

Security in Persian Gulf is an 'integrated and indivisible concept' **2**

Leader offers condolences over Ayatollah Mohaqiq Kabuli's death **3**

Gucci hits back at Carlos Queiroz's tactics at 2018 World Cup **15**

England seeks to revive its colonial culture in Iran: Art Bureau official **16**



'Iran to initiate new economic transactions'

TEHRAN — Iran is to kick off new economic transactions with other countries despite the will of the U.S. that wants to cut Iran's economic ties with the world, the chairman of Economic Committee of Majlis stated.

In an interview conducted by IRNA, Mohammadreza Pour-Ebrahimi referred to the agreements on trade

cooperation with Eurasia region and also customs cooperation agreement with Vietnam recently approved by Majlis and said all these agreements show that the country is initiating some new economic ties.

He said that the U.S. has witnessed the inefficiency of its economic war against Iran. **->4**

Zarif: Iranians facing economic war and hate propaganda by U.S.

TEHRAN — In a meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono on Wednesday, Mohammad Javad Zarif said the United States not only has started an "economic war" against Iran it has also launched a "daily hate propaganda" against the Islamic Republic.

"They have started economic war

against our people and we are also facing a daily hate propaganda by Americans," Zarif told Kono before the arrival of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to Tehran on Friday afternoon.

The Trump administration has intensified its sanctions campaign against Iran within its declared "maximum pressure" policy toward Tehran. **->3**

EU, U.S. split roles in standoff with Iran: Almayadeen

TEHRAN — The European Union and United States have split their roles in their standoff with Iran, Almayadeen news channel wrote on its website on Wednesday.

The report cited empty talks by European officials regarding their commitment to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal as a sign that they are cooperating with the U.S. in pressuring Iran

under U.S. sanctions.

In particular it noted German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas's Monday remarks in Tehran where he said the EU is steadfast to preserve the deal, but Tehran cannot expect it to do a miracle.

"These words maybe indicative of the less concealed nature of Germany compared to other European countries in an effort to try and avoid a war. **->3**

Abe's high-profile visit to Tehran

PERSPECTIVE
Hanif Ghaffari
Political analyst

The equation is clear, mediation has no meaning!

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to Tehran can be viewed from a variety of dimensions. The trip comes at a time when the United States has formally withdrawn from the nuclear deal with Iran, and the three European countries, Germany, Britain and France, have not taken any steps in maintaining the Babe over the past year.

The main question is whether the Japanese prime minister can play the role of a "mediator" in this equation? In other words, is the use of the term "mediation" correct at this time point? The answer to this question is not positive!

The fact is that the only reason for the crisis has been the departure of the United States from an international agreement. On the other hand, Donald Trump's government has imposed sanctions against Iran, which has shown little commitment to international treaties. In such a situation, the White House must return to the nuclear deal in the direction of the exit from the swamp, and the United States must also lift its sanctions against Iran and offset the damage that has occurred in the last year. The Trump government should also apologize to the international community on leaving the BBC.

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

At this point, it seems that Iran has made a wise decision. Over the last year, the European troika has not only done anything to revive the nuclear deal or bring any kind of benefit to the Iranian nation, but they have actually backed up US by developing new plans to undermine Iran's "missile work", and diminish its "power in the region" as well as its "nuclear technology".

Finally, the US propaganda and political game about the Japanese Prime Minister's visit to Iran (also pursued by some American media) is doomed to failure. Without a doubt, Washington has no choice but to respect international treaties. Whenever the White House delays, the cost of its failure will increase against Iran.

Iranian cinema straightforward in story, deep in concept: Marios Piperides

By Manijeh Rezapoor
TEHRAN — Cypriot director and producer Marios Piperides says Iranian films are very simple in their stories and deep in concepts.

"Iranian films are very good and deep. They have straightforward stories and plain production, but are deep in concept," the filmmaker told the Tehran Times in an interview held at the Embassy of Cyprus in Tehran on Wednesday.

"You may think it is easy, but it is very hard

to make these kinds of films," he said. "This is what makes Iranian cinema unique."

"I think that is why the Iranian films can attend major international festivals and win main awards," he speculated.

The filmmaker said that he mostly knows major Iranian film directors such as Abbas Kiarostami, Jafar Panahi and Asghar Farhadi through their films screened at international festivals such as Cannes.

Piperides is in Iran to promote his 2018 comedy

drama "Smuggling Hendrix" during the European Film Week underway in seven Iranian cities. The film was screened at the Iranian Artists Forum in Tehran on Tuesday.

The film tells the story of Yiannis, a fading musician, who is planning to leave crisis-ridden Cyprus for a better life abroad. His plans are put on hold when his dog Jimi runs away and crosses the UN buffer zone that divides the "Greek" from the "Turkish" side of the island. **->16**

Road from oil-reliant economy to oil free one

By Haniyeh Sadat Jafariyeh
The U.S.-led sanctions, imposed to squeeze Iran's oil-reliant economy by restricting oil revenues, has made the need for moving toward a non-oil economy for Iran ever-increasing.

In better words, the issue comes of the highest importance than before, due to Trump's decision on cutting all waivers of Iranian oil which will dramatically decrease oil-reliant country's oil revenues i.e. sanctions are designed to hit the economy in its Achilles heel, i.e. oil revenues.

The Islamic Parliament Research Center (IPRC), in its recent report, has discussed ways to reach a non-oil economy, the one which is not dependent on oil revenues. Among the discussed methods by the Research Center, it can be referred to levying taxes on capital gains, on costly real estate and imports management.

"No economist supports continuation of sanctions. Economic sanctions weaken the country's production power and reduces people's welfare in the long and short run," the report says.

However, the report admits that reducing reliance on oil income cannot be translated into decreasing oil exports to zero but as it discusses, in case oil exports drop to zero, the conditions would be manageable via managing balance of payments and controlling the forex market.

Urging the government to take a sustainable anti-sanctions attitude, the report calls for taking required measure to amend the foreign exchange rates, market and in general the structure of forex sector. **->5**

Nominees for Mustafa Prize 2019 being assessed by final jury

By Setareh Behroozi
TEHRAN — The nominees for the 3rd Mustafa (PBUH) Prize 2019 are being assessed by the seven-member final jury, the head of the event's executive working group Seyyed Ali Omrani told the Tehran Times at the 8th International Innovation and Technology Exhibition (INOTEX 2019) on Wednesday.

Held biennially, the Mustafa (PBUH) Prize

is a science and technology award, granted to top researchers and scientists of the Islamic world.

The Mustafa (PBUH) Prize invited nominees from institutions and 512 eminent scientists were received by the secretariat of the event, he added.

Actually self-nomination is not considered by the secretariat of the event, he explained.

Prominent scientific institutions and scientists are eligible to introduce nominees to the event, he added.

Nominees should have an outstanding work or service which is important in the field of health, safety and welfare of the society, he said.

The work should be up to date and commercialized or be in commercialization procedure, he added. **->11**



INOTEX, festivity of bright ideas under one roof

By Setareh Behroozi
TEHRAN — Young entrepreneurs at their small stands is the first encounter of any visitor of the 8th International Innovation and Technology Exhibition, INOTEX 2019.

The glittering eyes of entrepreneurs, explaining about their new emerging business, promises better days for Iran in the future, which reminds you of the motto of this edition "Innovation Ecosystem under One Roof".

As an important part of the innovation ecosystem, the young entrepreneurs presented their startups at the INOJAVAN, a section of the exhibition, which includes a series of stands at the center of the Persian Gulf hall of the fairground. **->11**

ARTICLE
Martin Love
Political analyst from North Carolina

Nothing is so dangerous as a wounded beast backed into a corner by itself...

Trump's foreign policy slant in the past year has gone so far off the rails touting the demands of right-wing Zionists and their supporters both in Israel and the U.S. that the U.S. is rarely seen as anything but a dangerous, rogue element across the world stirring up enmity and harm.

I am not alone in suggesting that this perverse obsession to warp U.S. policy around the demands of a single country could, in time, wreck what remaining influence — aside from the threats of military violence — that the U.S. has in world affairs. (Trump, for example, just successfully shoe-horned in yet another dual loyalty Zionist to a high-level position, this time one David Schenker to the long vacant post in the State Department as the assistant secretary for Near Eastern affairs.)

And just this past week, Mike Pompeo has been threatening to interfere in upcoming British elections to ensure that Jeremy Corbyn, who has been wrongfully slandered as an "anti-Semite" time and again, does not ever inhabit No. 10 Downing Street. Why? Because Corbyn has been an advocate for Palestinian statehood and long desecrated the cruelties meted out to the natives of Palestine. You can hardly find a bigger instance of hypocrisy as that exhibited by Pompeo.

Across the board, dual loyalty Zionists are in charge, influencing a President who, if he were asked, would probably be unable to cite what the Balfour Declaration of 1918 was, which, it can be claimed, kicked off this burgeoning mess in the Middle East 100 years ago. This is, after all, a President who knows next to nothing about history, and it's likely if he were asked who Mohammad Mossadegh was, he would not have an answer! **->7**

All nuclear deal parties must 'equally' honor their commitments: Iran

POLITICAL TEHRAN – The Iranian Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday that all signatories to the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), must "equally" fulfil their commitments.

"All sides to the JCPOA must fulfil their commitments equally. If they cannot do so, they should understand that we can review the JCPOA and our obligations by using the mechanisms that the JCPOA has provided us," Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said.

His comments came as German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said in a meeting with Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom that if Iran quits the JCPOA, it will be isolated.

Maas warned that Iran's withdrawal from the JCPOA will be harmful to both Europe and Iran.

Mousavi said, "We agree on his comments about importance of the JCPOA to the international community and Europe. However, we do not understand his emphasis on unilateral implementation of a multilateral agreement by Iran."

He noted that if the Europeans are concerned about keeping the JCPOA, they should urge all signatories to the deal to abide by the agreement.

"We advise those who are worried about Iran's recent decision on the JCPOA to study clause 36 of the JCPOA once again and also study basic principles of law," he pointed out.

On May 8, Iran announced a partial withdrawal from some aspects of the nuclear 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 an agreement is not made within 60 days to protect it from the sanctions' effects.

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

The German foreign minister was in Tehran on Monday for talks with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

Maas said in his meeting with Rouhani, "Germany opposes the U.S. policies against Iran and is making efforts to keep the JCPOA and fulfill its obligation."

IAEA should see all aspect and be unbiased: Iranian diplomat

POLITICAL TEHRAN – Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Gholam-Hossein Dehghani has said that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) should be unbiased and see all aspects.

"In the current situation, the Agency [the IAEA] is duty bound to see all the aspects and prepare reports unbiasedly," he said during a meeting with Yukiya Amano, head of the UN nuclear watchdog.

Dehghani also said Iran attaches great importance to practical actions by the remaining signatories to the 2015 nuclear deal to preserve the pact, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Amano said that the JCPOA is a great achievement for verification. In an introductory statement to the IAEA board of governors on Monday, Amano said he is worried about increasing tensions over the Iranian nuclear issue.

"I am worried about increasing tensions over the Iranian nuclear issue. As I have constantly emphasized, the nuclear-related commitments entered into by Iran under the JCPOA represent a significant gain for nuclear verification. I therefore hope that ways can be found to reduce current tensions through dialogue. It is essential that Iran fully implements its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA," he said.

Amano said, "On May 8th, Iran's Supreme National Security Council announced that it had 'issued an order to stop some of Iran's measures under the JCPOA from today'."

"The Agency continues to verify the non-diversion of nuclear material declared by Iran under its Safeguards Agreement. Evaluations regarding the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities in Iran continue," he stated.

On May 31, Amano reaffirmed Iran's compliance with the JCPOA.

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 an agreement is not made within 60 days to shield it from the sanctions' effects.

Under the JCPOA, Iran agreed to put caps on its nuclear work in exchange for termination of economic and financial sanctions. However, 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.

Araqchi: Security in Persian Gulf is an 'integrated and indivisible concept'

POLITICAL TEHRAN – Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Seyyed Abbas Araqchi says security in the Persian Gulf is an "integrated and indivisible" concept.

He made the remarks during a Tuesday meeting with Zainul Abidin bin Mohamed Rasheed, the Singaporean foreign minister's special envoy for the Middle East, the Foreign Ministry reported.

Araqchi also touched upon the latest developments pertaining to the Iran nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and Tehran's efforts to preserve the agreement.

"The only issue in the Middle East which was settled through negotiations and diplomacy, leading to an agreement, was the Iran nuclear deal which America withdrew from for illogical and unintelligible reasons," said Araqchi.

He also referred to Washington's economic pressure on Iran, saying, "The United States has engaged in an economic war with Iran now, which is the root cause of growing tensions in the Middle East."

"America's economic sanctions have, in fact, targeted the security of the whole region. So, one cannot expect tranquility and security in the region without a ceasefire in the economic war," said Araqchi.

The Singaporean official, in turn, regretted the fact that many countries are under the pressure of sanctions. He stressed his country's support for the JCPOA and expressed hope tensions in the Middle East would abate.

Abe's high-profile visit to Tehran

POLITICAL TEHRAN – Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Tehran on Wednesday afternoon for talks with top Iranian leaders.

Abe was welcomed by Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif at Mehrabad Airport.

President Hassan Rouhani officially welcomed Prime Minister Abe at Sa'dabad Palace. After the welcome ceremony, which included a guard of honor and the playing of national anthems of the two countries, Rouhani and Abe started private talks.

It was planned that after the Rouhani-Abe talks, delegations from the two countries start a joint meeting.

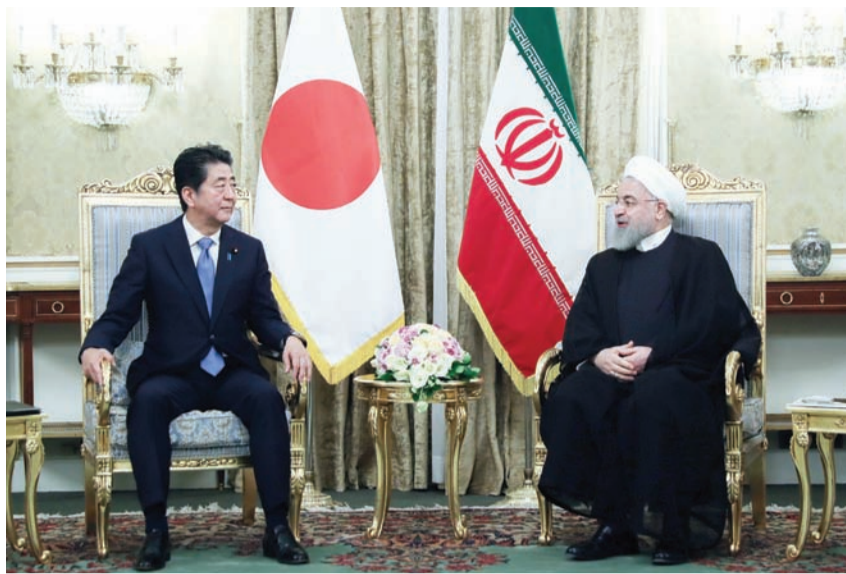
The Japanese prime minister is scheduled to meet with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Thursday morning.

The visit has been called historic.

Though no official statements have been made that during his talks with the Iranian leaders the Japanese prime minister will seek to act as a mediator to deescalate tension between Iran and the United States, it was highly expected that Abe use his country's good ties with Tehran and Washington to ease the tension between Iran and the United States.

Japan was one of the eight countries that imported oil from Iran before the Trump administration ended sanctions waivers for Iran's oil exports in April.

Amid escalating tensions between Tehran and Washington, the U.S. has sent military reinforcements, including the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier



strike group, a squadron of B-52 bombers, and a battery of patriot missiles, to the Middle East, citing alleged unspecified "threats" from Iran.

Before his departure to Tehran, Abe said he wanted to have candid talks with the Iranian leadership to secure stability in the Middle East, in a high-stakes attempt to act as a mediator between Iran and the United States.

"There are concerns over rising tensions in the Middle East. While the situation attracts the attention of the international community, for peace and stability in the region, Japan wants to play a role as much

as it can," Kyodo News quoted him as telling reporters at Tokyo's Haneda airport.

"To ease tensions, I'd like to have a frank exchange of views," said Abe.

Talking to Zarif before Abe's arrival to Tehran, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono said, "We believe that in this important region a lesser tension will benefit all, otherwise we all lose."

He added, "Japan is ready to do whatever that leads to reducing tension."

■ "Rational approach"

Parliament speaker Ali Larijani said the visit to Tehran by the Japanese prime minister shows that Iran has a "rational

approach" by trying to settle issues through dialogue.

"The presence of the prime minister of Japan in Iran is the product of Iran's rational approach that follows issues through dialogue," noted Larijani, a philosopher-turned politician who acted as Iran's chief nuclear negotiator with the European Union when Javier Solana was the 28-nation bloc's chief diplomat.

The senior MP said Iran holds talks on international and regional issues with "friends" and countries who show interest in dialogue. "Japan is one of those countries that over the past years has always had interaction and economic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran."

The parliament speaker also referred to German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas's talks with Zarif and Rouhani on Monday and said Rouhani will attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Bishkek on Thursday and Friday where he will hold talks with foreign officials including the presidents of Russia and China.

With an indirect reference to the Trump administration's intensified sanctions pressure on Iran, Larijani said the visit by Abe shows that if "different parties" show seriousness and "act properly the issues would be resolved more easily".

Foreign Minister Zarif praised the old relationship between Iran and Japan which enjoy 90 years of diplomatic relationship.

Talking to his Japanese counterpart, Zarif said Iran considers Japan as a "good friend and partner" which have political, economic and cultural ties with.

UAE trying to become second Israel: Zarif

POLITICAL TEHRAN – The Iranian foreign minister has said that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is trying to "turn into another Israel" by spending billions of dollars to buy arms.

"Three countries in the region believe they can maintain their security through their relations with the United States," Zarif said in an interview with Al-Araby TV broadcast on Wednesday.

However, Zarif noted, they are wrong to think they can import their security from America because these weapons will be used to achieve the goals of Israel.

The chief diplomat criticized the excessive arms imports of certain regional countries, saying, "The United Arab Emirates is spending billions of dollars on armaments and wants to be a second Israel in the region," according to a Press TV transcript of the interview.

Studies show the UAE has increased its arms imports by 63% between 2012 and 2016. Its military expenditures are projected to grow to \$31.8 billion by 2021 from \$23.6 billion in 2016, according to SIPRI.

The country has led an increasingly interventionist foreign policy in hot spots like Libya, Syria and, most recently, Yemen.

Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and their allies have been pounding Yemen since March 2015 to restore its Riyadh-friendly former government. Hundreds of thousands of people have either been killed or injured since the Saudi-led war began.

In his Tuesday interview, Zarif also pointed to the ongoing tension in the Middle East, saying "everything is possible" in such a tense atmosphere where the U.S. is waging an economic war on Iran.

"There is no difference between military and economic war," he said. "In the circumstances of tension, everything is possible and the region is the biggest victim."

However, he added, Iran will never allow the U.S. to impose a unilateral war on the Iranian nation, which will inevitably harm everyone, as "war is war".

Tensions between Washington and Tehran have been rising since President Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from a 2015 international nuclear deal and imposed unilateral economic sanctions against Iran, mainly targeting its energy dealings on the global market.

In early May, the Trump administration beefed up the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf, citing alleged and unspecified threats posed by the Islamic Republic to



American troops and interests.

The U.S. recent deployment of an aircraft carrier, B-52 bombers and Patriot missiles to the Middle East has raised fears that the Trump administration was contemplating military aggression against Iran.

Iran has insisted that it will not initiate any conflict, but will firmly defend the country against any act of aggression.

Rouhani: Sanctions and pressure are starting to lose their effectiveness

POLITICAL TEHRAN – President Hassan Rouhani said on Wednesday that the effects of sanctions and pressure on Iran have reached their peak but they are starting to lose their effectiveness.

"The Iranian people should know that the U.S. pressure against our country has reached its climax and actually it is losing its effect," Rouhani told a cabinet session.

The Trump administration has used its excessive force to squeeze Iran economically. It has threatened to punish any country or company that buys oil from Iran. It has also slapped sanctions on Iran's petrochemical and steel industries.

Analysts say the only thing that the United States has not started against Iran so far is military war, although Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said there is no difference between "economic war" and "military war".

Rouhani said, "Undoubtedly, what the U.S. has done against the Iranian people is a clear example of economic terrorism. This will be recorded in history as what the 'executioners' do against the Iranian people. However, the Iranian people have resisted despite all the pressures."

Referring to remarks made by German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, Rouhani said other countries have acknowledged the Iranian people's "greatness" and know that the U.S. is on the "wrong path".

During his meeting with Rouhani on Monday, Maas said, "Anybody familiar with the history of Iran knows that the strategy of maximum pressure on the Iranian nation will never bear fruit and, for this reason, the European Union is making an all-out effort to maintain the JCPOA [the 2015 nuclear deal]."

Rouhani added that all are aware that it is the U.S. who should be blamed for problems.

Elsewhere, Rouhani said that Iran's economic situation is improving.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Sunday that the United States is exerting pressure on Iran out of "frustration" and "weakness".

"The U.S. puts pressure on Iran out of weakness and frustration. However, we will weather this pressure," he said during a ceremony held at Allameh Helli High School in Tehran.

He noted, "Today, we are not in the position of weakness. We are in the position of power. The U.S. has made serious mistakes. It [the U.S.] and its regional allies have felt weakness."

The chief diplomat said that the Iranian people should be proud of their resistance.

Second Announcement



Iran Alumina

ONE STAGE TENDER INTERNATIONAL CALL
FOR PURCHASE OF 1000 MT CRUSHED BATH
TENDER No: 98/161 **DATE: June/9/2019**

Iran Alumina Company (IAC) intends to purchase high quality crushed bath in amount of 1,000 mt for using in its Primary Aluminum Reduction Smelter Plant through one stage Tender according to following conditions as mentioned in the relevant Tender documents :

- 1.: Bid Bond Guarantee.:** 20,000 (twenty thousands) Euro/or 3,000,000,000, Rials
- 2.: Tender proposal.:** Since the tendering is to be done in one stage, thus the eligible Bidders should follow and regard the Tender instructions and present and submit all of required justified documents and the mentioned Tender envelopes in one package together.
- 3.: Closing Date.:** The eligible Bidders should submit their Bids/proposal to the central administration office as mentioned below and also in the Tender documents before 14:00 pm, local time, on the day Sunday, 7th July, 2019.
- 4.: Opening Date.:** 9th July, 2019
- 5.:** The relevant cost of this publishing Tender call will be paid by the winner as the first ranking Bidder.
- 6.: Contact information .:** For more details and receiving the relevant Tender documents, the Bidders can refer to the following contact information.

Add.: Km 7 of Sankhast Road, city of Jajarm, Northern Khorasan Province, IRAN, P.O. Box: 1135-94415, Commercial department / legal and contractual Affairs.

Tel .: **0098-58-32605344** Fax.: **0098-58-32272487**
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Larijani: Iranians will resist U.S. pressure

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** – Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani has reiterated the Islamic Republic's policy toward U.S. sanctions, saying Tehran is intent on resisting against the U.S. economic pressures.

Through imposing more sanctions, Washington is seeking to pressure Tehran but Iranians will resist such pressures, Larijani said at a meeting with Chairman of the Serbian Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee Zarko Obradovic in Tehran on Wednesday.

The Trump administration, which abandoned the 2015 nuclear agreement with Iran last year, has reimposed sanctions that the agreement had rescinded, putting enormous new pressure on Iran's economy. The administration also has moved to strengthen the American military presence in the Persian Gulf in response to what it has claimed was increased Iranian threats.

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 an agreement is not made within 60 days to shield it from the sanctions' effects.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Majlis speaker hailed the "independence-seeking spirit" of Serbia, saying, "Countries that have been dominated by the U.S. will not have a good fate and will pay a huge cost in the long term."

The Serbian lawmaker, for his part, pointed to bilateral relations between Iran and Serbia and hailed the high level of parliamentary and political ties.

However, the level of economic cooperation between the two countries is not good enough, he said, calling for further efforts to boost trade ties.

Iran and Serbia have recently ramped up efforts to boost relations between the countries.

In March 2018, after a gap of 27 years, direct flights between Iran and Serbia resumed, when an IranAir jet touched down at Belgrade's Nikola Tesla airport.

Rouhani congratulates Putin on Russia Day

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** – President Hassan Rouhani has felicitated his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Russia's National Day, expressing confidence that bilateral relations will expand and deepen.

"I would like to offer my sincerest congratulations to Your Excellency and the people of that country on the Russian Federation's National Day," Rouhani said in a message on Wednesday, Mehr reported.

"I am confident that the Russian government and nation, under Your Excellency's leadership, will continue to move towards development and progress and friendly relations between the two countries will further deepen in all areas of mutual interests," he added.

The president wished his Russian counterpart health and

success and the people of the Russian Federation prosperity and glory.

Russia Day, called Day of adoption of the declaration of state sovereignty of Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR) before 2002, is the national holiday of the Russian Federation. It has been celebrated annually on June 12 since 1992.

President felicitates Philippines on National Day

Rouhani also has sent a message to the president of the Philippines to offer him and the people of the country on the National Day of the Republic of the Philippines and expressed hope that amicable relations between the two countries will further deepen.

As reported by his official website, Rouhani's message is as follows:

Your Excellency Mr. Rodrigo Duterte, President of the Republic of the Philippines, I would like to offer my sincerest congratulations to Your Excellency and the people of that country on the National Day of the Republic of the Philippines.

In the recent years, we have witnessed growing relations between the two countries due to Your Excellency's independent, popular approach. I hope that these friendly relations further develop to serve interests of the two nations.

I wish Your Excellency health and success and the people of the Republic of the Philippines prosperity and felicity.

Abe's Tehran visit marks a milestone in bilateral ties: ambassador

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** – Iran's Ambassador to Japan Morteza Rahmani Movahed believes Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to Tehran will be a milestone in Tehran-Tokyo relations.

Writing an article in the Iran newspaper published on Wednesday, just hours before Abe's arrival in Tehran, Movahed said, "The historic visit by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe can be a turning point in the development of bilateral relations between Iran and Japan as well as an increase in a

sincere and valuable cooperation between these two countries."

The article headlined "From Fuji to Damavand", the ambassador said, "While Iran and Japan are located in the extreme west and east of Asia, they enjoy long, historic relations."

Fuji and Damavand are the highest mountains in Japan and Iran respectively.

The Iranian envoy further said Japan, as the world's third largest economy, holds a special position in Iran's foreign policy.

He said the Islamic Republic is seeking to strengthen its cooperation with the East, adding that there are no obstacles from Iran's part to developing ties with Japan.

Iran and Japan share similar views about stability and security in the Middle East and East Asia, rule of law, human rights, non-interference in other countries and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and nuclear weapons, he remarked.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Rahmani

Movahed referred to Japan's support for the constructive and peaceful nuclear deal Iran signed with world powers in 2015, and close consultations in international and regional issues as the most important factors in the two countries' current relations

"I firmly believe that the Iranian and Japanese nations, as well as the international community, will soon witness the achievements of this important and historic visit," he concluded.

European officials frustrated over faltering Iran nuclear pact

STOCKHOLM (AP) – The foreign ministers of Germany and Sweden expressed frustration Tuesday over the possible demise of the Iran nuclear deal, warning Tehran that withdrawing would bring "international isolation" and criticizing the United States for jeopardizing a decade of diplomatic efforts.

Speaking at a nuclear disarmament meeting in Stockholm, Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom said Washington's abandonment of the 2015 accord had been "very counterproductive" – threatening not just the Iran deal but the credibility of world powers in negotiating with North Korea.

The European Union and some countries in Europe have been working to salvage the agreement since U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from it last year and reinstated sanctions against Iran.

Tehran has threatened to also walk away from the deal on July 7 and resume enriching uranium closer to weap-



ons-grade level unless the remaining signatories – China, Russia, France, Germany and Britain – find a way to neutralize the effect of U.S. sanctions.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, who was in Iran on Monday for talks on the country's nuclear program, warned that the deal's collapse served the interests of neither Europe nor Iran.

"If Iran were to withdraw from this agreement, it would go into international isolation; it would be back where it was before the agreement, including all the sanctions," he added. "That cannot be in Iran's interest."

Maas and Wallstrom spoke after a one-day meeting on nuclear weapons ahead of the 50th anniversary next year of the history nuclear weapons treaty that took effect in 1970.

It gathered representatives from Argentina, Canada, Finland, Ethiopia, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Netherlands, Norway, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

EU, U.S. split roles in standoff with Iran: Almayadeen

1 → But the fact is that the reality of the Europeans' face in lack of regard for their commitments is seen more boldly in French President Emmanuel Macron's remarks who has called for 'completing' the nuclear deal and demands that the deal include what he calls fighting Iran's influence in the region."

Maas met with President Hassan Rouhani and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in Tehran on Monday. During a joint press conference with Zarif, he said Germany supports the JCPOA and recognizes Iran's

right to enjoy benefits of the deal.

But he acknowledged that the economic benefits Tehran hoped for from the deal were now "more difficult to obtain", but urged Iran to fully respect the agreement.

It is in Iran's "political and strategic interest to maintain this agreement and the dialogue with Europe", Maas said.

Maas said that the UK, France and Germany support the JCPOA. However, he said, "The position of our three European countries is that we support the JCPOA and we want

to continue our commitments but we cannot expect miracles."

He also said, "We make efforts to make it possible to have economic cooperation with Iran. A financial mechanism called INSTEX has been devised in this respect."

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.

Following Washington's last year withdrawal from the JCPOA and consecutive waves of sanctions on Tehran, Iran announced on May 8 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 an agreement is not made within 60 days to protect it from the sanctions' effects.

Zarif: Iranians facing economic war and hate propaganda by U.S.

1 → Iranian officials including Foreign Minister Zarif and President Hassan Rouhani have called the U.S. unprecedented sanctions against Iran as an example of "economic terrorism".

In its newest sanctions measure, the United States has hit Iran's Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (PGPIC) with economic sanctions. The move aims to choke off financing to Iran's largest and most profitable petrochemical group and extends to its 39 subsidiaries and "foreign-based sales agents," the U.S. Treasury said in a statement on June 8. Zarif said Iran will find solution to sanctions effect by reducing its budget on oil incomes.

"In this hard condition we will find solutions for the welfare of our people, including a revision in budget and following monetary policies without reliance on oil," Zarif stated.

For his part, Kono described the visit of his country's

prime minister to the "friendly" country of Iran as "historic" and said Japan is ready to help deescalate tension between Iran and the United States.

Amid escalating tensions between Tehran and Washington, the U.S. has sent military reinforcements, including the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier strike group, a squadron of B-52 bombers, and a battery of patriot missiles, to the Middle East, citing alleged unspecified "threats" from Iran.

"We believe that in this important region a lesser tension will benefit all, otherwise we all lose," Kono pointed out.

He added, "Japan is ready to do whatever that leads to reducing tension."

The foreign ministers of Iran and Japan also held the second round of their talks and after that Zarif went to Mehrabad airport to welcome Abe's arrival in Tehran.



Leader offers condolences over Ayatollah Mohaqiq Kabuli's death

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has offered his condolences over the demise of Grand Ayatollah Mohaqiq Kabuli, a prominent Afghan Shia cleric, according to Mehr.



"I offer my deepest condolences over the death of the great scholar Ayatollah Hajj Sheikh Ghorbanali Mohaqiq Kabuli to the honorable people of Afghanistan, his family, the seminaries, scholars, his disciples and lovers of this salient figure," Ayatollah Khamenei said in a message on Wednesday.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif also expressed his condolences over the demise of Ayatollah Mohaqiq Kabuli.

In his message, Zarif said, "I ask God to give great blessings to Ayatollah Mohaqiq. May God give patience to his family."

Ayatollah Mohaqiq Kabuli, an Afghan Shia source of emulation who resided in Iran's holy city of Qom, died on Tuesday at the age of 91.

He was born in 1928 in Parwan province, near the Afghan capital Kabul.

At the age of seven, he started learning the Holy Quran and Persian and then the Islamic teachings and Arabic literature.

Ayatollah Kabuli continued his religious education in Kabul and then left for the holy city of Najaf, Iraq, to study at the prestigious seminary there.

He wrote various books on religious studies, including on Fiqh (Islamic jurisprudence).

New Chinese envoy submits credentials to Zarif

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** – China's new Ambassador to Tehran Chang Hua met with Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Wednesday to submit a copy of his credentials to the Iranian chief diplomat.

During the meeting, the two weighed plans to implement the agreements signed recently between Iran and China among other things, Tasnim reported.

The two sides also discussed developments in Iran-China ties and their cooperation on various issues, including the 2015 nuclear pact, transportation, energy industry and terror fight.

In May last year, Zarif hailed the "serious and friendly" negotiations with Chinese officials during a short trip to Beijing, saying the two countries enjoy strategic relations that are not influenced by outsiders.

He also described China as Iran's major trade partner and a party to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) that could play a major role in strengthening the international consensus on saving the accord.

Iraq, Syria are Iran's strategic complements: general

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** – Major General Yahya Rahim Safavi, the top military aide to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, has said Iraq and Syria are Iran's strategic complements.

The Iran-Iraq-Syria axis is an economic, political, security and defensive bloc against the Zionist regime and the U.S., Rahim Safavi said in the southwestern city of Ahvaz on Wednesday, IRNA reported.

The 60-million-people market of Iraq and Syria can be regarded by Iran as targets for the country's exports, said Safavi, now a geopolitics professor at Shahid Beheshti University.

The general added that the long border with Iraq, and the multi-million pilgrim visits by people to the holy places in the country, are good grounds for promoting trade ties with Iraq.

Iran-Cuba friendship group slams U.S. sanctions on Havana

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** – The Iran-Cuba parliamentary friendship group in a statement on Wednesday denounced U.S. economic sanctions on Cuba, expressing support for the Cuban people in the face of Washington's hegemonic policies.

According to the statement, Iran respects the efforts made by the Cuban government to protect its people against the effects of the inhumane sanctions imposed by the United States.

It also called on the parliaments of all the countries to use all their capabilities to counter U.S. unilateral and destabilizing policies.

The people and the government of Cuba will resist the pressures and will leave them behind with honor, the statement added.

STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	233352.7
IFX	2956.96

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	47,599 rials
GBP	53,414 rials
AED	11,437 rials

Source: cbi.ir

COMMODITIES

Brent	\$60.91/b
WTI	\$51.91/b
OPEC Basket	\$63.01/b
Gold	\$1,336.75/oz
Silver	\$14.83oz
Platinum	\$818.90/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

Tabriz hosting 2 international exhibitions

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The 24th International Exhibition of Building Materials and Construction Machinery and Equipment (BUILDEXPO 2019) and 22nd International Exhibition of Heating, Cooling and Air Conditioning Systems (HAICO 2019) are being held during June 11-14 in the northwestern city of Tabriz, IRNA reported.

Several Iranian exhibitors along with foreign companies from different countries including Turkey, China, Germany, Italy, Japan, South Korea, France, Malaysia, Poland and Taiwan, are showcasing their latest products and services in these exhibitions.

Concrete and industrial machinery, tiles and ceramic, various types of flooring, elevators and related parts, switches and sockets, PVC and aluminum doors and windows, surveying equipment, different types of ceilings, wallpaper, moisture insulation, various types of automatic doors, engineering services, polypropylene pipes and fittings, radiator, aluminum radiator and other thermal and refrigerating appliances are being showcased in the exhibitions.

'Iran to initiate new economic transactions despite U.S. will'



➔ Referring to the Monday trip of German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas to Tehran and also Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's trip to Tehran on Wednesday, the official said those visits to Iran were aimed to be fruitful and the Islamic Republic will not continue cooperation in the previous way anymore while it expects economic results from such negotiations.

In Trump's multifront trade war, Mexico's okay, China's definitely not

The multifront trade war being waged by the Trump administration does have winners and losers, at least in the relationship game. Mexico is winning, China is losing.

Mexico agreed to help the U.S. fight a relentless flow of migrants across the border, killing tariffs for now. China's Xi Jinping may or may not meet with President Trump at the G20 in Osaka, Japan, in two weeks, causing Trump to tweet that if he gets the cold shoulder, tariffs are going up on \$300 million worth of goods.

In the trade war, Mexico is looking more like the partner it's always been. China, on the other hand, is still on the skids.

One can only imagine what tariffs against Mexico-based companies would have meant for the U.S. For starters, higher prices for those goods here at home. Over time, would those price increases have caused U.S. importers to look elsewhere for the same item or would Mexican firms lower their prices to compensate? What would be the outcome for U.S. companies facing tighter profit margins? Does it translate to cutting costs elsewhere and laying people off or no longer hiring?

But when it comes to China, a yearlong trade war has produced some numbers to see where China's taking its lumps.

Companies are indeed looking to source material elsewhere. Chinese companies, already considering a move to cheaper parts of Southeast Asia, are relocating ahead of schedule. This is not a mass movement, but it's a movement nonetheless.

As far as economic data goes, China's PMI looks no different from PMI data out of China two years ago. Sometimes it's 48.9. Sometimes it's 50.5. Anything over 50 is seen as a positive. Below 50, however, is not the signal of a hard landing the China bears have been waiting for since at least 2010.

Iranian-made freight locomotive unveiled

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iran's transport and urban development minister unveiled an Iranian-made freight locomotive on the sidelines of the 7th International Exhibition of Rail Transportation, Related Industries and Equipment, dubbed RAILEXPO 2019.

"This new locomotive can reduce its supply costs to one-sixth while being able to compete with foreign rivals," IRNA quoted Mohammad Eslami as saying.

Over 170 Iranian and foreign companies from Russia, Turkey, China, Italy, and Latvia took part in Iran RAILEXPO 2019.

The exhibition wrapped up yesterday at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds.

Showcasing the latest achievements and technologies of the rail industry in Iran and across the world and providing investment



opportunities were pointed out to be the most important goals of this year's exhibition.

The development of rail transport infrastructure is crucial for sustainable development and economic growth in any country, and Iran has been heavily focusing on expanding its railway infrastructure in recent years.

Last year, during the same exhibition, Iran unveiled the first ever Iranian-made locomotive engine.

According to the manufacturers, the mentioned engine complies with Euro4 standards for reducing fuel consumption and competes with the best European engines in terms of quality.

Currently, Iran has 13,000 kilometers of railway laid, and based on the country's Sixth National Five-Year Development Plan (2016-2021), the railway network is due to expand to more than 16,400 kilometers.

Tehran to host intl. kitchen, pool, sauna, bath industries expo

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The 17th International Exhibition of Kitchen, Bath, Sauna, Pool Industries and Equipment is due to be held during June 30-July 3 at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds, IRIB reported.

Attended by 250 foreign and domestic companies, the event is going to be a place for showcasing the kitchen, bath, sauna, pool industries' latest advancements and achievements.

According to the organizers, several workshops are also

scheduled to be held on the sidelines of the exhibition and several foreign trade delegations from Central Asia and the Persian Gulf region are also due to visit the exhibition to purchase products or sign deals with Iranian manufacturers.

Covering four main categories of kitchen, pool, sauna and bath, the four-day event aims to increase the efficiency of Iranian factories and production units, expand the industry's export markets, identify problems, barriers and

weaknesses in the industry, and also to create a healthy competitive environment for domestic producers to improve their production quality.

The 26th International Tile-Ceramic and Sanitary ware (CERAFAIR 2019) is also due to be held concurrent with this exhibition which provides a greater opportunity for the businessmen, traders and manufacturers of these industries to directly interact and explore avenues of cooperation.

China's loans to other countries are causing 'hidden' debt. That may be a problem

By Weizhen Tan

An opaque build-up of debt, caused by China's lack of transparency in issuing loans, could pose a risk to the world economy, experts say.

It may also affect investors who are considering bonds issued by those countries, or organizations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which are helping those countries with their debts, according to Carmen Reinhart, a professor at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

China's lending to other countries, often shrouded in secrecy, is thought to be higher than the amounts that are officially tracked, resulting in much "hidden debt." That growing debt problem could spark a worse-than-expected slowdown, among other problems, experts warn.

The lack of transparency would also affect investors who are considering bonds issued by those countries, or organizations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which are helping those countries with their debts, according to Carmen Reinhart, a professor at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Speaking at the Nomura Investment Forum in Singapore late last month, she said: "China's rise as a global creditor has also meant that there are a lot of hidden debts. That is, countries that had borrowed from China but this borrowing is not reported by the IMF, by the World Bank."

Lower debt levels

"So there is a tendency to think these countries had lower debt levels than what they actually have," she concluded.

That would hinder the IMF or the World Bank in doing their work on debt sustainability analysis, she said. That effort includes analyzing countries' debt burdens, and coming up with recommendations for a borrowing strategy that limits the risk of debt distress.

"From the vantage point of surveillance, this means that the IMF, if they're doing debt sustainability for example for Pakistan, unless they know how much Pakistan owes China, they are doing that sustainability exercise blindfolded," Reinhart said.

For investors, the limited information they have hinders them in making invest-

ment decisions about bonds issued by those countries if they don't know how much is actually owed to China already, she added. That could lead to them underestimating the risk of lending money to those countries through bonds.

Reinhart told the conference that, since 2011, there had been many such loans those countries took from Chinese lenders which needed to be restructured, or renegotiated. Such nations include Sri Lanka, Ukraine, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bangladesh and Cuba, according to Reinhart.

Official debt statistics are tracked by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, but that only captures about half the Chinese loans to other countries, Reinhart estimated.

Furthermore, China is not a member of the so-called Paris Club, which also tracks official lending, and is "not interested" in joining, said Reinhart. The Paris Club is a group of creditor nations which aims to fix debt problems of other countries.

Public-sector assets

Those loans to countries have been shrouded in secrecy, according to reports, with China often demanding public-sector assets as collateral.

One example of those opaque loans is how Chinese loans to Venezuela were denominated in barrels of oil, according to a speech last year from David Malpass, the current president of the World Bank who was then the U.S. Treasury Undersecretary for International Affairs. "This has the effect of masking the exact amount of payments that China made to Venezuelan officials and that Venezuelans are expected to make to China in the future," he said.

"If you ask China for its terms you will not find them," he said in that speech.

Both the IMF and World Bank have called for more transparency on those loan amounts and terms in their annual Spring Meetings in April this year.

In response to a query from CNBC, the World Bank said that debt transparency is "critical."

"Borrowers need comprehensive and timely debt data to make informed decisions. It also allows lenders to manage lending risks more efficiently — thereby bringing down

the cost of lending for everyone," it said.

Furthermore, the international organization said, debt transparency lets citizens "hold their governments accountable."

"In short, debt transparency is essential for economic development. So when debts are 'hidden,' that's a problem for everyone — not just the World Bank or the IMF. It's especially a problem for the citizens of countries whose hidden debt is suddenly discovered, since uncertainty can lead to higher funding costs or, in the worst case, cut them off from funding," the World Bank statement said.

That under-reported debt situation could be a problem, according to Kaho Yu, senior Asia analyst at Verisk Maplecroft.

"Although Beijing's lending can help developing countries, an opaque build-up of debt may eventually drag down economic growth," he told CNBC in an email.

Yu added: "China might have assured the developing countries that the cost of the loans would be covered by projects in the long run once they become operational, but no guarantee is given."

China has been criticized for saddling many countries with debt through its Belt and Road Initiative — a mammoth infrastructure investment plan to build rail, road, sea and other routes stretching from China to Central Asia, Africa and Europe.

Chinese financial institutions have provided more than \$440 billion in funding for Belt and Road projects, People's Bank of China Governor Yi Gang said during a talk at the second Belt and Road Forum in Beijing early last month.

Much of the lending is done through two policy banks — the China Development Bank and Export-Import Bank of China. The Export-Import Bank of China had said in April that it has provided more than \$149 billion in loans to more than 1,800 Belt and Road projects, while the China Development Bank said in March that it had provided financing in excess of \$190 billion for more than 600 Belt and Road projects since 2013.

But Yu cautioned that the lack of transparency surrounding the loans meant that there is also uncertainty around how sustainable the projects are.

"There are uncertainties about the long-term viability of the projects supported by

China's under-reported loans due to the lack of transparency and accountability. Although there will be a surge in (foreign direct investments) in the early stage of the projects, the deficit will widen in the long run," he told CNBC.

One high-profile example would be Sri Lanka, which had to hand over a strategic port to Beijing in 2017, after it couldn't pay off its debt to Chinese companies.

It was seen as an example of how countries that owe money to Beijing could be forced to sign over national territory or make steep concessions if they can't meet liabilities — a phenomenon dubbed debt-trap diplomacy. However, Chinese President Xi Jinping's government has denied that the country is employing such a strategy.

The debt sustainability

The IMF declined to comment beyond referring CNBC to a speech Lagarde delivered in April. In that, she said "debt sustainability ... will strengthen BRI sustainability," but she did not appear to address the issue of hidden debt affecting her group's ability to conduct analysis.

"History has taught us that, if not managed carefully, infrastructure investments can lead to a problematic increase in debt," she said.

With risks increasing — whether associated with China's slowing economy or the Belt and Road project — Chinese loans to other countries could slow going forward.

Tom Rafferty, principal economist for China at the Economist Intelligence Unit, pointed to more risks ahead and said the outlook for Chinese lending going forward would be "restrained."

"Chinese overseas lending slowed quite strongly in 2018 as risk aversion grew and constraints began to emerge in terms of US dollar financing," he told CNBC in an email, citing information in the annual reports of China's two policy lenders —

Rafferty explained that China's traditionally large current account surplus has been generating the foreign exchange reserves — held in U.S. dollars — that are used for its overseas lending, especially to countries involved in the Belt and Road projects.

(Source: cnbc.com)

S.Korea jobless rate flat at 4 percent in May, job additions gather pace

South Korea's jobless rate remained flat at 4 percent in May from a year earlier, and job additions again exceeded the 200,000 mark, government data showed Wednesday.

As per en.yna.co.kr, the number of employed people reached 27.32 million in May, an increase of 259,000 from the same month in 2018, according to the data compiled by Statistics Korea.

The statistics agency said the number of unemployed people stood at 1.145 million in May, the highest level for any May since 2000.

The unemployment rate for young adults -- those aged between 15 and 29 -- fell to 9.9 percent last month from 10.5 percent tallied a year earlier.

The employment rate -- referring to the proportion of employed working-age adults -- reached 61.5 percent in May, marking the highest level for any May since the statistics agency started to compile such data in 1989.

By industry, the manufacturing sector -- the backbone of South Korea's economy -- continued to suffer a decline in job offerings by losing 73,000 jobs in May.

It marked the 14th straight month of employment decline in the manufacturing sector due to weak demand in the semiconductor, communication equipment and other electronic parts industries.



The "continued employment decline is a negative signal and the number of employed people in the manufacturing sector plunged to a low of 170,000 in January, but the pace of decline is slowing down" said Jeong Dong-wook, director of Statistics Korea's employment statistics division.

In contrast, the health and social welfare sectors added

124,000 jobs, and the education service sector saw an increase of 47,000 jobs last month.

Recent expansion of benefits

Separate data showed that the amount of state allowances paid to people who are unemployed or seeking employment soared to a new high for a third consecutive month in May, largely due to a recent expansion of benefits that led to a sharp increase in the number of beneficiaries and a rise in unemployment.

According to the data from the labor ministry, the government paid nearly 759 billion won (\$643 million) in various benefits to those without jobs in May, which marks a 24.7-percent spike from the same month last year.

South Korea's economy is feared to lose its upward momentum in the face of headwinds stemming from the growing trade row between the U.S. and China.

Asia's fourth-largest economy unexpectedly contracted 0.4 percent in the first quarter from three months earlier, marking the worst performance in a decade, hit by slumping exports and chip prices.

The Bank of Korea earlier trimmed its economic outlook to 2.5 percent from 2.6 percent citing a protracted slump in exports and weak business spending.

Iran produced 4.156m bpd of crude oil in 2018: BP

ENERGY TEHRAN— Major multinational oil and gas company British Petroleum (BP), in its latest world energy report called "BP Statistical Review of World Energy", has put Iran's crude oil production at 4.156 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2018.

Based on the review, Iran's crude oil and condensate output fell seven percent in 2018 compared to the preceding year's 4.471 million bpd, Tasnim reported on Wednesday.

Iran accounted for five percent of total world

oil production in 2018, while it held nine percent of the world's proven crude oil resources and 16.2 percent of the global gas resources were reported to also lay in Iran.

According to the report, Iran's oil reserves at the end of 2018 stood at 155.6 billion barrels. This figure has not changed since last year.

The country's proven gas reserves at the end of 2018 reported to be 31.9 trillion cubic meters, which did not increase or decrease compared to the previous year.

Iran's refineries output also grew by 2.9



percent in 2018 to 2.026 barrels a day.

The year before, the figure was announced to be 1.968 bpd. Iran's share of the world's total oil refining stood at 2.4 percent in 2018.

Based on the data provided by BP, in 2018, Iran produced 239.5 billion cubic meters of gas, equivalent to 6.2 percent of the total global gas production.

In 2017, the country produced 220.2 billion cubic meters of gas, which shows Iran's gas production in 2018 grew 8.8 percent year-on-year.

British Petroleum put Iran's total gas exports in 2018 at 12.1 billion cubic meters, of which 7.6 billion cubic meters was exported to Turkey and 4.1 billion cubic meters was sold to Iraq.

15 mt/y of petchem output from PEISEZ on agenda

ENERGY TEHRAN— Iran plans to establish a new petrochemical complex in Hormozgan Province adjacent to Persian Gulf waters, which will increase the country's petrochemical output by 15 million tons per year, Shana reported.

Comprising of 14 petrochemical projects in Phase I, the new petrochemical complex will be constructed in the Parsian Energy Intensive Industrial Special Economic Zone (PEISEZ).

According to Behzad Mohammadi, the managing director of the National Petrochemical Company (NPC), the new petrochemical hub, PEISEZ, is planned to be established by the oil ministry in collaboration with the ministry of industry, mine and trade.

Earlier this week, NPC signed a memorandum of understanding with the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries



Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) for accelerating the construction operations at the PEISEZ

complex.

A wide variety of industries such as power plants, aluminum complexes and petro refineries are also going to be integrated into this new hub.

Accessing diverse liquid and gas feedstock is one of the main attractions of Iran's petrochemical industry for investors, and it is safe to say that the industry is Iran's most lucrative industry.

PEISEZ with an area of 9,800 hectares is located 15 km west of Parsian City in Hormozgan Province. The site is also located 20 km from the Persian Gulf International Airport and 43 km from Pars Port.

This region is one of the major development poles in the country, which allows for the establishment of various energy-intensive industries due to its economic, environmental and geographic position.

Road from oil-reliant economy to oil free one

1 → In recent months, the government has been dealing with unpredictable foreign exchange rate fluctuations which have directly influenced the prices of basic goods, raw materials, and domestic unofficial markets.

Accordingly, the government has been determined to review and modify its monetary policies about setting foreign exchange rates, curb the rampant inflation and high liquidity volume and supply the present budget deficit via relying on stock market.

It also has sought to move toward a non-oil-reliant economy to be able to prevent its operating costs, surpass its income, to tackle the rampant inflation, increase the income of its employees and pay the intended cash subsidies to lower income-earners without increasing the prices of energy carriers and fuel or levying higher taxes, which do not seem to be welcome by the Iranian nation under the ongoing conditions.

Based on the latest data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), in the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21- May 21), Iran exported \$8.4 billion of non-oil

products. The figure shows an increase of 7.1 percent from \$7.7 billion in the same time span in the year preceding.

On May 14, Iranian first Vice-President Es'hagh Jahangiri announced that the country's reliance on oil income has dropped below 30 percent. The government could manage to decrease Iran's dependence on oil revenues from its previous 80-90 percent to less than 30 percent, the Iranian official said.

In recent days, the forex rates have experienced a cooling trend and the central bank claims to have more control over its foreign exchange market. CBI believes the decline is the result of the formation of the CBI's planned Regulated Foreign Exchange Market, which could make the market balanced via fair distribution of forex resources among domestic exporters who have re-injected their exports revenues back into the economy cycle.

Some, however, believe that the drop is due to political reasons: the visit of the Japanese foreign minister to Iran.

Whatever the reason is, the predictability of this market is still low. No one can foresee the market's trend



even in near future.

As discussed, regarding Trump's new round of sanctions on Iranian metal and petrochemicals sector, the need for an indigenous economy and boosting production to have non-oil exports revenues augment is more highlighted.

Increasing non-oil exports to neighbor countries besides making structural economic modifications are hoped to revive the breathless economy.

Potential OPEC deal and trade war cause oil price volatility

Oil prices have been seesawing of late thanks to chances of a protracted output cut deal by Saudi-led OPEC and Russia and U.S.-China trade war. United States Oil Fund LP USO is up only 1% in the past five days (as of Jun 10, 2019).

According to etfdailynews.com, oil slumped into the bear market in early June as U.S. crude stockpiles hit the maximum since 1990, raising concerns of a supply glut especially amid tariff wars and expected global growth slowdown.

Crude is now hovering around \$53.88/barrel. Saudi Arabia is now hurrying to extend the ongoing production cuts, which are due to expire in June. But there is still uncertainty regarding Russia's decision on whether to continue production curbs.

According to an article published on oilprice.com, "of course Saudi Arabia wants oil prices to remain higher," the Interfax news agency quoted Putin as saying. "But we have no such need due to the more diversified nature of the Russian economy." Moscow is considering if further cuts would help the United States to take Russian market share, per CNBC.



■ U.S.-China trade tension

U.S.-China trade tension is a key concern. The Trump administration lifted tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods from 10% to 25% on May 10 and China imposed a tariff hike on \$60 billion of American goods to 25% starting Jun 1.

All these trade conflicts will nothing but slow down global growth. Per IMF, the "current and threatened U.S.-China tariffs could cut 2020 global gross domestic product

by 0.5%." So, the fate of oil price largely depends on the future of trade war.

Barclays bank noted that over the past week or so, economists had lowered their GDP growth outlook for the United States, China, India and Brazil — countries that make up more than three-quarters of their oil demand growth assumptions for this year, as quoted on CNBC.

The revisions suggest a reduction of 300,000 barrel per day in their present "global oil demand outlook of 1.3 million barrels per day year-on-year for this year."

Having said all, we would like to note that Russian energy minister Alexander Novak acknowledged the risk of oversupply. He could not rule out a drop in oil prices to \$30 per barrel if the extension of the output cut deal is not executed.

Investors should note that the United States and China will also hold a discussion in the G20 meeting slated for later this month in Japan. And the joint OPEC+ meeting is scheduled in early July. Investors would get a clearer view of the flow of oil price after these two events. Till then one can expect oil prices to remain volatile.

Global energy consumption trends 'unsustainable,' says BP's CEO

The current trends in global energy demand growth and consumption are not sustainable, and continue to push away from carbon dioxide (CO2) reduction targets necessary to meet the Paris Accord commitments, the CEO at UK's energy major BP said on Tuesday.

As per icis.com, U.S. coal train in what Bob Dudley termed an "unwelcome development", carbon emissions rose at the fastest rate in seven years at a time when they should be falling.

"2018 was just astonishing," he said, speaking at the launch of BP's annual world energy review in London.

"There have been some incredible developments, and not just for the better."

Energy consumption rose at its fastest rate in a decade on the back of developing world growth driven by India and China, but also by the U.S., which posted its highest demand growth levels in 30 years.

The U.S.' shale sector also drove unprecedented increases in oil and gas

output last year, with capacity increases in both energy classes the highest of any country since BP began its annual energy review 68 years ago, according to Dudley.

Bob Dudley last year also recorded the second consecutive rise in coal demand growth, after three years of falls in what Dudley termed a "worrying trend".

Meanwhile, renewable energy output rose, but not at a rate that is likely to be sufficient to offset the growth in emissions from other sources.

The unexpectedly high demand and emissions growth and the rebound in coal consumption mean that governments are moving further from rather than closer to the kind of energy transition envisaged in the Paris Accord, Dudley added.

"The world is not on a sustainable path, if anything we are moving further away from it rather than getting closer," he said, noting that the more carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions continue to rise, the tougher the adjustments will be.

Gas the 'dumbest partner' for renewable energy

Gas is not a viable bridge fuel toward a carbon-free energy system and is one of the "dumbest partners" in energy generation alongside renewables, a UK expert told an event in Dublin on early Tuesday.

As greennews.ie stated, speaking at a briefing on the stalled progress of People Before Profit's Bill to halt the issuing of fossil fuel licenses, Gregg Muttitt of the energy think tank Oil Change International said that the idea of using gas as a bridge fuel died decades ago when renewables were still expensive.

The government has repeatedly said gas is a key transition fuel in the short to medium term, with the Department of Climate Action stating that fossil fuels will be required to meet electricity needs and provide a back-up supply "when the wind isn't blowing and the sun isn't shining".

The government recently granted consent to CNOOC Petroleum Europe — a subsidiary of the Chinese National Offshore Oil Company — for an exploratory

oil and gas well in the Porcupine Basin.

■ Declining renewable costs

Today, however, with rapidly declining renewable costs coupled with out of control emissions, Mr. Muttitt said that moving from one fossil fuel to another "will not allow us to achieve the Paris Agreement goals".

The Paris Agreement's central goal is to keep the global average temperature rise to well below 2C degrees and as close as possible to 1.5C.

"Gas is not a transition or bridge fuel, it is an old dirty fuel from the 20th century and we need a real transition to renewables," he said. "There is no way the world can achieve the Paris goals if we keep adding more oil, coal, and gas to the system."

The Climate Emergency Measures Bill raised by Deputy Brid Smith was slated to proceed to Committee Stage on 11 June. However, a letter sent Smith signed by the Minister for Natural Resources Sean Canney TD states that the Bill now requires a "money message".

Oil falls over 2% on weaker demand growth, gain in U.S. crude stocks

Oil prices fell more than 2 percent on Wednesday, weighed down by a weaker demand outlook and a rise in U.S. crude inventories despite expectations of extended supply cuts led by OPEC.

According to Reuters, Brent crude futures, the international benchmark for oil prices, were down \$1.69, or 2.71 percent, at \$60.60 a barrel by 0907 GMT.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude futures were down \$1.56, or 2.93 percent, at \$51.71.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) cut its forecasts for 2019 world oil demand growth and U.S. crude production on Tuesday.



A surprise increase in U.S. crude stockpiles also kept oil prices under pressure.

"Investors have been concerned about the recent rise in stockpiles in the U.S.," ANZ bank said in a note.

U.S. crude inventories rose by 4.9 million barrels in the week ended June 7 to 482.8 million barrels, data from the American Petroleum Institute (API) showed on Tuesday. That compared with analyst expectations for a decrease of 481,000 barrels.

Trade tensions between the United States and China, the world's two biggest oil consumers, also weighed on prices. U.S. President Donald Trump said he was holding up a trade deal with China.

European shares pulled back from three-week highs on Wednesday as this month's recovery rally ran out of steam on the back of soft Chinese factory activity and trade frictions.

Hedge fund managers are liquidating bullish oil positions at the fastest rate since the fourth quarter of 2018.

With the next meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries set for the end of June, the market is looking to whether the world's major oil producers will prolong their supply cuts.

OPEC, along with non-members including Russia, have limited their oil output by 1.2 million barrels per day since the start of the year to prop up prices.

Goldman Sachs said in a note that an uncertain macroeconomic outlook and volatile oil production from Iran and others could lead OPEC to roll over supply cuts.

"We expect such an outcome to only be modestly supportive of prices with our third-quarter Brent forecast at \$65.5 per barrel," Goldman added.

The energy minister of the United Arab Emirates, Suhail bin Mohammed al-Mazroui, said on Tuesday that OPEC members were close to reaching an agreement on continuing production cuts.

OPEC is set to meet on June 25, followed by talks with its allies led by Russia on June 26. But Russia suggested a date change to July 3 to 4, sources within the group previously told Reuters.

Global Wind Farm Operation Market emerging progress 2018-2023

Wind Farm Operation Market made available by Worldwide Market Reports 2018 – 2023 offering latest Industry review, Regional market, Opportunities, Emerging growth factor, Drivers, challenges, characterization, application, innovation, openings, future guide, and most recent market competitors joined with their market share.

The report covers a thorough perception of the Keyword market and identifies the key trends associated with the different sectors of the market.

According to veteransweekly.org, this Wind Farm Operation Market report focuses on value chain analysis and exhaustive market information about the top manufacture with future plans and financial performance.

In this report, the study covers recent developments, updates in key players, market regulation and market trends. We also give the details solution about the business trends, latest geographical market segmentation, and market challenges.

On the basis of consumers analysis, gross margin analysis, distribution analysis, and local consumption analysis it's will help to grow your business on the top across the world.

The comprehensive report contains analysis value chain analysis, porter five forces model analysis, and cost structure analysis that all together makes industry chain.

The report covers the global market along with the present situation, historical background, and future forecast.

A competitive landscape that identifies the main competitors of the worldwide market and their Wind Farm Operation Market share further highlighted during this analysis report.

A deliberate identification of major competitors of the Wind Farm Operation Market further as an innovative analysis of their current developments, core competencies and investments in every phase are careful within the Wind Farm Operation analysis report.

This report features mainly top to bottom approach to target key aspects of Global Wind Farm Operation Market outlook market that includes, gross revenue, CAGR, key players, cost structure, production capacity, sales analysis and future growth trends projected on the basis of historical Global Wind Farm Operation Market outlook research.

In the end, the Wind Farm Operation Market reports provide meaningful data to those who are looking to enter into the Wind Farm Operation Industry by providing market competition, Size, and Trends of Wind Farm Operation Market.

EUNIC President:

European film week meant to enhance Iran-Europe understanding of each other



By Haniyeh Sadat Jafariyeh

TEHRAN (MNA) — The European Film Week 2019 — that started on June the 8th — includes 19 participating European countries and is taking place in 8 cities, namely: Babol, Isfahan, Kerman, Kish, Mashhad, Tabriz, Tehran and Shiraz, under the aegis of the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) — Iran network and in cooperation with the Art & Experience Cinema Institute.

By pooling together resources and expertise of 23 EU Member States and European partner countries, EUNIC Iran works to build cultural bridges between Europe and Iran, believing that cultural exchange is the key element to deepen our understanding of each other.

This year, Austria, Bulgaria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain and Switzerland are showing cinematic masterpieces from their countries. Furthermore, film makers from Cyprus, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland are holding stimulating workshops that may even lead to innovative collaborations with film makers from Iran.

Compared to last year, the 2019 edition of the European Film Week experienced an increase in both the number of participating countries and in the number of cities by 25 percent, which shows the great importance that the European Union and associated countries, Norway and Switzerland, attach to developing cultural relations with Iran and Iranians.

In an interview with Mehr news agency, President of EUNIC Iran Alexander Rieger, who is also the Head of the Austrian Cultural Forum in Tehran, elaborated on the cultural event.

"EUNIC Iran is the network of European Cultural Counsellors present in Iran so it is composed of representatives of the 21 EU member states which have embassies in Iran and additionally also Norway and Switzerland," he said, "Our primary objective is to develop and implement European cultural projects in Iran."

"This is the third time that we are organizing the European Film Week in Iran. First, it was organized in 2017, in Tehran and Tabriz with the participation of 12 countries. In 2018, it was improved to 15 participating countries and six cities in Iran. This year we increased the number by 25 percent, to reach eight cities in Iran with 19 European countries" he added.

"Our Iranian counterpart is Art and Experience Cinema Institute, which has identified suitable cinema partners in each of the participating Iranian cities, where the European Film Week will take place," the Austrian official said.

"While the Iranian partner is in charge of the organization and the venues for the event, each participating European country has covered all the costs for the movie, including the film license rights, translation and editing," he added.

Explaining the goals of the event, Mr. Rieger said that "the ambition for this year was to select masterpieces from each of our countries from the last few years. We tried to identify suitable award-winning films that would fit well either from an artistic or a content point of view. The European Film Week is meant to show the great European diversity and enhance our understanding of each other."

"For the first time, we also presented a two-minute-video, co-produced by EUNIC and the Austrian Foreign Ministry, about EUNIC activities worldwide. The EUNIC trailer is meant to provide a better understanding of EUNIC activities not only in Iran but also in other countries around the world, illustrating how we promote dialogue and cultural exchanges" the President said.

Being asked about the EUNIC activities in Iran, the official went on to say that "our projects aim to promote cultural exchange and intercultural dialogue between Europe and Iran. We also take into consideration, that culture has positive socio-economic effects, both job creation and value creation are important elements. Iran, having such a rich culture, is a country with enormous potential, so we try to promote these exchanges through capacity building and holding workshops. The idea is not to have a one-way road, since Iran has a lot of fascination for European intellectuals and artists. So, whenever people come here or get invited, they also learn a lot. They get a lot of inspiration. They then also promote a more balanced picture of Iran, based on their experiences, when back in their cultural circles. Our cultural work as EUNIC Iran also tries to promote cultural and creative industries, arts, science, education, tourism and cultural heritage. All these areas are considered as part of culture and all of them have great potential in Iran."

"Since 2017, EUNIC Iran is running a program named 'Artists in Residence'. In this program, European artists, from participating countries, are invited to Iran to spend one month here. They live here and work on some artistic project, getting inspired by Iran's wonderful heritage and artists. Each participating country also receives an Iranian artist for a one-month residency, thereby allowing both European and Iranian artists to profit from this unique experience," he said.

"The second big project we are focusing on now is Cultural Heritage Management. The program is going to start this year and is going to go for the next five years," he added.

"Iran has such rich cultural heritage, so we want to provide workshops and expertise. By networking with European experts, we want to support Iran's drive to modernize its cultural heritage management and present our experiences regarding marketing, tourism and all the elements involved in cultural heritage," Mr. Rieger concluded.

What is a warlike politician looking for?

Tony Blair and a bait called Brexit

By Saeed Sobhani

TEHRAN — Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair is still trying to play a major role in the country's political equivalents, under the pretext of confronting the implementation of its withdrawal plan from the European Union. It is worth pointing out that many European politicians, especially those who are opposed to Jeremy Corbyn in the leadership of the Labour Party, are secretly strengthening Tony Blair's political situation in the UK.

An overview of recent analyses of the British political situation clearly shows how fragile and difficult the country is.

■ Tony Blair says Labour 'trying to face both ways' on Brexit

As The Guardian reported, Former prime minister says party would have been better to 'fight in a clearer way'

Tony Blair has criticised Labour's handling of the Brexit process, saying "trying to keep both sides happy is not possible".

The former prime minister told an audience in London on Monday evening that although he would be voting for the party on 23 May, "it would've been better if we'd been able to fight it in a clearer way". He encouraged remainers to "vote for one of the other anti-Brexit parties" if they cannot bring themselves to vote for Labour.

The party's current stated policy is that it would support a second referendum under certain circumstances. Earlier on Monday, the deputy leader, Tom Watson, insisted Labour stood for "remain and reform" and said it seemed inevitable that a confirmatory referendum would be needed for the party's MPs to agree to any Brexit deal. On Sunday, the shadow Brexit secretary, Sir Keir Starmer, expressed doubts that a Brexit deal could pass parliament if it did not include a confirmatory referendum, warning that up to 150 Labour MPs would reject an agreement that lacked one.

On Monday night, Blair also threw his weight behind holding another vote. He told the event hosted by the Guardian at the Barbican centre that while Labour were right to accept the result of the EU referendum, another public poll in the event of unsatisfactory Brexit negotiations should have been party policy from the outset of talks.

He predicted the European elections on 23 May would "not [be] good news for the Tories or Labour" and said that, while a no-deal



Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair is still trying to play a major role in the country's political equivalents, under the pretext of confronting the implementation of its withdrawal plan from the European Union.

into a robot, parliament into a war zone and political parties into warring tribes. As the same week plays out, time and again, with endless debate in parliament over a zombie withdrawal deal that refuses to be buried, Brexit, I am guessing, has also driven a large part of the country to despair.

In my case, this despair has led to the unthinkable: a new appreciation for Tony Blair. Yes, you heard it right. In the age of insanity, I find the former UK prime minister sane. In an era of absurdity, he brings lucidity.

Though I've often been reminded of New Labour's reforms and how Mr Blair brought peace to Northern Ireland, I had, over the years, developed something of an allergy to him. I was so hypersensitive that I was annoyed by his voice and I avoided his appearances on television. That may have been,

only sensible way out of the Brexit paralysis is a second referendum.

Mr Blair is right to argue that if Britain is heading to a no-deal Brexit, which most MPs and the majority in the wider public oppose, then the government's democratic duty is to return to the people. I would add that voters should be given a chance to change their minds when Mrs May has been pressing MPs to change theirs, putting her deal to a vote three times so far. And what about headline Brexiteers' change of heart? Jacob Rees-Mogg once attacked Mrs May's deal for "turning the UK into a slave state". Last week he voted for it.

I suspect that I am not alone in reassessing Mr Blair. I doubt, though, that his shattered credibility will be rehabilitated, however wise his words on Brexit. I often hear him blamed for sowing the seeds of the distrust that now infect our politics. He bears responsibility too for the British public's backlash against immigration, having opened up Britain's borders to eastern European EU countries in 2004.

The best Mr Blair could hope for is that his legacy will be put in greater perspective. His consolation may be that the Tory prime ministers in power after Labour — David Cameron and Theresa May — have both so unashamedly put party ahead of country that they are guaranteed an even less auspicious place in history.

■ The Post-Brexit Paradox of 'Global Britain'

Soohia Gaston wrote in The Atlantic that Brexit is an all-consuming maelstrom of political dysfunction, one that has compelled Britain's eyes inward. Yet amid the chaos, Prime Minister Theresa May has been steadfast in her determination that the country's international role should not succumb to the same myopic fate as its departure from the European Union has.

In the fragile early months following the June 2016 referendum when Britain voted to leave the EU, its allies were fearful that the vote would see the country's drawbridges snapping upward. Sensing the urgent need for optimism, May and her then-foreign secretary (and now possible successor), Boris Johnson, gave bold speeches, setting out ambitions for what they called a "truly global Britain." Conjuring an image of a triumphant, swashbuckling nation retaking its rightful place on the world stage, a global Britain embodies the promise of a Brexit dividend, one in which the country is no longer hemmed in by what Brexiteers see as a European cage.

Almost three years on—through failed parliamentary votes, cabinet resignations, and May's announcement that she will step down as prime minister—this mantra of internationalism remains one of the few legacies of May's premiership. So far, however, a global Britain has been nothing more than a hollow promise.

With British diplomats struggling to convince their international peers of the phrase's fundamental purpose and meaning, a cross-party group of lawmakers leading the parliamentary Foreign Affairs Select Committee warned last year that "Global Britain" had only succeeded thus far as "a superficial rebranding exercise."

At the heart of the global Britain promise is a great paradox: Those who are most naturally inclined to support such an idea—youth, university-educated, well-traveled Britons—fundamentally resent the notion that any project forged on the back of Brexit could be truly internationalist.

Foreign policy has often served only as a sideshow to British domestic politics. How-

ever, with Brexit sparking complex new conversations about trade, diplomacy, and defense policy—as well as more elemental questions about Britain's role in the world—foreign affairs may well become one of the most active battlegrounds of Britain's deepening social fault lines. And with about a dozen contenders lining up to replace May as Britain's prime minister, the future of the "global Britain" catchphrase and the strategy it was intended to inspire will become central to the Conservative Party's, and the country's, future. False silos that have long separated domestic and foreign policy will have to come down.

"Foreign policy isn't about foreigners," Tom Tugendhat, a Conservative member of Parliament and the chair of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, told me. "It's about us, and how we shape the world around us in the interest of our people, our friends and partners."

It won't be easy: New research I have conducted with the British Foreign Policy Group, an educational think tank, and the pollster BMG makes clear that Britain is phenomenally divided on the country's international identity, spearheaded by a government unable to make the trade-offs necessary to truly achieve the idea of a global Britain. The notion that citizens will instinctively support the costs necessary to become a more prominent military, diplomatic, and trading power does not stand.

Political momentum is instead building behind those who see more downsides than upsides in our changing world, and for whom liberalism and internationalism inspire suspicion, mistrust, or even fear. These Britons generally have lived less mobile lives, hold identities more closely rooted in their communities, and are less bothered by events outside the confines of the nation. For example, just 6 percent of those who traveled abroad frequently last year consider immigration to be an important issue, compared with 44 percent of those who didn't leave Britain. Among those who never stray abroad, there is, to be sure, a significant degree of distinction between people whose socioeconomic circumstances have hampered their access to international opportunities and the older, wealthier Britons who have chosen to prioritize an exclusive national identity.

With the clock ticking on May's premiership, the paradox of a global Britain she unwittingly exposed will need to be reconciled by her successor. The candidates jostling to replace her as the Conservative Party leader and, by extension, prime minister, appear committed to championing a global Britain, but have not yet articulated any means of persuading the large swaths of the country skeptical of internationalism to fall in line. If her successor calls for a general election and the opposition Labour Party comes to power, it will face its own reckoning around the discord between its membership's broad support for international institutions and its leadership's radical positions on unilateral nuclear disarmament, NATO, and the military.

For now, however, the challenge falls to the party that has made itself the party of Brexit and a global Britain, without delivering either.

Conclusion

The British prime minister is looking for a way to revive his lost political position in Britain and the Labor Party. He is attempting to abuse the feelings of some British citizens. This suggests that Tony Blair has not made any difference with his prime minister. At that time, Tony Blair tricked British citizens into the Iraq war, and this time, he has made such a move on Brexit.



Brexit was "very unlikely", politics in Britain was "in a unique state of unpredictability". Politicians had lost sight of the importance of discussing domestic issues such as cuts to funding for health services and police and the lack of opportunities for young people amid Brexit chaos, he said.

"The great irony of Brexit is, the future of the National Health Service is decided in Westminster. The person who's got the opportunity to do something about knife crime is Theresa May not Jean-Claude Juncker [the EU commission president]," he said. "Brexit's distractive effect is almost as bad as the destructive effect."

Blair's criticisms of indecisiveness extended to the Conservatives. "My view is that both the main parties have made the same mistake if you try and face both ways you end up pleasing no one," he said. Ultimately though, Labour was an anti-Brexit party and the majority of its MEP candidates had "long credentials in fighting the case for Europe". Although he lamented that "it would've been better frankly if the avowedly remain parties had been standing under one banner", Blair stressed it was important for remainers to vote in the election because gains for Brexit parties in Europe could sway the way MPs approach the UK's departure in parliament.

Adding that he believed that the leave vote had been partially fuelled by legitimate concerns over immigration and globalisation, Blair said the "biggest tragedy" of Brexit was "that it's the answer to nothing".

■ Brexit despair takes me back to Tony Blair!

Roula Khalaf wrote in Financial Times that Whether you voted for the UK to leave or remain in the EU in the 2016 referendum, you have to agree that Brexit has brought out the nastiest in British politics. It has turned a prime minister

in part, an unfortunate habit inherited from my late mother. She would, infuriatingly, switch channels whenever one of the many politicians she loathed appeared on screen.

My allergy to Mr Blair wasn't only due to the Iraq war debacle, or the deluded pretence that blindly following America was the most effective way to influence its behaviour. It wasn't only the messianic zeal with which he approached liberal interventionism, reducing foreign policy complexities into a choice between good and evil. It was also that cynicism followed him long after he exited Downing Street, as he parlayed his autocratic contacts into a moneymaking machine.

A month or so ago, I caught a glimpse of Mr Blair on TV. Instead of turning away, I focused. He was expressing a blunt truth that politicians have been tying themselves into knots to avoid — that Brexit had no solution. If you cut through the noise and the illusions, there was no way of squaring the government's exit plans without threatening Northern Ireland's place in the union. Suddenly I appreciated the lack of nuance that I once found so objectionable in Mr Blair.

On a radio show another day, I heard him say that the dispute over the Irish backstop was a subset of the fundamental dilemmas of the Brexit negotiations: the choice is ultimately between a pointless Brexit, in which the UK stays closely tied to the EU and becomes a rule taker, or it sets its own rules and must accept the corresponding pain. The government has been attempting to find a middle ground that does not exist.

Like many, I am nostalgic for an era where at least one political party leader makes sense some of the time. That is neither the case with Theresa May, prime minister, nor with Labour's Jeremy Corbyn, pretty much all the time. Or perhaps I am willing to listen to Mr Blair because he confirms my view that the

Chinese business group blasts U.S. protectionism

By Ted Galen Carpenter

GLOBALTIMES — A leading Chinese business group in the US has blasted the US administration's protectionist actions and lack of policy transparency toward Chinese companies, which it said has led to a drastic decline in Chinese foreign direct investment (FDI) in the country and put US jobs and consumers at risk.

Under an increasingly hostile stance from the US toward China, Chinese companies have met with more challenges in a wide range of areas, from US tariffs to visa applications to higher compliance costs, according to a recent survey from the China General Chamber of Commerce - USA (CGCC).

Chinese FDI in the US is down nearly 90 percent so far this year from its peak in 2016, due to restrictive measures from both the US and China, according to the CGCC's 2019 Annual Business Survey Report, which was shared with the Global Times on Tuesday.

Business deals worth billions of dollars have been blocked by the opaque Committee on Foreign Investment in the US (CFIUS), which reviews transactions on national security grounds, and many companies held back on acquisitions after the Chinese government issued guidance restricting investments in certain foreign assets, the survey of executives from 240 Chinese companies in the US noted.

However, a structural shift in the US strategy toward China has resulted in "a protracted trade war that has penalized companies, consumers and people from both countries - and all around the world," it said.

CGCC member companies have invested more than \$120 billion in the US, directly employ more than 200,000 people, and



indirectly support more than 1 million US jobs, according to Chen Xu, chairman of the CGCC and president and CEO of Bank of China's US branch.

But "this environment's uncertainty shakes our members' confidence and discourages them from making further investments in the US," Chen wrote in the survey.

Unfriendly environment
The US government has labeled China a "strategic competitor" and waged a trade and tariff war with China, slapping tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars worth of Chinese goods and cracking down on Chinese companies. Secretive reviews by the CFIUS have also blocked several high-profile deals involving Chinese companies and created a chilling effect for future deals.

The sensitive nature of conducting business

in the US in such a less-welcoming climate is also palpable in Chinese companies' willingness to speak about their operations in the country. Several major Chinese companies declined requests from the Global Times for comments on their plans in the US.

But in the survey, 52 percent of respondents said that the business environment in the US have deteriorated in 2018, more double the 23 percent that gave this response in 2017, while 6 percent said the environment declined "substantially."

Apart from the US tariffs, Chinese companies also reported a long list of challenges, including restrictions on employment-based visas, escalating US protectionism, high compliance risks, slowing growth of the US economy and unstable US policies toward foreign investment.

KC Pang, a vice president of human resources at GD Copper, said that the company has seen "significant increases" in visa applications of Chinese technical experts being held up for "a lengthy period of time or denied."

"Without technical experts from China, we are not able to train local employees, so the business cannot be sustainable. This is our biggest challenge," Pang said.

The firm, which specializes in copper tubes, recently announced a plan to invest \$3.5 million in its \$100 million plant in the state of Alabama, where it employs more than 300 people.

Xiao Yuqiang, chairman of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC)'s US Management Committee, said that Chinese major banks are under "regulatory scrutiny in the US" and ICBC faces "much higher" compliance costs than big US banks.

A vast majority of Chinese companies, 73 percent, also felt that the CFIUS process was politicized and opaque, the survey stated. "CFIUS reviews have been routine since the mid-1970s; however, the current administration has added a new level of scrutiny and political gamesmanship to them."

Bai Ming, a deputy director of the Ministry of Commerce's International Market Research Institute, said that the report further demonstrates how the US adopts double standards in its policy.

"On the one hand, the US is criticizing China's lack of transparency for US companies; on the other hand, it has been even less transparent in its treatment of Chinese firms," he told the Global Times on Tuesday. "I don't think such a tactic will bode well for anybody."

Trump's veto behind increased Yemen suffering



TEHRAN (FNA) — President Donald Trump's veto of a congressional resolution to end US military assistance for Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen has only meant more suffering and death for millions of people in the war-torn country.

If Trump was truly concerned about civilian lives, he would ensure that the US-supported Saudi-led coalition stop breaking the laws of war and depriving millions of Yemenis of life-saving assistance. The US is deepening and prolonging the crisis and civilians are paying the price.

The Saudi-led coalition has been at war with Yemen's Army and Ansarullah Movement since 2015. The conflict has killed tens of thousands of people, fueled a major cholera outbreak and driven the Arab world's poorest country to the brink of famine.

Increased fighting and blockade in Northern Yemen in recent months is also causing new waves of displacement. The intensification of the fighting near the border with Saudi Arabia has caused a massive new wave of displacement. Since last year, many people have relocated to other parts of the region, joining many others who have fled earlier fighting. It is difficult to trace them because there are no formal camps for internally displaced people. They are scattered across a very large area. Sometimes there are groups of refugees living under basic plastic sheets that they buy or that are donated to them. Other times they are mixed with local communities. In any case, they all live in very precarious conditions.

The majority do not have access to health services because, after several years of conflict, there are few health centers open in the country. Many health centers are no longer functional or are open for only a few hours a day with just a nurse or a small staff. Those working in the health centers have not received salaries for more than two years and work without adequate medical supplies. The health system can't respond to the needs of displaced people.

President Donald Trump's veto of a congressional resolution to end US military assistance for Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen has only meant more suffering and death for millions of people in the war-torn country.

At the same time, international aid groups are severely restricted in the assistance and can offer in the places that are absorbing newly displaced communities. In addition to this, in recent months the Yemeni currency, the rial, has lost a lot of value as inflation has risen, causing fuel and transportation costs to increase. This has made it unaffordable for many people to reach hospitals.

It is important that the few medical organizations that are supporting the Ministry of Health on the ground gain more access to address the needs of vulnerable displaced communities. But they can't because the Saudis and their proxy forces do not allow them to commute.

In areas where the security situation and the Saudi-led coalition forces allow, there is a network of community health workers who manage a referral system for the most severe cases. Currently they focus on areas with new settlements where the most basic services are missing.

The worsening blockade and fighting are undermining the capacity of NGOs on the ground to provide relief, water and sanitation services, food, and more. High inflation, linked to the rapid devaluation of the rial, import restrictions, blockade, can have an impact on the nutritional status of the population. Aid workers continue to receive many cases of easily preventable diseases, such as diphtheria. This shows that the impact of the war on the deteriorating health system is increasingly affecting vaccination coverage.

The Saudis have not suddenly woken up and realized that the illegal war is causing too much suffering without adequate prospect of strategic gain. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman sees Yemen as a defining battleground for regional hegemony.

And if you want to understand how a US withdrawal of military support would affect the Saudi war effort, look no further than President Bashar Assad's Syria. The Saudi coalition has far more advanced weapons platforms than the Syrians, but it lacks the integrated command and control, intelligence, targeting, communications, and logistical skill to employ its military effectively. The US has been absolutely critical in filling in the gaps in these areas in Yemen.

And although the Saudis are still too capricious with their use of force, American guidance has helped them target civilians and Ansarullah formations in entire city blocks with a few forces somewhere inside those blocks. Again, motivated by their historic, cultural, and theological blood feud with Yemen, the Saudis would care little about killing thousands more civilians if they believed it might win the war. America claims it is the only check on them at this moment. However, as demonstrated by the rising number of civilian casualties in Hodeida and elsewhere, that check hasn't held.

The simple reality of the Saudi-led war on Yemen is that it has become worse due to the US engagement and Trump's veto. Trump exaggerates the degree to which Saudi Arabia is a constructive, stable partner for the US in the broader Middle East. Still, he is right on the fundamental issue: that the US needs a Saudi Arabia that can be "milked" indefinitely. His veto has only decorated Yemen with more civilian blood. He must be laughing all the way to the bank.

The war crimes that don't get punished

By Ron Paul

ANTIWAR — Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-CA) found himself in hot water recently over comments he made in defense of Navy SEAL Edward Gallagher, who faces war crimes charges over his alleged conduct while serving in combat overseas. Gallagher is charged with stabbing a 15 year old ISIS member while in custody, of taking photos posing with the corpse of the teen, and with killing several civilians.

Defending Gallagher recently, Hunter put his own record up next to the SEAL to suggest that he's an elected Congressman who has done worse things in battle than Gallagher.

That's where Hunter's defense earned him some perhaps unwanted attention. While participating in the first "Battle of Fallujah" in early 2007, by Hunter's own account he and his fellow soldiers killed hundreds of innocent civilians, including women and children. They fired mortars into the city and killed at random.

In the sanitized world of US mainstream media reporting on US wars overseas, we do not hear about non-combatants being killed by Americans. How many times has there been any reporting on the birth defects that Iraqis continue to suffer in the aftermath of US attacks with horrific weapons like depleted uranium and white phosphorus?

Rep. Hunter described his philosophy when fighting in Iraq: "You go in fast and hard, you kill people, you hit them

in the face and then you get out...We're going to hurt you and then we're going to leave. And if you want to be nice to America, we'll be nice to you. If you don't want to be nice to us, we're going to slap you again."

This shows how much Duncan Hunter does not understand about war. When he speaks of hitting people in the face until they are nice to America, he doesn't seem to realize that the people of Fallujah — and all of Iraq — never did a thing to the US to deserve that hit in the face. The war was launched on the basis of lies and cooked-up intelligence by many of the people who are serving in the current Administration.

And that brings us to the real war criminals. Rep. Duncan Hunter and his fellow soldiers may have killed hundreds of innocent civilians and even felt justified. Their superior officers, after all, established the rules of engagement. Above those superior officers, going up and beyond to the policymakers, the lie was sold to the American people to justify a war of choice against a country that could not have threatened us if it wanted to.

Vice President Dick Cheney knew what he was doing when he kept returning to the CIA headquarters, strong-arming analysts to make the intelligence fit the chosen policy. John Bolton and the other neocons knew what they were doing when they made claims about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction they knew were false. The Pentagon's Office of Special Plans



played its role in selling the lie. So did the media.

Edward Gallagher will face trial and possibly jail for his actions. Rep. Duncan Hunter may even face punishment — though perhaps only at the ballot box — for his admitted crimes. But until those at the top who continue to lie and manipulate us into war for their own gain face justice, the real criminals will continue to go free and we will continue pursuing a suicidal neocon foreign policy

Nothing is so dangerous as a wounded beast backed into a corner by itself...

➔ And worse is the fact that Zionist enablers like Mike Pompeo and V.P. Mike Pence are "Christian Zionists" who literally, as former CIA officer and now retired commentator Philip Giraldi has noted, believe that "Israel" today is a part of biblical prophecy that will lead to a war and "the end of the world as we know it and the second coming of Christ". They all, including John Bolton, seem to advocate a war beginning chiefly on Iran, which if it were ever to occur, would be a lambent calamity like no other and one "justified" in the warped minds of Trump's minions by the alleged reappearance of Christ which any SANE person knows is a cruel joke.

Never before have alleged "leaders" in the U.S. been so arguably demented, and never before has the U.S. had such a poor President. As one notable writer, Australian Caitlin Johnstone, has said, the U.S. has become like bad drunk wielding a broken beer bottle in a pub and menacing everyone there who are hoping the fool has a few more drinks and passes out before more damage is done.

But none of this is news to Iranians. The apparent ignorance of the American people is at bottom the primary problem. What can wake them up to the dangers of their own government? The only thing that comes to mind immediately is an economic implosion that shatters the sense of entitlement and wellbeing in the U.S. But at the same time of late, geopolitical changes ARE occurring that ought to give Trump and so many others in the U.S. government pause. In effect, the Trump Administration has sparked a frantic scramble among countries to extricate themselves from the effects, economic and political, of U.S. "empire's" pretensions and



As one notable writer, Australian Caitlin Johnstone, has said, the U.S. has become like bad drunk wielding a broken beer bottle in a pub and menacing everyone there who are hoping the fool has a few more drinks and passes out before more damage is done.

paranoia currently running amok.

Europe, for example, is allegedly scrambling to make good on its promises to continue trade with Iran by erecting mechanisms to bypass the weaponized dollar, but more telling are the rapidly increasing efforts to erect a true, multipolar bulwark against U.S. predations.

Of particular note is the establishment this month of a firm strategic partnership between China and Russia in negotiations in Russia between Xi and Putin. Many bilateral

deals were signed in Moscow, but the most important one was allegedly a commitment to trade with mutual payments using the ruble and the yuan, not the dollar.

What has been put forth is a plan to integrate Eurasia further, including of course Iran, and the creation of the multipolar world, and it is this precisely which has been brewing for several years and has, or will, isolate and perhaps limit U.S. foreign policies and economic chaos that at bottom have been

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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 journalistic terminology collected by the daily's retired staff.

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

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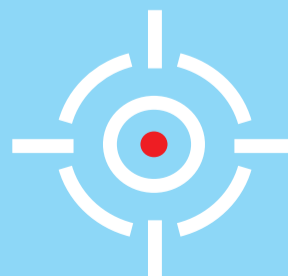
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The sun may have a dual personality, simulations suggest

Researchers at CU Boulder have discovered hints that humanity's favorite star may have a dual personality, with intriguing discrepancies in its magnetic fields that could hold clues to the sun's own "internal clock."

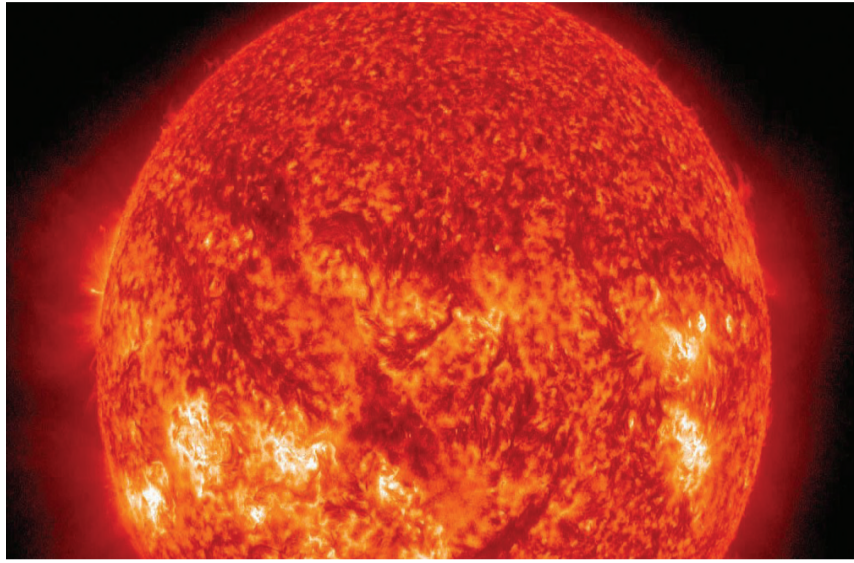
Physicists Loren Matilsky and Juri Toomre developed a computer simulation of the sun's interior as a means of capturing the inner roiling turmoil of the star. In the process, the team spotted something unexpected: On rare occasions, the sun's internal dynamics may jolt out of their normal routines and switch to an alternate state--bit like a superhero trading the cape and cowl for civilian clothes.

While the findings are only preliminary, Matilsky said, they may line up with real observations of the sun dating back to the 19th century.

He added that the existence of such a solar alter-ego could provide physicists with new clues to the processes that govern the sun's internal clock--a cycle in which the sun switches from periods of high activity to low activity about once every 11 years.

"We don't know what is setting the cycle period for the sun or why some cycles are more violent than others," said Matilsky, a graduate student at JILA. "Our ultimate goal is to map what we're seeing in the model to the sun's surface so that we can then make predictions."

The study takes a deep look at a phenomenon that scientists call the solar "dynamo," essentially a concentration of the star's mag-



netic energy. This dynamo is formed by the spinning and twisting of the hot gases inside the sun and can have big impacts--an especially active solar dynamo can generate large numbers of sunspots and solar flares, or globs of energy that blast out from the surface.

But that dynamo isn't easy to study, Matilsky said. That's because it mainly forms and evolves within the sun's interior, far out of range of most scientific instruments.

"We can't dive into the interior, which makes the sun's internal magnetism a few

steps removed from real observations," he said.

To get around that limitation, many solar physicists use massive supercomputers to try to recreate what's occurring inside the sun.

Matilsky and Toomre's simulation examines activity in the outer third of that interior, which Matilsky likens to "a spherical pot of boiling water."

And, he said, this model delivered some interesting results. When the researchers ran their simulation, they first found that the solar dynamo formed to the north and south of

the sun's equator. Following a regular cycle, that dynamo moved toward the equator and stopped, then reset in close agreement with actual observations of the sun.

But that regular churn wasn't the whole picture. Roughly twice every 100 years, the simulated sun did something different.

In those strange cases, the solar dynamo didn't follow that same cycle but, instead, clustered in one hemisphere over the other.

"That additional dynamo cycle would kind of wander," Matilsky said. "It would stay in one hemisphere over a few cycles, then move into the other one. Eventually, the solar dynamo would return to its original state."

That pattern could be a fluke of the model, Matilsky said, but it might also point to real, and previously unknown, behavior of the solar dynamo. He added that astronomers have, on rare occasions, seen sun spots congregating in one hemisphere of the sun more than the other, an observation that matches the CU Boulder team's findings.

Matilsky said that the group will need to develop its model further to see if the dual dynamo pans out. But he said that the team's results could, one day, help to explain the cause of the peaks and dips in the sun's activity--patterns that have huge implications for climate and technological societies on Earth.

"It gives us clues to how the sun might shut off its dynamo and turn itself back on again," he said.

(Source: eurekalert.org)

Study says warming may reduce sea life by 17%



The world's oceans will likely lose about one-sixth of their fish and other marine life by the end of the century if climate change continues on its current path, a new study says.

Every degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) that the world's oceans warm, the total mass of sea animals is projected to drop by 5%, according to a comprehensive computer-based study by an international team of marine biologists. And that does not include effects of fishing.

If the world's greenhouse gas emissions stay at the present rate, that means a 17% loss of biomass -- the total weight of all the marine animal life -- by the year 2100, according to Tuesday's study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. But if the world reduces carbon pollution, losses can be limited to only about 5%, the study said.

"We will see a large decrease in the biomass of the oceans," if the world doesn't slow climate change, said study co-author William Cheung, a marine ecologist at the University of British Columbia. "There are already changes that have been observed."

While warmer water is the biggest factor, climate change also produces oceans that are more acidic and have less oxygen, which also harms sea life, Cheung said.

Much of the world relies on the oceans for food or livelihood, scientists say.

"The potential ramifications of these predicted losses are huge, not just for ocean biodiversity, but because people around the world rely on ocean resources," said University of Victoria biology professor Julia Baum, who wasn't part of the study but says it makes sense. "Climate change has the potential to cause serious new conflicts over ocean resource use and global food security, particularly as human population continues to grow this century."

The biggest animals in the oceans are going to be hit hardest, said study co-author Derek Tittensor, a marine ecologist at the United Nations World Conservation Monitoring Center in England.

"The good news here is that the main building blocks of marine life, plankton and bacteria may decline less heavily, the bad news is that those marine animals that we use directly, and care about most deeply, are predicted to suffer the most as climate change is working its way up the food chain," co-author Boris Worm, a marine biologist at Dalhousie University in Canada, said in an email.

Tropical areas, already warm, will also see the biggest losses, Cheung said.

Scientists had already thought that climate change will likely reduce future ocean life, but past computer simulations looked at only part of the picture or used only one model. This study uses six different state-of-the-art computer models that give the best big picture look yet, Cheung said.

It is hard to separate past climate change impacts from those of fishing, but past studies have shown places where observed fish loss can be attributed to human-caused climate change, Chung added.

Tittensor pointed to lobsters off Maine and North Atlantic right whales as examples of creatures already being hurt by global warming hitting the ocean. University of Georgia marine biologist Samantha Joye, who wasn't part of the research, praised the study as meticulous and said it is also "an urgent call for action."

"Healthy oceans are required for planetary stability," Joye said in an email. "Aggressive global action to slow climate change is a moral imperative."

(Source: AP News)

Alien worlds are less hospitable to complex life than scientists thought

New research suggests the conditions necessary for complex life forms may be even rarer than planetary scientists previously thought. Researchers determined the buildup of toxic gases in the atmosphere makes most exoplanets uninhabitable.

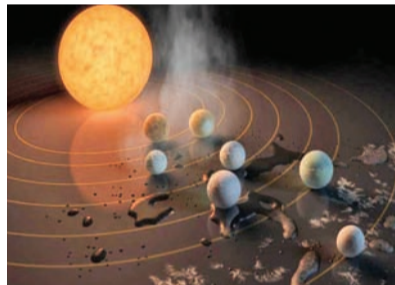
Planetary scientists classify alien planets as being "habitable" or in the "habitable zone" if they're close enough to their host star to keep some of their water liquid, or unfrozen, but not so close it all evaporates away.

According to a new study published Monday in the Astrophysical Journal, the simple habitability definition is perfectly fine for basic life forms, like microbes, but not for more complex organisms.

When scientists accounted for the likely levels of toxic gases in the atmospheres of so-called habitable planets, they found only a small percentage could host complex life forms. "This is the first time the physiological limits of life on Earth have been considered to predict the distribution of complex life elsewhere in the universe," Timothy Lyons, a professor of biogeochemistry at the University of California, Riverside, said in a news release.

Scientists used simulations to study climate and chemistry dynamics in the atmospheres of several different planets. First, scientists focused on CO2. For planets on the outer edge of the habitable zone, carbon dioxide is necessary to keep the planet warm enough to host liquid water. But models showed the amount of CO2 necessary to do so would be well above the threshold considered safe for plants and animals.

When accounting for CO2 alone, scientists determined only half of the universe's



known habitable zones could actually host complex life. Researchers were able to eliminate entire star systems by considering the presence of carbon monoxide. Cooler, dimmer stars like Proxima Centauri and TRAPPIST-1 produce a lot of ultraviolet radiation, which triggers the production of carbon monoxide in the atmosphere. Small amounts of carbon monoxide can prevent the movement of oxygen throughout an animal's circulatory system -- proving deadly. On Earth, the sun's powerful rays drive chemical reactions that destroy carbon monoxide.

With the database of so-called habitable planets getting bigger and bigger, scientists need to begin narrowing their focus.

"Our discoveries provide one way to decide which of these myriad planets we should observe in more detail," said Christopher Reinhard, a former UCR graduate student now an assistant professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology. "We could identify otherwise habitable planets with carbon dioxide or carbon monoxide levels that are likely too high to support complex life."

(Source: UPI)

New study explains how big holes form in Antarctic ice despite the cold

By analyzing data from seaborne robots and sensors glued onto seals, researchers may now understand the mysterious origins of giant holes that can open up in Antarctic sea ice, a new study finds.

A polynya -- a Russian word that roughly means "hole in the ice" -- can form off the coast of Antarctica and last for weeks to months, acting as a refuge where penguins, whales and seals can pop up and breathe.

The biggest known polynyas in the winter sea ice of Antarctica's Weddell Sea appeared soon after the first satellites were launched, with an area the size of New Zealand remaining ice-free through three consecutive winters from 1974 to 1976, despite air temperatures far below freezing.

The rarity of big polynyas in Antarctic waters meant that little was known about how these holes could form amid the bitter cold. But in 2016, a big polynya emerged for the first time in decades, one 33,000 square kilometers that remained open for three weeks. An even larger 50,000-square-kilometer polynya appeared in September and October of 2017.

Scientists examined decades of satellite images of sea ice cover and data from Antarctic weather stations, and gathered data from robots drifting in Southern Ocean currents and even sensors epoxied onto elephant seals. They found these polynyas formed when the frigid surface water was also especially salty. This salinity made it denser and therefore more likely to mix with similarly salty and dense deeper water.



Intense storms that swirled over the Weddell Sea with almost hurricane-force winds those years churned relatively warm water from the deep ocean upward, melting ice and opening up polynyas in the sea ice. When this water cooled off, it became denser and more likely to sink. Warmer water welled up from below to replace it, creating a circulation of warmth that kept the polynyas open.

"The deep ocean is generally a quiet place where changes happen slowly, but we find that it was stirred vigorously during these relatively brief polynya events," said study lead author Ethan Campbell, a physical oceanographer at the University of Washington in Seattle.

Under climate change, freshwater from melting Antarctic ice sheets would make the Southern Ocean's surface waters less dense, which might lead to fewer polynyas in the future. On the other hand, many climate models suggest the winds circling Antarctica will become stronger and draw closer to its coast, which might encourage more polynyas to form.

(Source: Inside Science)

Darwin's finches sing out-of-tune call after parasites deform beaks

Tree finches made famous by Charles Darwin's visit to the Galápagos islands in the 19th century have gone out of tune because of parasitic infections that damage the birds' beaks and nostrils.

Researchers found that male finches that picked up the fly parasite had malformed beaks and enlarged nostrils that led to "subpar songs", making it harder for the birds to find mates and reproduce. The infection is caused by the Philornis downsi fly, which is thought to have been introduced to the islands by accident in the 1960s. The fly's larvae infest birds' nests and feed on the blood and tissues of their young.

Surveys on the Galápagos islands show that the larvae are now rife and kill more than half of all nestling finches. Those that survive can have badly damaged nasal cavities and nostrils, and their beaks can be deformed to the point

that they no longer close properly.

In new research, Sonia Kleindorfer at Flinders University in Adelaide and colleagues examined the impact of the parasitic infections on what are commonly known as Darwin's finches. Observations, measurements and sound recordings of the birds revealed that those with deformed nostrils had more "vocal deviation" when they sang to attract mates and produced lower notes than unaffected birds. The result was off-putting to females, and out-of-tune males struggled to find mates.

Writing in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B, the researchers describe how critically endangered medium tree finches on the islands were so damaged by the parasites that they produced songs that sounded like other birds. The fly occurs on 13 of 15 islands surveyed to date and is considered the greatest risk to the survival of

Galápagos land birds.

Katharina Peters, a co-author on the study, said the work showed how even when not fatal, infestations of the fly larvae could disrupt the birds' mating signals with "devastating effects" on populations. "This conclusion should be of particular concern for the fate of Darwin's finches," the scientists write.

Darwin collected many kinds of finches from the Galápagos during his voyage on the Beagle which set the stage for his ideas on evolution through natural selection. The birds are often credited as the inspiration for Darwin's theory, but it was an ornithologist, John Gould, who realised that Darwin's haul of finches were related. Darwin himself originally recorded the birds as members of different families.

(Source: The Guardian)

Near-record 'dead zone' predicted in Gulf of Mexico

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Scientists are predicting a near-record Gulf of Mexico "dead zone" where the water holds too little oxygen to sustain marine life.

"A major factor contributing to the large dead zone this year is the abnormally high amount of spring rainfall in many parts of the Mississippi River watershed," the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said in a news release Monday. That led to record amounts of water carrying large amounts of fertilizer and other nutrients downriver, it said.

The nutrients feed algae, which die and then decompose on the sea floor, using up

oxygen from the bottom up in an area along the coasts of Louisiana and Texas.

The low-oxygen, or hypoxic, area is likely to cover about 7,800 square miles (20,200 square kilometers) -- roughly the size of Slovenia or all the land in Massachusetts, NOAA said. A Louisiana-based team has estimated the dead zone will be 8,700 square miles (22,560 square kilometers).

It will be measured during an annual July cruise by Nancy Rabalais of the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium.

The record set in 2017 is 8,776 square miles (22,700 square kilometers).

Scientists had said earlier that widespread

flooding made a large dead zone likely this year.

A task force of federal, tribal and state agencies from 12 of the 31 states that make up the Mississippi River watershed set a goal nearly two decades ago of reducing the dead zone from an average of about 5,800 square miles (15,000 square kilometers) to an average of 1,900 (4,900).

"While this year's zone will be larger than usual because of the flooding, the long-term trend is still not changing," University of Michigan aquatic ecologist Don Scavia, professor emeritus at the School for Environment and Sustainability, said in a

news release. "The bottom line is that we will never reach the dead zone reduction target of 1,900 square miles until more serious actions are taken to reduce the loss of Midwest fertilizers into the Mississippi River system."

Rabalais has been measuring the hypoxic zone since 1985.

Storms before last year's mapping cruise reduced that hypoxic zone to about 2,720 square miles (7,040 square kilometers), about 40% the average size that had been predicted, and among the smallest recorded.

(Source: AP News)

Agriculture began in Eurasia earlier than scientists thought

According to a new survey of isotopic data from Eurasia, agriculture began in the region earlier than scientists thought.

To identify the signatures of ancient dietary changes among Eurasian nomads, scientists used quantitative analysis to study isotopic data derived from the bones of ancient animals and humans.

The analysis -- detailed this week in the journal Scientific Reports -- helped scientists pinpoint the timing of the adoption of new agricultural products during the early Iron Age. By plotting the geographical and temporal patterns of dietary changes, researchers were also able to identify the expansion of early socio-political networks.

"Our understanding of the pace of crop transmission across the Eurasian steppe has been surprisingly unclear due in part to a focus on the excavation of cemeteries, rather than settlements where people threw out their food," Alicia Ventresca Miller, now a researcher at the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History in Germany, said in a news release.

Miller conducted the research while working at Kiel University. "Even when settlement sites are excavated, the preservation of carbonized seed remains is often poor," Miller said. "This is what makes stable isotope analyses of human remains from this region so valuable -- it provides direct insights into the dietary dynamics of ancient pastoralists who inhabited diverse environments."

Researchers determined the development of larger, more complex socio-political structures across Eurasia during the Iron Age, around 1000 B.C., coincided with an increase in the consumption of millet, a grain first cultivated in China as early as 3000 B.C.

But millet was not ubiquitous in Eurasia. Researchers determined groups in the Trans-Urals focused on wheat and barley cultivation, while populations in southwest Siberia mostly ate pastoral animal products, as well as locally available wild plants and fish. Groups in Mongolia didn't begin eating millet until the Late Iron Age, around the same time that the Xiongnu nomadic empire rose to power and prominence.

"This is particularly interesting because it suggests that communities in Mongolia and Siberia opted out of the transition to millet agriculture, while continuing to engage with neighboring groups," said Miller.

(Source: UPI)

Diet at the docks: Living and dying at the port of ancient Rome

Portus Romae was established in the middle of the first century CE and for well over 400 years was Rome's gateway to the Mediterranean. The port played a key role in funneling imports—e.g. foodstuffs, wild animals, marble and luxury goods—from across the Mediterranean and beyond to the citizens of Rome and was vital to the pre-eminence of the city in the Roman Mediterranean.

But, what of the people who lived, worked and died there? In a study published today in *Antiquity*, an international team of researchers present the results of the analysis of plant, animal and human remains, reconstructing both the diets and geographic origins of the Portus inhabitants. The findings suggest that the political upheaval following the Vandal sack of Rome in 455 CE and the 6th century wars between the Ostrogoths and the Byzantines may have had a direct impact on the food resources and diet of those working at Portus Romae.

Lead author, Dr. Tamsin O'Connell of the Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge said, "The human remains from the excavations at Portus belong to a local population involved in heavy, manual labor, perhaps the *saccarii* (porters) who unloaded cargoes from incoming ships. When looking isotopically at the individuals dating to between the early second to mid fifth centuries CE, we see that they have a fairly similar diet to the rich and middle-class people buried at the Isola Sacra cemetery just down the road. It is interesting that although there are differences in social status between these burial populations, they both have access to similar food resources. This contradicts what we see elsewhere in the Roman world at this time. But, later on, something changes."

Dr. O'Connell continues, "Towards the end of the mid fifth century we see a shift in the diet of the local populations away from one rich in animal protein and imported wheat, olive oil, fish sauce and wine from North Africa, to something more akin to a 'peasant diet', made up of mainly plant proteins in things like potages and stews. They're doing the same kind of manual labor and hard work, but were sustained by beans and lentils"

"This is the time period after the sack of the Vandals in 455 CE. We're seeing clear shifts in imported foods and diet over time that tie-in with commercial and political changes following the breakdown of Roman control of the Mediterranean. We are able to observe political effects playing out in supply networks. The politics and the resources both shift at the same time."

Director of the University of Southampton's Portus Project, Professor Simon Keay explained, "Our excavations at the center of the port provide the first archaeological evidence of the diet of the inhabitants of Portus at a critical period in the history of Imperial Rome. They tell us that by the middle of the 5th century CE, the outer harbor basin was silting up, all of the buildings were enclosed within substantial defensive walls, that the warehouses were used for the burial of the dead rather than for storage, and that the volume of trade that passed through the port en route to Rome had contracted dramatically."

"These developments may have been in some way related to the destruction wrought upon Portus and Rome by invading Vandals led by Gaiseric in 455 CE, but may also be related to decreasing demand by the City of Rome, whose population had shrunk significantly by this date. These conclusions help us better understand major changes in patterns of production and trade across the Mediterranean that have been detected in recent years."

Dr. O'Connell concludes, "Are food resources and diets shaped by political ruptures? In the case of Portus, we see that when Rome was rich everybody, from the local elite to the dockworkers, was doing fine nutritionally. Then this big political rupture happens and wheat and other foodstuffs have to come from somewhere else. When Rome is on the decline, the manual laborers, at least, are not doing as well as previously."

(Source: *phys.org*)



ROUND THE GLOBE

Tipasa

Some 70 km west of Algiers, on the shores of the Mediterranean, is located Tipasa, which was an ancient Punic trading-post conquered by Rome and turned into a strategic base for the conquest of the kingdoms of Mauritania.

It comprises a unique group of Phoenician, Roman, palaeochristian and Byzantine ruins alongside indigenous monuments such as the Kbor er Roumia, the great royal mausoleum of Mauretania.



A UNESCO World Heritage, Tipasa was first a Carthaginian trading center, whose necropolis is one of the oldest and one of the most extensive of the Punic world (6th to 2nd century BC).

During this period, Tipasa played the role of a maritime port of call, a place for commercial exchanges with the indigenous population.

Numerous necropolis testify to the very varied types of burial and funerary practices that bear witness to the multicultural exchange of influences dating back to protohistoric times.

The monumental, circular funerary building, called the Royal Mauritanian Mausoleum, associates a local architectural tradition of the *basina* type, to a style of stepped truncated roof covering, the result of the different contributions, notably Hellenistic and Pharaonic.

The Roman period is marked by a prestigious ensemble of buildings, comprising very diversified architectural typologies. From the 3rd to the 4th centuries CE a striking increase in Christianity is demonstrated by the multitude of religious buildings.

The Vandal invasion of the 430s did not mark the definitive end of prosperity of Tipasa, but the town, reconquered by the Byzantines in 531, gradually fell into decline from the 6th century. (Source: UNESCO)

Tourism contributes \$11.8b to Iran's GDP: Mounesan

TOURISM TEHRAN – Iran's earnings from tourism contributed \$11.8 billion to its gross domestic product (GDP) in the past Iranian calendar year 1397 (ended March 20), Tourism Chief Ali-Asghar Mounesan said on Tuesday.

"According to the Central Bank of Iran, tourism industry contributed \$11.8 billion to the country's GDP in the past year. In addition, handicrafts exports made up \$600 million of the GDP [in the same year]," the official said.

"The sustainability of employment in the field of tourism is amongst benefits of this industry. Last year, the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization was one of the bodies that played a significant role in the country's employment, we managed to create over 200 thousand sustainable jobs last year."

According to the latest data released by the World Bank, Iran's GDP was \$454.013 billion in 2017.

International travelers spent some \$11.8 billion in 1397 (ended March 20), Mounesan



said in May.

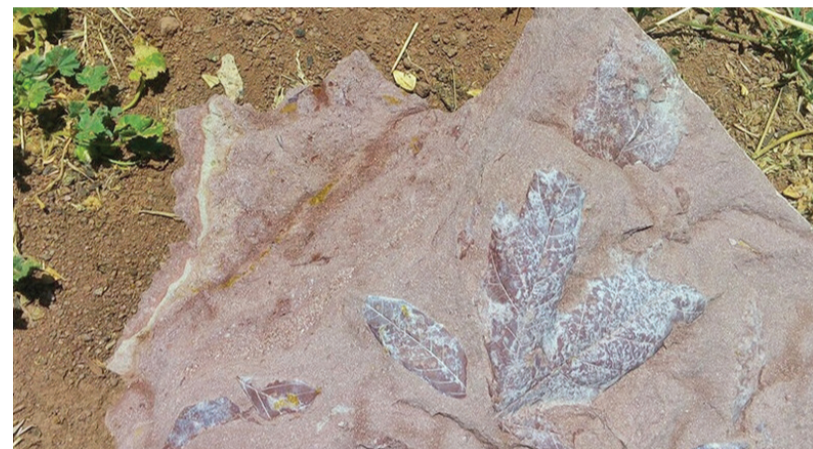
"For the time being, the tourism sector is becoming the third largest source of income in the world economy so that more attention should be paid to the sector in our country," Mounesan said.

The number of international tourists visiting Iran surged 52.5 percent in the past Iranian calendar year from a year earlier, according to data compiled by the CHHTO. The Islamic Republic hosted some 7.8 million foreign nationals in that year, which shows a 52.5 percent increase year on year.

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.

The country embraces a good number of ancient cultural heritage and monuments including bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, gardens, rich natural, rural landscapes as well as 22 UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Millennia-old plant fossils discovered in northwest Iran



Fossilized plants recently discovered in northwest Iran

HERITAGE TEHRAN – Millennia-old fossil remains of various plants have recently been discovered in Meshkin Shahr county, northwest Iran, CHTN reported on Wednesday.

"Gholamreza Asadi, a native of the region, discovered the fossils by chance while passing through the historical site of Geshlage Tang [in Meshkin Shahr county]," a local tourism official said.

"Initial studies show that these fossils are related to different kinds of leafy forest trees," Imanali Imany added.

"Further detail in this regard requires

extensive investigations by paleontologists, but preliminary evidence suggests that animal fossils in this area are also very likely."

The official urged that a demarcation project is needed to be implemented as soon as possible in order to prevent any possible misuse.

Meshkin Shahr is home to several historical sites including Shahr-e Yeri sometimes referred to as the "city of the mouthless".

The region embraces ruined Iron-Age fortresses, prehistorical temples and tens of carved stones.

Zoroastrians to observe Pir-e Sabz pilgrimage in Yazd



File photo: Zoroastrians observe Pir-e Sabz rituals

HERITAGE TEHRAN – Once again it's time to celebrate Pir-e Sabz or Chak-Chak, a congregational pilgrimage observed by clusters of Zoroastrian pilgrims from all over Iran.

The annual pilgrimage runs from June 14 to 18 at a mountainous fire temple embedded in a shallow cave in the central Ardakan county, Yazd province. The entrance of the cave is reached via 230 steps. It's where an "eternal" flame is kept alight.

Narratives say that Pir-e Sabz is

dedicated to the princess Nikbanu (meaning "Kind-Lady") who was the daughter of the last Sassanian king Yazdegird III.

Pir is referred to a temple while the word Sabz means green. There is also an alternative name, Chak-Chak, said to be derived from the sound of water drops after which this pilgrimage site is named.

The pilgrims gather at the site to pray in hope of a better future and to wish for the health and well-being of Zoroastrian followers.

For lovers of Persian handicrafts: 'Parvaneh' Friday Bazaar is made for you!

By Marjohn Sheikhi

TEHRAN (MNA) – If you are a tourist in Tehran yearning to see the best and the most of Iranian handicrafts in one place, I suggest you pay a visit to the 'Friday Bazaar' at Parvaneh Parking Garage on Jomhouri Street.

As the name suggests, the bazaar is set up on Fridays only (any other day, it's just an ordinary, multi-floored parking garage jam-packed with cars), open from 8 AM to 4 PM (better to visit in the morning, though, as the place becomes overcrowded and difficult to navigate through as the day progresses). The easiest way to get there is to use the subway. While it is true that being underground deprives you of much sightseeing, Tehran's subway system is actually pretty decent, very clean and efficient, if only a bit bland in appearance, and it helps you avoid traffic jams and the scorching sun if you made the brave choice of traveling to Tehran during summer. On the subway, get off at Sa'adi Station on Line 1, and from there, it's a four-minute walk up the Jomhouri St. to your destination.

Over the years, the 'Parvaneh' Friday Bazaar has become an iconic spot for many artists, artisans and sellers from all across Iran, who gather every Friday in downtown Tehran to put their handicrafts, antique objects, and so many trinkets and weird-looking works of art that you can't find anywhere else, on sale for the interested visitors and tourists.

The first floor gives you a staggering view of a huge collec-



tion of new and second-hand antique objects, such as very old jewelry that probably has a more spiritual and aesthetic value than a monetary one, paintings, books, phonographs and old vinyls, really old telephones that don't work, typewriters, polaroids, traditional samovars (a metal container for boiling water for tea), sewing machines, and many more weird household appliances that have stopped being much of use a long time ago.

You can find really old vinyls and phonographs at Parvaneh Friday Bazaar.

But the second floor is probably where you'd like to see first before you get yourself lost in the sea of items on sale or squashed in the rushing crowd. This place is basically a

handicrafts heaven. I have seen many tourists (especially the European ones) charmed and awed (and maybe a little bit intimidated, too) by the insane variety of colorful traditional clothes, leather products, hand-woven rugs, delicate wood and metal works, copper, brass, or silver containers inlaid with turquoise (these are a true work of art), 'Termeh' handwoven cloths (so beautiful and subtle and intricate you'd cry), 'Ghalamkari' on hand-painted tapestries, and fantastic works of art created by vitreous enamel on metal, glass, ceramics and stones.

Parvaneh Friday Bazaar is a heaven of Persian handicrafts

The third floor, meanwhile, is probably less traditional in its collections of handicrafts, but the modern works of art created by young artists (clothes, jewelry, toys, buttons, etc.) lack nothing in creativity, aesthetics, intricacy and colors. Many of these artists have a profile on Instagram, showcasing their merchandise. If you see something you like, you can place an order for it, and go pick it up at the bazaar on a Friday.

There is too much to see (and buy!) in this place, so make sure you plan carefully for your purchases (or risk having to go back home on foot and with empty pockets.) But you don't have to worry about buyer's remorse, at least. The things you have bought at the Friday Bazaar (or Jomeh Bazaar, as is said in Persian), rest assured, you can't find them anywhere else in the world.

United Airlines will now hold planes for connecting flyers – thanks to new tool

If you have a tight connection while flying United Airlines, you might benefit from the airline's new ConnectionSaver tool that identifies departing flights that can be held for connecting customers.

In February, United launched the ConnectionSaver tool at Denver International Airport and then expanded to Chicago O'Hare International Airport – two of the airline's busiest hubs. United announced Monday it plans to expand the ConnectionSaver technology to other airports that United services in the future.

Connecting customers receive personalized text messages from ConnectionSaver with directions to the gate for their connecting flight; information about expected travel time between the

two gates; and nearby amenities.

In a Twitter video posted by United, there is an example of a flight docked at gate B23 at Chicago O'Hare, with passengers shown successfully making a connecting flight at gate C20 to Narita, Japan. The video explains that ConnectionSaver helped make the transfer.

A Twitter user responded to the video, "Does the tool account for what can sometimes be a 20 minute taxi to the gate at ORD? What about where in the plane the passenger sits? Someone in the back of a 757 could take 25 minutes to get off the plane."

In response to the tweet, United told USA TODAY, "The tool takes that all into account when deciding whether or not to hold the departing aircraft. The



goal of the tool is to help connecting customers while not inconveniencing others. So if it will cause customers who are already boarded to miss their connections, or for the plane to arrive at its destination late, the tool will not advise for the departing flight to hold."

According to United, during the past

four months, over 14,400 customers who had connecting flights were able to make their flights thanks to ConnectionSaver.

"ConnectionSaver only works if it allows us to care for as many customers as possible – without inconveniencing others – and that's exactly what this technology has shown it can do. We're determined to capitalize on as many opportunities as possible to better serve and care for our customers and that's part of what sets United apart from our competitors," United's Chief Customer Officer Toby Enqvist stated in a press release.

Flights that were held for connecting customers were delayed an average of six minutes.

(Source: MSN)

INOTEX, festivity of bright ideas under one roof

1→ Organized by the vice presidency for science and technology, Iran National Technomart and the Center for Progress and Development of Iran, INOTEX was held from June 9 to 12 at the Tehran Permanent International Fairground.

The event was held in ten different fields including biotechnology, equipment, information technology, oil and gas, renewable energies and nanotechnology.

As the organizers announced, about 200 startups, 100 knowledge-based companies, 14 inventors and 12 science and technology parks attended the event.

Different sections of INOTEX met different demands of startup ecosystem. At the INOTEX Stage, the speakers held sessions on challenges and opportunities of innovation ecosystem.

A section named Sarmayeh Café provided an opportunity for the entrepreneurs and startup owners in order to attract investors by holding meeting.

At the INOTEX Peach, another section of the event, startup owners competed with each other in the presence of judges and investors.

The exhibition provided a place for establishing a network between those who are active in entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem of Iran.



Though the active presence of foreign participants is felt missing in this edition. The number of pavilions for other countries were very limited and some of them were empty.

Due to imposed sanctions, the number of foreign participants decreased in this edition, the secretary of the event Akbar

Qanbarpour said in an interview with Iran newspaper on Wednesday.

The festival paved the way to develop cooperation between companies and startups and solve the challenges in the innovation ecosystem.

Over 400 startups, startup accelerators,

technology parks, innovators, incubator centers, venture capitals, and mentors attended the event.

The INOTEX, one of the leading events for professional engaged in technology and innovation, hosted over 1000 participants from 25 countries during the past seven editions.

During this edition, the first Asia-Pacific innovation Forum was held on the sidelines of the INOTEX 2019 on June 9.

The Forum is relevant to technology startups addressing sustainable development challenges, policymakers working on technology start-up strategies, leaders of technology parks, and public and private institutions investing in and supporting technology start-up development.

The simultaneity of the event with the INOTEX2019 will be a great opportunity for companies and start-ups at the exhibition to develop the product market and find new customers and partners in the international community.

Passing the aisles of the exhibition, you overflow with feeling of youth and freshness. Most of participants are young boys and girls who want to propose a different solution for everyday challenges. Who knows, may be life become easier and more pleasant with their brilliant ideas!

No sedentary screen time for babies, WHO says

Babies and toddlers should not be left to passively watch TV or other screens, according to new World Health Organization guidelines.

Sedentary screen time, including computer games, should not happen before a child is two, the WHO says.

The limit for two- to four-year-olds is an hour a day and less is better.

The UK has no plans to update its own advice on screen use, which sets no time limits, although it says children should avoid screens before bedtime.

The UK's Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health insists there is little evidence screen use for children is harmful in itself.

The new WHO advice focuses on passive viewing - youngsters being placed in front of a TV or computer screen or handed a tablet or mobile phone for entertainment - and is aimed at tackling child inactivity, a leading risk factor for global mortality and obesity-related ill health.

It is the first time the WHO has made recommendations on physical activity, sedentary behaviour and sleep for children under five.

As well as warning against passive screen time, it says babies should not spend longer than an hour at a time strapped into a buggy, car seat or sling.

The advice

For babies: Be physically active several times a day, including at least 30 minutes "tummy time" - lying on their front, no sedentary screen time, and 14-17 hours' sleep a day, including naps, for newborns - reducing to 12-16 by four to 11 months. They should not be restrained (ie strapped into a recliner, seat or sling) for more than an hour at a time.

For one- and two-year-olds: At least three hours' physical activity a day, no sedentary screen time for one-year-olds and less than an hour for two-year-olds, and 11-14 hours' sleep a day, including naps. They should not be restrained for more than an hour at a time or sit for extended periods of time.

For three- and four-year-olds: At least three hours' physical activity a day, including at least one of moderate or vigorous intensity, up to an hour of sedentary screen time - less is better, and 10-13 hours' sleep a day, which may include a



nap. They should not be restrained for more than an hour at a time or sit for extended periods of time

The WHO advice is based on available evidence, but there is still a lack of definitive research into the harms and possible benefits of screen use.

However, it was unlikely very young children gained from passive, sedentary viewing, said one of the guideline authors, Dr Juana Willumsen.

"Sedentary time should be made into quality time. Reading a book with your child, for example, can help them develop their language skills.

"A child who is given a tablet to keep them quiet while they are sitting in a pushchair is not getting the same [quality sedentary time].

"Children need to be given opportunities throughout the day to actively play and we should be reducing sedentary, passive screen time," she said.

Some TV programmes that encouraged young children to move about while viewing might be OK, she added, particularly if the parent or caregiver was also present to explain and join in.

What do other experts think?

In the U.S., experts say children should not use screens before they are 18 months old.

In Canada, screen time for children younger than two is not recommended.

But UK guidelines set no such limit.

Dr Max Davie, from the RCPCH, said: "The restricted screen time limits suggested by the WHO do not seem proportionate to the potential harm.

"Our research has shown that currently there is not strong enough evidence to support the setting of screen time limits.

"It is difficult to see how a household with mixed-age children can shield a baby from any screen exposure at all, as is recommended.

"Overall, these WHO guidelines serve as useful benchmarks to help steer families towards active and healthy lifestyles - but without the right support in place, striving for the perfect could become the enemy of the good."

Dr Tim Smith, a brain development expert at Birbeck, University of London, said parents were being bombarded with conflicting advice, which could be confusing.

"There is currently no clear evidence for the specific duration limits proposed at this age range.

"While the report makes a potentially helpful step in distinguishing sedentary screen time from active screen-based games, where physical activity is required, this remains an oversimplification of the many ways young children and their families engage with screen media."

What can parents do?

Paula Morton, a teacher and mother of two young children, said her son learned a lot from watching programmes about dinosaurs and came out with "random facts about them".

"He doesn't just sit there and zone out," she said.

"He's obviously thinking and using his brain.

"I don't know how I would make the dinner, cook and clean if he didn't have something to watch."

According to the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, parents can ask themselves:

Is screen time controlled?

Does screen use interfere with what your family want to do?

Does screen use interfere with sleep?

Are you able to control snacking during screen time?

If a family are satisfied with their answers to these questions, then they are likely to be handling screen time well, the college says.

(Source: BBC)

Nominees for Mustafa Prize 2019 being assessed by final jury

1→ The nominees are citizens of one of the 57 Islamic countries with no restrictions on religion, gender and/or age or any Muslim scientists living in any part of the world, he said.

The Mustafa (PBUH) Prize is awarded in four categories of information and communication science and technology, life and medical science and technology, nano-science and nanotechnology and all areas of science and technology.

These areas include the following UNESCO fields of education: natural sciences, mathematics and statistics; information and communication technologies; engineering, manufacturing and construction; agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary; health and welfare as well as cognitive science and Islamic economics and banking.



The event aims to improve scientific relations between academics and researchers in order to facilitate the growth of science in Islamic world.

As the name of the event suggested, the Mustafa (PBUH) Prize is held biennially during the Islamic Unity week in Iran, which is annually celebrated between two dates of the birthday of prophet Muhammad (PBUH) by Sunnis and Shia.

How to boost small business SEO

How can you improve the SEO of your business without spending lots of budgets? Do you know the secrets to get your website on the top of search engine results? For many owners of small business, paying for the right to be on top is out of reach. But the good news is that's not your only option.

According to the result of a recent survey, small business owners are doing below tactics to boost their SEO.

Around one-third (36%) of small businesses have a strategy for SEO. In addition, about 38% more will invest in SEO in the future.

Now, you are interested to know which of these tactics make the biggest difference in your website's search engine results position and which ones are less likely?

Social media marketing

The important part of your overall marketing strategy is Social media marketing, it can raise awareness of your business, build your brand and help get some customers in the door. But when it comes to SEO, it's hard to understand exactly how much social media marketing actually helps. This means relying on social media marketing to improve your SEO which most owners of small business in the recent survey are doing probably won't get the results you want.

Design a mobile-friendly website

Keep in mind, Google uses mobile friendliness as an important factor in its search rankings. If you want good SEO, you need to know that a mobile-friendly website has become essential. Do you know why mobile-friendliness matters because many people use their phones for search? You need to test how your website is mobile-friendly by using this link and also make sure that your website loads fast on mobile devices.

Try keyword research

As you know keywords are the words most searched on search engines. Keywords vary for every type of business website. For instance, for Startupik, our keywords are a startup, social media marketing and so on. The Guidelines of Google's Webmaster, which advises businesses how to increase search engine rankings, primarily recommends making your site informative and use all of the related keywords online searchers are most likely to enter when looking for businesses like yours.

Remember, the secret here is to use keywords in your website content but not to overdo it. Search engines will penalize you because they know when you're throwing keywords in just for ranking ("keyword stuffing"). Don't even consider cloaking and doorway pages as using underhanded tricks to improve your SEO.

Try using some tools such as Google Ads Keyword Planner to get the best keywords for your business, which is free, or you can pay for a tool such as KeywordSpy or Wordtracker which both offer free trials that you can test to find out how they work for you. Also, follow the other tactics in Google's Webmaster Guidelines, for example, using lots of text links, making sure don't have any broken links in your pages, and submitting a site map to Google so they can learn about your website.

Producing high-quality content

Try to attract your audience to your website by featuring high-quality content related to those keywords after you've identified your keywords. You need to try to produce great content by identifying the common questions that your customers have and producing content that answers those queries.

For example, if you have an auto service station and your customers ask about how often they should bring their cars in, you can post a cheat sheet for how often cars should be serviced and what needs to be checked when. If you are the owner of a hair salon and your customers always ask how to do French braids, just post a video presenting a French braid updo.

You should know there are just a few numbers of small businesses that are optimizing for voice search and wise to get out in front of the trend. Remember, lots of voice-activated smart devices used in homes and in business, people around the world are just as likely to search by speaking natural language queries ("Where's the best restaurant near me that delivers?") as by typing in search terms.

You need to understand user intent if you want to create content and find keywords optimized for voice search requires. For example, when a person asking his smartphone, "Where can I get lunch?" this means that a person needs to find a restaurant, not grocery stores.

How to measure the results of SEO?

The small businesses in the study look at traffic from search engines (25%), backlinks (14%) and leads and conversions (19%) to measure the success of their SEO efforts. However, these factors aren't essentially the most important metrics to measure.

When lots of people look in your store window, it's like increasing search engine traffic. These people are just visiting, but not always buying. You should look at your lead and conversion rates, which demonstrate to you how many visitors actually take the next step to show interest or make a purchase. Some reports also suggest measuring search traffic retention that is, your website bounce and exit rates—to see if users are sticking around on your site. Finally, focus on paying attention to the quality, not just the quantity, of backlinks, looking for some from sites with high domain authority (DA).

(Source: startupik.com)

Future cars to inform emergency services of traffic accidents within seven seconds

Cars could soon send emergency services information about injuries sustained in road traffic accidents within seven seconds of impact.

Using sensors and artificial intelligence, manufacturers hope to be able to send emergency services a detailed analysis of potential injuries, communicated through medical terms, almost instantly after a crash.

Hoping to reduce ambulance response times, Hyundai and MDGo, which specialises in medical artificial intelligence systems, are working on the project in tandem.

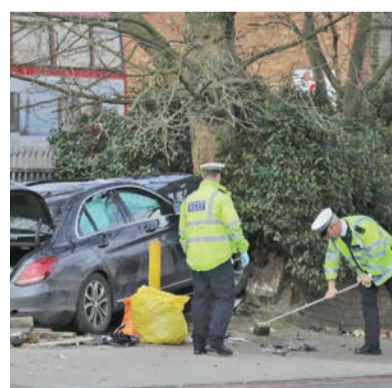
The technology interprets accident data and compiles numerous sets of insights regarding the occupants and the vehicle.

The South Korean car company hopes it will give emergency services the chance to assess the required scale of response and deploy appropriately skilled medical personnel before arriving at the scene of an accident.

"Through this technology, we expect a significant improvement in the emergency medical services of vehicles in the short-term, while our long-term goal is to provide innovations in passenger experience of vehicle safety utilising new technology that enable real-time physical monitoring," said Youngcho Chi, president and chief innovation officer at the automaker.

Almost 1,800 people died in road traffic accidents in Great Britain in 2017, according to figures from the Department for Transport, with 44 percent of those killed travelling in cars.

Around 170,000 suffered injuries over



the same period.

As part of the new design, big data gathered from detailed, intelligent analysis of multiple accident scenarios will inform engineers how to bolster crash structures and integrate new technologies to overcome issues identified by the artificial intelligence (AI) analysis.

The AI system continually learns and refines its interpretation of different accident scenarios.

This process of "iterative enhancement" is facilitated by hospitals inputting real data on patients' injuries, which the system compares to its prediction to further refine its analysis.

Earlier this year, Hyundai unveiled its "Elevate" concept, the first-ever vehicle with moveable legs, designed to allow emergency services to cross hazardous terrain to reach victims of natural disasters.

(Source: The Independent)

Start a startup without money

Maybe you ask in yourself: "How to run a small business or startup without money?" in the world nothing is possible without investing energy. By energy, I mean money and time. ok? If you haven't any money you can pay time to launch your dreamy business.

I ran my own online business without money and when before I was started I did research into big business websites and read a lot of books and asked from a smart entrepreneur about commencing a startup without money and after that I selected below ways: (good news it's: these ways 100% works)

Genius teams

If you want to launch a new startup, don't hurry, you should explore and find the best team in that field of work and try to work with them, Whether in person or remotely, with this work, you can catch two things, MONEY & EXPERIENCE. This is smart, test it. Why don't you give it a try?

Volunteers

Some people have free time and love your work's field. You can announce some goals of new works, mayhap some people join you for free and they want to help you in your dreamy ways. Just enough send a public message on your social media (Twitter, Facebook or Instagram).

Free Tools

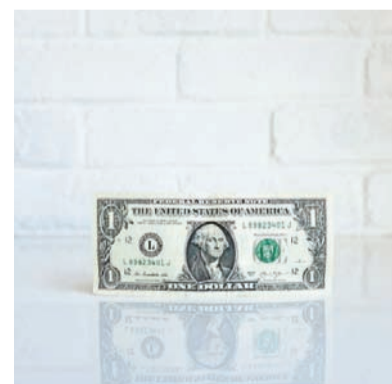
In all over the world, we have a lot of tools that can help you to build your startup or small business without money.

You can use:

Free website builder (like WordPress), Free logo builder (like Logojoy), Free Application builder (like AppGeyser) and other free tools...

Low profit

Don't follow the money in the first steps. You



should only think about value, which value do you want to add to your customers, or society or your area of expertise?

Read

How to Prepare Your Site For Ads on Google AdWords? If you want to make money by means of selling products or services, you consider minimum profit for yourself. With this way, you can stay between customer's options.

Forget ideals

The best logo is good, a fantastic design is excellent, a powerful website or application is amazing, but forgets all of them. You may ask why??? because they need a lot of money and they aren't necessary for the first version of your fledgling startup. You should create MVP (Minimum Valuable Products) version of your dreamy website or application. This means you build a thing that works good enough.

Forget money and follow your dreams, NOW.

(Source: startupik.com)

Prominent philanthropist Mohammad Reza Hafezi passes away

SOCIETY TEHRAN – Head of a charity society for building schools Mohammad Reza Hafezi died at the age of 88 on Tuesday.

He was a prominent benefactor who spent a lifetime to build schools nationwide and provide education right to numerous students, most particularly in less developed areas.



He was also head of a charity society contributing to school construction and education facilities in deprived areas, where he served in the same position for 20 years.

Hafezi held a PHD on Management from the Newport International University, California.

Mehroolah Rakhshanimehr, director of schools' renovation, development and equipment organization, expressing regret over his unexpected death said that over 130,000 classes have been built nationwide thanks to his efforts.

Child adoption process to speed up

SOCIETY TEHRAN – Child adoption process being piloted in Tehran will speed up, Darioush Bayatnejad, Tehran province welfare organization director has said.

Currently, some 2,800 applicants are awaiting adoption process, most of whom are parents not having children or intending to foster a child, he added.

The website will be soon operational nationwide, he highlighted, Mehr reported on Tuesday.

Among these applicants, some tend to foster children who suffer from different diseases to help them with treatment processes and costs, he noted.

He went on to say that applicants will be assessed to have required qualifications, then they will be on the waiting list to adopt the child, which is going to get faster, so the children sooner join a family to grow in a proper place.

Although these children are kept in care centers and are provided with the whole facilities needed, they feel lack of emotional support, he noted.

He further called on the families interested in child foster to be less sensitive about the gender and age of the children to help speed the process.

In the past few years, adoption laws have been revised so have been facilitated and easier to achieve, Bayatnejad concluded.

According to Iran's Welfare Organization, the country's adoption and foster laws which dated back to some 44 years ago were revised and modified in 2013. Within the new law kids could be adopted up to the age of 16 while the former law states that kids aged 12 or less could be adopted. In addition to families with no child now families with one kid and single women are able to apply for adoption.

The law formerly authorized adoption only for orphans while the new law permit adoption for children with dysfunctional families as well in case the judge concludes that the new family is suitable for adoption.

Earlier the adoptive families were required to sign over one third of their property to their child-to-be but some could not afford to do so and now the judge gets to decide how a family, depending on their financial status, should be treated.

Ahmad Khaki, deputy head of Tehran's welfare organization for social affairs said that the number of children adopted in Tehran increased by 25 percent in [the past Iranian calendar] year 1396 (March 2017 – March 2018) compared to the year before, as some 500 children were adopted by Tehraners last year.

WORDS IN THE NEWS

Mapping the human genome

(June 29, 2000)
This week scientists announced that they had completed the map of the human genome - the genetic instructions for building a human being.

British doctor Matt Ridley: I think it's **right up there** with gravity, relativity, natural selection - you know - the big moments of science. But in a way it's very very different from them. And the way it is different is that in those **instances** - you know - it was one single - sort of **out-of-the-blue** discovery of something that hadn't been **appreciated** before. This is something that's been coming for fifty years. In that sense there's no surprise about today's announcement, nonetheless I do think in terms of our understanding of ourselves it is an enormous **breakthrough**.

The reason you need **private sector** investment is because to get a drug through safety testing and **efficacy testing** requires hundreds of millions of dollars and we don't want unsafe drugs or drugs that don't work. So it's **vital** that we do have these tests, but the hundreds of millions of dollars that need to be invested **have to be done** with the expectation of a profit **at the end of the day**, and that's what's driving an **awful** lot of this research. Nonetheless, it's also vital that the data remains available to everybody and doesn't get **monopolized**.

WORDS
it's right up there: if something is right up there with something it means that it is of equal importance, it is just as important
instances: a particular example of an event or situation is an instance of that event or situation
out-of-the-blue: something that happens which is unexpected or a complete surprise can be described as coming out-of-the-blue
appreciated: if you appreciate a situation or problem, you understand it and know what it involves
breakthrough: an important new development or achievement is a breakthrough
private sector: the part of a country's economy which is not controlled or supported financially by the government is the private sector
efficacy testing: an efficacy test is a test to make sure something works and does what it is supposed to do
vital: something that is very important, necessary or essential is vital.
...have to be done: in this sentence this expression means 'must be invested'
at the end of the day: an informal expression which means 'in the end' 'after everything else has been done'
an awful lot: an expression which means 'a large amount.'
monopolized (also spelt monopolised): something which is completely controlled by one person, company or organization is said to be monopolized (Source: BBC)

Wildfire risk increases in Zagros foothills

ENVIRONMENT TEHRAN – Following heavy rainfall doused the country during the past months, vegetation has covered vast areas of Zagros forest in southwestern part of the country, which easily ignites when temperature level gets higher and wildfire risk increases.

A week earlier, raging wildfire erupted in Khaeez protected area in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province, southwestern Iran, which affected some 1,783 hectares of the lands.

Torrential rains over the past few months, has positive consequences like saturating the wetlands and reservoirs, however, led to some natural incidents like flooding which caused losses to the country, Mohammad Mansourpour, an official with the Iranian Space Agency said.

Based on the latest data published by National Drought Warning and Monitoring Center affiliated to Iran's Meteorological Organization, since the current crop year (September 23, 2018), precipitation in the country increased to 296.2 from 139.2 millimeters in the previous water year, demonstrating a 112.8 percent rise. The amount also raised in comparison to the long-term average of 211.8 mm, amounting to 39.8 percent.

As the result of the rain, plants and vegetation has grown in vast areas of forests and rangelands which soon will be dried due to temperature rise and enhance the possibility of massive fires, he added.

Although, the fire has been extinguished and no longer is threatening, we assess the



vegetation condition in the areas prone to wildfire through remote sensing technology every day, he said.

Satellite photos are taken twice a day due to increased risk of wildfire in Zagros outskirts, during summer we must more cautious to prevent the wildfire occurrences, he also noted.

Mansourpour went on to say that in some areas being impassable, any fire-fighting operation is almost impossible, so it is so vital to constantly observe the areas before turning into ashes, as a slight lightning can cause huge fires.

Although these places are inaccessible

for the people and human-started wildfires seldom happens in these areas, the indirect involvement of humans is not negligible, he also said.

He also added that some of the farmers fire the agricultural lands after harvesting their crops, so winds blow combustibles around, which act as the heat source for nearby brush and vegetation.

According to the recent satellite image-ries, southwestern Iran will experience scorching heat and definitely probability of fire expands, he lamented, adding, so we warned the responsible organizations to be alarmed during the summer.

Referring to a fire risk detection system developed for the northern forests, he stated that "the system distinguishes the fire-prone areas and helps the related bodies to act thoroughly, we tend to develop the system in the whole forests nationwide."

Comparing wildfire risk in northern forests and southwestern ones, he said that western and southwestern parts are highly at risk because of hotter weather in the next months.

"However, northern forests will be haunted by fire usually at the end of autumn or winter," he noted, lamenting, of course, most of the times fire reported in northern forests are human-caused.

"We are a responsible organization to monitor and supervise different parts of the country for different purposes but we can only issue warnings, so the organization assigned take measure will take responsibility to react in this regard," he explained.

He further called on the people and farmers to be careful and prevent such happenings, and concluded that we need to protect the environment from such incidents.

Jamshid Mohabbat-Khani, head of the Department of Environment's protection unit stated that the highest number of wildfires occurred in the capital during the past two months, as some 15 wildfires were reported in southern part of the city.

In the aforesaid period, some 218 hectares of the areas under the DOE's protection have been swept by wildfires, he added.

'Bad news for all life on Earth': Plants becoming extinct 500 times faster, study reveals

Humans have caused almost 600 plant species to be wiped from existence over the past 250 years in a long term trend which scientists have described as an "unprecedented" rate of decline.

An analysis of all plant extinction records documented from across the world by scientists at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Stockholm University found 571 known plant species had completely disappeared from the wild since the industrial revolution.

This is more than twice the number of birds, mammals and amphibians which have become extinct over the same period combined.

Plant extinction is occurring as much as 500 times faster than natural background rates of extinction among plant species or the normal rate of loss in earth's history before significant human intervention.

Although fewer species of animal have died out, their rate of decline is even faster – at least 1,000 times faster than background rates of extinction, underlining the impact humans are having on life on our planet.

Plant extinctions "endanger other organisms, ecosystems and human well-being, and must be understood for effective conservation planning", said the authors of the study, published in the journal Nature Ecology & Evolution.

"Most people can name a mammal or bird that has become extinct in recent centuries, but few can name an extinct plant," said lead author Dr Aelys Humphreys, an assistant professor at Stockholm University.

"This study is the first time we have an overview of what plants have already become extinct, where they have disappeared from and how quickly this is happening. We hear a lot about the number of species facing extinction, but these figures are for plants that we've already lost, so provide



an unprecedented window into plant extinction in modern times."

The highest rates of plant extinction are found on islands in the tropics and in areas with a Mediterranean climate, researchers found.

These typically biodiverse regions are home to many unique species, but they have been particularly vulnerable to human activities.

Woody plant species such as trees and shrubs, which inhabit a small geographical range, such as those confined to small islands, were among the most likely to be reported extinct.

This finding, the authors suggest, indicates the increase in extinction rate could be due to the same factors that are documented as threats to many surviving plants: fragmentation and destruction of native vegetation resulting in the reduction or loss of habitat of many range-restricted species.

Dr Eimear Nic Lughadha, co-author and a conservation scientist at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew said: "Plants underpin all life on earth, they provide the oxygen we breathe and the food we eat, as well as making up the backbone of the world's ecosystems – so plant extinction is bad news for all species."

"This new understanding of plant extinction will help us predict, and try to prevent, future extinctions of plants, as well as other organisms. Millions of other species depend on plants for their survival, humans included, so knowing which plants we are losing and from where, will feed back into conservation programmes targeting other organisms as well."

The research team also said the number of species known to have died out and the rate of decline were likely to be a significant underestimate the true levels of ongoing plant extinction.

Examples of unique plant species which we have lost in recent years include the Chile sandalwood, Santalum fernandezianum, which was a tree that grew on the Juan Fernández Islands which lie between Chile and Easter Island. From around 1624, the tree began to be heavily exploited for the aromatic sandalwood, and by the end of the 19th century most of the trees had been cut down.

The last tree was photographed on August 28, 1908 on Robinson Crusoe island by Carl Skottsberg. The tree has not been seen since.

The researchers also highlighted the demise of the banded trinity, *Thismia americana*, which was "possibly one of the most extraordinary plants ever to be discovered".

It had no leaves and only the flowers were visible above ground. It was discovered in 1912 along Torrence Avenue in South Chicago. The site was, however, destroyed just five years later and this extraordinary plant was never seen again. Regular searches in remaining pockets of similar habitat in Chicago have been undertaken without success.

Dr Maria Vorontsova, one of the study's co-authors and a plant taxonomist at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew said: "To stop plant extinction, we need to record all the plants across the world – the naming of new species is a critical piece of the puzzle in the wider push to prioritize conservation of our precious natural world for generations to come."

"To do this we need to support herbaria and the production of plant identification guides, we need to teach our children to see and recognize their local plants and most importantly we need botanists for years to come."

(Source: The Independent)

ENGLISH IN USE

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A ← → ج

Precipitation forecast to reach above normal in next 3 months

The country is predicted to receive above normal rainfall over the next three months (February 20-May 21), head of the climatological research institute affiliated to Iran's Meteorological Organization (IMO) has said. The whole country will meet normal and above normal rainfalls, the northern parts will receive above normal rainfall while southern provinces will receive normal to lower-than-normal rainfall, IRNA quoted Iman Babaeian as saying on Sunday.

This month, northern and eastern provinces will receive rain above normal averages, while in the first month of spring precipitation will be at normal amounts across the country, he noted, adding, during the second month of spring rainfall will reach its peak.

بارش‌های کشور در سه ماه پیش رو بیش از نرمال است

رئیس پژوهشکده اقلیم‌شناسی سازمان هواشناسی گفت: پیش‌بینی‌ها نشان می‌دهد میزان بارش در کشور در سه ماهه پیش رو (اسفند ۹۷، فروردین و اردیبهشت ۹۸) در حد نرمال و متمایل به بیش از نرمال خواهد بود.

ایمان باباییان روز یکشنبه در گفت‌وگو با خبرنگار ایرنا افزود: مجموع بارش‌ها در سطح کشور نرمال و متمایل به بیشتر از نرمال است اما در نیمه شمالی، بیشتر از نرمال و در نیمه جنوبی در محدوده نرمال تا کمتر از نرمال خواهد بود.

وی اظهار داشت: بارش‌ها در اسفندماه ۹۷ در نیمه شمالی و شرقی بیشتر از نرمال است، در فروردین ماه ۹۸ نیز بارش‌ها در محدوده نرمال و برای اردیبهشت بیشتر از نرمال پیش‌بینی شده است.

PREFIX/SUFFIX

"hemi-"

■ **Meaning:** half
■ **For example:** Damage to the corresponding part of the right hemisphere had no effect on speech.

PHRASAL VERB

Hear from

■ **Meaning:** to receive news or information from someone
■ **For example:** Police want to hear from anyone who has any information.

IDIOM

Build bridges

■ **Explanation:** help opposing groups to cooperate and understand each other better
■ **For example:** A mediator is trying to build bridges between the local community and the owners of the new plant.

Saudi Arabia confirms Yemeni missile attack on Abha airport

TEHRAN— The Saudi-led coalition waging war on Yemen has confirmed a retaliatory missile strike by Yemeni armed forces on the Abha International Airport in the kingdom's southwestern Asir region.

In a statement released on Wednesday, coalition spokesman Turki al-Maliki said a Yemeni missile had hit the airport's arrivals hall, causing material damage.

He also noted that the attack had wounded 26 civilians from different nationalities.

Saudi forces are working to determine the type of the projectile, Maliki said, vowing a "firm" response to the attack.

Earlier on Wednesday, a Yemeni military source told al-Masirah TV that Yemeni forces had targeted the Abha airport with a cruise missile and brought a halt to air traffic in the area.

Commenting on the strike, the spokesman for Yemeni armed forces said the cruise missile had directly hit the Abha airport's air traffic control tower and left it out of service.

Speaking at a press conference in the capital Sana'a on Wednesday, Brigadier General Yahya Saree said that advanced American systems provided to the Saudi regime had failed to intercept the missile.

According to Press TV, the attack was



a response to the crimes committed by aggressors and their unjust siege of Yemen, he added.

The Yemeni Army — led by the Houthis inside Saudi Arabia in retaliation for the Saudi war, which began in March 2015 in an attempt to reinstall the country's Riyadh-allied former regime.

The missile strike came days after the Houthi movement warned that the airports of the countries involved in the military aggression against Yemen will be targeted as long as the embargo imposed by the Saudi regime and its allies on the Sana'a International Airport remains in place.

Earlier, the spokesman for Yemeni Armed Forces has called on Saudi Arabia and the

United Arab Emirates to put an immediate end to their military aggression against Yemen, or embrace for major surprises.

Speaking during a press conference in the capital Sana'a on Tuesday, Brigadier General Yahya Saree said Yemeni army forces, backed by allied fighters from Popular Committees, launched an airstrike against King Khalid Air Base, which lies near the southwestern Saudi city of Khamis Mushait and more than 884 kilometers (549 miles) from the capital Riyadh, the previous evening, using a squadron of domestically-manufactured Qasef-2K (Striker-2K) combat drones.

He went on to say that the attack targeted advanced radars, arms depots and control rooms in the base. Saree highlighted that King Khalid Air Base serves as one of the main bases of the Saudi-led coalition, from which many atrocious attacks are being launched against Yemeni people.

Few hours after his remarks, Yemeni forces launched another retaliatory attack targeting Abha International Airport in Saudi Arabia's southern Asir province. A military source said the airport has been hit with a cruise missile and that air traffic has been halted around the airport.

Lebanon rejects U.S.-sponsored conference in Bahrain

TEHRAN — Lebanese Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil says his country is boycotting the forthcoming U.S.-led conference in Bahrain in support of President Donald Trump's controversial proposal for "peace" between the Israeli regime and Palestinians, dubbed "the deal of the century," because Palestinians are not taking part in the event.

"We will not participate in the Bahrain conference [scheduled for June 25-26] because the Palestinians are not participating and we prefer to have a clear idea about the proposed plan for peace. We were not consulted regarding [the plan]," Bassil said on Tuesday.

The statement came after an unnamed senior White House official said Jordan, Egypt and Morocco had informed the administration they would send representatives to Manama.

The United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Saudi Arabia announced in May that they would participate in the conference.

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Hamas resistance movement have called for an Arab boycott of the Bahrain confab.

Hamas, in a statement issued on May 20, also called on Arab countries to provide the Palestinian people with every support to confront and frustrate the U.S. "deal of the century."

"We are following with great concern the American announcement about holding an economic workshop next June in the Bahraini capital of Manama," Hamas



said, describing it as the first American confab in support of the so-called deal of the century.

The movement also denounced any Arab participation in adopting and executing the deal, saying any attendance in the American-led Bahrain conference would be considered a deviation from Arab and Islamic values.

According to Press TV, Trump's "peace plan" has already been dismissed by Palestinian authorities ahead of its unveiling at the end of the holy fasting month of Ramadan and the formation of the new Israeli cabinet, most likely in June.

Hong Kong police fire rubber bullets as extradition bill protests turn to chaos

TEHRAN — Hong Kong police fired rubber bullets and tear gas at demonstrators who threw plastic bottles on Wednesday as protests against an extradition bill that would allow people to be sent to mainland China for trial descended into violent chaos.

Tens of thousands of protesters had gathered peacefully outside the Chinese-ruled city's legislature before tempers flared, some charging police with umbrellas.

Police warned them back, saying: "We will use force." Ambulances sped toward the protest area as panic spread through the crowd, with many people trying to flee the stinging tear gas, according to a Reuters witness. More than 10 people were wounded in the clashes, Cable TV reported.

Police used pepper spray, tear gas and batons to force the crowds back. Some shops put up their shutters at the nearby IFC, one of Hong Kong's tallest buildings.

Civil Human Rights Front, which organized a protest on Sunday that it estimated saw more than a million people take to the streets in protest against the extradition bill, accused police of using unnecessary violence.

The protesters, most of them young people dressed in black, had erected barricades as they prepared to hunker down for an extended occupation of the area, in scenes reminiscent of pro-democracy "Occupy" protests that gridlocked the former British colony in 2014.

The violence had died down by ear-



ly evening under light rain, but tens of thousands still jammed the streets in and around Lung Wo Road, a main east-west artery near the offices of embattled Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam.

"Didn't we say at the end of the Umbrella movement we would be back?" pro-democracy lawmaker Claudia Mo said, referring to the name often used for the 2014 demonstrations, whose trademark was the yellow umbrella.

"Now we are back!" she said as supporters echoed her words.

Others once again called for Lam to step down.

Expectations low for Trump-Xi talks, preparations limited

TEHRAN — With under three weeks to go before proposed talks between the Chinese and U.S. leaders, expectations for progress toward ending the trade war are low and sources say there has been little preparation for a meeting even as the health of the world economy is at stake.

Donald Trump says he wants to meet with President Xi Jinping at the June 28-29 G20 summit in Osaka, Japan and will decide on whether to extend tariffs to almost all Chinese imports after that, Reuters reported.

Though neither side has confirmed that a meeting will take place, investors worldwide who have seen over a trillion dollars wiped from global markets in the past month by the trade fight will be closely watching any interaction between the two men.

Relations have deteriorated since May when negotiations to end the U.S.-Chinese trade disputes broke down, but killing off the possibility of an agreement in Japan.

"The atmosphere is poisonous," one senior Beijing-based Western diplomat told Reuters, referring to China-U.S. ties.

Sources familiar with the matter, including officials and diplomats in Washington and Beijing, say there has been a lack of preparatory work for the meeting, due largely to the increasing acrimony. The trade negotiating teams have not met since talks ended in stalemate on May 10.

The White House declined to comment on plans for a Trump-Xi meeting.

"Preparations for the G20 summit in Japan are ongoing. We have nothing to announce at this time regarding specific bilateral meetings," White House National Security Council spokesman Garrett Marquis.

White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow told CNBC on Tuesday that Trump is hoping to "pick up where we left off" in the talks with Xi.

Trump said again on Monday that he expected the meeting to happen, and threatened more tariffs on Chinese imports if there is not enough progress or if Xi does not attend.

China is open to more trade talks but has nothing to announce about a possible meeting between the two leaders, Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said on Monday. He said on Tuesday that China would "fight to the end" if Washington escalates trade fictions.

Sources said the two leaders are likely to have some kind of meeting but whatever happens in Osaka, it will be a downgrade from the possibility both sides feted just two months ago - when they hoped the talks would be the scene for the two presidents to sign a historic trade deal.

A senior Chinese official told U.S. business representatives last week that preparations had yet to begin for either a Trump-Xi meeting or to resume trade negotiations, a source with direct knowledge of the briefing said.

On the U.S. side in recent years, the lack of preparation



for a big meeting is not that unusual. Trump often attends important talks with little advance work and makes policy on the fly.

Xi may not even want to go into such a high profile meeting with an unpredictable outcome and facing the threat of more U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods.

"For China it's all about protocol for Xi and making sure he is respected," said an Asian diplomat. "China will not want Xi go into a meeting where he may be embarrassed."

Kim Jong Un's sister to visit DMZ

TEHRAN — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's sister will visit the demilitarized zone (DMZ) separating North and South Korea to pay her respects following the death of former South Korean First Lady Lee Hee-ho, Seoul has said.

Kim Yo Jong will visit the border village of Panmunjom on Wednesday evening and is expected to meet South Korean officials there, according to the South's Unification Ministry.

The meeting comes exactly one year after Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump agreed to work towards the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, at the first US-North Korea summit in Singapore.

Lee, who died on Monday, was the widow of former President Kim Dae-jung, who in 2000 became the first South Korean leader to visit the North since the 1950-1953 war between the two countries.

Alongside her husband, Lee was a proponent of Korean reunification and visited the North several times, including in 2011 to attend former leader Kim Jong Il's funeral, during which time she became one of the first South Koreans to meet Kim Jong Un.

Kim Yo Jong is expected to deliver a condolence message and flowers during the Wednesday visit, Yonhap news agency reported.

North Korea also sent a delegation to the South following Kim Dae-jung's death in 2009.

Johnson in pitch to be PM, says not aiming for no-deal Brexit

TEHRAN — Former British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said he was not aiming to leave the European Union without a deal but it was only responsible to prepare for no-deal as he launched his bid to replace Theresa May as Prime Minister.

Johnson reiterated that Britain should leave the bloc when it is currently due to do so on Oct. 31, Reuters reported.

Sudan army, protesters to resume talks on transitional council

TEHRAN — Protest leaders in Sudan have agreed to suspend a civil disobedience campaign launched after a bloody crackdown on demonstrators and resume negotiations with the country's ruling generals on the formation of a transitional sovereign council, an Ethiopian envoy has said.

Speaking to reporters in Sudan's capital, Khartoum, Mahmoud Drir said the Transitional Military Council (TMC) had also agreed to release political prisoners as a goodwill gesture, without giving details.

"The Freedom and Change alliance agreed to end the civil disobedience (campaign) from today," said Drir, who has been mediating since a visit by Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed last week.

"Both sides have also agreed to resume talks soon" on a handover of power to a civilian administration, he added.

The protest movement itself said in a statement that it was calling on people "to resume work from Wednesday" until further notice, though it encouraged people to remain mobilised for possible further action.

There was no immediate comment by the TMC.

Commenting on the announced talks between the two sides, Al Jazeera's Mohammed Vall said negotiations were going to be "tough".

"The main sticking point is who is going to lead the transitional sovereign council - is it military majority or civilian majority?"

He added: "It is going to take time before they agree."

Modi to avoid Pakistan airspace despite getting permission

TEHRAN — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will avoid flying over Pakistan during an official trip to central Asia on Thursday, the foreign ministry said, even though Pakistan has granted overflight access.

Pakistan closed its airspace in February after a suicide attack by a Pakistan-based militant group in Indian-controlled Kashmir led to aerial bombing missions on each other's soil and a fighter dogfight over Kashmir.

Commercial and cargo airlines using Indian airspace have been forced to take costly and time-consuming detours because they cannot fly over Pakistan.

But Pakistan had cleared Modi's flight to Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit beginning on Thursday, Indian and Pakistan sources said.

According to Reuters, the Indian foreign ministry said the government had considered the routes for Modi's travel and decided he would take the longer passage to Central Asia instead of the direct route over Pakistan.

The move follows calls in local media that Modi shouldn't be securing an exception for himself while thousands of ordinary travelers were enduring the longer travel because of the tensions between the nuclear-armed rivals.

"The Government of India had explored two options for the route to be taken by the VVIP Aircraft to Bishkek. A decision has now been taken that the VVIP Aircraft will fly via Oman, Iran and Central Asian countries on the way to Bishkek," the foreign ministry said.

Modi's move also suggests there is little chance of a thaw in ties even though Pakistan said it hoped to revive talks after elections in India ended in May.

PA deplors plans by Jordan, Egypt to attend U.S.-led confab in Bahrain

TEHRAN — The Palestinian Authority (PA) says it "deeply regrets" decisions by Jordan and Egypt to attend an upcoming U.S.-led conference in Bahrain, which revolves around a controversial Washington-devised plan on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The Authority "calls on them and all brotherly and friendly countries to withdraw," the PA's spokesman Ibrahim Melhim said Tuesday.

"Under the cover of this participation, the U.S. is trying to create solutions outside the realm of international legitimacy that detracts from the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people," he added.

The comments came after Egypt, Jordan and Morocco reportedly informed Washington of their plans to send representatives to the June 25-26 conference, which seeks to unveil the economic aspects of a scheme forged by the U.S. to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Washington has withheld details about its "deal of the century," but various leaks have revealed that it seriously compromises Palestinians' rights and grievances.

The Times of Israel said the Arab trio's decision now "paves the way for Israel to be invited as well."

According to a report cited by the paper,

U.S. officials wanted to secure enough Arab participation, particularly that of Egypt and Jordan, before bringing Israel into the picture.

Palestinians have accused regional Arab states, including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — which have similarly announced plans to participate at the conference — of betraying the Palestinian cause of ending Israel's occupation.

All Palestinian factions, whether in the Gaza Strip or the occupied West Bank, have unanimously boycotted the conference, Press TV reported.

Meanwhile, Azzam al-Ahmad, a senior official with the Fatah Party — which dom-

Froome in hospital after crash in Criterium du Dauphine

Chris Froome was taken to hospital following a crash ahead of stage four of the Criterium du Dauphine on Wednesday in the build-up to his bid for a fifth Tour de France title next month.

The Briton pulled out of the race after crashing during a course reconnaissance of the 26.1 km individual time trial around Roanne in central France.

"Team Ineos can confirm that Chris Froome crashed during a recon of stage four of the Criterium du Dauphine today," the team said in a statement on Twitter.

"He is currently on his way to a local hospital and won't start today's fourth stage. We will provide a further update in due course."

Froome, alongside team mate Geraint Thomas, is one of the favorites for the Tour de France which begins on July 6. (Source: Reuters)

FIFA says only 14 women's World Cup matches are sold out

World soccer governing body FIFA said on Tuesday that they have allocated a million tickets for the ongoing women's World Cup in France but only 14 of the 52 matches are sold out, countering claims that tickets were selling fast.

The organisers tweeted last month that tickets were still available "for a few matches" and British media reported FIFA president Gianni Infantino had said before the tournament kicked off that 20 matches were sold out.

"Four days after the FIFA women's World Cup kicked off... the tournament has reached an important milestone with over one million tickets having now been allocated to fans worldwide," FIFA said in a statement.

"14 out of the 52 matches are now sold out with currently no more inventory available, including the opening match played in Paris on Friday as well as several matches taking place later in the competition."

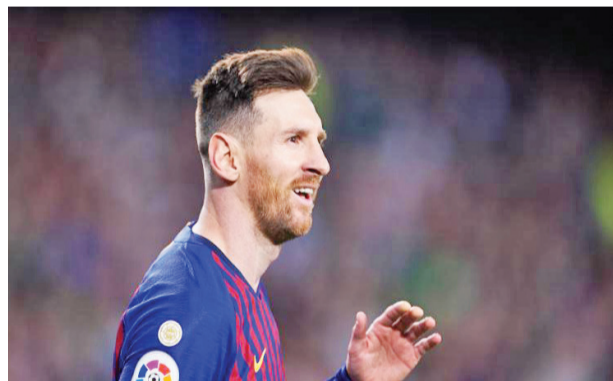
FIFA said 10 group games involving the top teams, including the next two matches for France and defending champions United States, have been sold out as are one quarter-final in Paris plus the two semi-finals and final in Lyon.

So far, France's opening win over South Korea, Brazil's victory over Jamaica and the United States' 13-0 rout of Thailand have had near-capacity crowds but swathes of empty seats were visible at other games around the country.

The BBC reported England's 2-1 win over Scotland in Nice was attended by only 13,188 supporters — 37% of the Stade de Nice's 35,100 capacity.

Last month FIFA faced a backlash on social media after fans who bought multiple tickets for World Cup matches discovered that their seats were not together. (Source: Reuters)

Earning \$127 million, Lionel Messi tops Forbes list of highest paid athletes



Barcelona star Lionel Messi is the highest paid athlete in the world after earning \$127 million over the last 12 months, according to Forbes.

Becoming only the second footballer to top the list, the 31-year-old Argentine edged out rival Cristiano Ronaldo, who sits second having earned \$109 million last year.

Juventus forward Ronaldo became the first footballer to top the list in 2016 and the 34-year-old retained his top-spot in 2017.

Despite heading the Forbes list, Messi has endured a mixed season at the Catalan club. The Barcelona captain inspired his side to the La Liga title but suffered humiliation as Liverpool overturned a 3-0 deficit to knock the Spanish side out of the Champions League. Barcelona were also surprisingly beaten by Valencia in the Spanish Cup final.

Brazil and Paris Saint-Germain star Neymar completes the top three earners, picking up \$105 million.

Business magazine Forbes released its list of the top 100 highest paid athletes on Tuesday, which combines prize money, salaries and endorsements between June 2018 and June 2019.

The top 100 earners made a combined \$4 billion, with athletes spanning 10 sports and coming from 25 different countries.

Tennis supreme Serena Williams is the only female athlete to make the list. She earned \$29.2 million despite not winning a grand slam in 2018 on her return from pregnancy.

Williams is also the first athlete to ever make Forbes' list of richest self-made women in America — tennis stars earn four times as much from endorsements and appearance fees as they do from prize money.

Meanwhile, former world champion boxer Floyd Mayweather failed to live up to his "Money" moniker, falling out of the list altogether after being named last year's highest earner.

Since his mega-money fight with UFC fighter Conor McGregor, Mayweather has only fought an exhibition bout against Tenshin Nasukawa in December 2018.

Americans dominated the list once again, with only 38 foreign athletes making the cut. More than half of the highest earners played in either the NFL or the NBA. (Source: CNN)

Copa America 2019: Why have Japan and Qatar been invited to take part in the tournament?

What's the first thing that comes to mind when you think of the Copa America? Late nights, sleep deprivation, drinking cans on the sofa and resignedly signing up to Premier Sports for a month would all be acceptable answers.

The most obvious answer, though, is South America, the continent which lends the tournament its name. Up until the mid seventies the competition was known as the South American Football Championship and until the nineties it exclusively featured teams from CONMEBOL, the continental governing body.

Thanks to the relatively small number of nations which fall under CONMEBOL's jurisdiction, however, the Copa America has featured invitees from elsewhere since 1993. Predictably, they have generally been drawn from CONCACAF, the governing body for North America, Central America and the Caribbean.

That makes sense, not only because of geographical proximity but also because many of the countries which fall under CONCACAF's remit have close cultural, linguistic and sporting ties to South America.

As such, eyebrows were raised when it was announced that the two invitees to the Copa America 2019 were Qatar and Japan. So why are the finalists of the 2019 Asian Cup



competing in a tournament halfway around the world which, on the face of it, they have little connection to?

■ **Have Japan or Qatar featured in the Copa America before?**

Interestingly, Japan were the first team outside of the Americas to feature in the competition. They were invitees to the 1999 edition of the tournament in Paraguay, going

out at the group stage with one draw and two defeats.

They had a direct link to South America at the time given that their star forward, Wagner Lopes, was a naturalised Japanese citizen born in Brazil. He scored twice, making him Japan's top scorer in the competition.

That at least means Japan have a minor legacy in the Copa America, even if they

are hardly one of the competition's biggest overachievers. Qatar, meanwhile, have never featured in the tournament and will be making a sort of history.

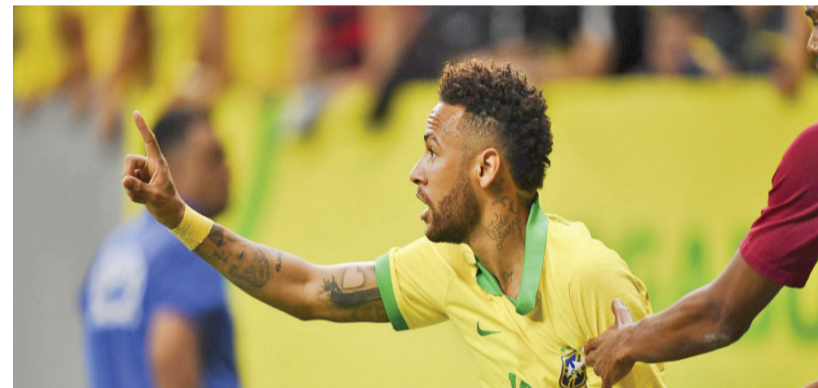
■ **Have Japan and Qatar been invited because they contested the 2019 Asian Cup final?**

In short, no. It's a coincidence that Japan and Qatar featured in this year's Asian Cup final, which Qatar won 3-1 in Abu Dhabi.

Japan and Qatar were announced as invitees last May, with CONMEBOL giving their official rationale in a statement which read: "The presence of both teams is due to the high interest of the Asian Football Confederation to participate in CONMEBOL competitions and the commitment of the South American Football Confederation to contribute to the development of football worldwide."

Alejandro Dominguez, President of CONMEBOL, made it clear that Qatar's status as hosts of the 2022 World Cup was significant in the selection process. "We again welcome the national team of Japan, with whose association we are united by a close bond of friendship and affinity, and for the first time, we will see the participation of the national team of Qatar, who will host the 2022 FIFA World Cup," he said. (Source: Inews)

Neymar's rape accuser abandoned by third lawyer



The woman who has accused Brazilian football star Neymar of raping her in a Paris hotel has been dropped by a third lawyer -- the latest twist in a scandal that has gripped the country.

Daniilo Garcia de Andrade told broadcaster SBT late Monday he was no longer representing Najila Trindade Mendes de Souza after she questioned his competence.

Trindade alleges Neymar sexually assaulted her in the French capital last month, a charge he denies.

Garcia took on Trindade's lawsuit against Neymar last week, but days later, he reportedly said he was considering withdrawing from the case unless the model provided more evidence of wrongdoing.

The lawyer wanted to see the content of a seven-minute video filmed during the model's second meeting with the Paris Saint-Germain star. Trindade maintains the recording -- a few seconds of which have been leaked on social media -- includes conclusive evidence that she was assaulted.

The images were filmed on a tablet device which has been stolen, according to Trindade, but the owners of the building where she lives have denied claims of a forced break-in.

Trindade's original lawyers walked away

from her case because she had initially filed a complaint of physical abuse and not rape. A second lawyer abandoned the case after briefly helping Trindade.

She gave evidence to Sao Paulo police last Friday and, after six hours of testimony, Garcia carried her out of the station.

"She says that according to the tablet's tracker, it would be in the same street as my office," Garcia told SBT.

"She was very emphatic and a client should not question the competence of a lawyer, much less one that leaves a police station carrying their client in their arms."

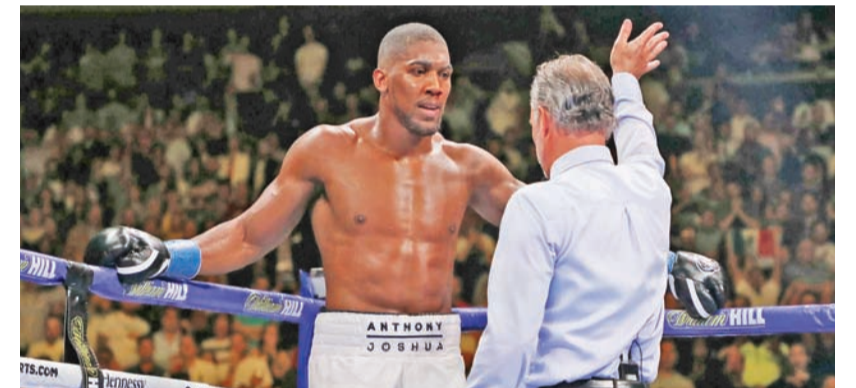
Trindade's dramatic appearance came a day after Neymar went to a Rio de Janeiro police station -- sitting in a wheelchair after injuring his ankle in last Wednesday's pre-Copa America friendly against Qatar.

He gave a statement in an investigation into his publication of intimate WhatsApp messages and photos of Trindade on social media without her consent.

Neymar told police that an assistant and a technician were responsible for sharing the messages and photos, TV Globo reported.

The star striker's injury has sidelined him from the Copa America, which begins Friday. (Source: AFP)

Anthony Joshua is 'finished' says Tyson Fury



Tyson Fury believes former world champion Anthony Joshua is "finished" after the British heavyweight's shock defeat to Andy Ruiz Jr in New York.

Joshua lost his IBF, WBA and WBO titles on June 1 in one of the biggest upsets in the history of the division.

After the fight, Fury sent a message on Twitter that urged his fellow Briton to "rest up, recover, regroup and come again".

But this week he told BBC Sport: "When a man doesn't want to be there once, he will always do it and it's hard to come back from."

"It's been done many different times by many different fighters. He did it that night and I don't think he will come back from it. Finished. Ask any top trainer who has been around the sport a lifetime. When he got to the ring I saw he didn't want to be there."

Joshua, 29, whose defeat against Ruiz was the first of his career, had previously made Fury an offer to fight.

"Everybody thought that man could beat me," said Fury. "In what world could he ever beat me? What were people seeing?"

"I don't know what people were looking at as I don't know in what world he could

have beaten me."

Joshua's seventh-round stoppage by Ruiz came as a huge surprise as his opponent had been given barely one month's notice for the fight and weighed in at more than 20 pounds (nine kilograms) heavier than the Briton.

But unbeaten Fury, who shed around 10 stone (64 kilograms) in a bid to re-establish himself in the heavyweight division after a battle with mental health and drugs issues, said body shape was no indicator of success.

"Physically Joshua could out-train everyone," said the 30-year-old, who is preparing to fight Germany's Tom Schwarz in Las Vegas on Saturday.

"He would break every heart monitor, has probably worn out every treadmill in the gym, smashes the bag, it's all very unimportant."

"Boxing isn't rocket science and today people are trying to make it a scientist thing. If you can fight you can fight, if you can't you can forget about it."

World Boxing Council heavyweight world champion Deontay Wilder said last month that he had lined up a highly anticipated rematch with Fury. (Source: France 24)

Americans face backlash over biggest women's World Cup win

Holders the United States began their defence of the women's World Cup by crushing Thailand 13-0 but their joyous celebrations of the tournament's record win triggered a backlash on Wednesday.

The US team scored 10 goals in the second half in Reims on Tuesday as they bettered Germany's 11-0 win over Argentina in 2007 and shattered their own previous tournament best of 7-0.

American star Alex Morgan grabbed five goals while Rose Lavelle and Samantha Mewis netted twice each and Lindsey Horan, Megan Rapinoe, Mallory Pugh and Carli Lloyd also got on the scoresheet in the Group F encounter watched by more than 18,000.

But the Americans' wild goal celebrations in such a one-sided game were not to everyone's taste.

Former Canadian international player Kaylyn Kyle, working as an analyst for Canada's TSN at the tournament, said on air: "As a Canadian we would just never ever think of doing something like that ... For me it's disrespectful, it's disgraceful."

■ **'Classless winners'**

Kyle said later on social media she had received death threats for her comments, but repeated that she felt the Americans' celebrations were "excessive and disrespectful".

Many Twitter users also criticised the show of joy with the hashtag "UglyAmericans".

"A classless winner is worse than a sore loser, regardless of gender," said one tweet.

USA Today columnist Nancy Armour was unapologetic. "Take the pearl clutching and righteous indignation somewhere else. This is the World Cup, not a rec league tournament," she wrote.



USA coach Jill Ellis hit back at suggestions her players could have eased up and spared 34th-ranked Thailand complete humiliation.

"This is a world championship so every team that is here has been fantastic to get to this point. To be respectful to opponents is to play hard against opponents," Ellis said.

Captain Megan Rapinoe said her team had been overjoyed at setting the record score but insisted they did respect all their opponents.

"We always want to have any world record and anything we can get over the Germans, we'll take it," Rapinoe said. "Obviously we have the utmost respect for everyone we play,

but it's the World Cup."

Thailand's deflated coach Nuengruethai Sathongwien said she had no excuses, adding: "We accept that they are better."

■ **Powerful message**

France will have paid attention to the Americans' powerful performance as the host nation could well meet them in a quarter-final in Paris.

The French side return to action on Wednesday against Norway, who like France comfortably won their opening match.

The hosts, coached by Corinne Diacre, cruised to a 4-0 win over South Korea in their first outing last Friday and are hoping to build on that against the Norwegians in Nice at 1900 GMT in one of 13 sold-out games in the tournament so far.

The Norwegians are without world player of the year Ada Hegerberg who refuses to play for her country because she says her national federation does not take the women's team seriously.

Norway's Scandinavian neighbours Sweden started their campaign with a 2-0 win over Chile in Rennes on Tuesday in a match that was held up by a violent storm.

The players went off for around 40 minutes in the second half with the game goalless before Sweden secured victory thanks to late goals by Kosovare Asllani and substitute Madelen Janogy.

Sweden face the hapless Thais next in Group F, while Chile are the next to face the US firepower on Sunday.

European champions the Netherlands beat New Zealand 1-0 in Le Havre in Group E on Tuesday thanks to a Jill Roord goal in stoppage time. (Source: AFP)

Gucci hits back at Carlos Queiroz's tactic at 2018 World Cup

S P O R T S TEHRAN — Reza Ghoochannejhad 'Gucci' has criticized Carlos Queiroz's defensive-minded tactics in the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

Gucci was a member of Team Melli in the 2018 World Cup but remained an unused substitute in three matches against Morocco, Spain and Portugal.

Shortly after, he announced his retirement from national duty.

Iran started the 2018 World Cup on high, edging past African heavyweights Morocco 1-0 but suffered a 1-0 loss against Spain in their second match.

Iran had a chance of qualifying for the next round with a win over Portugal but the Persians earned a late draw against Cristiano Ronaldo and co.

Gucci has broken his silence after a year, saying that the Portuguese coach has made mistakes in the competition.

"I didn't play in the 2018 World Cup but I don't know the real reason yet. I was fully

ready to play and it was very painful for me after being an unused substitute. We had been drawn in 'Group of Death' but we could have qualified for the next round," Ghoochannejhad said.

"We had to take risk against Portugal and Spain to turn the match around and beat them. The coach didn't make the best decisions in these two matches. When we were a goal down against Portugal, we had to take a risk because there is no difference between a 1-0 loss or a 2-0 loss," he added.

"If we had played an attacking football against Portugal, we could have won the match. But Queiroz was satisfied with his decisions and it was painful. Experts believed that he made mistakes against Spain and Portugal," Ghoochannejhad stated.

"After the match against Spain I wanted to talk with Queiroz but he told me he would talk to me later but never talked to me. I respected him because at that time he was leading Team Melli," he concluded.



Hamed Haddadi invited to Iran basketball team

S P O R T S TEHRAN — Former NBA center Hamed Haddadi has been invited to Iran national basketball team after four months.

Team Melli missed the service of the 2.18m in the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2019 Asian Qualifiers against Japan and Australia after he faced a problem with the country's basketball officials.

Samad Nikkhah Bahrami, who also withdrew from the team in support of

Haddadi, has been called up to Team Melli.

Arsalan Kazemi is a notable absentee in the list.

Iran booked a place at the 2019 FIBA World Cup and the Persians are also going to qualify for the 2020 Olympic Games.

The 2019 FIBA Basketball World Cup will be held in China from Aug. 31 to Sept. 15.

Mehran Shahintab has invited 19

players for training camps.

Squad: Hamed Haddadi, Rouzbeh Arghavan, Mohammad Hassanzadeh, Hamed Hosseinzadeh, Mohammad Jamshidi, Sajjad Mashayekhi, Meisam Mirzaei, Navid Niktash, Keyvan Riaei, Michael Rostampour, Behnam Yakhchali, Arman Zangeneh, Amir Sedighi, Samad Nikkhah Bahrami, Sina Vahedi, Aron Gerampour, Navid Rezaeifar, Behshad Arabzadeh, Rasoul Mozafari

Future stars set to shine at Iran 2019

Islamic Republic of Iran will be on a mission to defend their title when they host the second edition of the AFC U-20 Futsal Championship which kicks off on Friday.

Hoping to stop IR Iran will be 11 teams who made the Finals after a grueling qualifying campaign that showcased the best of Asian futsal.

It will take a supreme effort to stop IR Iran though as futsal is hugely popular in the Central Asian nation and the senior team are ranked third in the world.

The 12 teams are drawn into four groups with IR Iran in Group A with Afghanistan, who they defeated in qualifying 4-2.

Hong Kong, who replaced Saudi Arabia after the West Asians withdrew, complete the group.

Lebanon were a team in form in the Qualifiers, advancing with a perfect record and 15 goals scored but they will have to



contend with Central Zone qualifying Group B winners Kyrgyz Republic and Thailand, the dominant team in Southeast Asian futsal, in Group B.

Japan are the early favorites to seal one of

the two quarter-final slots from Group C. Just like IR Iran, futsal is hugely popular in Japan and their national and club teams are always at the forefront in regional competitions.

Japan, however, can expect to be test-

ed as they face Vietnam, who the East Asians defeated 3-1 in the 2017 edition group stage.

Tajikistan, despite losing to Afghanistan in the Central Zone play-off, squeezed into the Finals as IR Iran had already made it through as hosts and will be aiming to make the most of the experience.

Iraq, runners-up in 2017, will be aiming to go one better this time around and will be confident of advancing from Group D despite having Indonesia and Chinese Taipei to contend with.

Chinese Taipei were impressive in qualifying, eliminating Mongolia and China PR while Indonesia fought off strong regional rivals to claim the third ASEAN spot in the Finals.

All the matches will be played at the Pour Sharifi Indoor Stadium in Tabriz.

(Source: AFC)

Reading Kubiak's apology letter not good idea: Vital Heynen

TASNIM — Poland Volleyball coach Vital Heynen says they will come to Iran to play volleyball and reading an apology letter before the match is not a good idea.

Poland will face Iran in Oroumiyeh, northwestern province of West Azarbaijan, on Saturday in 2019 Volleyball Nations League Week 3.

The FIVB Disciplinary Panel Sub-Committee has ruled that Michal Kubiak, who has made anti-Iran remarks, to issue a written apology, which should be read by the announcer during the match between Poland and Iran.

"Apology letter? I told to the Polish federation it's not a good idea to read a letter in front of many people because I would like to focus on volleyball and reading a letter from other team has nothing to do with volleyball," Heynen said in an exclusive interview with Tasnim news agency.

"I want to play volleyball match in Iran. I am sure the people of Iran understand volleyball. I told the Poland federation the reading the letter will distract Poland, Iran players and people from a sporting match between two fantastic countries. I guess the Polish federation to follow my demand, not reading the letter," the Belgian added.

"In the near future we are talking about the matter.



I'm here showing my respect to the Iranian people. Iran is a great country with a great people. I will walk in the street and drink a coffee or tea. I will sit on a terrace. I am ready to talk with everybody about life and other things," he added.

"I have been two times in Tehran and I only remember

the great atmosphere. It will be very nice to play in Iran. I like volleyball and say during the match the players are fighting together but they have to be friend after the match, this is my goal," the Poland coach stated.

"I have so many stories about walking alone in Tehran visiting a famous museum in a big garden. Last year, when I was leading the Belgium team, I took my whole team to Bazaar which was very crowded and very nice. I would like to find the same atmosphere to show the Polish players how nice Iran is," Heynen said.

Asked him if he is satisfied with his team's performance so far, Heynen said, "I am very satisfied with the results but I am not satisfied with the way we played. We sometimes missed our cohesion as a team, but I have to be satisfied. I think it's one of the toughest pools with Iran, Canada and Russia."

"Iranian players are impressive but I am working with my 25 players and I have no idea about the other players. I don't know how old is Marouf but he is still leading the team. I am impressed by Marouf as he keeps fighting and keeps pushing and he is the most impressive player," he concluded.

Dutch delights at debut competition

The Netherlands launched in spectacular style its new three-star international Para Dressage competition in Kronenberg over the weekend (6-9 June).

Not only were there double Dutch wins in three out of five grades' competitions, but world and Paralympic champion Sanne Voets also scored her highest ever marks in an international event.

Riding Demantur N.O.P., she took the wins in the grade IV individual and freestyle competitions with 76.789 and 81.417 per cent respectively.

After the competition she shared her feelings through a Facebook post: "We ended this amazing show with an amazing score.

We have had so much fun in the arena, riding a horse who has such a positive energy and always tries his heart out and to music that still carries me through the freestyle — there's no better feeling in the world.

"A big shout out to the staff of the equestrian centre too. Such a great atmosphere — simply amazing!"

Voets' team-mates Frank Hosmar and Rixt van der Horst were the other major winners of the weekend for the home team.

Hosmar, riding Alphaville N.O.P., topped the podium both times in the grade V contest, while 2014 and 2018 double grade II world champion van der Horst took both wins on Findsley N.O.P.

Italy's double world champion Sara Morganti secured both the grade I titles on offer, riding Royal Delight.

Grade II's honours were shared between Austria's Pepo Puch on Sailors Delight, who won the individual title, and Netherlands' Nicole Den Dulk, who won the freestyle on Wallace N.O.P.

The Dutch riders also scored an impressive team competition victory, while there were podium finishes for the likes of Latvia's Rihards Snikus in grade I, Belgium's Barbara Minecci and Netherlands' Demi Vermeulen in grade III, and Russia's Natalia Martyanova in grade V.

(Source: Paralympic.org)



Ex-Iran athlete Farabi passes away

S P O R T S TEHRAN — Nadjmeddin Farabi, a former member of Iran athletic team, died at the age of 86.

Farabi competed in the men's decathlon at the 1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne, Australia.

He will be laid to rest at the Behesht-e Zahra cemetery in Tehran on Thursday.

The Tehran Times staff offer heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family.

Iran's Manavinejad misses 2019 VNL Week 3

IRNA — Mohammad Javad Manavinejad will be missing the 2019 Volleyball Nations League Week 3.

The outside hitter suffered a foot injury in the competition's Week 2 in Tokyo.

It is not clear that how long it's going to take. Iran will host Canada, Poland and Russia in Week 3 in Oroum-iyeh, northwestern province of West Azarbaijan.

Morteza Sharifi will replace Manavinejad in Week 3.

The 2019 Volleyball Nations League is being held between May and July 2019 and the final round will take place in the Credit Union 1 Arena, Chicago, United States.

Georgian defender Gvelesiani joins Sepahan

TASNIM — Georgian defender Giorgi Gvelesiani has joined Iranian top-flight football club Sepahan.

The 28-year-old player has penned a two-year contract for an undisclosed fee with the Isfahan-based football club.

The 28-year-old defender is going to replace Siavash Yazdani, who has been reportedly linked with a move Esteghlal.

Gvelesiani started his playing career in Iran at Zob Ahan in 2017 and was a member of Nassaji in the last season.

Sepahan are strengthening for the Iran Professional League new season and 2020 AFC Champions League.

Persepolis coach might pick up 600K salary in cash

Iran's top-flight football league champions, Persepolis, are considering paying their coach Branko Ivankovic his salary of 679,000 U.S. dollars in cash.

According to the ISNA news agency, the Croatian coach is set to travel to Tehran and pick up a suitcase containing the money. The club has explained that a wire transfer is not possible due to U.S. sanctions. Persepolis want Ivankovic to stay, however, according to Tasnim news agency, the coach has reached a preliminary agreement with Egyptian Al-Ahly who are currently first in the Egyptian Premier League.

(Source: DPA)

Al Wahda sign Al Dhafra's Nicolas Mileli



Al Wahda FSCC received a boost for their 2019-20 season after signing Uruguayan Nicolas Mileli from UAE Pro League rivals Al Dhafra on Tuesday.

The 26-year-old midfielder will join the Abu Dhabi-based club on a season-long loan after making 21 appearances and scoring a goal for Al Dhafra who finished 10th in the league last season.

Al Wahda finished third in the domestic league, 13 points behind champions Sharjah, which earned them direct qualification into the 2020 AFC Champions League.

With Mileli on board, newly appointed head coach Maurice Steijn will add the Uruguayan to the mix of foreign imports which include Argentinian Sebastian Tagliabue, Leonardo of Brazil and Korea Republic defender Rim Chang-woo.

Al Wahda's next big test will be in the form of Saudi Pro League champions Al Nassr in the 2019 AFC Champions League Round of 16 in a two-legged fixture on August 5 and 18.

(Source: the-afc)

De Ligt sends Marquinhos to Juventus

With Matthijs de Ligt in advanced talks with PSG, it's reported this'll open the door for Marquinhos to join Juventus.

Sky Sport Italia claimed last night that agent Mino Raiola was flying in to close the deal with Paris Saint-Germain for the Ajax defender at a cost of €80m, beating competition from Barcelona, Manchester United and Juve. Sport Mediaset note this makes it more likely the Ligue 1 side will sell Marquinhos to make way for the Dutch starlet and Juve are ready to pounce.

The Brazilian is still only 25 years old, but has a great deal of experience first at Roma in 2012-13 and then after his €31m transfer to Paris. He made 44 competitive appearances for PSG this season, scoring four goals and providing two assists.

Marquinhos would be ideal for the new Juve, as he combines youth with experience, plus versatility, able to play in a slightly more advanced role.

(Source: Football Italia)

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■ Managing Director: Ali Asgari
■ Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Ghaderi

» Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
editor@tehrantimes.com
» Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
» Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051450
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Zip Code: 1599814713



GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Many a learned man has met death through ignorance of some matters, while knowledge has not helped him at all.

Imam Ali (AS)

England seeks to revive its colonial culture in Iran: Art Bureau official

TEHRAN – The director of Art Bureau’s Visual Arts Center has said that England is seeking to revive its colonial culture in Iran.

Speaking during the opening ceremony of a cartoon exhibit entitled “Keep Calm, I Am the Queen”, Masud Shojaei-Tabatabai, said, “At the beginning of World War II, nearly 2.5 million posters for the motto ‘Keep Calm, I Am the Queen’ were published and these posters have been distributed across the world since then.” “Yesterday, I saw a young man carrying one of them on back of his shirt. Unfortunately, many people do not know that this is a colonial slogan and a perfect symbol of the Queen’s hegemony,” he added.



Former secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council Saeid Jalili (L) and Art Bureau’s Visual Arts Center director Masud Shojaei-Tabatabai visit the cartoon exhibition “Keep Calm, I Am the Queen” at Abolfazl Aali Gallery in Tehran on June 11, 2019. (Mehr/Shahab Qayyumi)

The cartoon exhibition opened at the Abolfazl Aali Gallery of the Art Bureau on Tuesday evening just two days before a celebration that the British Embassy in Tehran plans to organize to mark the birthday of Queen Elizabeth II.

The British Embassy has sent invitations to a number of Iranian companies to sponsor the celebration by paying £2500.

Shojaei-Tabatabai who is also a renowned cartoonist and an organizer of the International Holocaust Cartoon Contest in Iran said that the exhibit’s focus is not the birthday of Queen Elizabeth, “because it is a national event in England.”

“What led us to organize the exhibition is Britain’s double standard and its culture of colonialism,” he noted.

“We have recently witnessed a strange phenomenon especially after appointing Rob Macaire as new ambassador of England that can be viewed as a return of Britain’s colonial culture to Iran,” he stated.

He said that the invitations to the Iranian companies and also inviting Iranian women to attend occasional parties the embassy organizes in Tehran are examples of the return of Britain’s colonial culture to Iran.

Shojaei-Tabatabai said that Macaire has been invited to visit the exhibition, which will run until June 26.

National Orchestra to perform in memory of actor Jamshid Mashayekhi

TEHRAN – The National Orchestra will go on stage at the Iranian Academy of Arts on June 17 to perform a concert in memory of legendary actor Jamshid Mashayekhi, the Rudaki Foundation announced on Wednesday.



A poster for a concert the National Orchestra will perform in memory of actor Jamshid Mashayekhi in Tehran.

The orchestra will perform under the baton of Mashayekhi’s son Nader, a former conductor of the Tehran Symphony Orchestra.

Mashayekhi, who starred in such acclaimed movies as “Kamalolmolk” and “Chrysanthemum”, died on April 2 at the age of 85.

Iranian cinema straightforward in story, deep in concept: Marios Piperides

“Smuggling Hendrix” is Piperides’ first feature film as a director. He has already directed two short films and a documentary, but he is mostly known as a producer.

He said that he received very useful feedback from the screening of his film screening in Tehran.

“We had a workshop followed by a question and answer panel after the screening. There was a nice discussion and the cinema was full,” he noted.

He also said that the political portion of the story was mostly interesting for the audience as was the dynamics between the two communities.

“The workshop also centered on topics such as coproduction and producing films in Europe as compared with film productions in Iran,” he mentioned.

Piperides said that Cypriots should come and visit Iran. “This is how they can learn about the country and get to know the people,” he remarked.

Ambassador Petros Nacouzis, also present at the interview, said that Cypriots, while not aware of the current conditions in Iran, are somewhat familiar with the people of Iran because many Iranian families own homes in Cyprus.

“They know of the people but the problem is that the exchange of visits is not reciprocal. Cypriots do not come here; they think it’s dangerous since they lack proper knowledge,” the ambassador said.

He proposed that a documentary about the natural beauties of Iran and about its people could better introduce Iran as a great country.

“The richness of the culture of the country and its ancient civilizations will have an impact on the people who come to visit here,” he said.

“There are so many exhibitions, so many photographers, and so many artists here. You can see many impressive buildings in the city as well,” he added.

“We have to show how Iran really is. I think we have to show Cypriots the country



Cypriot director and producer Marios Piperides talks to the Tehran Times at the Embassy of Cyprus in Tehran on June 12, 2019. (Mehr/Shahab Qayyumi)

from different perspectives,” he remarked.

Regarding expansion of cultural relations, the ambassador said that the embassy would support any cultural activities initiated by the Iran and Cyprus Friendship Association located in Tehran.

The association is planning to screen two Iranian movies in Cyprus in the near future on order to promote Iranian cinema in the country, however, the names of the films have not been announced as yet.

The ambassador further noted that his country is a desirable location for the film industry due to its natural attractions.

He said that his country officially launched a neighborhood named Olivewood in 2018 to promote itself internationally to investors.

“The olive tree in Cyprus has a meaning, and there are many very old olive trees, and oil production is well known in the country, while the olive tree also symbolizes peace.

Olivewood has a very bright future,” the ambassador concluded.

The European Film Week has been organized as a collaborative effort between Iran’s Art and Experience Cinema and the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC).

Kish Island and several cities including Babol, Isfahan, Kerman, Mashhad and Tabriz are hosting the festival simultaneously until June 17.

French Eluard Quartet to perform in Tehran

TEHRAN – Eluard Quartet from France will give a concert at Tehran’s Niavaran Cultural Center on Sunday.

Entitled “From Paris to Persepolis”, the concert has been organized in collaboration with the Shahr-e Aftab Art and Cultural Institute in Shiraz.

The ensemble is scheduled to perform a repertoire of pieces by French composer Claude Debussy, Armenian musician Komitas and Iranian composer Nima Atrkar-Roshan.

The quartet features Cesar Guigue and Corinne Cartigny on violin, Elnaz Afsharian on viola and Manuel Cartigny on cello.

The group will then give a performance in the Iranian city of Shiraz on June 19.



A poster for Eluard Quartet’s Tehran concert “From Paris to Persepolis”.

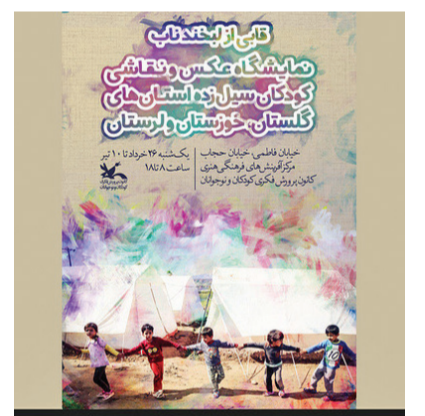
Tehran exhibit to showcase paintings by children in flood-hit regions

TEHRAN – An exhibition opening on Sunday in Tehran will hang paintings by children in the regions impacted by the devastating floods in March.

A collection of 270 paintings created during the workshops organized by the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) will be put on display at the exhibit entitled “A Picture of a Pure Smile”.

IIDCYA’s trainers traveled to Golestan, Khuzestan and Lorestan hours after the floods to organize cultural programs for children in the regions.

The exhibition, which will run until June 25, will also put on view a collection of 100 photos of the children in the flood-stricken regions.



A poster for the exhibit “A Picture of a Pure Smile”.

Photo exhibit to explore Azarbaijan villages of 1960s

TEHRAN – An exhibition of rarely-seen photos of remote villages in the Iranian region of Azarbaijan during the 1960s will open at Tehran’s Dena Gallery on Friday.

The exhibition entitled “From Aras Riverside” will put on view a selection of 40 black and white photos taken by Habib Farshbaf when he served as a teacher in the region, the curator of the exhibit, Roshan Noruzi, announced in a

press release on Wednesday. Organized by the Iran Images Photo Agency, the exhibit will run until June 24 at the gallery located at 4 Sussan Alley off Qarani St.

O.J. Simpson says ‘Life is fine’ 25 years after notorious homicides

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) – Former football star and television personality O.J. Simpson said that he and his family have moved on from the “trial of the century” that saw him cleared of a double murder, but forced to pay millions in a civil suit, according to an Associated Press exclusive.

Simpson told the AP in an interview that “Life is fine.”

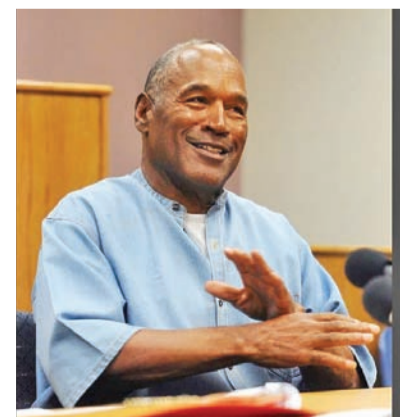
He reflected on the upcoming 25th anniversary of the murders of his former wife and her friend, and the subsequent criminal and civil trials, in an AP interview early Monday.

Simpson was found not guilty in a criminal trial over the homicides, but was later found responsible in a civil trial.

He is living healthily and happily in Las Vegas and neither he nor his children want to look back and talk about the June 12, 1994 slaying of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman, he said to the AP.

“We don’t need to go back and relive the worst day of our lives,” he said, adding that it is a subject that “I will never revisit again. My family and I have moved on to what we call the ‘no negative zone.’ We focus on the positives.”

Simpson served nine years in prison, released in 2017, after a conviction of robbery and kidnapping in an unrelated case concerning a dispute over sports



O.J. Simpson reacts after learning he was granted parole at Lovelock Correctional Center in Lovelock, Nevada, U.S., July 20, 2017. (Reuters/Jason Bean/Pool/File Photo)

memorabilia.

He was acquitted by a jury in 1995 of the slayings of Brown and Goldman, but later lost a civil wrongful death suit in 1997. A civil court awarded a \$33.5 million judgment against him.

He told the AP that Nevada has been good to him and he is living life outside of the national spotlight.

Singer Steve Lawrence, of “Steve and Eydie” duo, says he has Alzheimer’s

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) – Steve Lawrence, the 1960s-era singer and comedian who performed at nightclubs and on television with his wife Eydie Gorme, said on Tuesday he has been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease.

In a letter released by his publicist, the 83-year-old Lawrence said the disease was in its early stages and he was “being treated with medications under the supervision of some of the finest doctors in the field.”

“Fortunately, they have managed to slow down this horrific process,” he said.

Lawrence married Gorme in 1957 and together they became a staple on American late-night and variety television programs. Their playful husband-and-wife banter was a distinctive element of their performances over the decades.

“We Got Us,” the first album from the duo that came to be known as Steve & Eydie, won a Grammy in 1960. Gorme died in 2013.

Lawrence said he was “living my life, going out in public and trying to spend as much time as possible with my family and friends while I am still able to engage and enjoy.”

“I ask for your prayers, your good



Singers Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme pose as they arrive at “An Evening with Larry Gelbart” July 11 at The Museum of Television & Radio in Beverly Hills. Gelbart was honored at the museum for his contributions to the medium of television, which include writing credits on “The Bob Hope Show,” “M*A*S*H,” and “Caesar’s Hour. (Reuters/File Photo)

wishes and implore you to find the joy every day, because what I feel is gratitude, love and hope — nothing more and nothing less, and I hope you can find the same,” he added.