companies in Iraq in order to promote mutual trade and establish export networks.

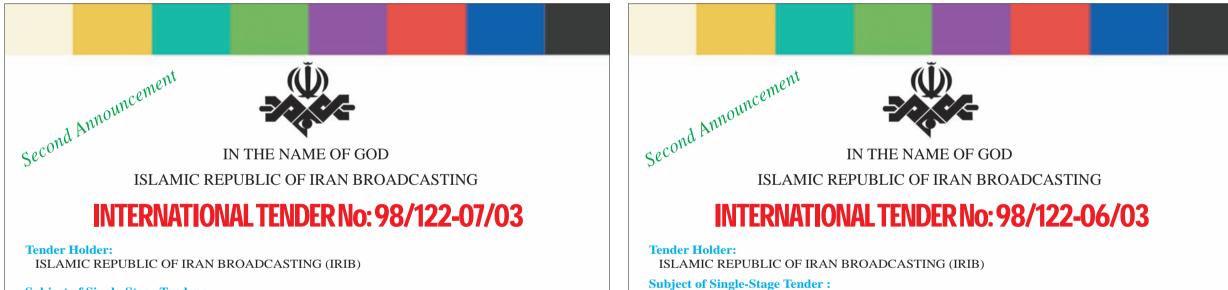
"The Iraqi market is ready to use Iranian quality goods and the presence of wellknown Iranian manufacturing and exporting companies can offer them a proper share of this lucrative market," he added.

Behzad further noted that over 300 Iranian companies are expected to participate in these events.

Easy access through land borders and a great variety of common areas for mutual trade have made Iraq one of Iran's most important trade partners.

Iran and Iraq's current trade turnover stands at about \$12 billion, and the two countries have it on agenda to increase the figure to \$20 billion in the coming years.

In March, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani made a high profile visit to the neighboring country, aiming to develop economic and political ties.



Subject of Single-Stage Tender :



Broadcasting the TV network of Kurdish SAHAR in DVB-S/MPEG2 format with Constant Bit Rate of 3 Mbps on Eutelsat 7WA @ 7.3° West, MENA Beam /KU Band for three years in accordance with the technical specification and other terms and conditions mentioned in the tender documents.

#### **Deadline and how to receive the tender documents:**

From 29th May 2019 (1398/03/08) by 04:00 p.m. on Monday 03th June 2019 (1398/03/13) with presentation of introductory letter by company or its representative and the receipt of paying the documents fee.

#### Place of receiving the tender document:

Interested participants may refer to purchasing (KALA) Dept. 4th Floor of IRIB Administration Complex ,Hotel Esteghlal St. Vali –Assr Ave,Tehran, Iran

#### The fee of the tender documents and how to deposit it:

Submission of payment receipt for the amount of 1,000,000 Rials to account 4101029171204273 with BIC No.IR 310100004101029171204273 IRAN Central Bank in the name of IRIB.

#### Type and amount of guarantee for participation to tender:

The amount of deposit for participant in tender is USD 29500 fixed or its equivalent in Rials 4/100/000/000 which should be in the form of Bank Guarantee.

#### **Time and place of delivering Bidding Envelopes:**

The sealed packages/envelopes should be submitted in another big sealed package/envelope no later than 4 p.m. on Saturday 06<sup>th</sup> of July 2019 (1398/04/15) and at the address mentioned in 4<sup>th</sup> clause.

#### Time and place of opening envelopes:

The date of opening the envelopes is on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 at 03:00 p.m (1398/04/16) in the office of Financial Vice President . In case of complete content in the envelope A, the envolope B including contract draft ,Technical specifications and qualitative assessment analysis will be considered and opened. The Envelope C will be opened of only those eligible participants who meets the qualification criterion and approval of Technical and Commercial Committee at the same time and place. Fore more information please see :

www.iriboffice.ir/tenders and http://iets.mporg.ir/

#### Tel: 00982122167053

Purchasing (Kala) Dept. of IRIB

Broadcasting the TV networks of Hispan TV, Press TV and iFilm English in MPEG-4/SD format with Constant Bit Rate of 10.5 Mbps on Telstar 12 @ 15.0° West , Pan American Beam /KU Band for three years in accordance with the technical specification and other terms and conditions mentioned in the tender documents.

#### **Deadline and how to receive the tender documents:**

From 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019 (1398/03/08) by 04:00 p.m. on Monday 03<sup>th</sup> June 2019 (1398/03/13) with presentation of introductory letter by company or its representative and the receipt of paying the documents fee.

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#### Type and amount of guarantee for participation to tender:

The amount of deposit for participant in tender is USD 35000 fixed or its equivalent in Rials 4/900/000/000 which should be in the form of Bank Guarantee.

#### Time and place of delivering Bidding Envelopes:

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#### Tel: 00982122167053

#### **Purchasing (Kala) Dept. of IRIB**

# **Rouhani invited to** attend GECF meeting in Equatorial Guinea

E N E R G Y TEHRAN – Equatorial e s k Guinea (EG) president has officially invited his Iranian counterpart President Hassan Rouhani to attend the 5th meeting of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), Shana reported.

As reported, Gabriel M.Obiang Lima, Equatorial Guinea's minister of mines and hydrocarbons, was received on Monday by Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh to hand in EG President's official invitation.

In the meeting the officials also discussed energy cooperation between the two coun-

tries and also issues pertain to the upcoming

GECF meeting. Equatorial Guinea hosts the GECF 2019 meeting which features ministers and heads of state from all GECF nations. The Gas Exporting Countries Forum is

an international governmental organization which provides the framework for exchanging experience and information among member countries.

Iran, Algeria, Bolivia, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Russia, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates and



Gabriel M.Obiang Lima (L), Equatorial Guinea's minister of mines and hydrocarbons, met Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh in Tehran on Monday.

Netherlands, Norway, Oman and Peru have Venezuela are the permanent members of GECF and Azerbaijan, Iraq, Kazakhstan, the the status of observer members.

#### LNG confronts its demons **By Simon Flowers**

INTERNATIONAL DAILY

TEHRANTIMES

The world needs more liquefied natural gas (LNG). Gas is a low carbon-intensive fuel and LNG can help to meet rising demand for energy in markets detached from the resource. But LNG has also been synonymous with poor project management. Several giant LNG developments earlier this decade suffered from runaway costs

and delivery slippage. Investors still bear the scars, visible today in

diluted returns. The problem projects typically shared similar characteristics complexity in design and scope, and developed in high-cost, often remote, locations. These challenges were magnified in places like Australia, where limited labor availability, and multiple projects, led to spiraling inflation. Environmental requirements and government bureaucracy stalled the process and further added to costs.

The industry is gearing up again, literally, for another giant investment phase. This new cycle will see \$215 billion spent between 2019 and 2025 on greenfield and brownfield projects, backfill and finishing construction on those already underway. In total, these projects will bring another 182 million tons per annum (mmtpa) to market, adding 50% to global supply. Annual capital spend could touch \$70 billion in the early 2020s, up from the current low of under \$30 billion and only just shy of the 2013 peak.

#### The wave of projects

The signs from the wave of projects now nearing completion are not entirely reassuring. Cameron, a U.S. Gulf Coast project, produced first LNG last week, entering the commissioning phase a year behind schedule and with costs \$1.5 billion, or 23%, over budget. Freeport, also located on the U.S. Gulf Coast, is over budget, too.

Investors are shielded to a degree: the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contractors signed lump sum turnkey contracts and will shoulder the overrun. McDermott's stock market value has fallen 60% in the last six months as the problems came to light. Other listed EPC shares have followed them down.

But there's an argument that contractors bid far too low to win the business in a very lean market, and these examples shed little light on what comes next. Giles Farrer, Director, Global LNG, reckons there are four reasons why things will be better for LNG project delivery this time around.

Operators have kept investment across upstream on a tight rein, barely up on the 2016 lows. There are geographical hot spots, such as the Permian basin, and thematic ones – a surge in final investment decisions could push up development drilling costs for offshore projects, including deep water and LNG. But, generally, there's no sense of a repeat of the upstream cost inflation that engulfed LNG projects a decade ago.

Geographical diversity abounds with big projects under development or planned in Canada, Mauritania/Senegal, Indonesia, Malaysia and Russia among other locations.

The two giant projects, Qatar (32 mmtpa) and Mozambique (28 mmtpa), will rely on imported labor but still harbor some risks of local inflation - the latter also has remoteness to contend with. Inflation, too, could creep into the U.S. Gulf should multiple projects in the 'second wave' kick off simultaneously.

#### Run into challenges

What does that mean in practice? More project components con-structed offsite and shipped on completion. By taking advantage of cheap labor at the fabrication yard rather than project site, costs can be controlled and savings delivered. Calcasieu Pass will build trains in Italy before shipping them to the U.S. Gulf Coast; LNG Canada will use cheaper labor in Asia. But it doesn't always work out. Ichthys (Australia), Snovhit (Norway) and Elba Island (U.S.) are projects where modularized developments have run into challenges.

The global economic slowdown underway should help subdue steel and other raw materials prices. These make up 5% to 10% of total project costs, but every little bit helps.

So, the LNG industry is set to confront the demons of the last cycle. One prize for success in delivering projects on time and on budget will be better and more resilient returns. Another will be confidence restored among stakeholders for investing in an oil and gas theme (Source: forbes.com)

## Iran's renewable power generation capacity reaches 724 MW

**ENERGY TEHRAN** – The capacity of Iran's renewable power plants has reached 724 megawatts (MW) and 416 MW capacity of new power plants are under construction, the portal of Iranian Energy Ministry (known as PAVEN) reported.

As reported, of the country's total renewable capacity, 44 percent is the share of solar power plants while the share of wind farms stands at 40 percent and small-scalded hydropower plants generate 13 percent of the total renewable capacity.

The share of heat recovery plants and biomass plants are small with two percent and one percent respectively. According to PAVEN, currently renewable power plants

have created 43,450 job opportunities across the country and the volume of private investment in this sector has exceeded 124 trillion rials (over \$2.95 billion).

Renewables, including hydropower, account for just six percent of the country's total energy generation, versus natural



Overall, in the next five years, Iran is aiming for a 5,000 MW

as Iranian households and small industries have embraced the new technology with open arms and investors also seem eager for more contribution in this area. Currently over 100 large-scale renewable power plants are

operating across Iran. Earlier this month, Seyed Mohammad Sadeqzadeh, the

head of SATBA, announced that Iran plans to add electricity generated from renewable sources to its export backset.

According to the official the capacity of power generation from the renewable sources will exceed 1000MW by the end of the current Iranian year (March, 19 2020).

## Renewables investment to overtake oil and gas in Asia

Renewable energy investment in Asia excluding China will overtake spending on upstream oil and gas projects in the region as soon as next year, according to Rystad Energy

According to oilprice.com, total capital expenditure (capex) in renewables will overtake exploration and production (E&P) spending in 2020, with contributions from Australia and other Asian countries such as Vietnam, Taiwan and South Korea, Rystad Energy's latest bottom-up analysis of investments shows.

"These countries each have strong pipelines for renewable energy developments of all types, including offshore wind," says Gero Farruggio, Head of Renewables at Rystad Energy. "And, importantly, most have large targets outlining the inclusion of renewable power sources within their respective energy mixes, with corresponding support policies

As oil and gas professionals descend on Brisbane for the annual APPEA conference,



renewable energy continues to rise up the agenda. In his presentation, Farruggio outlines the drivers for this and what we can expect within renewables from upstream players going forward.

In Australia, the renewable energy project pipeline is now over double the national electricity market. Only 1% of the country's solar, wind and utility storage projects is

currently owned by oil majors. Rystad expects this to change.

"By 2020 it is feasible that the majors will be the dominant renewable developers in Australia as they pursue 'oil and gas' scale opportunities. Commercial drivers are ineasing the desire to ride the 'solar-coaster'," Farruggio remarked.

"Upstream companies will lead the

charge, building sizeable utility storage, solar and - ultimately - offshore wind portfolios. Solar panels, lithium ion batteries and turbines will soon be conventional segments of Australia's oiled services,' Farruggio added.

Rystad Energy expects renewables in Australia will continue the strong growth seen in 2018 through 2020, although the country still faces the local challenge of transmission losses, which impacts revenues and creates policy uncertainty. However, investor confidence is high in Australia, and the country currently has a development pipeline of over 105 GW of solar, wind and storage projects, as well as a fleet of aging coal-fired power stations which will require replacement.

The growth in India's renewables presents ignificant scale and one to watch.

"It is no surprise that Petronas and Shell have recently made moves in the Indian commercial and industrial (C&I) renewables space," Farruggio said.

## Oil mixed as OPEC cuts, U.S. sanctions prop up prices while trade war weighs

Oil prices were mixed on Tuesday as supply cuts, led by producer club OPEC, and U.S. sanctions on fuel exports from Iran and Venezuela supported crude, while concerns about an economic slowdown weighed on the market.

Countries (OPEC) since the start of the year, and by political tensions in the Middle East. OPEC and some allies including Russia are due

to meet on June 25 and 26 to discuss output policy. Beyond the output cuts, U.S. bank, Citi said,

sanctions bite. This comes as OPEC appears to be heading towards extending the current production cut agreement," Citi added.

Trump last year withdrew the United States from a 2015 international nuclear deal with Iran,

that is set for long-term growth. Second Announcement



Tender descriptions: PARTS FOR ROSS HILL SILICON CONTROL RECTI FIER (SCR)

increase in renewable capacity to meet growing domestic demand and expand its presence in the regional electricity market. According to Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (known as SATBA), the number of small scale solar power plants across the country which are used by households or small industries is being increased noticeably

Reuters reported front-month Brent crude futures, the international benchmark for oil prices, were at \$69.99 at 0637 GMT, down 12 cents, or 0.2%, from the last session's close, when they rose 2.1%. U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures

were at \$59.03 per barrel, up 40 cents, or 0.7%, from their last close on Friday. WTI did not trade on Monday due to a U.S. public holiday.

Prices have been supported by supply cuts led by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting

"Geopolitical turmoil across the Middle East ... are likely to encourage financial investors to realign with their bullish physical counterparties.'

In physical oil markets, Middle East crude premiums hit their highest levels in years earlier this month amid falling supply.

Beyond the OPEC cuts, U.S. sanctions on petroleum exports from Iran and Venezuela have tightened markets.

"Iran exports remain under pressure as U.S.

and Washington is ratcheting up sanctions seeking to end Tehran's international sales of crude oil and strangle its economy.

Washington has also imposed sanctions on Venezuela's oil exports, in a bid to topple the government under President Nicolas Maduro there.

Despite this, markets remain cautious amid an economic slowdown as a result of the ongoing trade war between the United States and China, which is also expected to dent fuel consumption.

The Tender holder	Registration No. through national electronic tendering	Tender No.	Estimated value
	system	/Indent No.	(Rial/Euro)
National Iranian Drilling Company	3,201,811	INDENT NO: 01-22-9746022 TenderNo.: FP/11-98/025	11,200,000,000 RLS

Qualitative evaluation of tender

its (certificate of corporation/ supply announcement up to latest changes) which should be related to the supply announcement up to latest changes.

Method Applicants which have more than 4 in process contacts with NIDC are not allowed to participate in this tende

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

### India plans \$1.8b transmission projects for renewable energy projects

India has shared details of large power transmission projects dedicated for renewable energy projects in the western parts of the country. The transmission projects are part of the Green Energy Corridors program that was envisaged to support the massive renewable energy capacity addition targets announced by the Indian government.

As per cleantechnica.com, India's largest power transmission company, the state-owned Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL), recently shared proposals to set up transmission projects worth \$1.8 billion in the western states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Rajasthan. The transmission projects will support wind and solar power projects with a combined installed capacity of 25.4 gigawatts across the three states.

The current proposal is part of a much larger plan to set up transmission projects dedicated to solar and wind energy farms spread across seven renewable energy-rich states in the country. As part of this plan, transmission projects to support 50 gigawatts of solar and 16.5 gigawatts of wind energy capacity shall be set up. This larger plan is divided into two phases - under phase I, transmission projects for 20 gigawatts of solar and 9 gigawatts of wind energy capacity shall be set up by December 2020, while under phase II, projects for 30 gigawatts of solar and 7.5 gigawatts of wind energy capacity shall be set up by December 2021.



#### Notice for Prequalification of **Representatives of International Companies**

Persian Gulf SABA Steel Company, monopolized producer of Hot Briquetted Iron (HBI) in Iran, intends to complete list of representatives of international companies and invite them to participate in international tenders for selling its products. Hereby, all companies, which are the commercial representative of international buyers, are cordially requested to send a copy of legal documents of the company, international sales resume and letter of their representative office to the following email address maximum within five working days as of the publication of this advertisement:

info@sabasteel.co

Purchasing & Submitting		
Tender Document Distribution	on by Company	The distribution of the documents will be started one day after the publishing of second advertisement and ended on the following tenth day thereof
	Distribution Place	Hall No.:113, 1 <sup>™</sup> floor, Foreign Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN .TEL 061-34148601
	Submitting Method	Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of 510,000 Iranian Rials under account number 4001114004020491( Shaba No. IR 520100004001114004020491) in name of "NIDC Incomes Centralized Fund" issued by I.R. of Iran Central Bank. Submitting format Request for the purpose of receiving Tender Documents.
	Closing date	35Days after the last time of Purchasing.
Documents Receiving Method	Address	Hall No. 107, 1 <sup>st</sup> floor, Tender Committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. Tel: +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569

#### Tender Guarantee

Type of guarantee	<ul> <li>Hank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
Duration of credit & quotation	Tender Guarantee and quotation should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one time in initial validity duration.

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MAY 29, 2019

## INTERNATIONAL DAILY TEHRANTIMES

#### Tokyo's balancing act between China and U.S.

#### By Da Zhigang

**GLOBAL TIMES** — US President Donald Trump will visit Japan as a state guest from May 25 to 28. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe just visited the US in late April and Trump is scheduled to attend the G20 summit held in Osaka, a Japa-nese city, in June. It's rare for leaders of Japan and the US to meet for three concentive months. Why are they meeting to meet for three consecutive months. Why are they meeting so frequently?

After Trump won the presidential election, Abe was the first foreign leader to meet with Trump. Since May 1, Japan has entered into the Reiwa era. Trump will be the first state leader to visit Japan after Emperor Naruhito's accession to the throne, which shows the importance of Tokyo-Washington alliance.

Trump and Abe do have several issues to discuss. The Korean Peninsula issue is one of them. Japan is concerned with denuclearization process and the issue of kidnapped Japanese nationals. Since tensions on the Korean Peninsula eased in 2018, Japan is the only country of the Six-Party Talks participants which has not held a summit with North Korea. Japan appears to have been relatively marginalized on the Korean issue and its voice and influence has been reduced.

Japan needs US support to realize its goals and to expand its influence on the Korean Peninsula. Before the summits between North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and Trump, Abe raised the abduction issue with Trump. Abe may be hoping to get US approval to explore ways to meet Kim.

Trade talks between the two nations would be another topic of discussion. Japan does not want to be the loser in Japan-US trade talks. Japan may make some concessions, but not many on agriculture, as an upper house election will be held in July, and Abe wants to see his ruling coalition to perform well. The trade war between Beijing and Washington is heating

up, and Japan has \$68 billion trade surplus with the US. If the US cannot effectively reduce its trade deficit with China, it may put pressure on Japan, and ask Tokyo to make concessions.

Japan may expand its investment in the US to relieve the pressure from Washington in the trade talks and get favorable results. For example, when Abe visited Washington in April, he said Japan would invest \$40 billion in the US automobile industry.

In the latest meeting in late May, the US may make a road map for Japan to accelerate the pace for a trade deal. Beijing-Tokyo ties may be another subject. Japan would like

to further cooperate with China. However, it needs to take into consideration the US, and would be concerned if closer cooperation with China would impair Japan-US relations. Since the end of World War II, despite its economic prowess, Tokyo has been unable to get rid of the restrictions and influence of Washington when it comes to diplomacy and politics. Beijing-Washington relations have a significant influence on Tokyo. Japan should try to avoid taking sides. This country needs to balance between the two giants.

Tokyo is dependent on Washington for security, but does not want to provoke China on security matters.

On economy and trade, Japan doesn't want its cooperation with China under the framework of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative to cause concerns in the US. For example, the Japanese delegations to the first and second Belt and Road Forum were led by the secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, Toshihiro Nikai, instead of a cabinet minister.

How to successfully maintain a balance between the Beijing and Washington is a test to Tokyo's strategy and political wisdom

### **Fast economic development** best way to deal with security challenge

**GLOBAL TIMES** — The China-U.S. strategic game has begun to influence the overall situation. Accelerating the pace of unlocking China's economic potential is the key to restraining US arrogance towards China in the long-term.

# Will Hillary Clinton support Biden?

**Significant polls in the Democratic Party** 

Biden's finished far ahead of second-place finisher South Bend, Ind., Mayor Pete Buttigieg who was named by 9 percent of onetime Clinton supporters.Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) each received 8 percent while Clinton's closest 2016 challenger, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), was the pick for 6 percent of the respondents.Seventeen percent of those who once backed the former Secretary of State's 2016 presidential bid said they were undecided about who they preferred in the current Democratic race.

Sanders fared much better among Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents who said they opposed Clinton in 2016, but it appears that the Vermont senator may not be as popular among people who had once supported him.Twenty-seven percent of respondents who said they had previously backed someone other than Clinton said they supported Sanders this time. In the previous Democratic race, Sanders received 43 percent of the primary and caucus ballots that were cast. Among respondents who said that they had backed Sanders in 2016, 39 percent said they were supporting him this time.Biden was the 2020 choice of 21 percent of respondents who had once opposed Clinton. Warren was named by 8 percent of the group. All of the other candidates were named by 3 percent or fewer by the former Clinton opponents. Twenty percent said they had not decided who to support.

The survey was taken online May 17-18 among a statistically representative sample of 448 registered voters who said they were Democrats or independents who favored the Democratic Party. It has a sampling margin of error of 4.6 percentage points and a confidence level of 95 percent. Thirty-three percent of all respondents said they supported Biden to become the nominee, 14 percent backed Sanders, 8 percent preferred Warren, 6 percent Buttigieg and Harris, and 5 percent picked O'Rourke.

In other hand, The hill reported that Nominating former Vice President Joe Biden as the party's candidate to challenge President Trump would represent a rightward turn for Democrats, according to progressive commentator Emma Vigeland, who argued Thursday that Biden's views are "way more conservative" than those of former President Obama.

"The reason Obama picked him as his



running mate in 2008 was because he was going to win over the more conservative faction of the Democratic Party and the faction of the Democratic Party that wasn't cool with a black guy being the nominee," Vigeland, a correspondent and producer at the The Young Turks, told Hill.TV's Jamal Simmons on "What America's Thinking."

"The fact that he's trying to paint this as if he's continuing Obama's legacy -- no, he would actually be way further right than Obama. And his track record for the electorate is going to be a problem." Vigeland added.

Biden played a key role in advancing the 1994 crime bill and has been reluctant to address criticisms over his previous opposition to school integration through busing.National polls consistently show that Biden is the front-runner for the Democratic nomination.

Former Vice President Joe Biden continues to lead an ever-growing pack of Democratic White House hopefuls, according to a Hill-HarrisX poll released Wednesday.The May 17-18 survey found Biden was the preferred pick to become president of 33 percent of registered voters who identified as Democrats or as independents who leaned toward the party.Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) was the choice of 14 percent of respondents. Massachusetts Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren was named by 8 percent followed by mayor Pete Buttigiegand Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) both with 6 percent. Former Rep. Beto O'Rourke was backed by 5 percent of respondents.

None of the other candidates received more than 1 percent support. Several aspirants were not named by any participant: Gov. Steve Bullock (D-Mont.), former Colorado Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper, Gov. Jay Inslee (D-Washington), Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Calif.), former Sen. Mike Gravel (D-Alaska), Florida mayor Wayne Messam, and author Marianne Williamson.

A large number of respondents, 19 percent, were undecided.While she still trails the leading two candidates, Warren's support has increased across several different polls in recent weeks but it has come at Sanders' expense, Emma Vigeland, a correspondent with the progressive video network The Young Turks, told Hill.TV on Wednesday."Warren is rising and rightly so and she's cutting into that Bernie Sanders chunk which I believe is substantial and not going anywhere," she told "What America's Thinking" host Jamal Simmons.

Biden was more popular among women than among men. Thirty-nine percent of female respondents named the former vice president as their choice while 25 percent of male respondents said the same.Sanders was the top choice for Democratic-leaning voters between the ages of 18 and 34 while Biden led among older age groups. Nearly half of respondents (47 percent)

who were 65 and older said the former

veep was their choice. Biden was backed by 42 percent of participants between 50 and 64 and 35 percent of those between 35 and 49. Among respondents who were 34 and younger, Sanders was the top pick of 24 percent. Thirteen percent chose Biden while 11 percent named Warren. The former vice president fared bet-ter among respondents whose annual household income was \$75,000 or greater than among those earning less than that amount.Biden was preferred by 30 percent of respondents in the lower-income group and by 38 percent of respondents in the higher-income cohort.

Sanders was supported by 18 percent of Democratic-leaning voters with incomes less than \$75,000 while only 8 percent of those earning more than this amount supported him. The former vice president was the overwhelming favorite among respondents who classified themselves as "moderate" ideologically with 43 percent backing him. No other candidate received double-digit support from this group.

Biden was also the top pick among respondents who described themselves as politically liberal but by a much closer margin. Of the 221 participants who said they were either "strong" or "lean" liberals, the former veep was named by 28 percent while 17 percent named Sanders and 13 percent chose Warren.

Those findings echo earlier polls which indicate that Democratic voters place a much greater priority on defeating President Trump in 2020 than on ideological agreement. A May 10-11 Hill-HarrisX survey found that 65 percent of Democrats or independents who leaned toward the party said they would pick a candidate they believed had a stronger chance of winning the general election over one who agreed with them on their top policy issue.

A March USA Today-Suffolk University poll had similar findings, as did an April survey commissioned by a Pennsylvania newspaper of registered Democrats living in the state. The latest Hill-HarrisX survey was conducted May 17-18 among a statistically representative online panel of 1,030 registered voters with a 95 percent confidence level and a sampling margin of error of 3.1 percentage points. The 2020 Democratic presidential preference question was asked of a subset of 448 respondents who identified as Democrats or as independents who favored the Democratic Party. The sampling margin of error for the subset is 4.6 percentage points.

# The traditional German parties are in danger

The vague fate of the German coalition government

1 → "People consider me a 'mini,' a copy, a simple 'more of the same,' but I can tell you that I stand here as my own person, just as life has shaped me and of that I am proud," she said.

Angela Merkel has announced that she



in an election on Sunday that could hasten the end of their loveless federal coalition with Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives Polls in Germany's smallest state, focused on the port city of the same name, are tight but indicate the SPD risks losing a stronghold it

In the past year, the US has posed more serious challenges to China's national security and development than China has experienced over the past years.

Unleashing its potential to develop can generate more positive influence on China's domestic governance, further supporting China's national security in its competition with the US.

From such a perspective, we will have new findings. For example, high-quality development may have a richer meaning than what we previously understood. It can support the stability of China's international strategic game and allow China to weather all-round provocations from the US.

Some believe the time for China's rapid economic growth has gone and economic slowdown will be the general trend. If the Chinese people believe this and regard the slowing economy as the basis for future policies, China may fall into passivity.

China has to keep the strongest developing momentum in the world when it comes to composite indicators. We need to take every possible means to maintain China's development posture, lest the rest of the world assume China's development has run out steam.

It will not be easy to sustain the high-paced growth that China has already reached, but we believe China's sustained and rapid development has broad space in the foreseeable future.

For example, the Chinese people are aware that technological innovation can produce new growth. It is unrealistic for every city to establish a research and development center that can have nationwide influence. Most of the economic activities in all societies are about ordinary people's well-being. All regions in China need to tap the potential in developing the local economy and creating more resources for the public's welfare.

Counties and cities at the grassroots-level should be encouraged to think outside the box and explore new models for development without relying too much on infrastructure construction.

As long as all regions prioritize economic work and recognize its political significance, new breakthroughs will be achieved.

China is the most populous country in the world. The Chinese people's per capita income is much higher than Indians'. China's economic potential is far greater than that of the US, the largest economy. There is no doubt that China's economic prospects are the best in the world. These facts drive China's core competitiveness. They will make Washington feel its ability falls short of its wishes when it comes to containing Beijing.

will step down of power in 2021, but the polls conducted in Germany has intensively worried her. The results of these polls indicate that the total popularity of the two traditional German parties, the coalition of the Christian and Social Democrats, have fallen below 50%. This suggests the unpopularity of the coalition government among the German citizens. Merkel now has to run the weak coalition government until 2021!

Many analysts of Europe's affairs believe that Merkel's power is actually over. The Chancellor of Germany is no longer the symbol of power in the United Europe. She has lost the power of managing the power equations in her country. In other words, Merkel has become a "passive player" in Berlin, the European Union and the Eurozone.

This is while Merkel had previously said that she hoped her planned departure would end bitter fighting in her weak and fractious right-left coalition, confessing that "the picture the government is sending out is unacceptable".

Merkel is currently worried about polls in Germany. According to an Infratest dimap survey, the Alternative for Germany (AFD), the Green Party and Liberal Democrats are now increasing their relative popularity to challenge the two ruling parties (Christian Democrats and Social Democrats) and to end the domination of the two traditional German parties on the power equations in Berlin. Undoubtedly, Merkel can't be now regarded as a successful politician at the head of the political and administrative equations of Germany. At the beginning of the German coalition government, many analysts believed that the presence of Social-Democrats alongside the Christian Democrats was a big mistake. The anti-EU and anti-immigration party of "Alternative for Germany" has become the main opposition party in the German

parliament. On the other hand, as the current trend continues and the popularity of the two traditional German ruling parties drops in the polls, they will lose more votes in the upcoming German elections in 2021. What is happening today in Germany is

a big catastrophe for Merkel, the Christian Democrat and, subsequently, the Social-Democratic Party. It's not possible to restore the political power of these two parties in the near future, that is, as long as they are working together in the coalition government of Germany. On the other hand, the political equations in Germany are so complex that none of the traditional German parties will be able to win the majority of seats in the parliament. As a result, a large part of the German authorities' time and energy will be consumed by forming a coalition government (which will be a weak one). This will undermine the position of Germany's leadership in the United Europe. In this sophisticated game, the Alternative for Germany (which the other German parties are unwilling to join) have been struggling to broaden its political and

social popularity. This extremist party hopes that other right-wingers, including French national leader Marin Le Pen, will be able to win good results in the elections and other political platforms in their country, and that their victory will influence Germany.

Merkel is no longer the symbol of Christian Democrats' power in Germany's and Europe's equations. Political history of the German Chancellor as the EU leader has come an end at a time when her substitute (in the event of a relative and fragile victory in the country's next general elections), should devote her power to attempts for the formation of a coalition or minimal government in Berlin. Without a doubt, Angela Merkel never imagined that she would have to permanently withdraw from power in Europe by 2021, as an incapable chancellor.

Meanwhile, the Chancellor of Germany is uncertain about the future of her coalition government before 2021.As The Reuters reported, Voters in the northern state of Bremen look set to inflict a humiliating blow on Germany's Social Democrats (SPD) has ruled for 73 years.

No other German state has been ruled by the same party for so long. If the SPD loses Bremen to the conservative Christian Democrats (CDU), pressure will mount on party leader Andrea Nahles to stand down or break with the federal coalition. In a sign of growing unrest inside the SPD, German weekly Bild am Sonntag reported that former party leader Martin Schulz wants to replace Nahles as chief.

Bremen has the highest jobless level of any German state. Most recent polls suggest there is scope for three outcomes in Bremen: a grand coalition of the SPD and CDU; a coalition of the CDU, Greens and the business-friendly FDP; or a coalition of SPD with the far-left Die Linke party and the Greens.

Many among the SPD's rank and file are fed up with serving as Merkel's allies, a thankless role the party has fulfilled in 10 of the last 14 years and which has left the chancellor to steal the limelight, especially on the international stage. The party reluctantly re-entered a Merkel-led coalition last year after slumping to its weakest level since 1933 in the 2017 federal election. It has since sunk even lower, polling at about 17 percent, more than 10 points behind the conservatives.

The party is due to review the coalition by the end of the year and pressure from members could grow to ditch it and instead reinvigorate its leftist roots in oppositionSuch a move could force a snap federal election, an unappealing option for both the SPD and conservative bloc, or possibly the formation of a different coalition which would be a tricky task.Either of those scenarios could hasten Merkel's exit, a subject of increasing speculation since she handed the CDU leadership to her protege Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer last year.

# Iran and U.S. game, chicken game or prisoner's dilemma?

1 → In order to show Trump a madman or (based on necessity) a man with whom we can negotiate, he uses some people such as John Bolton. He during the time of President Bush presidency had also played this role and now again is playing this role in Trump's presidency period, too. Trump aggressive position creates an unstable and frightening atmosphere for his opponents, especially for Iran. Exactly in such an atmosphere, Trump starts to talk about negotiations in order to pretend that he wants to negotiate but it is Iran that rejects. In this way, he also seeks to make Iran endure damage because of not negotiating. At the same time, the aggressive atmosphere that has been created by Bolton is continued.

The recent example of such action is John Bolton's action according to which he said that Pentagon in order to the "confrontation with Iran" has dispatched "Abraham Lincoln" aircraft carrier to the Persian Gulf. As it became clear earlier sailing this aircraft carrier was planned a long time ago, but Bolton intended to use it to show the situation critical.

"Ilan Goldenberg", the previous chief of Iran program in Pentagon and senior fellow in "New America," think tank believes that the US provocative acts in the region is not anything but trying to influence Iran to change its accumulations.

In response to a title in the New York Times which said: "Pentagon was gathering forces against the potential attack to Iran", he tweeted that it was necessary for media to report the armed deployment in the region with responsibility and avoid to exaggerate about war with Iran, which is the goal of aggressive fractions."

'Goldenberg'' has written: "I was Iran program chief in Pentagon for three years. Such arrays cannot change the game equations extensively. New York Times must not use such a title for dispatching Patriot missile system, especially because over the four previous months the US has dispatched four of such missiles to the outside of the region.'

Paying attention to the US facilities in the international area which can be seen in sanctions imposed on Iran, armed confrontation with Iran can damage it heavily. Although Iran also can revenge by activating regional leverage and threatening it. Professor Nader Entesar believes that, however, the game of diplomatic chicken game can serve President Trump's goal but it will a disastrous game for Iran.

Trump's' behavior towards Iran in another way is like another game in which he pulls Iran near the edge of a cliff and then changes Iran's position according to its own interests.

But considering time scheduling it might lead to sharp weakening or strengthening his presidential campaign. It also depends on the possible successful or unsuccessful deal with China and North Korea.

Paying attention to the damaging effect of the continuance of trade war with China of which Beijing is completely aware and the importance of economic factor for American electors, Trump would try to halt trade war



In the game of "Prisoner's Dilemma" if two prisoners do not attest against each other (cooperate) with each other than both of them gain benefit. But how the US and Iran can trust each other in the current situation?

At first glance cooperation of the two countries may seem impossible but if this game repeats and if the two prisoners have 'detailed" and correct information of each other and each other's intentions then the possibility of cooperation will rise.

with China and compromise with them.

But considering North Korea and Iran the situation is different. These two issues can be bargaining chips in Trump's foreign policy. In this field being able to compromise with North Korea can be a bargaining chip in his foreign policy or at least not considered as his Achilles heel. But the process that negations go through which and Trump's expectations from Pyongyang make a future view of these negotiations vague, especially because Pyongyang knows the significant role of these negations in presidential campaigns very well. If Trump cannot compromise with North Korea, then with the starting of the new campaigns work he will be more fragile considering Iran deal.

In this meanwhile even taking a memorial photo with Iranian officials regarding propaganda can be considered as a big triumph for Trump. However, Trump in this way will not achieve anything special practically and a new potential deal with Iran might not differ significantly with the previous one

Even regarding China, a well-known theorist like "Graham Allison" believes that just a few months ago Chinese carefully studied NAFTA (between the US, Canada, and Mexico) and its success

Even regarding China, a well-known theorist like "Graham Allison" believes that just a few months ago Chinese carefully studied NAFTA (between the US, Canada, and Mexico) and its success and realized that the previous  $% \left( {{{\mathbf{x}}_{i}}} \right)$ NAFTA deal and the recent one are different just by 10 to 15 percent.

So, they understood that changing what Trump calls "the worst trade deal that has ever concluded" to a " big deal" is not a very complicated task. In such a situation, Xi Jinping without anxiety and comfortably can continue its game. In other words, China has already realized that with such a change (10-15 percent) in the current trade situation they can make Trump satisfied. Once one of my Chinese friends told me a long time before Christopher Columbus explored America, Chinese hypocrisy and deceitfulness. Beginning of the presidential electoral

campaign in America help Iran to play this game with Trump more freely. Some believe that even at that time Trump might start a war with Iran. It is unlikely that Trump can operate freely at this point. Especially since he in his presidential campaign had criticized Middle East wars and the funds that the US had devoted to such wars. Thus starting a war on the threshold of the presidential election is just a dangerous gamble for him. Particularly because convincing the public for starting a war with Iran which according to IAEA reports has committed to its commitments is not an easy task. In the game of "Prisoner's Dilemma"

if two prisoners do not attest against each other (cooperate) with each other than both of them gain benefit. But how the US and Iran can trust each other in the current situation? At first glance cooperation of the two countries may seem impossible but if this game repeats and if the two prisoners have 'detailed" and correct information of each other and each other's intentions then the possibility of cooperation will rise.

One of the fields that can help these two countries to have detailed information from each other is international regimes. And Iran nuclear deal as one of such international regime in the field of non-proliferation which was based on the information of IAEA could give the US detailed information about Iran nuclear program, but the US preferred to withdraw from this security regime.

In addition, (with the help of this agreement) the US could find a more detailed and reliable channel than Israel, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and People's Mujahedin of Iran. Each of these countries and groups due to their hostility against Iran pursue their own limited and antagonistic goals towards Iran which are not necessarily in accordance with the US interest. American Iran studies discourse is deficient and disorganized discourse.

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Each of these countries and groups due to their hostility against Iran pursue their own limited and antagonistic goals towards Iran which are not necessarily in accordance with the US interest. American Iran studies discourse is deficient and disorganized discourse. Thus if the US intends to smooth the path of cooperation with Iran in international and regional issues should make some correction to this discourse.

Continuation of "Prisoner's Game" and increase the correct information on both sides provide both countries with the possibility of achieving their utilities and being in a win-win game.

#### **Dangerous for Washington** to exaggerate present danger

INTERNATIONAL DAILY

**TEHRANTIMES** 



#### **By David Skidmore**

**GLOBAL TIMES** — A marker of mature statecraft is the ability to assess international challenges and devise appropriate responses with prudence, dispassion and proportionality. Despite many decades of global leadership, however, American diplomacy remains given to bouts of adolescent hysteria.

This reflex has more to do with domestic politics than the realities of international competition. The Trump administration's alarmist rhetoric about China offers a case in point.

The 2018 National Defense Strategy asserts that as China rises, its leaders seek the "displacement of the United States to achieve global preeminence." Vice President Mike Pence, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and National Security Adviser John Bolton have each issued panicky public assessments of the China threat that appear designed to prepare the American public for the demands of renewed great power confrontation.

President Harry Truman established the model for such 'sky is falling" rhetoric when, on March 12 1947, he sounded the opening bell of the emerging Cold War in a speech to a joint session of Congress. In the days leading up to the speech, Truman considered how to rally the public behind a grand struggle against the Soviet Union. Truman consulted with Senator Arthur Vandenberg, who offered a clear answer - Truman must "scare the hell out of the country" by underlining the communist threat to the American way of life.

The task of whipping up public support for a confrontational foreign policy has never been solely the province of the White House. Arising from World War II, a bipartisan foreign policy establishment - what President Dwight Eisenhower once referred to as the "military-industrial complex" - has mobilized at critical moments to rally support for higher military spending in response to varied purported threats.

The most storied among these was the Committee on the Present Danger (CPD). First established in December 1950, the original CPD consisted of a bipartisan group of national security professionals who sought congressional support for the recommendations of NSC-68, a strategic planning document that called for a tripling of US defense spending.

Whereas the first CPD's aims were in sync with those of the Truman administration, a second CPD launched in 1976 set itself in opposition to the perceived dovishness of both the Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter administrations. The 150 notables that formed the revived CPD sought to undercut détente with the Soviet Union and reverse the military drawdown that followed the Vietnam War.

Stung by these criticisms, outgoing President Ford took the extraordinary step of appointing a "Team B" of conservative defense experts from outside government to prepare a report paralleling the CIA's normal efforts.

Dominated by CPD members, ' Team B produced an a sessment of Soviet capabilities and intentions considerably more pessimistic than that prepared by the CIA's regular "Team A." CIA Director George Bush subsequently ordered "Team A" to "substantially revise its draft" to produce "an estimate that in all its essential points agreed with Team B's position." This paved the way for a series of alarmist intelligence reports that, according to a reappraisal conducted by the CIA in 1983, overstated the Soviet threat. A third iteration of the CPD emerged in 2004 with the mission of rallying the American people to support a campaign against "radical Islamists" who "threaten the safety of the American people and millions of others who prize liberty. The most recent iteration of this group - now called the Committee on the Present Danger: China (CPDC) - was unveiled in Washington DC, on April 9, 2019, featuring remarks by Senator Ted Cruz, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and former Trump White House advisor Steve Bannon. The CPDC claims that Chinese leaders seek to "weaken and ultimately defeat America" and "subvert Western democracies" in order to clear China's path to "global hegemony." While China's rise presents the US with difficult challenges, the over-the-top rhetoric of the current anti-China campaign emanating from both the White House and the CPDC remains vastly exaggerated. The military and ideological threats posed by China today pale in comparison with those posed by the former Soviet Union. Far from seeking to export revolution or overturn the existing international order, China seeks reform of and greater status and influence within that order. In political terms, however, these efforts to once again 'scare the hell out of the country" make perfect sense. Hawkish advocates of increased military spending win domestic support by amplifying public perceptions of external threat. Yet these periodic scare campaigns, by presidents and by groups like the CPDC, pose real dangers. Most obviously, they unnecessarily exacerbate international conflict. Once the public is fully mobilized, moreover, it can be difficult to dial down the fear once a president finds it expedient to do so. At present, there is little indication that the American public is ready to sign up for a Manichean struggle with China. The recent chill in US-China relations could thus give way to a deep freeze that works to the detriment of the peoples of both countries.

## Iran's potentials despite economic sanctions must be realized eventually

 $1 \rightarrow$  Shale oil, however, has not proven to be an economic bonanza. For one thing, it's not a cash flow positive enterprise, and also the wells pumping shale oil rapidly deplete. The various companies doing it are deeply in precarious debt. It has been estimated that 75 or more percent is gone from shale wells within two or three years. (No one can say that about Iran's oil or gas fields, or for that matter, Arabia's, such as the granddaddy of them all onshore, Ghawar, or the offshore Safaniya field to name just two.)

Part of the reason (when energy resources really begin to taper worldwide) the U.S is hit harder is because it has been such a profligate user of oil, and wasted so more of it by subsidizing the oil industry and not using those funds to turn strongly to alternative energy such as wind and solar, or even geothermal and oceanic tidal or current sources. (And of all countries, Iran has an abundance, too, of sunshine and wind to make energy, if it ever wants to exploit that route.) Iran can be energy independent virtually forever, but the U.S.? No way at anywhere near today's levels of greedy usage.

Indeed, according to economist and writer James Howard Kunstler, one must look at both China and the U.S., the world's two largest economies. He compares the two countries to passengers on a sinking ship drifting beyond the reach of salvation on a powerful historical current. "That current," he writes, "is the one telling nations quite literally to mind their own business, to prepare to go their own ways, to strive to somehow become self-sufficient, TO FINALLY FACE THE LIMITS OF GROWTH, TO SIMPLIFY AND DOWNSCALE THEIR OPERATIONS.

In fact, Iran already has a head start in these directions, thanks or no thanks to the imperial U.S. And not having an especially strong economy for now, despite the petroleum riches, Iranians are accustomed to hardships and the necessity for simplification, and probably can survive and deal with hardships in future far better than, for examples, either China, with its huge population just recently enjoying a "middle class" existence, or the U.S. with its insatiable greed.



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And look at Russia. Russia has also been under the lash of U.S. sanctions and even though it supplies Europe with at least 35 or more percent and growing of its energy needs, and outside of Venezuela may have the largest oil reserves of any country, Russia has begun to prosper increasingly by attempting to develop industry and agriculture that makes it possible to reduce dependency on energy sales. Russia has just begun to supply China with soybeans, for one example, to the horror of American farmers, given the extant and growing trade war between the U.S. and China.

Iran's leaders, whoever they are or may become, can over time chart Iran's own way with the same general course Russia is on today: less dependency on a natural resource economy and more on diverse ways to meet the needs of all Iranians and overseas customers in a world that is being forced to do what James Howard Kunstler knows makes sense.

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

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Ms.Sara: 09128103207

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The Tehran Times new pocket-sized glossary is now available on the market. The reader-friendly is a rich source of the most common



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and inform our search for life on Mars and

elsewhere in the universe," said Dr Barbara

Cavalazzi, from the University of Bologna.

very similar to hydrothermal environments

that would have been found on the Red Planet,

including the Gusev Crater, where NASA's

today, a growing body of research shows it

was probably covered in large bodies of water

springs expands our understanding of the limits of habitability on Earth and beyond,'

researchers wrote in the paper, published

derstand how these nanobacteria survive

in such an extreme environment."

that might be hiding beneath.

"However, future work is needed to un-

Both NASA and the European Space

Agency are preparing to send rovers to

They will roam over the surface and look for evidence of life, either in the past or the

present, as well as drilling under the surface

in an attempt to pull up any microbial life

(Source: The Independent)

in Scientific Reports.

Mars in 2020.

between three and four billion years ago.

Spirit Mars Exploration Rover landed.

The area's unusual geochemistry makes it

While the Mars is mostly dry and desolate

"The presence of life in the Dallol hot

# **Discovery in Ethiopian volcano shows** how life could have thrived on Mars

Ultra-small microbes found for the first time in an Ethiopian volcano show how life could have once thrived on Mars.

Researchers found a strain of bacteria living in temperatures of 89C and extreme acidity of pH 0.25 - conditions similar to those found on the red planet when it first formed.

Samples were collected from around Dallol volcano and Danakil Depression in northern Ethiopia, which is one of the hottest and most inhospitable places on Earth.

"This is an exotic, multi-extreme environment, with organisms that need to love high temperature, high salt content and very low pH in order to survive," said lead researcher Dr Felipe Gomez, from the Astrobiology Centre in Spain.

The area is saturated in various salts, including silver chloride, zinc iron sulphide and rock-salt which produce a technicolour landscape of yellows, reds, greens and blues. The team collected thin layers of salt deposits and transported them to Spain in sterile, sealed vials.

They were analyzed using electron microscopy, chemical analysis and DNA sequencing. The team found tiny, spheri-



cal structures within the salt samples were tiny microbes (Nanohaloarchaeles) living in compact colonies. Each microbe was 20 times smaller than the average bacteria.

The Dallol volcano lies 125 meters below sea level and hydrothermal activity is

 $\zeta(z) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^{z}} = \frac{1}{\Gamma(z)} \int_{0}^{\infty} dt \frac{t^{z-1}}{e^{t} - 1}$ 

 $\hat{H} = \frac{1}{1 - e^{-i\hat{p}}} (\hat{x} \, \hat{p} + \hat{p} \, \hat{x}) (1 - e^{-i\hat{p}})$ 

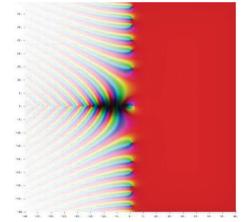
fuelled by water that has been heated by the shallow magma reserve beneath the volcano

"Deep investigation of the characteristics of this amazing site will improve our understanding of the limits of life on Earth

**Origami-inspired materials could soften** 



#### Mathematicians report possible progress on proving the Riemann hypothesis



Researchers have made what might be new headway toward a proof of the Riemann hypothesis, one of the most impenetrable problems in mathematics. The hypothesis, proposed 160 years ago, could help unravel the mysteries of prime numbers.

Mathematicians made the advance by tackling a related question about a group of expressions known as Jensen polynomials, they report May 21 in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. But the conjecture is so difficult to verify that even this progress is not necessarily a sign that a solution is near.

At the heart of the Riemann hypothesis is an enigmatic mathematical entity known as the Riemann zeta function. It's intimately connected to prime numbers — whole numbers that can't be formed by multiplying two smaller numbers — and how they are distributed along the number line. The Riemann hypothesis suggests that the function's value equals zero only at points that fall on a single line when the function is graphed, with the exception of certain obvious points. But, as the function has infinitely many of

Now, mathematician Ken Ono and colleagues have shown that many of these polynomials indeed have real roots, satisfying a large chunk of what's needed to prove the Riemann hypothesis.

"Any progress in any direction related to the Riemann hypothesis is fascinating,' says mathematician Dimitar Dimitrov of the State University of São Paulo. Dimitrov thought "it would be impossible that anyone will make any progress in this direction,' he says, "but they did."

It's hard to say whether this progress could eventually lead to a proof. "I am very reluctant to predict anything," says mathematician George Andrews of Penn State, who was not involved with the study. Many strides have been made on the Riemann hypothesis in the past, but each advance has fallen short. However, with other major mathematical problems that were solved in recent decades. such as Fermat's last theorem, it wasn't clear that the solution was imminent until it was in hand. "You never know when something is going to break."

The result supports the prevailing viewpoint among mathematicians that the

the tension that follows as the cell returns to its normal shape."

Just like origami, these unit cell prototypes are made out of paper. The researchers used a laser cutter to cut dotted lines into paper to designate where to fold. The team folded the paper along the lines to form a cylindrical structure, and then glued acrylic caps on either end to connect the cells into a long chain.

The researchers lined up 20 cells and connected one end to a device that pushed and set off a reaction throughout the chain. Using six GoPro cameras, the team tracked the initial compression wave and the following tension wave as the unit cells returned to normal.

The chain composed of the origami cells showed the counterintuitive wave motion: Even though the compressive pushing force from the device started the whole reaction, that force never made it to the other end of the chain. Instead, it was replaced by the tension force that started as the first unit cells returned to normal and propagated faster and faster down the chain. So the unit cells at the end of the chain only felt the tension force pulling them back. "Impact is a problem we encounter on a daily basis, and our system provides a completely new approach to reducing its effects. For example, we'd like to use it to help both people and cars fare better in car accidents," Yang said. "Right now it's made out of paper, but we plan to make it out of a composite material. Ideally, we could optimize the material for each specific application." Additional co-authors are Hiromi Yasuda, a postdoc at the University of Pennsylvania who completed this research as a UW aeronautics and astronautics doctoral student; Efstathios Charalampidis and Panayotis Kevrekidis at the University of Massachusetts; and Christopher Chong at Bowdoin College. This research was funded by the National Science Foundation, the Office of Naval Research and the Washington Research Foundation. (Source: Science Daily)

#### A family of comets reopens the debate about the origin of Earth's water

Now, however, an international team, bringing together CNRS researchers at the Laboratory for Studies of Radiation and Matter in Astrophysics and Atmospheres (Paris Observatory -- PSL/ CNRS/ Sorbonne University/University of Cergy-Pontoise) and the Laboratory of Space Studies and Instrumentation in Astrophysics (Paris Observatory -- PSL/CNRS/Sorbonne University/ University of Paris), has found that one family of comets, the hyperactive comets, contains water similar to terrestrial water. The study, published in the journal Astronomy & Astrophysics on May 20, 2019, is based in particular on measurements of comet 46P/Wirtanen carried out by SOFIA, NASA's Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy.

According to the standard theory, the Earth is thought to have formed from the collision of small celestial bodies known as planetesimals. Since such bodies were poor in water, Earth's water must have been delivered either by a larger planetesimal or by a shower of smaller objects such as asteroids or comets.

To trace the source of terrestrial water, researchers study isotopic ratios (1), and in particular the ratio in water of deuterium to hydrogen, known as the D/H ratio (deuterium is a heavier form of hydrogen). As a comet approaches the Sun, its ice sublimes (2), forming an atmosphere of water vapor that can be analyzed remotely. However, the D/H ratios of comets measured so far have generally been twice to three times that of ocean water, which implies that comets only delivered around 10% of the Earth's water.

When comet 46P/Wirtanen approached the Earth in Decem-ber 2018 it was analyzed using the SOFIA airborne observatory, carried aboard a Boeing aircraft. This was the third comet found to exhibit the same D/H ratio as terrestrial water. Like the two previous comets, it belongs to the category of hyperactive comets which, as they approach the Sun, release more water than the surface area of their nucleus should allow. The excess is produced by ice-rich particles present in their atmosphere.

Intrigued, the researchers determined the active fraction (i.e. the fraction of the nucleus surface area required to produce the amount of water present in their atmosphere) of all comets with a known D/H ratio. They found that there was an inverse correlation between the active fraction and the D/H ratio of the water vapor: the more a comet tends towards hyperactivity (i.e. an active fraction exceeding 1), the more its D/H ratio decreases and approaches that of the Earth.

Hyperactive comets, whose water vapor is partially derived from icy grains expelled into their atmosphere, thus have a D/H ratio similar to that of terrestrial water, unlike comets whose gas halo is produced only by surface ice. The researchers suggest that the D/H ratios measured in the atmosphere of the latter are not necessarily indicative of the ice present in their nucleus. If this hypothesis is correct, the water in all cometary nuclei may in fact be very similar to terrestrial water, reopening the debate on the origin of Earth's oceans.

(Source: Science Daily)

#### Shy fish no bigger than a pinkie provide much of the food in coral reefs

Nervous little fishes that divers rarely notice could be unexpectedly important to coral reefs. A new study finds that nearly 60 percent of the fish flesh that feeds bigger fishes and other predators on a reef comes from tiny fishes that stick close to crevices and other hiding places.

These tiny species, called cryptobenthic fishes, may not look as if they amount to much among all the fishes swimming around

reefs, says coral reef ecologist Simon Brandl. But new analyses show that these little species are like snack bowls that get quickly replenished. What keeps up the supply of snack-sized fishes is a stay-near-home tendency among many of their larvae, Brandl and colleagues propose online May 23 in Science.



Unlike many larger reef fish

these "zeros," this is not easy to confirm. The puzzle is considered so important and so difficult that there is a \$1 million prize for a solution, offered up by the Clay Mathematics Institute.

But Jensen polynomials might be a key to unlocking the Riemann hypothesis. Mathematicians have previously shown that the Riemann hypothesis is true if all the Jensen polynomials associated with the Riemann zeta function have only zeros that are real, meaning the values for which the polynomial equals zero are not imaginary numbers - they don't involve the square root of negative 1. But there are infinitely many of these Jensen polynomials.

Studying Jensen polynomials is one of a variety of strategies for attacking the Riemann hypothesis. The idea is more than 90 years old, and previous studies have proved that a small subset of the Jensen polynomials have real roots. But progress was slow, and efforts had stalled.

Riemann hypothesis is correct. "We've made a lot of progress that offers new evidence that the Riemann hypothesis should be true,' says Ono, of Emory University in Atlanta.

If the Riemann hypothesis is ultimately proved correct, it would not only illuminate the prime numbers, but would also immediately confirm many mathematical ideas that have been shown to be correct assuming the Riemann hypothesis is true.

In addition to its Riemann hypothesis implications, the new result also unveils some details of what's known as the partition function, which counts the number of possible ways to create a number from the sum of positive whole numbers. For example, the number 4 can be made in five different ways: 3+1, 2+2, 2+1+1, 1+1+1+1, or just the number 4 itself.

The result confirms an earlier proposition about the details of how that partition function grows with larger numbers. "That was an open question ... for a long time," Andrews says. (Source: sciencenews.org) you, it's no longer pushing. It's pulling," said corresponding author Jinkyu Yang, a UW associate professor of aeronautics and astronautics.

Space vehicles like SpaceX's Falcon 9 are

designed to be reusable. But this means that,

like Olympic gymnasts hoping for a gold

medal, they have to stick their landings.

Landing is stressful on a rocket's legs because they must handle the force from

the impact with the landing pad. One

way to combat this is to build legs out of

materials that absorb some of the force

ers have developed a novel solution to help reduce impact forces -- for poten-

tial applications in spacecraft, cars and

beyond. Inspired by the paper folding

art of origami, the team created a pa-

per model of a metamaterial that uses

folding creases" to soften impact forces

and instead promote forces that relax

stresses in the chain. The team published

its results May 24 in Science Advances.

made of this material and something hit

the helmet, you'd never feel that hit on

your head. By the time the energy reaches

"If you were wearing a football helmet

University of Washington research-

and soften the blow.

Yang and his team designed this new metamaterial to have the properties they wanted.

<sup>4</sup>Metamaterials are like Legos. You can make all types of structures by repeating a single type of building block, or unit cell as we call it," he said. "Depending on how you design your unit cell, you can create a material with unique mechanical properties that are unprecedented in nature."

The researchers turned to the art of origami to create this particular unit cell.

Origami is great for realizing the unit cell," said co-author Yasuhiro Miyazawa. a UW aeronautics and astronautics doctoral student. "By changing where we introduce creases into flat materials, we can design materials that exhibit different degrees of stiffness when they fold and unfold. Here we've created a unit cell that softens the force it feels when someone pushes on it, and it accentuates

species, the young of cryptoben thic fishes are more likely to linger close to their parents' home reef, the researchers found by



combing through decades of data on what species of fish larvae get caught where. Many of the larger reef fishes have young that take longer, dangerous journeys in open water. But the cryptobenthic young stand a better chance of making it to adulthood by sticking close to the reef, where they quickly replace parents that get snacked, the team says.

It's easy to overlook these snack-bowl bits of flesh among all the bigger, showy reef fishes. "You'd just perhaps notice them as these little flashes of red, white and yellow that kind of skedaddle to safety," says Brandl, of Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, Canada.

In an earlier study, he and colleagues defined the group as 17 families of fish species, including gobies and blennies. In these families, at least 10 percent of known species measure less than 5 centimeters long, roughly as long as a pinkie finger. The majority of these little species are smaller, Brandl says.

He and colleagues got a sense of the fishes' numbers in surveys on reefs in Australia, Belize and French Polynesia. The researchers fenced off sample plots, released clove oil and then collected every fish in a plot that succumbed to the oil's anesthetic effects.

With this and other data, the researchers created computer simulations of spawning, larval return and adult replacement. In the end, these shy fishes provide a lot of prey for the bigger, showier predators.

That role is "hugely important," says Deron Burkepile, a community ecologist at the University of California, Santa Barbara. "We've definitely overlooked these little cryptobenthic species."

The new study fits into efforts to understand how coral reefs can be so densely packed with life on seafloor stretches with sparse nutrients. The answer that's emerging shows that some species in reefs, such as sponges and plankton-eating fishes, are very good at pulling nutrients out of the thin soup of seawater. Once reefs collect those nutrients, fishes eating each other and peeing and pooping help hold those nutrients tight.

Recognizing the importance of crytobenthic fishes raises new worries about climate change, Burkepile says. Many of these tiny fishes need corals to survive, which are becoming an imperiled habitat due to warming temperatures.

(Source: sciencenews.org)

## Technology firm Maxar for lunar platform project picked

NASA has picked space technology company Maxar Technologies Inc as the first contractor to help build its Gateway platform in lunar orbit, a crucial outpost for America's mission to relay astronauts to the moon in 2024, the U.S. agency said on Thursday.

Shares of Westminster, Colorado-based Maxar jumped more than 20% following the announcement by NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine at a meeting sponsored by a Florida college.

The firm-fixed price award carries a maximum total value of \$375 million, NASA said in a news release.

The Trump administration has made a return to the moon a high priority for the U.S. space program, saying the mission would establish a foundation for an eventual



journey to put humans on Mars.

Vice President Mike Pence's March 26 announcement that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration plans to build a space platform in lunar orbit and put American astronauts on the moon's south pole by 2024 "by any means necessary," four years earlier than previously planned.

Maxar Technologies, formerly SSL, will develop power, propulsion and communications components for the lunar mobile command and service module, NASA said.

The power and propulsion element is a 50-kilowatt solar electric propulsion spacecraft, three times more powerful than current capabilities, NASA said.

(Source: Reuters)



MAY 29, 2019

# **Chinese tourism to U.S. drops**

for first time in 15 years

INTERNATIONAL DAILY

**TEHRANTIMES** 

After more than a decade of rapid growth, Chinese travel to the U.S. is falling. And that has cities, malls and other tourist spots scrambling to reverse the trend.

Travel from China to the U.S. fell 5.7 percent in 2018 to 2.9 million visitors, according to the National Travel and Tourism Office, which collects data from U.S. Customs forms. It was the first time since 2003 that Chinese travel to the U.S. slipped from the prior year.



Friction between the U.S. and China is one reason for the slowdown. The Trump administration first imposed tariffs on Chinese solar panels and washing machines in January 2018, and the trade war has escalated from there. The U.S. now has a 25 percent tariff on \$200bn worth of Chinese imports, while China has retaliated with tariffs on \$60bn of U.S. imports.

Last summer, China issued a travel warning for the U.S., telling its citizens to beware of shootings, robberies and high costs for medical care. The U.S. shot back with its own warning about travel to China.

Wang Haixia, who works at an international trade company in Beijing, traveled to the U.S. in May for her sister's graduation. She and her family planned to spend 10 days in Illinois and New York

Wang says she might have stayed longer but doesn't want to contribute to the U.S. economy amid the trade war.

'I cannot cancel this trip because I promised my sister I would go to her commencement," she said. "My relatives will contribute more than 100,000 Chinese yuan (\$14,481) to America just staying for 10 days, and that's enough."

There are other reasons behind the slowdown. Economic uncertainty in China has travelers at the lower end of the market vacationing closer to home, says Wolfgang Georg Arlt, director of the Chinese Outbound Tourism Research Institute, which found that 56 percent of travelers leaving China in the last three months of 2018 went to Hong Kong, Macau or Taiwan compared with 50 percent in 2017. Those who do travel farther are seeking out more exotic destinations like Croatia, Morocco and Nepal. Chinese travel to the U.S. had already been moderating from

its breakneck pace earlier this decade. Most industry-watchers agree that any downturn is tempo-

rary, since China's middle class will only continue to expand. The U.S. government forecasts Chinese tourism will grow two percent this year to 3.3 million visitors, and will reach 4.1 million visitors in 2023.

(Source: Aljazeera)

## **ROUND THE GLOBE Palace and Gardens of** Schonbrunn

The Palace and Gardens of Schonbrunn is outstanding as one of the most impressive and well-preserved Baroque ensembles of its kind in Europe. The UNESCO-World Heritage is located in Austria.

Additionally, it is a potent material symbol of the power and influence of the House of Habsburg over a long period of European history, from the end of the 17th to the early 20th century.



# Iran exempts inbound tour operators from VAT

**TOURISM** d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iranian travel agencies have travel agencies have been exempted from value-added tax (VAT) in order to encourage the county's budding tourism sector.

VAT has been waived for travel agencies taking [package] tours to Iran upon the order of First Vice-President Es'haq Jahangiri in a bid to increase the number of foreign tourists visiting the country, CHTN reported.

The decision was made upon a proposal by Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization Director, Ali Asghar Mounesan, the report said.

The arrival of travelers to the country is one of the most important instances of service exports. Please find a solution to help this channel work in progress in the current situation that other channels for export of commodities are facing problems," Mounesan wrote in a letter to Jahangiri

In December 2017, Ebrahim Pourfaraj,





"International [tourism] companies accuse us of deception and abuse of state regulations to enforce this tax," he said in an address to cultural officials, lawmakers and travel associates from both state and private sectors.

Pourfaraj also warned policymakers about the vows of 166 travel agencies which had cautioned to stop organizing tours to Iran if the tax is not abolished.

Iran expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots, including 22 ones that have been placed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. The country has launched extensive

plans to bolster its tourism sector. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, it aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.



## Iran plans to form think tank for tourism

TOURISM TEHRAN — Iran's Cultural Heritage, d e s k Handicrafts and Tourism Organization plans to form a think tank to jumpstart tourism sector across the ancient land, CHHTO deputy director said on Tuesday.

"The Organization, as trustee of the country's tourism sector, has to exploit potential of creative and innovative people to develop the sector. In this regard, based on the predictions made, we aim to make the best use of travel-associated experts by establishing a think tank and opening the door to intellectuals," Vali Teymouri said, CHTN reported.

Through establishing the think tank, we are pursuing to develop such structures based on which we would be able to connect the sector to universities and the market."

International travelers spent some \$11.8 billion in the Islamic Republic over the past Iranian calendar year 1397 (ended March 20), based on data compiled by the CHHTO.

The number of international tourists visiting Iran surged 52.5 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1397 from a year earlier.

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

The 2019 Travel Risk Map, which shows the risk level around the world, puts Iran among countries with "insignificant risk", a category where the UK, Denmark, Switzerland, Norway, and Finland are placed in.

## Maranjab Desert gets first mobile phone network

TOURISM TEHRAN — Maranjab k Desert has got its first mobile phone network, enabling natives and travelers to use cell phones and Internet across the scenic Iranian desert. Mobile coverage expanded to Maranjab Desert upon the order of Information

and Communication Technology (ICT) Minister Seyyed Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi, Mehr reported on Tuesday.

"Here is the rooftop of Maranjab Caravanserai, a caravanserai in the middle of the desert with infinitely beautiful and lovely sky knights... a pristine place for tourism," Azari Jahromi wrote on his Instagram account.

"Unfortunately, and from time to time, we heard news of losses and disappearance of tourist groups in Maranjab. Aran-Bidgol's people requested the Ministry for the mobile phone coverage. Their request was granted and finally Maranjab is covered by the mobile network. I suggest to visit the beauty of Kashan, especially this spring, and make sure to visit Maranjab.<sup>3</sup>

Maranjab is also popular for off-road-ing. An entry to the barren desert can be found some 50 km north-east Aran-Bidgol, in Isfahan province.

The desert is surrounded with a salt lake from the north, Band-e Rig Desert and National Park from the east, Masileh Desert. Hoz-e sultan and Moreh Lakes from the west and eventually Aran-Bidgol from the south.



Maranjab is a popular place for off-roading.

## Beijing is building hundreds of airports as millions of Chinese take to the skies

When China's air industry hits the news, stories are typically centered on passengers going rogue, punching each other, trying to wrestle open emergency doors mid-takeoff



According to the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC), in 2018, Chinese airports handled 1.264 billion passengers, up 10.2% over 2017, with 37 of the country's

It is impossible to separate the gardens from the palace, of which they form an organic extension: this is an excellent example of the concept of Gesamtkunstwerk, a masterly fusion of many art forms.

A small hunting lodge and later summer residence of the Habsburg family was rebuilt after total destruction during the last Turkish attack in 1683. During construction work the project was expanded into an Imperial summer residence of the court. As such it represents the ascent and the splendor of the Habsburg Empire.

At the peak of Habsburg power at the beginning of the 18th century, when imperial Vienna following the Turkish reflected its regained significance in spectacular examples of newly developing Baroque art, Schonbrunn was one of the most important building projects of the capital and residency.

The ample Baroque gardens with their buildings (Gloriette, Roman ruins etc.) and statuary testify to the palace's imperial dimensions and functions. The original intention, when they were laid out in the 18th century, was to combine the glorification of the House of Habsburg with a homage to nature.

The Orangery on the east side of the main palace building is, at 186 m, the longest in the world. The Great Palm House is an impressive iron-framed structure, 114 m long and divided into three Sections, erected in 1880 using technology developed in England.

(Source: UNESCO)

or dangerously tossing coins into airplane engines for luck.

While alarming and fascinating in equal measure, these headlines conceal another tale -- one of a country undergoing a breakneck expansion into the world of flying as its people take to the sky in rapidly increasing numbers.

In the space of barely more than a decade, China has transformed from a nation where few had ever experienced air travel to one where millions of its citizens are flying not only across their own vast territory, but to destinations around the world.

Such is the pace of China's ascension to the jet age that stories of wayward passengers are perhaps inevitable -- even if they obscure the fact that many air journeys in China are incident free.

But there's more to come. Much. much more

#### World's largest aviation market

Even as China is on course to overtake the United States as the world's biggest air travel market within the next three years, the country's hunger for aviation seems set to continue growing exponentially.

To sate that hunger, the government has embarked on an airport building program on a scale rarely witnessed before anywhere. Billions upon billions of dollars are being poured into runways and terminals that will plug the entire country directly into the global transport network.

China currently has around 235 airports, but with many lacking the capacity to sustain the coming increase in passenger numbers and flights, government officials estimate around 450 airports will be needed across the country by 2035.

That's the same year aviation analysts predict China will be handling a quarter of all the world's air passengers.

A view of the Beijing Daxing International Airport

Cheung Kwok Law, director of policy at the Chinese University of Hong Kong's Aviation Policy and Research Centre, tells CNN Travel Beijing's super-heated expansion into aviation is aimed at future-proofing against demand but also to generate economic growth.

"The government is really looking ahead." he says, "not only to meet the current demand but to stimulate future demand for air transportation."

While much of this expansion is taking place in cities and districts that many people outside of China or Asia may never have heard of, it's also highly visible in Beijing, where construction on the multibillion-dollar Daxing International Airport has just entered its final phase, with the first round of flight tests taking place on May 14.

As we move towards the third decade of the 21st century, airport superhubs are nothing new. But Beijing's sprawling creation -- designed by the late architect Zaha Hadid and her Chinese partners -- is almost breathtaking in its ambition.

Due to open in September of 2019, it will feature four runways and a terminal the size of 97 soccer pitches.

China's capital has long been in need of

a second global gateway.

Handling more than 100 million passengers in 2018, Beijing's existing Capital International Airport is now the second busiest airport in the world after Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport and is hitting full capacity.

When the new Daxing Airport opens, Beijing Capital will not close. Instead it will continue to handle airlines like Air China and Hainan Airlines, giving the city an extra boost of capacity as the number of air travelers shows no sign of abating.

#### Where are the airports needed most?

While China's plan to build more than 200 airport facilities may seem extraordinary, it is the speed rather than the scale of this ambition that is remarkable. It still pales beside the 5,000 public airports serving US towns, cities and communities.

"I don't think the expansion of airports is excessive at all," says Law.

"There are three international airports in New York and five in London; Beijing will open its second airport this year. Shanghai, with over 20 million people, will construct its third airport and Guangzhou, with 17 million people, will construct its second airport."

airports handling over 10 million passengers in a year.

At present an average of eight new airports are opening in the country every year, while some facilities are being expanded and upgraded -- but there are concerns within China that those already open are failing to meet modern expectations.

"Service has improved substantially, but existing airports are far from adequate and are unevenly distributed throughout the country,' Dong Faxin, director of CAAC's development and planning department, said in a report issued late last year outlining China's airport construction ambitions.

A large chunk of the upcoming facilities will be located in the Yangtze River Delta region, the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area, as well as the Chongqing and Chengdu city clusters.

These are the areas with the highest populations but rely on a few hub airports to handle all passenger traffic. In the coming years, they will each have new worldclass airports for their individual centers of population.

Chengdu Tianfu International Airport, for example, will open in 2020. It'll be Chengdu's second aviation hub, easing the pressure on busy Shuangliu International Airport.

New airports will also be built in China's west, where there are currently fewer facilities. This will aid the development of this region both for business and tourism but also further Beijing's push to exert its influence over far-flung regions.

"The mainland government has a very clear development strategy to promote the economic development in the less developed areas and locations like the western and northeastern parts of China," says Law. (Source: CNN)

## Can Aspirin cut the chances of gastrointestinal cancer?

**H E A L T H TEHRAN** — Iranian researchers have started a 10-year study to realize if Aspirin usage can lower the risk of developing gastrointestinal cancer.

Gastrointestinal cancers include colorectal cancer, stomach (or gastric) cancer, liver cancer, pancreatic cancer, esophageal cancer, and small intestine cancers, among others.

The study started five years ago in the city of Ardebil, said Dr. Reza Malekzadeh, the head of Digestive and Liver Disease Research Department in Tehran University of Medical Science.

"Up to now, 15,000 people have been screened, and 3,000 more needed to be studied in coming years," IRNA quoted Malekzadeh as saying on Saturday.

"If the study shows conclusive evidence that the usage of Aspirin can lower the risk of gastric cancers, we can start prescribing it for many people," he said.

Malekzadeh further noted that consuming too much salt can increase the risk of gastrointestinal cancers, but unfortunately Iranians' salt intake is twice the world standards.

A large-scale study by Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2017 revealed that the long-term use of aspirin cuts the chances of developing digestive cancers almost in half.

In January, the Iranian Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Society announced that there is an estimated 900,000 cancer cases in Iran.

Gastric, breast, lung and brain cancers are the most commons in the country.



If the study shows conclusive evidence that the usage of Aspirin can lower the risk of gastric cancers, we can start prescribing it for many people.

## PRP no longer a costly therapy

**H E A L T H** d e s k TEHRAN — Platelet-rich plasma (PRP) therapy is no longer an expensive treatment in Iran, said the CEO of an Iranian knowledge-based company which can now produce PRP kits.

According to Mohammad-Hossein Arjangian, Iran has now become the third producer of PRP kits in the world after the United States and Germany, IRNA reported on Saturday.

PRP is a concentrate of platelet-rich plasma protein derived from whole blood, centrifuged to remove red blood cells.

PRP has been investigated and used for chronic tendinitis, osteoarthritis, in oral sur-

gery, and in plastic surgery. Tentative evidence supports its use in osteoarthritis (OA) of the knee.

According to Arjangian, the kit was produced after a year of study in cooperation with Tehran



University of Medical Science. "The price of the homegrown PRP kit is

one-tenth of the similar foreign products," Arjangian noted. "With using this kit, the Platelet Gel is de-

rived from umbilical cord and then is used for treatment of conditions such as Epidermolysis bullosa (EB) and burning scars."

"This kit is now exported to Italy and is among the top five of such products in the world," he added.

### **Crimean-Congo fever prevalence cut to half**

**HEALTH TEHRAN** — The prevalence of Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever in the country has reduced to half, said the Director of Communicable Diseases Department at the Ministry of Health. According to Mohammad Mahdi

Guya, since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21), 12 people have been diagnosed with Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever, while 25 cases were reported in the same period last year.

Two of the 12 people died and the rest were thoroughly cured, IRIB quoted Guya as saying on Sunday.

The disease was spotted in the cities of Iranshahr, Zabol, Kermanshah and Bandarabbas as well as Gilan province, Guya said. Annually, some 100 to 150 cases of Crimean-Congo fever are reported in Iran.

In July, MP Mohammad Javad Jamali said that smuggled livestock which enter the country from eastern borders is one of the main reasons behind Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever.

According to World Health Organization, the Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus causes severe viral hemorrhagic fever outbreaks.

CCHF outbreaks have a case fatality rate of up to 40%.

The virus is primarily transmitted to people from ticks and livestock animals. Human-to-human transmission can occur resulting from close contact with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids of infected persons.

#### Foreign speakers to attend Intl. Hypnosis Congress

H E A L T H<br/>d e s kTEHRAN — A total of 80 speakers from foreign<br/>countries will attend the first Asian HypnosisCongress and the 5th International Hypnosis Congress from<br/>October 15 to 18 in Mashhad, ISNA reported on Monday.<br/>Up to now, speakers from 22 countries including Japan, Indo-

nesia, Armenia, Turkey, France and Germany have applied to attend the event, the secretary of the congress Mehdi Fat'hi told ISNA.

A total of 160 foreign guests will also attend the event and it is anticipated that over 150 articles will be submitted to the event, he said.



Several panels and workshops will be held on the sidelines of the congress, he said. The topics of the congress are

history of hypnosis, theories & applications, hypnosis in psycho-

therapy, hypnosis in medicine and dentistry, hypnotic anesthesia and analgesia cultural aspects of hypnosis, neuro-psychophysiology of hypnosis, perception, cognition and models of brain mapping, hypnosis and technology, hypnosis and philosophy of mind

#### Neck cracking and stroke: how risky is it?

The story about the 28-year-old Oklahoma man who had a stroke after stretching his sore neck has gone viral recently, and now, thankfully, a happy ending is in sight.

Josh Hader, a husband and father of two, says he is walking better now, and his vision is getting back to normal, too. He's hoping to get back to his full-time work as an account manager at a computer company later this month and put the ordeal that began March 14 behind him.

His experience has fueled an important discussion about neck cracking or stretching: Is it safe, or can it hurt you?

Neck Cracking: Relief or Risky?

The link between neck cracking and stroke does exist, at least for some, neurologists say. "In general, you can't generate enough force or movement on your own to cause a tear of the blood vessel, which ultimately is what probably causes the stroke," says Doojin Kim, MD, co-medical director of the stroke program at UCLA Medical Center in Santa Monica, CA. He did not treat Hader but spoke in general about neck cracking. He says that 'in some, their genetics may make their blood vessels a little more fragile or their connective tissue a little more pliable. So, in general, I recommend patients don't do it."

"The risk of cracking is not entirely understood," says Steven Messe, MD, associate professor of neurology at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine in Philadelphia, who also spoke in generalities. "The vertebral arteries run into the bones of the spinal column of the neck," he says, and "you can potentially end up blocking that artery when you crack your neck."

Messe tells people to avoid neck cracking if possible, "because there may be a small risk" of a dissection, or tear in the lining of an artery.

However, Keith Overland, DC, who has a chiropractic practice in Norwalk, CT, and is a past president of the American Chiropractic Association, says that if neck cracking is done very rarely, "It's not bad." But people should not make a habit of it.



# Antibiotics may help curb Alzheimer's symptoms

Research showed that an antibiotic mix impacted the gut bacteria in mice to the point that it slowed the growth and development of Alzheimer's, but only in males. New research in mice suggests that

antibiotics may reduce Alzheimer's symptoms by impacting the gut bacteria.

The study, conducted at The University of Chicago, IL, demonstrated how long-term antibiotic use could reduce inflammation and slow the growth of amyloid plaques in male mice.

Amyloid plaques are a feature specific to Alzheimer's disease. They form when a particular protein within the neurons of the brain buildup and clump together. These amyloid plaques disrupt brain cell function and lead to the symptoms of Alzheimer's.

The team was led by Professor Sangram S. Sisodia, who is also the director of the Center for Molecular Neurobiology at The University of Chicago.

The team was already aware that people



PPS1-21 male mice that had not received the antibiotics into those that had received the long-term antibiotic treatment.

The team found that this reestablished the gut microbiome, which in turn, resulted in an increased amyloid plaque formation and activation of microglia.

Alzheimer's signs and symptoms

Alzheimer's disease is not a normal part of aging, although researchers note that increasing age is one of the most significant risk factors for developing the disease.

# **Breastfeeding reduces child obesity risk** by up to 25%, WHO finds

The WHO recommends that mothers should exclusively breastfeed for six months if they can.

Breastfeeding can cut the chances of a child becoming obese by up to 25%, according to a major study involving 16 countries.

World Health Organisation (WHO) experts who led the Europe-wide research are calling for more help and encouragement to women to breastfeed, as well as curbs on the marketing of formula milk which, said senior author Dr João Breda, misled women into thinking breast was not necessarily better.

"We need to see more measures to encourage breastfeeding, like properly paid maternity leave," said Breda from the WHO European Office for Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases.

"We need less inappropriate marketing of formula milk, which may lead some mothers to believe it is as good for babies as breast milk." The research found more than 77% of children across Europe were breastfed, but rates varied widely. In Ireland, 46% of mothers had never breastfed and in France, that was nearly 34%. WHO recommends that women should exclusively breastfeed for six months, if they can. The data came from nearly 30,000 children monitored as part of the WHO Childhood Obesity Surveillance initiative (Cosi). Launched in 2007, Cosi is continuously being updated and now receives data from about 40 countries on children aged six to nine – though not the UK, which measures children in school at around aged four and 11. UK breastfeeding rates are low. Although 81% of mothers in the UK begin to breastfeed, by six weeks that has fallen to 24% in England, 17% in Wales and 13% in Northern Ireland according to the latest data, from 2010. Obesity rates among children breastfed for varying periods found by new Europe-wide WHO study In absolute terms, 16.8% of children who were never breastfed were obese, compared with 13.2% who had been breastfed at some time and 9.3% of children breastfed for six months or more. After adjustment for demographics, children who were never breastfed were 22% more likely to be obese and those who had been breastfed for less than six months were 12% more likely to be obese than children who were breastfed for six months. The protection for children who were exclusively breastfed for six months – with no formula or weaning foods involved - was even higher, at



WHO's paper, presented at the

European Congress on Obesity in

Glasgow and published in the journal

Obesity Facts, says there are a number

of reasons breastfeeding would protect

children from obesity. Exclusive

breastfeeding delays the introduction

of solid food, which may be high in

energy. There is also some evidence

that babies fed formula have higher insulin levels in their blood which can

But other factors could include

healthier lifestyles among families

stimulate fat deposition.

with Alzheimer's showed changes in their gut bacteria, and they had previously carried out studies showing how gut bacteria could potentially affect Alzheimer's-like symptoms in rodents.

This research found that changes to the microbiome limited the development of amyloid plaques in male mice, but not females.

Sisodia says of the research that "[w] hile compelling, our published studies on the role of the gut microbiome on amyloid plaque formation were limited to a single strain of mice."

## Studying antibiotics and Alzheimer's

So, Prof. Sisodia and colleagues conducted a new study on a mouse model of Alzheimer's disease, that scientists call APPPS1-21. They used an antibiotic combination to see how it affected the formation of amyloid plaques and the activation of microglia in the rodents' brains. Microglia are immune cells that can cause inflammation in the brain when activated.

Prof. Sisodia and his team found that long-term antibiotic use affected the microbiome of male and female mice differently.

The researchers discovered that the antibiotics reduced the growth of amyloid plaques and changed microglia into a form that helps keep the brain healthy — but only in male mice.

For females, the gut microbiome changes affected their immune system, which increased the production of factors that could boost microglia activation. This did not happen in male mice.

The results appear in the Journal of Experimental Medicine.

To confirm their findings, the researchers transplanted fecal material from AP- There is a possibility that genetics could play a role as well. Some research also suggests that Alzheimer's may have connections to a variety of other health and lifestyle factors, such as obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure, and diabetes.

Alzheimer's is a disease that gets progressively worse over time. Most people who develop this disease experience memory problems at the outset, which can manifest themselves in many ways.

This type of memory loss can interfere with daily life. As the disease progresses, people with Alzheimer's might repeat questions or get easily lost. They may also experience trouble handling money and paying the bills or have difficulty completing routine tasks at home or work.

Also, the disease might impair their judgment, and some may experience mood or behavior changes.

## Translating the findings to human patients

There is currently no cure for Alzheimer's disease, but there are some treatments available to help people manage symptoms and others that slow down the progression of the disease.

However, research is ongoing to find a cure or treatment that halts the advancement of the disease.

This new study is promising, but the scientists need to do further research to uncover what benefit, if any, it might impart to humans.

"Our study shows that antibiotic-mediated perturbations of the gut microbiome have selective, sex-specific influences on amyloid plaque formation and microglial activity in the brain. We now want to investigate whether these outcomes can be attributed to changes in any particular type of bacteria," said Prof. Sangram S. Sisodia. *(source: medical news today)*  where women breastfeed, acknowledged Breda. Whatever the reasons, women should be told that breastfeeding protects against obesity, he said. "Breastfeeding has a really strong protective effect. The evidence is there. The benefit is outstanding so we should be telling people."

Kate Brintworth, head of maternity transformation at the Royal College of Midwives, said the study reinforced the need to put more resources into supporting women to breastfeed.

"We need both more specialist breastfeeding support for women after the birth and more time for midwives to offer the support women are telling us they need," she said.

"We know that in the postnatal period many women are saying they don't feel midwives and midwifery support workers have the time to give them the support that would enable many more to continue breastfeeding.

"However, it is important that we respect a woman's infant feeding choices, and that if a woman chooses not to breastfeed, for whatever reason, she will need to be supported in that choice."

Sue Ashmore, director of the Unicef UK's Baby Friendly initiative which accredits maternity hospitals and other services that support women to breastfeed to a high standard, said: "Human milk – breast milk – is specifically designed for human babies. Not only does it act as baby's first vaccine, protecting against infections, but it also affects long-term health, including acting as the first defence against the epidemic of obesity.

(Source: the guardian)

But Overland acknowledges that "it becomes a habit" for some, and they crack their neck multiple times a day.

And some people may have a condition or a genetic weakness, he agrees, and the cracking could strain the neck too much.

Professional Neck Manipulation: Safe or Risky?

So much for do-it-yourself neck cracking. What about the cervical manipulative therapy, or CMT, done by chiropractors, osteopaths, and physical therapists? It involves applying a thrust to the neck and cervical spine. In a scientific statement issued in 2014, the American Heart Association-American Stroke Association concluded that moving the neck in this way has been linked with cervical dissection, a tear in the artery that can lead to a blood clot and a stroke.

A direct cause-and-effect link has not been established, but the Heart Association-Stroke Association statement recommends that health care providers tell patients of the risk before they have neck manipulation.

In response, Overland cites a study in which researchers looked at the force applied during spinal manipulation, working on cadavers, and found the strain unlikely to damage the artery.

Patients who have a stroke after having their neck manipulated may already have been at risk for stroke, Overland says. The therapy can help neck issues in carefully selected patients, he says, but he would not do it on a patient who already had visual disturbances, severe headaches, or sudden dizziness.

#### Josh Hader's Story

Hader is giving up neck stretching. If his neck is sore, he won't touch it. He didn't twist his neck at all before his stroke happened, he says, just stretched it a bit to relieve soreness after hours of working at the computer. "I tried to put my right ear to my right shoulder and applied a little pressure with my hand," he says.

That's when he heard a pop, and everything went wrong. "My whole left side started to go numb," he remembers. "I used to be a police officer, so I knew it could be a stroke."

He went to the kitchen to get an ice pack, but he was walking at a 45-degree angle. He called his wife, Rebecca, who wasn't at home. She called his father-in-law, who loaded him into a car and got him to the nearby ER quickly.



#### **Relief foundation creates over** 1.5m jobs for the deprived in 7 years

**SOCIETY TEHRAN** – Imam Khomeini Relief Foundae s k tion has generated over 1.5m job opportunities for those financially struggling since the past 7 years, Hojatollah Abdolmaleki, the Foundation's deputy director has announced. Job generation for the underprivileged is among the most

important and tough responsibilities of the Foundation, he stated, YJC reported on Monday.



Since Iranian calendar year of 1390 (March 2011- March 2012) to 1396 (March 2017- March 2018), the Foundation has earmarked 100 trillion rials (nearly \$2.4 billion) to open up over 1.4 million job opportunities in order to facilitate income generation for the deprived, he explained.

He went on to add that last year (March 2018-March 2019), a total of 148,000 jobs were created by the Foundation's budget of 23 trillion rials (around \$547 million).

Last year, some 495,000 families have become financially independent and no longer under the Foundation coverage, he highlighted.

This year, we intend to support 5,000 business plans, he said, stating that there are over 200,000 knowledge-based business plans are awaiting support and fund.

#### **IRGC, Welfare Organization** to build over 5,000 houses for the underprivileged

**SOCIETY TEHRAN** — The Islamic Revolutionary Guard d e s k Corps (IRGC) will cooperate with the Welfare Organization to construct some 5,252 housing units for those in financial distress, Vahid Qobadi Dana, Welfare Organization's director has announced.



"We signed a memorandum of understanding in this regard," he further stated, Tasnim news agency reported on Thursday. The houses are under construction in provinces of Khorasan Razavi and South Khorasan, Sistan-Baluchestan, Kerman, West Azarbaijan, Kordestan, Khuzestan and Hormozgan, he added. He went on to explain that each of those receiving the housing units will be provided with a low-interest loan amounting to 200 million rials (nearly \$4,700), and the rest of the houses' cost will be partially paid by the IRGC and the Organization.

So far, some 3,000 units are being built through the first phase of the plan, while the rest will be provided through the second phase, he concluded.

# Why DOE consents to construction of dam on Anzali wetland?

#### By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN — While the Department of Environment (DOE) has issued a construction license for Lask dam on Anzali wetland, counting its advantages, some are still expressing worries: what are the unpredictable effects of building the dam on the region's ecosystem and are the DOE's reasons convincing?

Covering more than 19,000 hectares, Anzali wetland is located near the northern port city of Bandar Anzali, neighboring the Caspian Sea. The wetland was designated as a Ramsar site on June 23, 1975. It is fed by several rivers and separated from the Caspian Sea by a dune system. The lagoon is home to submerged and floating vegetation and also extensive reed beds. It bears international importance in terms of breeding, staging and wintering water birds

While dams have contributed to human development by providing reliable sources of drinking water and irrigation, hydropower, recreation, navigation, and income, they also can cause considerable damages to the rivers, or deplete fisheries, and alter recreational opportunities.

**Does dam construction benefit** the residents?

The deputy DOE's chief, Masoud Tajrishi told Fars news agency on Monday that in order to build the dam, some 94 hectares of the forest areas will be destroyed.

He went on to explain that deforestation in the area will reduce water quality in the wetland's basin, however, in order to prevent severe soil erosion and irreparable damages to the environment, the Ministry of Energy is supposed to compensate for the losses.

The Ministry is obliged to cooperate with the Forests, Range, and Watershed Management Organization for reforestation and watershed management projects, he said, adding, any environmental pollution or degradation during the construction process is on the Ministry and must take measures to overcome the issues.

The Energy Ministry being responsible to supply the region's drinking water has agreed to establish water refineries in northern part of the dam, avoid releasing pollutants into the wetland, provide the water right of the wetland, implement waste disposal plans and recommendations presented in the assessment report to improve the water quality of the reservoir before the dam retains water, he further explained.

"Setting up a mobile laboratory to monitor wetlands and rivers water quality and providing assessment report every three months are among the Energy Ministry's commitments.



"Lask dam will retain 6.5 percent of the Anzali wetland inflow, therefore, it cannot cause dramatic changes in reservoir water level.

"Further, in the presence of climate change, dams may play an increasingly important role in agricultural growth in areas affected by low precipitation and those subjected to financial losses due to economic conditions. It leads to more job creation, and also provide the residents with sufficient drinking water.

"Similarly, the dam will protect drinking water supplies as melting of snow packs resulting from climate change has increased.

"So, there is no need for environmentalists to concern, as the DOE has conducted environmental impact assessment precisely prior to issuing the permit, and will ensure that the ministry meet its commitments,' he said.

Dams are not to blame for drying up wetlands, although their effect is not deniable, so, improper management is the main reason behind the dried wetlands across the country, he lamented.

"Given recurrent droughts in recent years, we must be more cautious about water supplies in the country, and conduct more precise and scientific assessments for dam construction as well as providing the wetlands water right," he noted.

One of the things that must be considered in damming is economic justification, in fact, any budget paid for the construction project must return as profit, he added.

The capital returns through sale of water, electricity production and sale, prevention of flood damage, and granting the wetlands water right in dry seasons are of the advantages of the project, he concluded.

#### Dam construction in contrast with wetland conservation

Masoud Baqerzadeh Karimi, the director general of aquatic ecosystems at the DOE said that Anzali wetland is already suffering huge sediment loads accumulated on its bed which causes the wetland to loose part of its retaining capacity.

Lask dam prevents the entry of spring floods into the wetland, which results in accumulation of sediment, and finally water level reduction, he lamented.

He went on to explain that obviously, the dam acts like a barrier preventing spring floods into the wetland, which can move the sediments and contaminants to enter the sea; although pushing the pollution to the sea is not a good idea, it prevents the accumulation and concentration of contaminants in the wetland.

Dam construction is in contrast with wetland conservation, restoration means increasing the wetland's reservoir volume, on the other hand, dam prevents the water to enter the wetland, so, if the wetland capacity expands, there will be no water to fill it, he also explained.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he stated that economic activities, such as tourism, fishing and sailing, also depend on the depth of the wetland, adding, some species of migratory birds wintering in the Anzali wetland choose its deepest areas as habitats for food supplies, therefore, it will greatly affect the area's biodiversity.

#### Dam reduces Anzali wetland's sediments

This is while, Vahid Khorrami, Gilan's regional water company director, said that the dam has a positive effect on the reduction of Anzali wetland's sediments.

One of the objectives of constructing the Lask dam is reducing the sediments, which are continuously entering the wetland even when there is no dam near it, he said, adding, so the dam will help the wetland to get rid of the sediment loads.

#### Permit issued after reducing dam's height

Baqerzadeh Karimi in a report published by Fars in January said that of 24 Iranian wetlands designated as a Ramsar site, 6 are suffering water level reduction.

He further expressed disagreement on dam construction on the wetland and said that we issued the license for Lask dam construction after reducing the dam's height considerably.

How dams damage rivers

Today, many dams that were once at the epicenter of a community's livelihood are now old, unsafe or no longer serving their intended purposes. Although not all dams damage rivers in exactly the same way, here are some of the most common ways they inflict harm.

Dams can impose threats to the aquatic creatures, for example, they prevent fish migration, as well as limiting their access to spawning habitat, food resources, and escaping predation.

Some aquatic species, such as salmon and river herring, depend on steady flows to guide them; while reservoir pools disorient migrating fish and can significantly increase the duration of their migration.

Changes in temperature, chemical composition, dissolved oxygen levels and the physical properties of a reservoir are often not suitable to the aquatic plants and animals that evolved with a given river system.

The alteration of a river's flow and sediment transport downstream of a dam often causes the greatest sustained environmental impacts. Life in and around a river evolves and is conditioned on the timing and quantities of river flow. Disrupted and altered water flows can be as severe as completely de-watering river reaches and the life they contain.

Peaking power operations can cause dramatic changes in reservoir water levels, which can leave stretches below dams completely de-watered.

Slow-moving or still reservoirs can heat up, resulting in abnormal temperature fluctuations which can affect sensitive species. This can lead to algal blooms and decreased oxygen levels.

Other dams decrease temperatures by releasing cooled, oxygen-deprived water from the reservoir bottom.

## Albino panda photographed in Chinese nature reserve in world first

A fully albino giant panda has been caught on camera at a Chinese nature reserve in what is believed to be a world first. Researchers released an image of the all-white bear walking through a forest in Wolong National Nature Re-

serve in Sichuan province. It was photographed in mid-April by an infrared mo-tion-triggered camera installed 2,000 meters above sea

level by scientists in December last year.

Researchers who studied the picture later concluded the adolescent bear's white hair, white claws and red eyes were hallmarks of albinism, a rare genetic mutation that causes a lack of the skin pigment melanin. It is thought to be the first documented sighting of an albino giant panda. The bear appeared to be "physically strong with a steady gait", indicating the condition "is not affecting its normal life", said the Wolong National Natural Reserve Administration in a statement. Scientists were unable to establish the panda's sex from



The genetic mutation "usually has no significant effect on animal activity and reproduction", said Li Sheng, a bear specialist at Peking University School of Life Sciences.

But the albino cub photographed is extremely rare as the mutation is recessive - meaning it can only be inherited if both parents carry the gene – and there are fewer than 2,000 giant pandas remaining in the world.

Researchers are to install more cameras in the area in the hope of capturing further footage and tracking the bear's development.

«It we can photograph its offspring, it will have even

## WORDS IN THE NEWS

## **Flooding in Mozambique**

(March 16, 2000)

After flooding in Mozambique came plans for the clean-up operation and lessons to be learnt. BBC Correspondent Greg Barrow reported.

Festus Mogae, the president of Botswana, said the people of Southern Africa had been stunned by the scale of the flooding in the region but he rejected suggestions that the regional response was too slow. Delegates attending the meeting carefully avoided **apportioning** too much blame and concentrated instead on the future re-construction of Mozambique. They've called for the cancellation of all of Mozambique's foreign debt so that all available resources can be channeled into re-construction of the country's shattered infrastructure.

There has already been some discussion about how countries like Zimbabwe and South Africa could do more to manage the flow of water down rivers running into Mozambique. It's been suggested that **co-ordination** and prior warning of when **floodgates** are about to be opened on **dams** up-river would give communities in Mozambique more time to leave areas where flooding is common. Words

**stunned:** if someone is stunned, they are very shocked by something delegates: a delegate is a person chosen to make decisions on behalf of a group of people, especially at a meeting

apportioning: when you apportion something, especially blame or praise, you decide how much of it different people or groups deserve, or should be given

shattered: if something shatters it breaks into a lot of small pieces **infrastructure:** the facilities, services and equipment that enable a country, society or organization to function effectively - roads, railways, electricity, water supplies.

co-ordination: to co-ordinate a project or activity means to organize the different aspects of it to make sure they all run efficiently floodgates: if you open the floodgates, you make it possible for a large number of people to do something for the first time. In this case it refers to actual gates / doors that hold back flood water. dams: a dam is a wall built across a river to stop the flow of water and make a lake.

(Source: BBC)



the photo but believe it to be between one and two years old. The discovery of the young bear "indicates that there is a 'whitening' mutant gene in the giant panda population in Wolong" that could lead to more albino cubs in the reserve in southwest China, according to a researcher.

greater researcher value,» Wolong nature reserve>s statement added.

Rare brown pandas – whose unusual coloration is also believed to be caused by a genetic mutation - have previously been spotted in the Qinling mountain range in China>s southern Shaanxi province.

(Source: The Independent)

## ENGLISH IN USE

#### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

#### Non-repayable loans for e-bikes must increase: Tehran City Council chairman

While an important strategy to contain Tehran's air pollution is using clean energies, non-repayable loans to incentivize the owners to replace their motorcycles with electric ones is not sufficient and must increase, Mohsen Hashemi, Tehran City Council chairman, has said.

The scheme on encouraging the citizens to replace carbureted motorcycles with electric ones has started over a few years ago, however, the process has been evolving slowly, he said, adding, we hope to increase the use of electric motorbikes by allocating the necessary funds along with supporting the manufacturers next year (March 2019-March 2020).

The handouts supporting the residents to purchase the motorbikes has been about 25 million rials (nearly \$600), which is not adequate anymore given the current economic condition, he stated, Tasnim reported on Saturday.

تاکید رئیس شورای شهر تهران بر افزایش وام بلاعوض خرید موتورسیکلتهای برقی

محسـن هاشـمی رئیـس شـورای شـهر تهـران بـا اشـاره بـه اینکـه یکـی از راههـای کاهـش آلودگـی هوای تهران استفاده از انرژیهای پاک است، گفت: رقمی که به عنوان وام بلاعوض خرید موتورسيكلت برقبي براي تشويق دارندگان متورسيكلت پرداخت شده است، پاسخگوي اين شـرايط نيسـت و ايـن رقـم بايـد افزايـش يابـد.

سر یک بیست و بیش رسم بایت از بیشن پایت. وی تصریح کـرد: جایگزینـی کـردن موتورسـیکلتهای برقـی بــه جــای موتورسـیکلتهای كاربراتورى از چند سال پيش أغاز شده است اما ايس كار با كندى پيش رفته است و امیدواریم در سال آینده با تخصیص اعتبارات لازم و حمایت از تولیدکنندگان، میزان استفاده از موتورســیکلتهای برقــی افزایــش یابــد.

به گزارش روز شنبه خبرگزاری تسنیم هاشمی با اشاره به میزان تسهیلاتی که تا به امروز بهعنـوان وام بلاعـوض بـرای خریـد موتورسـیکلت برقـی در نظـر گرفتـه شـده اسـت، یـادآور شـد: با توجه به افزایش قیمت خرید موتورسیکلت برقی، رقم ۲ میلیون و ۵۰۰ هزار تومان رقم قابل قبولى بهعنوان وام بلاعوض نيست و بايد اين رقم افزاش يابد.

### **PREFIX/SUFFIX**

### "-an, -ian"

Meaning: a word ending used to form nouns and modifiers that shows something belongs to a group, place, etc. **For example:** I like to learn how to cook Mexican food

#### PHRASAL VERB Hand something out

**Meaning:** to give something to each person in a group; distribute

For example: Could you start handing these books out please?

## IDIOM

### **Browned off**

**Explanation:** if you are browned off, you are bored, fed up or disheartened

**For example:** "Tom is browned off with his job."

in Bahrain on June 25-26, a forum already

Speaking in Ramallah on Monday, Pales-

"The Palestinian Authority does not rec-

tinian President Mahmoud Abbas emphasized

that Trump's proposal would "go to hell."

ognize this conference," he said. "Trump's 'deal of the century' will go to hell, as will

the economic workshop in Bahrain that

the Americans intend to hold and present

Jerusalem al-Quds as its capital.

Aviv to the Israeli-occupied city.

Abbas also noted that the Palestinian cause is developing step by step to estab-lish an independent Palestinian state with

"Whoever is interested in proposing a

The so-called Middle East peace pro-

solution to the Palestinian issue should

begin with a diplomatic solution," he added.

cess was dealt a major blow in December

2017, when Trump recognized Jerusalem

al-Quds as the "capital" of Israel and later

transferred the American embassy from Tel

illusions.'

boycotted by all Palestinian factions.

U.S. plan 'will go to hell'

# Sheikh Isa Qassim slams U.S. 'deal of humiliation' on Israeli-Palestinian conflict

**TEHRAN** — Bahrain's top Shia cleric Sheikh Isa Qassim has denounced Washington's upcoming proposal on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a "deal of humiliation," saying the actual parties to the deal are the United States and Israel, rather than Palestinians.

In a statement carried by Arabic-language Lua Lua TV network on Monday, Sheikh Qassim stressed the Palestinians' outright rejection of the so-called "deal of the century.

He also slammed the American deal as "a crime" against Palestinians as well as "an unjust liquidation of the Palestinian cause and a serious conspiracy on earth."

The U.S.-made plan is "a transaction of humiliation and disgrace" because it attempts to exchange the Palestinian "nation, land, sanctity, religion, unity, and even its presence with ... a handful of money," he added.

The Bahraini cleric further called on the Palestinian people to exercise vigilance and resistance against the plan, which he said would only bring shame to its supporters.



According to Press TV, the so-called "deal of the century," drawn up by the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump, is said to hugely favor Israel. Palestinians

## U.S. boycotts UN arms forum as Venezuela takes chair

TEHRAN— The United States walked out of the Conference on Disarmament on Tuesday to protest against Venezuela assuming the rotating presidency of the UN-sponsored forum - as it did a year ago when Syria took the chair.

The Trump administration, which has stepped up sanctions against the government of Nicolas Maduro, has not ruled out military action to remove what it and dozens of other nations consider an illegitimate government that rigged a 2018 election, Reuters reported.

As Venezuela took up the one-month presidency of the Geneva talks, U.S. disarmament ambassador Robert Wood left the session and announced a "boycott" while Maduro ambassador Jorge Valero chairs it.

"We have to try to do what we can to prevent these types of states from presiding over international bodies," Wood told reporters.

"Clearly, when you have regimes like the (Bashar) Assad regime (of Syria) and the Maduro regime presiding over this body, there is something fundamentally wrong with how we are conducting our business. And we need to examine that," he said.

A representative of Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido, the "interim leader", should assume the seat, Wood said.

Latin American delegations includ-ing Argentina, Brazil and Chile who also recognize Guaido stayed away from the Conference. Syria and Russia denounced what they called its politicization. Valero condemned the move.

"We regret that the representative of the United States and its docile allies continue to bring to this forum matters that are outside the mandate of the CD,' he told a news briefing.

"It is not a forum for coup-mongering."

## Israel attacks Syria's defenses in SW, killing soldier

**TEHRAN**— Israel targets Syria's defenses in a southwestern province, killing one soldier, wounding another, and destroying a military vehicle.

have already rejected the initiative as "the

component" of the deal during a conference

The U.S. is set to unveil the "economic

slap of the century.'

Citing one of its reporters, the official Syrian Arab News Agency reported in late Monday that the regime had fired one missile against the countryside of the city of Quneitra.

The act of aggression targeted "a military site to the east of Khan Arnabeh" at 10:21 local time, it noted, citing a military source.

The Israeli military said that it had attacked a Syrian anti-aircraft position after an Israeli warplane came under fire, Reuters reported. It claimed that the aircraft had come under fire from the stronghold earlier in the day.

The military alleged that the jet was conducting a "routine flight in northern Israel" when it came under the fire. It also purported that the projectile had missed and the plane completed its journey.

Quneitra houses Syria's Golan Heights. Israel has occupied the territory since 1967, technically putting the regime at war against Damascus.

The so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a monitor, said the Israeli missile was reportedly fired from the Golan. Its director, Rami Abdel Rahman, told AFP that three Syrian soldiers had been wounded during the missile strike.

In March, the United States, Israel's biggest ally, recognized the regime's "sovereignty" over Golan in a move that, observers say, was meant to embolden Tel Aviv in its encroachments against the Syrian government and people

## Nechirvan Barzani elected president of Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan

TEHRAN— Iraqi Kurdish lawmakers have elected Nechirvan Barzani as president of the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region.

Barzani, who had been serving as regional prime minister since 2006, won 68 votes from the 81 lawmakers present in the 111-seat chamber on Tuesday.

The vote was boycotted by members of the parliament's second biggest party, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and two smaller parties amid a rift between the main political forces in the region.

The 52-year-old Barzani, the deputy leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, is the nephew of the previous and only other holder of the office, Masoud Barzani.

The post has been vacant since November

2017, when the former president resigned after Kurdistan held a controversial independence referendum.

According to Press TV, in September 2017, Iraq's Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) defied stern warnings from the central government in Baghdad and several other states, and held a referendum on separation from mainland Iraq. Kurdish officials said a majority of people had voted 'Yes' to secession.

In response, the central government called the vote "unconstitutional" and adopted a series of bans against Erbil.

Iraqi forces also responded to the move by reversing the territorial gains the Kurds had achieved during the military campaign against the Daesh terror group.



#### Nasrallah warns against changes in Middle East

• Stressing that resistance is the only way for thwarting Zionists' plans.

Nasrallah also delivered a speech on May 25th on the anniversary of the Resistance and Liberation day. This speech also contained key points, including two important issues:

• First, he stressed that resistance is critically important for Lebanon these days, as the international law is not respected by many countries. If it weren't for the resistance and liberation in 2000, Trump would've granted the south of Lebanon or other parts of it to Israel, just like he did with Al-Quds and the Golan.

• Second, the real reason behind delaying the return of the Syrian refugees in Lebanon to their country is political and it is related to the presidential elections in Syria.

#### **French hypocrisy toward** Yemen war

 $\rightarrow$  Disclose said the new shipment involved munitions for French Caesar cannons that would be loaded at the Mediterranean port of Fos-sur-Mer, near Marseille.

"I learned about the imminent arrival of the Bahri Tabuk cargo ship this morning," Pierre Dharreville, a communist MP for the Fos-sur-Mer region, told journalists, calling for a "moratorium" on arms deliveries to Saudi Arabia.

Rights groups accuse Riyadh of using the French weapons against civilians in Yemen, where around 10,000 people have died since it began its offensive in 2015 with its ally the United Arab Emirates.

French officials say the weapons have been used only for defensive purposes, rejecting claims that it is violating the Arms Trade Treaty that prohibits arms sales to countries if their use could lead to civilian casualties.

Yes, it's a dirty war, yes it has to be stopped, Saudi Arabia and the Emirates must stop" the fighting, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian told France Inter radio on Tuesday.

"Yes, we must be extremely vigilant with arms sales to these two countries, which is what we are doing," he said. But last month the Disclose website published findings from a

classified French military note that said French weapons were being used in the Yemen war, contradicting the government's stance.

Three Disclose reporters were subsequently questioned by France's domestic intelligence agency, a move that drew protests from press freedom advocates.

France, the world's third-biggest arms exporter, counts Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates as major clients and has resisted pressure to stop arms sales to the Persian Gulf Arab countries

It is a marked contrast with Germany, which suspended its weapon sales to Saudi Arabia since last October.

The United Nations says the Yemeni conflict is the world's worst humanitarian crisis, with 3.3 million people displaced by the fighting and 24.1 million in need of aid.

#### Houthi: Saudi-led siege of Yemen's al-Durayhimi 'obvious crime'

TEHRAN— Yemen's Houthi Ansarullah movement has lambasted as an "obvious crime" the tight siege that has been placed on the Yemeni city of al-Durayhimi by the Saudi-led military coalition and its ally, the militia loyal to former president, Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi.



## HRW accuses Egypt of committing 'war crimes' in Sinai

**TEHRAN**— Human Rights Watch (HRW) says Egyptian security forces have committed "war crimes" by allegedly targeting civilians in the restive northern Sinai Peninsula.

"Egyptian military and police forces in the Sinai Peninsula are committing serious and widespread abuses against civilians," the HRW said in a 134-page report published on Tuesday.

Some of the alleged abuses, the group said, "amount to war crimes."

HRW's report was researched from 2016-2018 and is based on interviews with more than 50 North Sinai residents, activists, journalists, and other witnesses, including former government and military officials, as well as satellite images < Press TV reported.

The body accused Egyptian forces of mass arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, torture, extrajudicial killings, and possibly unlawful air and ground attacks against ci vilians.

Children as young as 12 have also been detained in routine sweeps eventually being held in secret prisons, ĤRW said.

According to the report, some detainees died in custody due to ill-treatment, lack of medical care, and torture.

The HRW said that tens of thousands of

Sinai residents were forcibly evicted or fled in recent years

The report also documented abuses by Sinai Province (formerly known as Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis), the local branch of the Daesh terrorist group.

"While Egyptian military and police forces were responsible for the majority of abuses documented in the report, extremist militants have also committed horrific crimes, including kidnapping and torturing scores of residents, killing some, and extrajudicially executing detained security force members." it said.

Over the past few years, terrorists have

been carrying out anti-government activities and fatal attacks in Egypt, taking advantage of the turmoil in Egypt that erupted after the country's first democratically-elected president, Mohamed Morsi, was ousted in a military coup in July 2013.

The Egyptian army last year launched a full-scale counterterrorism military campaign, dubbed "Sinai 2018," on an order by President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, after a terror attack in North Sinai claimed the lives of more than 300 people at a mosque.

The army says 650 suspected terrorists have been slain in the operation.

## Hunt says pursuing no-deal Brexit would be "political suicide"

TEHRAN— UK Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said it would be "political suicide" for Britain to pursue a no-deal Brexit, becoming the most senior figure vying to succeed Prime Minister Theresa May to rule it out and drawing a battle line with rival contenders.

Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said it would be "political suicide" for Britain to pursue a no-deal Brexit, becoming the most senior figure vying to succeed Prime Minister Theresa May to rule it out and drawing a battle line with rival contenders, Reuters reported.

Hunt's remarks put him at odds with most other candidates including the frontrunner, Hunt's predecessor as foreign secretary, Boris Johnson, who has said Britain should quit the EU with or without a deal by the end of October.

May has announced plans to step down after repeatedly failing to secure parliament's approval for her deal to leave the EU, setting up a contest in her ruling



Conservative party to succeed her in the coming weeks. That contest could determine how or even whether Britain leaves the EU, or whether it would face a new national election with its major political parties divided and shaken by Brexit.

Pitching himself in contrast to Johnson and others who insist leaving the EU without a deal must remain on the table, Hunt said any such move would be blocked by lawmakers and trigger a national election.

"Trying to deliver no deal through a general election is not a solution; it is political suicide," Hunt wrote in Tuesday's Daily Telegraph. "A different deal is, therefore, the only solution - and what I will pursue if I am leader.

The European Union says the withdrawal agreement it reached with May is final and cannot be renegotiated. Many Brexit supporters oppose it because of a "backstop" that requires Britain to adopt some EU rules indefinitely unless a future arrangement is found to keep the land border in Ireland open.

Hunt, who voted in the 2016 referendum to stay the European Union, said he try for a new agreement that would take Britain out of the EU customs union while "respecting legitimate concerns" around the Irish border.

Mohammed Ali al-Houthi, the chairman of the Supreme Revolutionary Committee of Yemen and the movement's spokesman, made the comment on Monday, Yemen's Arabic-language al-Masirah television network reported.

He also said that the United Nation was making yet another crime by witnessing the brutal siege but doing nothing.

However, al-Houthi described as a "positive act" the importing of humanitarian aid, particularly food, by the UN agencies to the besieged city, adding that the food "was not enough" for the desperate and trapped people of al-Durayhimi, which is located in the volatile province of Hudaydah.

He also stressed that what was needed to be done "is to lift" the siege and put an end to the years-long deadly aggression on Yemeni people.

Leading a coalition of its allies, Saudi Arabia invaded Yemen in March 2015 in an attempt to reinstall Hadi, who had resigned amid popular discontent and fled to Riyadh, and to crush the Houthis, who have been significantly helping the Yemeni army against a Saudi-led aggression for the past four years.

According to Press TV, the imposed war initially consisted of an aerial campaign, but was later coupled with a naval blockade and the deployment of ground mercenaries to Yemen. Furthermore, armed militia forces loyal to Hadi, in line with invaders, launch frequent attacks against Yemeni people in regions held by Houthis.

The aggression is estimated to have left 56,000 Yemenis dead.

The Saudi-led war has also taken a heavy toll on the country's infrastructure, destroying hospitals, schools, and factories. The UN has said that a record 22.2 million Yemenis are in dire need of food, including 8.4 million threatened by severe hunger. According to the world body, Yemen is suffering from the most severe famine in more than 100 years.

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



#### **Europa League title would be** fitting farewell for Chelsea's **Hazard**

Eden Hazard has said that victory in Wednesday's Europa League final against Arsenal would be a fitting way to bring the curtains down on his Chelsea career.

The Belgian international, who is a target for Real Madrid, will enter the final year of his Chelsea contract next season and has refused to sign an extension, meaning the London club could lose him for free if they do not sell him this year.

"That would be good, that would be a nice last trophy," Hazard told reporters on Monday. "If it is my last game, I hope to bring the trophy."

"It is a European competition, so for me, for the club, for the manager, for the fans, it is something important.

"When you play a final, it does not matter whether it is the Champions League, Europa League or League Cup, you just want to win, you just want to bring the trophy home and celebrate that."

Hazard has won two Premier League titles, one FA Cup, one League Cup as well as the Europa League since joining Chelsea from Lille in 2012. He scored 16 goals and created another 15 in the Premier League this season as Chelsea finished third in the table and said he was fully focused on the final despite the speculation over his future. "At the moment, nothing has happened, so I can't say anything. It's in the hands of the clubs," he said. "But I can put it aside. I have done it during a full season right now, and I have played reasonably well.

"So I stay in that mode: just thinking about football. After the final, we will see what happens."

(Source: Mirror)

### Neymar loses Brazil captaincy to Alves for Copa America

Neymar has been replaced as captain of the Brazil national team for next month's Copa America by Paris St Germain team mate Dani Alves, the country's football federation (CBF) has said.

The Copa America will be played from June 14 to July 7, with hosts Brazil, who have not won the title since 2007, taking on Bolivia in the opening match in Sao Paulo before facing Venezuela and Peru. "Daniel Alves will be captain of the Brazilian national team in the friendly matches against Qatar and Honduras and in Copa America Brazil 2019," the CBF said in a statement here

Right back Alves, who has 138 caps for Brazil, was informed of his new role on Sunday. The 36-year-old has captained his country on four previous occasions, the last of which was a 1-0 friendly victory over Germany in 2018. Brazil coach Tite had named Neymar permanent captain a few months after Brazil's World Cup quarter-final exit at the hands of Belgium last year, but has been under pressure to replace the 27-year-old due to his disciplinary issues. Neymar was banned for three matches by the French football authorities earlier this month for hitting a fan after PSG's French Cup final loss to Stade Rennes, and was also reportedly involved in a dressing fracas with his PSG team mates.

Tite informed him on Saturday that he would not captain Brazil at the Copa America, the CBF said.

(Source: Reuters)

### Match-fixing in football: Spanish police make arrests in top two divisions

Police in Spain have made a number of arrests as part of an investigation into match-fixing.

Current and former players as well as club executives - reportedly from the country's top two divisions - have been detained. "The police action follows complaints about possible match-fixing in a May 2018 match from La Liga to the Spanish authorities," said a La Liga spokesman. La Liga has reported a further eight possible match-fixing cases to police. "During the 2018/19 season

# Baku or bust? Why Emery & Sarri need to deliver Europa League glory

The 6,000-mile round trip to Baku for the climax of the Europa League will deliver the defining verdict on their first seasons in charge for Arsenal manager Unai Emery and his Chelsea counterpart Maurizio Sarri. The final will shape how their campaigns

are viewed - although for Italian Sarri there is no guarantee that even victory will see him handed a second season at Stamford Bridge. A major European trophy is at stake. Sarri's

job may be at stake. And Arsenal's future is at stake, as they know only victory will lead them to the riches of the Champions League next season.

So who does this confrontation in far-flung Azerbaijan mean most to - Unai Emery or Maurizio Sarri?

.....What does the Europa League final mean for Sarri?

The final may mean little more than a successful conclusion to a complex, contradictory season for the chain-smoking Italian, who arrived at Chelsea after his work at Napoli drew glowing references from the cream of the coaching crop, including Manchester City's Pep Guardiola.

It may yet rank as only something Sarri leaves for Chelsea to remember him by. Sarri's season at Chelsea has been con-

ducted against the backdrop of discontent among supporters who grew tired of his predictable substitutions.



Those reached a low point in February when his go-to replacement of Mateo Kovacic with Ross Barkley (it was vice versa at various other points), was greeted with ironic laughter and chants of "you don't know what you're doing" from his own fans during the FA Cup fifth-round loss to Manchester United at Stamford Bridge.

# Barcelona spoiled by previous success - Alba



Jordi Alba says he is "p----d off" with how Barcelona's season ended but added that the club have been spoiled by success in recent years and should give more value to the La Liga title.

Barca were on track for a Treble when they wrapped up the league in April, eventually finishing the season 11 points clear of their closest challengers, Atletico Madrid.

However, their campaign ended in disappointment as they were knocked out of the Champions League at the semifinal stage by Liverpool in humiliating circumstances (having been 3-0 up in the first leg, only to lose 4-0 in the second) and beaten by Valencia in the Copa del Rey final.

Alba says the two defeats have been tough

with the things we've won in recent years. History tells you it's not easy to win [trophies]. It's really difficult.

"We should savour winning La Liga in another way. We should be happier. We should give it a lot more value because it's so hard to win, but it seems now that if you only win the league, it's a wasted season."

Alba was one of the players criticised for the 4-0 loss to Liverpool at Anfield. The left-back made two mistakes which led to goals as Barca surrendered a threegoal lead in Europe for the second successive year.

However, aside from that and Saturday's cup final loss to Valencia, Alba, who has scored three goals and set up 17 more from defence, feels this has been his It came after a 4-0 defeat at Bournemouth and a 6-0 mauling by Manchester City and just before goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga's open challenge to Sarri's authority when he refused to be substituted in the Carabao Cup final before a penalty shootout which Chelsea. The much-vaunted 'Sarri ball', which was

meant to be high-paced attacking football

#### combining pressing and short, quick passing exchanges, has turned out to be largely tedious and relatively easy to rumble by teams of higher class.

He has also alienated Chelsea fans by marginalising N'Golo Kante, regarded as the world's finest holding midfielder, on the right of a three-man midfield to accommodate his favoured son Jorginho in the Frenchman's favoured position.

The big-money buy from Serie A is simply not in Kante's class as that sort of operator. Sarri's use (or lack of use) of precocious teenager Callum Hudson-Odoi was also an issue, with England manager Gareth Southgate seeming to show more belief in his talents.

As a result of this lack of game time, it seemed this outstanding young winger was determined to leave the club. A serious Achilles tendon injury has put a stop to that for now.

Their win percentage in the Premier League was 55.3% from 38 games, with exactly the same number of wins, 21, as Emery. The overall ratio was a highly respectable 61.3% from 62 games so far.

Sarri's problems, however, have extended beyond the field of play.

There has been no connection between him and Chelsea's fans, with not even the presence of Stamford Bridge legend Gianfranco Zola helping form a bond.

(Source: BBC)

#### Liverpool feeling 'pure excitement' ahead of UCL final: Klopp



Jurgen Klopp said Liverpool were feeling "pure excitement" ahead of the Champions League final against Tottenham but confirmed on Tuesday that Naby Keita will definitely miss out.

The German manager, who guided the Reds to last year's final, which they lost to Real Madrid, saw his side narrowly lose out to Manchester City in the race for the Premier League title. But Liverpool can ease the pain of last year's defeat to Real and finish the season on a high by being crowned European champions for a sixth time in Madrid on Saturday. "We are all very excited about having the chance again," Klopp told reporters at Liverpool's training centre.

"It's about dealing with the situation and so far we have controlled our emotions," added the Anfield boss, who also tasted defeat with Borussia Dortmund in the 2013 Champions League final, when his side lost to Bayern Munich in an all-German clash. "It's pure excitement and we are looking forward to it." Guinean midfielder Keita will not feature in the match as he recovers from a groin injury but there was better news for Brazilian forward Roberto Firmino, who is also grappling with a groin issue. "There's no chance for Naby, but he's progressing well. Bobby was part of training last week and will be a part again tomorrow and he's looking good so he will be part of the final, I'm sure."

On recovering from two near misses as a Champions League manager to try and make it third time lucky this weekend, Klopp said: "I don't like to blame my other team -- I love them all -- but I've never been part of a final with a better team, that's true.

"Our boys mix potential with attitude n the best way I've ever seen.

"After Barcelona (the 4-o semi-final comeback at Anfield), nobody believes more in this team than the team itself. We wanted it really badly."

Klopp described the match against Mauricio Pochettino's men as a "proper European final" even though it is an all-Premier League affair. "It will be very tight, no doubt," he said. "The quality of us and Spurs is very similar. We know a lot about Tottenham but we have had three weeks since our last game and in three weeks I would have known the name of the groundsman of Barcelona, for example."

La Liga has filed eight complaints with the general commissioner of the judicial police for alleged acts related to match-fixing in lower divisions of Spanish football and low-profile friendlies played between foreign clubs in Spain," said a La Liga statement.

"We have also sent alerts to the general directorate of gaming on 18 football matches for possible identification and sanction of players from lower divisions who could have bet on their competition." The statement added: "We thank the police for the extraordinary work done to dismantle what appears to be an organised criminal group dedicated to obtaining economic benefits through the predetermination of football matches.

"La Liga continues to fight to eradicate any scourge against fair play in Spanish football."

(Source: BBC)

#### Italy aims to attract superstars by introducing their own Beckham Law

The Italian government is set to approve a new bill that will grant foreign football players important financial tax incentives.

Following the pattern of the law that was termed the Beckham Law, which was passed in Spain back in 2005 and provided wealthy foreigners with a significant tax allowance, Italy will decrease tax rates for foreign players from 47 percent to 30 percent in the north and from 44 percent to 15 percent in the south.

While the bill is expected to be approved on June 29, it may not be applied before January 1, 2020.

To make it viable this year - with the summer transfer window approaching - clubs will have to sign players as non-residents and do so after July 15.

In that way the newcomers will not have spent more than 183 days in the country by the beginning of the new calendar year and the tax deductions will be automatically applied on January 1.

In Spain, meanwhile, everything points to extra taxes being applied to the world of football in the near future, despite the whole business representing 1.5 percent of the country's GDP. (Source: Marca) with Barca having won eight of the last 11 La Liga titles, four of the last five Copas del Rey and three Champions Leagues since 2009.

"I am p----d off," he told reporters at the launch of his summer campus. "It's a difficult moment for the whole team. We were so close to the Treble but, in the end, it wasn't to be. I would have liked to finish the season in another way, winning titles. "But -- luckily or not -- we've been spoiled professional.

"Taking away those two games, it's been the best season of my career on a personal level," he added. "I try to give my all on the pitch but, like all humans, I make mistakes and I'm not ashamed to admit that.

"I can't win all my duels or be perfect all the time. But, of course, I would like to have ended the campaign differently, collectively and individually."

(Source: Soccernet)

Klopp denied that reaching successive European Cup finals was a personal career highlight.

(Source: Eurosport)

## Kyrgios right to hate French Open, says Tomic

Bernard Tomic suffered a dispiriting exit from Roland Garros on Tuesday and admitted Australian compatriot Nick Kyrgios was right to say the tournament 'sucks'.

Tomic slumped to a 6-1, 6-4, 6-1 defeat by Taylor Fritz of the United States, leaving him with just three wins in 2019.

The final set on a chilly and damp Court 14 was over in just 20 minutes and the match in 88 minutes, the quickest of the tournament so far.

Fellow firebrand Kyrgios withdrew from Roland Garros with an elbow injury last week but not before saying: "Get rid of the clay, man. Who likes the clay, it is so bad.

"The French Open sucks compared to this place. Sucks. Absolute sucks."

Tomic, never far from controversy, was happy to concur. "I agree with him, with everything," he said during a monosyllabic press conference.

"The tournament is not for me."

Tomic's lack of enthusiasm for the task in hand was encapsulated on match point where a serve he thought was out led him to the net to offer his hand.

"I thought the match was over, it would be nice to give him the point because that's how I felt. But it's okay. We replayed it."

Accused in the past of not trying in matches and once dubbed by the Australian media as 'Tomic the tank engine',



he insisted he was at 100 percent on Tuesday.

"Pretty sure I did (gave his best). But, you know, the surface is not good for me."

"I mean, it's not difficult. It's just my game is not built for this surface. Everything I do is not good for it.

"But as long as I'm doing the right thing now, for the next month, is important for me. That's my focus."

That focus, however, does not include where his next

tournament will be as Wimbledon fast approaches.

"Honestly I have no clue. I'll go to the hotel and see. I have no idea where I'm playing," he added.

The fiery Australian, who shot to fame by making the Wimbledon quarter-finals in 2011 and went on to reach the world top 20, arrived in Paris deep in another slump.

Ranked 84 in the world, he retired with illness at Lyon last week against Canada's Steven Diez, ranked a lowly 262.

His most recent Grand Slam appearance in Australia in January was overshadowed by a feud with Davis Cup captain Lleyton Hewitt.

The head of Tennis Australia Craig Tiley described Tomic as "bad for the culture of Australian tennis".

Tomic is not hoping for a thaw in the cold war anytime soon.

"I haven't even thought about it since January, so no."

For Fritz, it was a first career win at Roland Garros and backed up a solid season on European clay.

The 21-year-old American, ranked 42, was a semi-finalist in Lyon last week, losing to eventual champion Benoit Paire.

He also qualified for the Madrid and Rome Masters before falling to Novak Djokovic and Kei Nishikori respectively.

The city is also special for the American -- back in 2016, he proposed to his girlfriend Raquel Pedraza in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower. MAY 29, 2019

## INTERNATIONAL DAILY **TEHRANTIMES**

# **Qatar surges ahead**

#### By Farrokh Hessabi

Following an extensive redevelopment, Khalifa International Stadium was the first stadium amongst the eight venues that was inaugurated on 19th May 2017.

Qatar football authorities inaugurated Al Janoub Stadium on 16th May 2019 when they hosted this year's Amir Cup final at their first stadium built from scratch. The stadium features a dhow boat design as a tribute

to the city's seafaring past. Interestingly, the installation of the pitch at Al Janoub Stadium set a world record time of just nine hours and fifteen minutes.

Six other stadiums are currently under construction. Main works on all venues will be completed two years prior to the much-anticipated kick off date of 21st November 2022.

The signs of progress in Qatar are impossible to miss. Four years ahead of hosting the 2022 FIFA World Cup, Qatar wants the world to know they are growing and evolving.

More than Eight and half years after FIFA stunned the Football world by promising to bring the World Cup to the Middle East for the first time, what once seemed an impossible far-fetched dream, is slowly, but surely becoming a decidedly tangible reality.

Hosting the tournament featuring the most popular sport on the planet is the largest and most audacious step in Qatar's plans to put itself on the world stage.

The country also recently launched its first metro line, three and half years before the Persian Gulf nation is due to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup. The trains, which boast airplane-style seats, will run across the capital Doha, both over and underground.

Apart from impressive infrastructural improvements, the state of Qatar has introduced many legislations to improve not only the lives of their own citizens, men and women, but also the lives of the two million or so international work force from unskilled workers



to professional individuals.

What Qatar has done throughout the past ten years, since the idea of hosting the World Cup was conceived, can be a proper model for countries that are considering developing sports and, in general, their economic, social and cultural infrastructures. Even often-unfair criticism and a four-way blockade

of the 11,581-square-metre peninsula has not deterred Qatar from surging ahead, if anything made them more determined to reach new heights.

#### Iran blind football team to play Spain



**S P O R T S TEHRAN** — Iran's men's blind football team will play two friendly matches with Spain.

The European team will travel to Iran in August to hold a joint training camp with Iran and meet the 2016 Paralympic Games silver medalist two times.

Team Melli are preparing for the 2019 IBSA Blind Football Asian Championships which will be held from Oct. 27 to Nov. 10 in Pattaya, Thailand.

Spain will host International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) Blind Football World Championships in Madrid in June, where Iran will participate as one of Asian representatives along with China, Thailand

and South Korea. As well as the title on offer, the 16 participant teams will also fight for qualification

for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. The Iranian blind football national team were formed in 2004 and stand out as one

of the strongest nations on the world stage. Blind Football is variation of futsal designed for players who are blind or visually impaired. It is currently a Paralympic sport, and the International Blind Sports Association (IBSA) also organizes a World

Championship. According to IBSA, "Football for the blind and partially sighted started out as a playground game for school children in special schools for the visually impaired."

#### **Old friends' face-off: Persepolis** take on Sepahan



**S P O R T S TEHRAN** – Persepolis will meet Sepahan in an Iran's Hazfi Cup semi-final showdown in

Isfahan's Naghsh-e Jahan Stadium. The match has been scheduled to be held on Wednesday and Mohammad Reza Zahedifar has been appointed to take charge of the match.

Two teams, are from the same family since they are branches of Shahin FC founded by Dr. Abbas Ekrami in 1942 under motto "first ethics, second education, third sports.'

However, the clash of Persepolis and Sepahan has been marred by disciplinary issues in the recent years.

Most recently, Sepahan fans broke the

stands at the Azadi Stadium and some spectators showed unpleasant non-athletic behavior during the game which left

as many as 300 people wounded. Persepolis won the Iran Professional League for the third successive year in mid-May and Sepahan stood on the second place.

Now, two teams are chasing a trophy in Hazfi Cup. The winners will face second division Damash in the final match.

Persepolis have faced Sepahan 70 times, with an all-time record of 23 wins, 30 draws and 17 losses

Now, the old friends will lock horns once again.

Persepolis have won Hazfi Cup five times and Sepahan grabbed the trophy four times.

#### Karim Ansarifard on radar of Hamburg, Besiktas

Nottingham Forest striker Karim Ansarifard is attracting interest from German side Hamburg and Turkish Super Lig outfit Besiktas.

German Bundesliga 2 side Hamburg and Turkish Super Lig club Besiktas have both been credited with interest in the Iranian international forward.

It was reported last week that Ansarifard was attracting interest from Scottish Premiership side Rangers, and the team is set to be joined by Hamburg and Besiktas in the chase for his signature.

The striker endured a difficult first season in England, struggling to make an impact on the first-team since his move from Greek side Olympiacos in the summer window.

Ansarifard played 12 games for Nottingham Forest in the Championship, scoring two goals and providing two assists over the course of the season.

Ansarifard had enjoyed highly successful spells in Iran and Greece prior to his move to England. He netted a highly impressive 44 goals on 96 games during his time in Iran, playing for Saipa, Persepolis and Tractor Sazi.

In Greece, he scored 22 goals in 48 games for Olympiacos before making the move to the City Ground with Nottingham Forest.

(Source: Football Insider)

#### Saeid Ezatolahi linked with **Leeds United move**

Iranian international midfielder Saeid Ezatolahi has been linked with a move to Championship side Leeds United.

This is a name that won't be familiar to the vast majority of Leeds United fans. However, the Iranian central midfielder could be a gamble worth taking for The Whites.

Ezatolahi was injured for the majority of the time he was on loan at Reading last season, when he made the loan move from Russian top tier side FC Rostov. However, he impressed many Reading fans in the games that they did see him play. Ezatolahi is available on a free this summer with the ex-

piration of his contract at Rostov.

Considering he was loaned out in the last season of his contract, he's unlikely to sign another deal with the Russian side, which could make teams sit up and take interest in the 22-year-old.

(Source: Footballleagueworld.co.uk)

#### **UD Almeria eye Persepolis Striker Alipour: report**

TASNIM - Union Deportiva Almeria have set their sight on signing Persepolis forward Ali Alipour.

Local media reported that the Spanish football team have reached an agreement with the 25-year-old striker.

Alipour played a vital role in Persepolis's success this season, helping the Iranian team to win title for the third time in a row. He also has offers from Charleroi, Sint-Truidense and **AEK Athens** 

Founded in 26 July 1989 and known as Almería Club de Fútbol until 2001, Union Deportiva Almeria play in Segunda Division, and play their homes games at Estadio de los Juegos Mediterraneos, with a 15,200-seat capacity.

#### Persepolis to hold summer camp in Canada

PLDC — Persepolis football team will travel to Canada to hold a summer training camp.

The Iranian football team have been invited by Iran-Canada Friendship Society.

Persepolis will hold a one-week training camp in the North merican country under motto "fighting climate change and

## Iran to file complaint against Michal Kubiak for abusive comments

**SPORTS TEHRAN** – Iran Volleyball Feder-d e s k ation acting precident 4 felt. F ation acting president Afshin Davari says they are filing a complaint to FIVB against Polish volleyball player Michal Kubiak for making abusive comments against the Iranian people.

The 31-year-old player has launched a stinging attack on Iranian nation in an interview with RadioZET.pl.

"They always insult us into the field and don't respect us but play innocent. The Iranians think they are great and the best and we are the worst. But I believe that they are fatal, malicious and damned people. For me,



this nation doesn't exist, even though they proudly call themselves Persians, not Arabs. Sometimes we have to play with them, but for me, they don't exist," the Poland captain said.

Afshin Davari said they are going to file a complaint against Kubiak in response to the player's anti-Iranian comments

"FIVB's Ethics Committee should demand Kubiak explanation for his remarks. He has offended the Iranian people and must accept responsibility for what he has said," Davari said.

#### Preview - Group A: Zobahan FC (IRN) v Al Nassr (KSA)

Saudi Arabia's Al Nassr and Islamic Republic of Iran's Zob Ahan face-off on Wednesday in a direct battle for the top spot of the 2019 AFC Champions League Group A at the Grand Hamad Stadium in Doha.

The match had been scheduled to take place on May 21 in Karbala, Iraq but was postponed and moved to an alternative venue for security reasons.

Both teams had secured qualification to the Round of 16 with a game to spare. Zob Ahan needed an added time goal from Reza Habibzadeh to snatch a point from Al Zawraa on Matchday Five and reach 11 points at the top of the group. Al Nassr, meanwhile, cruised to a 3-1 win over Al Wasl to join the Iranians in the next stage.

On Wednesday, a win for Al Nassr will earn them the top spot and a Round of 16 date with local rivals Al Ittihad. A



draw or a Zob Ahan win mean it is the Iranians who face the two-time AFC Champions League winners, while Al Nassr face Group B leaders Al Wahda of the UAE.

Zob Ahan had scored either a winner or an equalizer in the last 10 minutes of each of their past three AFC Champions League games, including the reverse fixture against Al Nassr, when they came from behind to collect the three points in Dubai thanks to an Amir Motahari strike in added time.

(Source: the-afc)

#### Indonesia steps up its bid to host 2021 U-20 World Cup

Football Association of Indonesia (PSSI) has prepared eight stadiums across the country in its bid to host the 2021 FIFA U-20 World Cup, a PSSI senior official said on Monday.

We will decide the best eight stadiums. All of those Indonesian stadiums have international standards and reputations to host international football matches. They are also supported by related facilities around," said PSSI Secretary General Ratu Tisha Destria.

PSSI has a wide selection of stadiums considered eligible to host the FIFA U-20 World Cup. Among them are, Gelora Bung Karno, Patriot Candrabhaga, Pakansari, Wibawa Mukti, Bandung Lautan Api, Si Jalak Harupat, Jatidiri, Manahan, Mandala Krida, Gelora Bumi Sriwijaya, Papua Bangkit and Batakan.

"Indonesia has profound experience in hosting international sports events, including football, making the nation eager to take part in the bidding", added Ratu Tisha Destria.

The Overview of the Bidding Process



documents have been sent by FIFA to football federations eager to host the U-20 World Cup last month.

Each football federation are expected to file their bidding documents no later than August 30 to FIFA. Announcement on the appointed host country would be conducted by FIFA in the fourth quarter this year.

Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates have also expressed interest in co-hosting the tournament, as have Myanmar and Thailand. Peru and Brazil are also keen on hosting the 2021 edition.

(Source: Football Association of Indonesia)

global warming".

The camp has been confirmed by FIFA and Germany na-tional football team, Canada national football team and FC Toronto club have already held their training in the camp.

Persepolis have previously held their training camp in Turkey, Ukraine, Croatia and Qatar.

Persepolis claimed Iran Professional League for the third time in a row in mid-May.

#### **Barcelona legend Xavi** Hernandez confirmed as **Al Sadd boss**

Former Barcelona captain Xavi Hernandez has been confirmed as the new manager at Oatari club Al Sadd, via a statement.

The 39-year-old brought his illustrious playing career to a close this month with the Qatari club as he begins his management career with the club.

In an interview earlier this month, the former Spain international confirmed he wants to take the helm at the Camp Nou in the future.

"My idea is to start managing here in Qatar to gain experience," Xavi told EFE press agency, as cited by Marca.

'This will set me up to return to European football and yes, hopefully it will be Barcelona, but right now I am not in that position.

"I am not ready to take this sort of role at top level and I need to be able to take small steps before reaching my ultimate goal.

"I have many ideas and concepts of how I want football to be played and how I would like to pass that on to future players.

'I have always been a massive admirer of how Barcelona play, their control of the game and their style - it is something I want to reflect in my own career as Coach.

Xavi scored 85 goals in 767 first-team appearances for the Blaugrana across 16 seasons, where he won 25 trophies including eight La Liga titles and four Champions League crowns.

He retired from playing earlier this month, having made 115 appearances for Al Sadd.

(Source: Football Espana)

# TEHRANTIMES

#### Prayer Times » Noon:13:02 Evening: 20:33 Dawn: 4:08 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:51 (tomorrow) MAY 29, 2019

ART&CULTURE

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The realization of the Creator's greatness makes every creature seem small.

Imam Ali (AS)

#### **Owj welcomes Quds Day with** banner opposing U.S. military presence in Persian Gulf

🚺 TEHRAN — The Owj Arts and Media e s k Organization, a Tehran-based institution producing revolutionary works in art and cinema, has welcomed International Quds Day by draping a huge banner in Tehran's Vali-e Asr Square that opposes the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf.

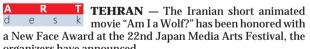


A banner published by the Owj Arts and Media Organization opposes the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf.

The banner is mounted on a tall building on the northwestern side of the square to commemorate International Quds Day, which will fall on Friday, the organization announced in a press release on Tuesday.

The banner bearing a verse from the Holy Quran reading "We drowned them all" depicts a number destroyed U.S. and Israeli carriers sinking in a raging sea of a Palestinian keffiyeh with a shining image of Al-Aqsa Mosque on the horizon.

#### "Am I a Wolf?" wins New **Face Award at Japan Media Arts Festival**



Tokyo library exhibits Iranian children's books

CULTURE TEHRAN — The International Library of Children's Literature (ILCL) in Tokyo is playing host to an exhibition of Iranian children's books. Entitled "The Land of Poetry and Legends: Children's

Books in Iran" the exhibit will be on view until July 21, the library has announced.

This exhibition consists of three sections: "The Land of Poetry and Legend", "Children's Books in Iran" and "Illustrators and Authors of Children's Books in Iran".

The exhibition is being organized to celebrate the 90th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Iran and Japan. The exhibition also showcases books of poetry and legends that are important in Iranian culture, as well as works by a

number of world-renowned Iranian illustrators. In addition, Japanese translators of Persian children's

books Kiko Aiko and Saori Katagiri will attend a session the library will organize on June 16.

They are due to discuss the attraction of Iran's children's literature and the status of book reading in Iran. They will also introduce "Read with Me", a program run by the Institute for Research on the History of Children's Literature in Iran (IRHCLI) for the promotion of reading.

Aiko visited Iran in mid-May where she accompanied a group of trainers from Iran's Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) in a trip by a bookmobile to learn more about the cultural activities of the organization.

"Since I want to translate more books from Persian literature for Japanese children and to introduce Iranian culture to them, I felt I needed to raise my knowledge of the training programs and cultural activities in Iran," Kiko had said on her visit.

Fifteen years ago, she also paid a visit to the Tehran International Book Fair where she was introduced to the IIDCYA. She translated a large collection of IIDCYA books, which were put on view during over 50 exhibitions across Japan.



A poster for the exhibit "The Land of Poetry and Legends: Children's Books in Iran" underway at the International Library of Children's Literature in Tokyo.

#### **Reza Servati to stage "Crime and Punishment**" in Tehran



A poster for Iranian director Reza Servati's play "Crime and Punishment", which will go on stage in Tehran.

**A R T TEHRAN** — Reza
d e s k
Servati plans to direct a stage adaptation of Fyodor Dostoyevsky's novel "Crime and Punishment" at Tehran's Vahdat Hall in the near future.

Babak Hamidian, Tannaz Tabatabai, Mina Sadati, Behnaz Jafari, Payam Dehkordi and Mehdi Soltani are the main members of the cast for the play.

The play tells the story of Raskolnikov, an impoverished student tormented by his own nihilism, and the struggle between

good and evil. Believing that he is above the law, he brutally murders an old woman whom he regards as "stupid, ailing, greedy and good for nothing." Overwhelmed afterwards by feelings

of guilt and terror, Raskolnikov confesses to the crime and goes to prison. There he realizes that happiness and redemption can only be achieved through suffering. Earlier in 2018 in Tehran, Servati staged

Body Wash" based Ingmar Bergman's 1973 miniseries "Scenes from a Marriage".

## Iran's "Limit" wins Entr'2 Marches

**Iran House of Music raises objection** to new law on concert box office



A sign for the Iran House of Music.

**A R T** d e s k **Iran House of Music** has opposed the recent legislation that allows the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance to take a 10-percent share of the proceeds of concerts in big cities to transfer into the state treasury.

In an open letter published on Tuesday, Iran House of Music managing director Hamidreza Nurbakhsh asked Culture Minister Seyyed Abbas Salehi to overturn the law, which was passed by the Majlis (Iranian Parliament) in February.

He said that the law will lead to irreparable damage to the music industry of the country.

The Iran House of Music has also asked the MPs, especially members of the Majlis Cultural Commission, to attend a meeting due to be held by the institution and a number of publishers and musicians in the near future to discuss the issue.

**Tehran cartoon exhibition to mark** Quds Day

organizers nave announced.

Directed by Amir-Hushang Moein, the movie is based on poetry by an Iranian children's book writer Afsaneh Shabannejad that was produced at the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults.



"Am I a Wolf?" by Iranian director Amir-Hushang Moein.

The film is about a group of schoolchildren who are performing the familiar story of a wolf attacking herd animals. The central scenes depict a nanny goat in grief for losing the yearlings and an angry wolf facing each other. The story ends when the wolf, struck by lighting, falls into the river. After the show the children receive applause, but the child who played the violent wolf is shown crying by the river. The work, which is composed without any dialog, evokes thoughts among the viewers across age and culture.

The festival announces winners before its exhibition, which will be organized at the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan) in Tokyo from June 1 to 16.

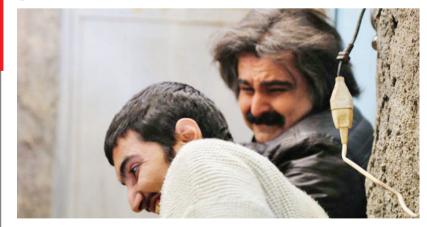
"Invisible" by Japanese director Yamashita Akihiko and "The Little Ship" by Russian director Anastasia Makhlina also received the New Face Awards in the animation category of the event.

"La Chute" by Boris Labbé from France won the Grand Prize in this section "The Girl Without Hands" by Sebastien Laudenbach from France received one of the four Excellence Awards.

Three others went to "Dragon Pilot: Hisone & Masotan" by Higuchi Shinji, "Penguin Highway" by Ishida Hiroyasu, and "Okko's Inn" by Kosaka Kitaro, all from Japan.

The festival is annually organized in the categories of art, animation, entertainment and manga

#### rand prix



A scene from "Limit" by Iranian director Javad Darai.

**TEHRAN** — Iranian k director d e s k director Javad Darai's acclaimed short film "Limit" has won the grand prix of the 10th Entr'2 Marches, an international event for short films on disability, a public relations team for the movie announced on Tuesday.

The festival was held in Cannes, France from May 18 to 24.

"Limit" tells the story of a desperate

man who frantically pleads with strangers to accompany him to his home, without being clear on his intentions.

The film has been screened at numerous international events and has won awards at some of them, including the award for best short fiction at the 10th Southampton Film Week, the best foreign student award at the Great Lakes Christian Film Festival.



A poster for a cartoon exhibition on International Quds Day at Tehran's Palestine Museum of Contemporary Art.

**TEHRAN** — Tehran's k Palestine Museum of Contemporary Art will be hosting a cartoon exhibition to mark International Quds Day, which falls on the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan.

Over 70 cartoons by artists from 25 countries, including Brazil, Italy, Morocco and Russia, will go on display at the exhibit, which will open today at 4 pm.

The museum will organize the showcase

in collaboration with the Islamic Revolution and Sacred Defense Visual Arts Association.

The exhibition will run until June 3 at the museum, which can be found at Mozaffar St., Bozorgmehr St.

International Quds Day was initiated in 1979 by the founder of the Islamic Republic, Avatollah Khomeini, to express solidarity with Palestinians who have been under the Zionist regime's occupation for seven decades

## Man accused of defrauding comic book icon appears in court

**PHOENIX (AP)** – A former business manager of the late comic book legend Stan Lee had his initial court appearance early Sunday in Arizona, where he was arrested after fleeing California charges of fiduciary elder abuse.

Keya Morgan appeared in Maricopa County Superior Court on a charge of being a fugitive of justice. Court documents show Los Angeles police alerted authorities in the Phoenix suburb of Scottsdale that Morgan's cellphone was being used in north Scottsdale.

Morgan, 43, was found in a house with his mother and arrested without incident Saturday morning, police said. It's unclear when Morgan will be extradited to Cali-

fornia, where he's facing felony charges including theft, embezzlement, forgery or fraud against an elder adult, and false imprisonment of an elder adult. A misdemea-

nor count also alleges elder abuse.

Los Angeles County prosecutors say Morgan sought to capitalize on the Marvel Comic mastermind's wealth and exert influence over Lee even though he had no authority to act on his behalf.

Lee died last November at age 95.

Prosecutors say Morgan pocketed more than \$262,000 from autograph-signing sessions Lee did in May 2018.