



**Today's war is 'battle of wills'**

2



**Deal of century is 'illegitimate'**

2



**Pejman Montazeri announces retirement from Iran duty**

15



**Swedish author Asa Lind to meet her Persian readers in Tehran**

16

# Sovereignty of countries targeted by U.S.

## Iran, Russia ink 8 co-op MOUs

**TEHRAN** — Iran and Russia signed eight memorandums of understanding (MOUs) in the last day of the 15th Iran-Russia Joint Economic Committee meeting which was wrapped up on Tuesday in Isfahan.

In the closing ceremony, the final document of the two countries' 15th Joint Economic Committee meeting was signed by the Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ar-

dakanian and his Russian counterpart Alexander Novak, Mehr news agency reported.

Other signed documents include the concluding statements of the third Iran-Russia joint provincial cooperation working group, the 10th joint transportation working group, the sixth joint water working group. → 4

## Iran deals heavy blow to U.S. spy network

**TEHRAN** — The Intelligence Ministry says its forces have inflicted a "heavy blow" on the United States by disbanding two sophisticated cyber espionage networks affiliated with the CIA.

The director general of the Intelligence Ministry's counterespionage department said on Tuesday that the Islamic Republic has dealt a severe blow to the American espionage network in the cyber-space, Tasnim reported.

The official further said more details of the new attack on the hostile network will be released in the near future.

In another operation in recent months, Iranian intelligence forces dealt a blow to a new network of U.S. spies, according to the official.

A detailed description of the operations and the evidence of activities of the CIA spies in foreign countries will be published after judicial processes, the official said. → 3

## Muslim Brotherhood brands Morsi's death 'murder'

**TEHRAN** — The Muslim Brotherhood said the death of former Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi was "full-fledged murder," and called for a nationwide event to mark his passing. The group also called for mass demonstrations at Egyptian embassies around the world in a statement published to its website.

Morsi was a prominent member of

the Brotherhood who was elected president following the ouster of long-time ruler Hosni Mubarak in 2011. He died suddenly of a heart attack during a court appearance on Monday.

In a statement on its website, the Brotherhood also called for crowds to gather outside Egyptian embassies around the world. → 13



© File photo



### ARTICLE

**Yuram Abdullah Weiler**  
Analyst and journalist

## Pompeo's plot: U.S. stages Gulf of Tonkin revival in Gulf of Oman

“It is the assessment of the United States government that Iran is responsible for the attacks that occurred in the Gulf of Oman today.”

—U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo  
On June 6, 2019 two tankers, one Japanese and the other Norwegian, were attacked by unknown assailants in the Gulf of Oman. The incident occurred less than a month after a series of acts of sabotage on four tankers, two Saudi, one UAE and one Norwegian, anchored off the coast of the United Arab Emirates near the port of Fujairah.

The Norwegian tanker, the Front Altair, was flying the flag of the Marshall Islands and was loaded with ethanol from Qatar, while the Japanese tanker, the Kokuka Courageous, was flying the flag of Panama and was carrying crude oil from the Saudi port of Jubail on the Persian Gulf. The attacks, which occurred at the time of a high-level visit by Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to Ayatollah Khamenei, may have been intended to embarrass the Islamic Republic or to thwart Japanese efforts towards the de-escalation of tension.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was quick to lay the blame on the Islamic Republic of Iran, as was National Security Adviser and Iranophobe, John Bolton, who, following the first series of attacks, remarked, “There is no doubt in anybody's mind in Washington who is responsible for this and I think it's important that the leadership in Iran know that we know.” The perennial prevaricator on the Potomac trumpeted his concurrence in a television interview on Fox and Friends on Friday, June 14, insisting, “Iran did do it.”

Iran categorically denied Pompeo's unsupported accusations, which were patently absurd given that the 44 sailors on the two burning tankers were rescued by an Iranian vessel that responded to their distress calls. Despite claims by the U.S. Navy that the stricken tankers were under their purview, the Iranian rescue ship was the first to arrive on the scene of the incident and pull the tankers' crewmembers to safety. → 3

## Russia urges U.S. to drop Middle East troop plan and stop provoking Iran

*By staff and agency*

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov urged the U.S. on Tuesday to drop “provocative” plans to deploy more troops to the Middle East and to cease actions that looked like a conscious attempt to provoke war with Iran.

According to Reuters, he told reporters that Moscow had repeatedly warned Washington and its regional allies about the “unthinking and reckless pumping up of tensions in an explosive region.”

“Now what we see are unending and sustained U.S. attempts to crank up political, psychological, economic and yes military pressure on Iran in quite



a provocative way. They (these actions) cannot be assessed as anything but a conscious course

to provoke war,” Ryabkov was cited as saying.

If Washington did not want war it had to show it, he said.

“If that's really how it is then the U.S. should step back from reinforcing its military presence,” said Ryabkov.

Pentagon announced on Monday that the U.S. will send 1,000 additional forces and more military resources to the Middle East amid tensions with Iran.

President Hassan Rouhani said on Tuesday that Iran would not wage war against any nation and the Kremlin called for restraint from all sides.

## Britain doing much of the killing in Yemen: report

**TEHRAN** — A detailed reports published by the Guardian newspaper has shown how Britain is massively contributing to Saudi Arabia's devastating war on Yemen as it suggests that London is not only supplying the bombs that fall on Yemenis, but it provides the personnel and expertise that keep the war going.

The comprehensive report by Arron Merat published on Tuesday showed that Britain was doing much of the killing in Yemen as the country continues to provide Saudi Arabia with everything it needs to turn its southern impoverished neighbor into a graveyard.

“Every day Yemen is hit by British bombs – dropped by British planes that are flown by British-trained pilots and maintained and prepared inside Saudi Arabia by thousands of British contractors,” said Merat in the report.

Tens of thousands of people have been killed since Saudi Arabia and a number of Arab allies

launched their illegal war on Yemen in March 2015 in an attempt to restore power to a resigned and fugitive president.

Rights campaigners have repeatedly criticized Britain for its role in helping the killing of civilians in Yemen, the poorest country in the Arab world which has suffered from a major humanitarian crisis as a result of the Saudi-led war.

According to Press TV, the report by the Guardian showed that it is effectively the United States and Britain who are leading the massive onslaught in Yemen as Saudi Arabia contracted out the vital parts of the war to the two military powers from the very beginning of the conflict.

“Britain does not merely supply weapons for this war: it provides the personnel and expertise required to keep the war going,” said the report, adding that the Royal Air Force personnel have been deployed to Saudi Arabia to work as engineers and trainers over the past four years.



© Tehran Times / Hamid Vakili

## IRGC Qods Force advisor Shaban Nasiri's memoir published

Ira nian politician Gholamhossein Elham (C) unveils a poster for “Consult the Divan of Hafiz”, the memoir of IRGC Qods Force commander Qassem Soleimani's advisor Shaban Nasiri, during a meeting at the Art Bureau in Tehran on June 17, 2019.

Written by Zeinab Sodachi, the book has recently been published by Sureh-Mehr.

Nasiri was martyred in the war against Daesh in Iraq in May 2017.



### ARTICLE

**Martin Love**  
Political analyst from North Carolina

## Iran is wisest not to damage burgeoning favorable opinion

**H**as the current American government become so sanguine as to assume the American people believe dubious charges that Iran attacked ships near the Straits of Hormuz? Well, maybe it has, and the American people have become or remain that blind or ignorant to believe what the Trump gang tells them.

But at least many Americans are pushing back against one major medium of ill reputation for beating war drums, the New York Times. And this comes at a time where, if the U.S. were to launch a military attack on Iran, it seems that aside from the Saudis, and the UAE and Israelis, and maybe the Brits, it would be alone and therefore condemned widely for doing so.

Last week the NYT editorial board published a weak and unsupported piece (with many omissions) about Iran to which almost 500 readers wrote comments before the comments section at the newspaper was closed. There was not a single response supportive of war on Iran and even of U.S. efforts to continue pressuring Iran with sanctions.

Granted that the readership of the NYT does not comprise “average” people but rather the far better educated, and these readers seem to have dropped any illusions that the U.S. is a force for good in the world and they readers harbor accurate notions of conspiracies, false flags and alliances with arguably bad actors such as Israel and Saudi Arabia.

This is important because in the lead up to the Iraq War in 2002-03, this was not the overwhelming reaction, or at least not so evident. Cited among the comments were references to the Gulf of Tonkin false flag that sparked the war on Vietnam and especially the false data about Iraqi WMD.

One reader from my home state, North Carolina, wrote for example: “Trump declared war on Iran and flouted the rest of the world when it withdrew from the Iran nuclear agreement under pressure from Israel and Saudi Arabia.” → 7



## I hope Washington will be very careful not to underestimate the Iranian determination: ambassador

Iran's envoy to the United Kingdom has warned that his country and the U.S. are getting closer to a potential conflict, one he warned Washington would regret.

Asked by CNN where escalating tensions between the U.S. and Iran could lead, Tehran's ambassador to London, Hamid Baedinejad, said that, "unfortunately, we are heading towards a confrontation, which is very serious for everybody in the region."

Baedinejad stopped short of predicting the possibility of U.S. plans for a limited strike in the Persian Gulf, but argued that such plans may already be underway in a bid to spark a fight.

"I'm sure this is a scenario where some people are forcefully working on it, they will drag the United States into a confrontation. I hope that the people in Washington will be very careful not to underestimate the Iranian determination," Baedinejad told CNN. "If they wrongly enter into a conflict, they would be very sorry about that, because we are fully prepared by our government and our forces that we would not be submitting to the United States."

He explained that Iran was not opposed to negotiations but that the U.S. should "not interfere" Iran's economic relationships with other countries, a tactic he referred to as "economic terrorism."

The U.S. and Iran, rivals since the 1979 Islamic Revolution that ousted a West-backed monarchy and brought a clerical leadership to power in Tehran, have witnessed a steady escalation in tensions since President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw from a 2015 nuclear deal last year. In leaving the agreement—still supported by fellow signatories China, the European Union, France, Germany, Russia and the UK—the U.S. has targeted Iran with mounting sanctions designed to sever its international trade ties.

Last month, White House national security adviser John Bolton announced the early deployment of a carrier strike group and a bomber task force to the Middle East amid "troubling and escalatory indications and warnings" suggesting Iran may target U.S. regional interests. Around this same time, Iran said it would reconsider some of its commitments to the nuclear accord as incentives to stay dwindled.

Europe has struggled to implement measures allowing countries to trade with Iran while facing the threat of U.S. sanctions, so Tehran has begun to increase its enrichment of uranium.

Instead of weighing in on the issue himself on Monday, Trump simply wrote out the chyron of a Fox News report on the subject, tweeting, "Iran to defy Uranium Stockpile Limits."

Further fueling frictions in the region, two foreign-flagged oil tankers were recently targeted by explosions in yet unclaimed attacks that the U.S. has officially blamed on Iran.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif reacted to the attacks by saying "Suspicious doesn't begin to describe" them, especially as the vessels involved were carrying "Japan-related" cargo at a time when Japanese Prime Minister Abe Shinzo was holding a historic meeting in Tehran with Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Others such as Germany were part of a growing chorus of countries casting doubt on the U.S. claims toward Iran's alleged involvement in the attacks, which followed the targeting of four commercial tankers in the same area last month. China and Russia have also joined in on calling for restraint as the Pentagon released a grainy video purporting to show Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards removing a limpet mine from one of the damaged ships—an alleged act that the Trump administration claimed proved Iran's culpability.

Zarif has repeatedly warned that the so-called "B-Team" involving Bolton, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, UAE President Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman were trying to steer the U.S. and Iran towards war.

On Monday, Baedinejad said he was unaware of who was behind the recent attacks in the Gulf of Oman but maintained that "there are countries in the region and beyond the region who have invested heavily, billions and billions of dollars to draft the United States into a conflict with Iran."

## Macron urges Iran to be 'patient', regrets announcements on enrichment

(Euronews) — French President Emmanuel Macron said on Monday that he regretted Iran's announcement that it would exceed the limit of uranium enrichment set under the 2015 nuclear deal.

He added that Paris would still hold talks with Tehran and its partners to avoid any more escalation in the region.

"I regret the Iranian announcements made today, but as the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) has underlined, Iran is respecting its commitments and we strongly encourage it to be patient and responsible," Macron told a news conference with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Earlier in the day, Iran said by June 27 it would go over the uranium stockpile limit set under the 2015 nuclear deal, turning the pressure on the U.S. who walked away from the landmark agreement last year.

Iran's Atomic Energy Organization spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi said that the move would be reversed "once other parties live up to their commitments."

Macron said there was still a window between now and July 8 to save the Iran nuclear deal.

"All forms of escalation do not go in the right direction and won't help Iran itself and the international community so we will do all we can with our partners to dissuade Iran and find a path to a possible path for dialogue," Macron said.

Last week, the U.S. blamed Iran for the attacks on two tankers in the Gulf of Oman, which Tehran has denied.

Macron took a more circumspect line, saying that "only once all the information has been gathered and all the doubts lifted can the attributions (of blame) be made in a certain way."

"I think that in the period that we are entering into, it is useful to show calm," he added.

# Today's war is 'battle of wills', Rouhani says

**POLITICAL** **d e s k** **TEHRAN** — In an open reference to the Trump administration's harsh economic sanctions and psychological warfare, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Tuesday that "today's war is battle of wills and hope".

"They seek to make the Iranian people disappointed about the future of the development of the country by relying on their evil plan and plots," he said at the opening ceremony of Salam Terminal-Gallery of Imam Khomeini Airport City.

He added that the Iranian people will not lose their glory and seek to make enemies disappointed.

"At the end, it is the people who will be winner in this battle, because we are not countering people. We have no war with people. We are countering a number of "inexperienced politicians" and all the Iranian people participate in this battle," he said.

"Inexperienced politicians" is an indirect reference to U.S. President Donald Trump and his close allies including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

■ **'There is no one that does not praise Iran's stance on JCPOA'**

Rouhani also said that there is no one in the world who does not praise Iran's stance on the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Trump has violated international law by withdrawing the United States from the JCPOA which is endorsed by the UN Security



Council Resolution 2231.

"Iran has abided by its promise. Iran has abided by its signature, but the one whom we are confronting has violated international law," he said.

He noted, "Today, no one doubts about rightfulness of our country which is a turning point for the Iranian people. In countering an international power, we have acted in a way, from the political and legal points of view, that no country can condemn us and this is a great victory for us."

After a year since the U.S. quit the nuclear

deal and reimposed sanctions including oil embargo, Iran announced on May 8 that its strategic patience is over and partially removed limits on its nuclear activities.

In line with the decision, the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) announced on Monday that Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium will exceed 300 kilograms by June 27.

"From today the countdown has started and it means that by Tir 6 (June 27) the production of enriched uranium will exceed the 300 kilograms," AEOI spokesman Behrouz

Kamalvandi told reporters at the site of the Arak heavy nuclear reactor.

On May 8, the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) issued a statement declaring if the remaining parties to the JCPOA make an agreement within 60 days to offset U.S. sanctions, Iran will reverse its decision. Kamalvandi insisted on this point on Monday.

Iran has threatened if a decision is not made by that date it will take the next steps.

After June 27, Kamalvandi said, Iran will speed up its uranium enrichment activities beyond 3.67 percent if the other sides don't take a practical step.

"After surpassing 300 kilogram, we will increase the speed of producing enriched uranium above 3.67 percent," Kamalvandi stated.

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.

## Sovereignty of countries targeted by U.S.: Shamkhani

Shamkhani calls Trump admin a 'savage monster' that the world must confront it

**POLITICAL** **d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Ali Shamkhani, Iran's secretary of Supreme National Security Council, said on Tuesday that the U.S. "terrorist policies" have targeted the countries' "identity" and "national sovereignty", IRNA reported.

"The U.S. has destabilized security of the international system through unilateralism and extra-terrestrial sanctions and has been using financial and banking system as a weapon," Shamkhani told an international security conference in the Russian city of Ufa.

Shamkhani said, "The U.S. administration has been turned into ministry of war by the U.S. Treasury," adding the U.S. behavior can only be described as "economic terrorism".

The top security official said that the U.S. has not only been pursuing the policy of toppling governments and destabilizing the countries, it has also been imposing secondary sanctions on all the countries based on its agenda of economic terror.

"It is essential that the independent countries in the world adopt multilateral mechanisms and stand against this savage monster and stop it and break up the dominance of the U.S. over the world's financial system," he suggested.

Pointing to the U.S. withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, Shamkhani said Iran has scaled back partially from implementing the deal after waiting for one year to give the remaining parties a chance to keep the deal.



**Shamkhani suggests that it is essential that the world "break up" the U.S. dominance over the global financial system.**

"We are happy this wise and logical behavior of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been supported by most of the countries,"

## IRGC: Deal of century is 'illegitimate'

**POLITICAL** **d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The spokesman for the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps on Tuesday called the U.S. proposed the "deal of century" a failure and "illegitimate".

"A deal in which the main party, the Palestinians, do not participate is illegitimate and will be ensued by Palestine's new intifada," Ramazan Sharif said during a meeting to study the Quds Day rallies.

General Sharif said the deal of century is a "shame" for leaders of certain Islamic countries who accommodate the Zionist regime of Israel.

Under the deal of the century, U.S. President Donald Trump has proposed to limit Palestine's land to around half of the West Bank.

The International Quds Day, which falls

on the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan, was marked on May 31. This year's demonstrations revolved around the slogan of "The International Quds Day. failure of deal of the century and stabilization of the Palestine cause".

Participating in the rallies in Tehran, President Hassan Rouhani said that "There is no doubt that deal of the century will turn into 'failure of the century', and will not yield results."

Ali Shamkhani, secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), also said deal of the century is doomed to failure.

"This shameful plot will be defeated by the hands of the resistant Palestinian people," he told a conference through a video link held in the Gaza Strip under the title of "No to Deal of Century".

Shamkhani added, "The U.S. administration seeks to waste the Palestinian people's blood over the last 70 years through ending the issue of the Palestinians' return (to their homeland) with the help of Arab countries' money."

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on June 5 that the deal of the century is doomed to fail and will "never materialize."

Also in remarks in July 2018, Ayatollah Khamenei said, "The Americans have named their devil policy on Palestine 'the deal of the century' but they should know that, by divine grace, this 'deal of the century' will never materialize."

The Leader said the Palestinians will stand against this policy and all the Muslims will support them.



## China warns U.S. to stop 'extreme pressure' on Iran

(Press TV) — China has denounced the U.S. for exerting "extreme pressure" on Iran, warning Washington against opening a "Pandora's box" in the Middle East, after the Pentagon announced a new troop deployment to the region amid tensions with Tehran.

Chinese State Councilor Wang Yi made the remarks during a joint press conference with Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Muallem in Beijing on Tuesday.

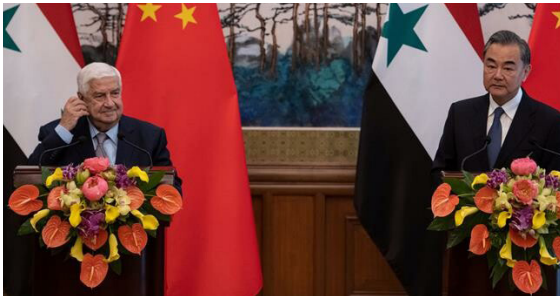
The United States has recently taken a quasi-warlike posture against Iran. The Pentagon announced on Monday that the U.S. will send 1,000 additional U.S. forces and more military resources to the Middle East.

Wang stressed that China was "of course, very concerned" about the situation in the region, demanding that all sides work to ease the tensions.

"We call on all sides to remain rational and exercise restraint, and not take any escalatory actions that irritate regional tensions, and not open a Pandora's box," he said. "In particular, the U.S. side should alter its extreme pressure methods."

The U.S. has rushed to blame Iran for last week's attacks on two oil tankers in the Sea of Oman, without offering any evidence. It has also released a grainy video and some images as proof of what it calls an Iranian involvement in the incident.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said the U.S.



accusation lacks "a shred of factual or circumstantial evidence" and that it was actually part of "sabotage diplomacy" being pursued by Trump and his hawkish allies inside the U.S. and abroad.

Referring to the U.S.'s record in carrying out false flag operations, Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani said Washington may have carried out the "suspicious" acts to blame them on Tehran and pile pressure on it.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the top Chinese diplomat warned that any "unilateral" move in the region would exacerbate the problem.

"Any unilateral behavior has no basis in international law.

Not only will it not resolve the problem, it will only create an even greater crisis," he said.

Wang further described a 2015 multilateral nuclear deal as the only feasible way to resolve Iran's nuclear issue and urged the Islamic Republic to "make prudent decisions" and not to abandon the accord "so easily."

"We understand that relevant parties may have different concerns but first of all the comprehensive nuclear deal should be properly implemented," he noted. "We hope that Iran is cautious with its decision-making and not lightly abandon this agreement."

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was signed between Iran and six world states — namely the U.S., Germany, France, Britain, Russia and China.

Washington, however, left the JCPOA last May, leaving the future of the historic deal in limbo. It also re-imposed tough sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

Iran has suspended some of its commitments under the JCPOA, in reciprocation of the U.S. exit and the Europeans' inaction to compensate for Washington's absence

Muallem, for his part, denounced the U.S. economic terrorism on Syria, China, Iran, Venezuela and other states, saying the practice violates the UN Charter, the international law and the principles of bilateral relations between countries.



# Jahangiri: Iran is a peace-seeking nation but ready to defend itself

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri has said Iran is a “peace-seeking nation” but does not fear military confrontation and will defend itself against enemies in case of a war.

Addressing people in the northwestern province of Zanjan on Tuesday, Jahangiri said the United States called for negotiations only after it realized that the Iranian nation would not fear their threats, the Fars news agency reported.

He said Iran is going through “special conditions” due to pressures imposed by the U.S. and some regional countries, adding that the Islamic Republic's policy is to resist against the U.S. sanctions.

Iran has proven that it is not a war-mongering nation, but a rational one, the vice president maintained.

Jahangiri explained that good strategies have been developed to fight the U.S. economic pressure, expressing hope that Iran would pass through this critical juncture.

The U.S. has ratcheted up pressure on



Iran since last year after withdrawing from the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Since then, the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump has been trying to reduce Iran's oil exports to “zero,” and

has sent an aircraft carrier strike group, a bomber squad, an amphibious assault ship, and a Patriot missile battery to the Middle East to try to stack up pressure on Tehran.

Also on Monday the U.S. military said it will send an additional 1,000 troops to the Middle East.

Acting U.S. Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan said the deployment was in response to what he called “hostile behavior” by Iranian forces.

Iranian officials have dismissed such moves as psychological warfare, saying the country has its own ways of circumventing the American bans and selling crude oil.

Meanwhile, a year after the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA, Iran announced that it would suspend the implementation of some of its commitments under the deal, which includes exporting excess uranium and heavy water, setting a 60-day deadline for the five remaining parties to the deal to take practical measures towards ensuring its interests in the face of the American sanctions.

## Grand ayatollah calls offer of negotiations with U.S. ‘unwise’

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — A top religious figure has rejected the idea of talks between Iran and the United States, saying holding new rounds of negotiations with the U.S., which is not committed to its obligations, is not a “wise” move.

During a meeting with Science Minister Mansour Gholami on Tuesday, Grand Ayatollah Nasser Makarem Shirazi said the Americans think their economic pressures would bring the Iranian nation to their knees “and force us to return to the negotiating table, which is only an illusion,” Tasnim reported.

He further said problems created by the U.S. sanctions can be resolved through the resistance of the Iranian people and officials.

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 called increased Iranian threats.

Since withdrawal from the deal, the Trump administration has occasionally shown its willingness to hold talks with Tehran, but the idea was firmly rejected by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei last week.

In a meeting with visiting Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Ayatollah Khamenei dismissed U.S. President Donald Trump as a person not worthy of a response or a message, stressing that negotiations with Washington cannot help solve any problem.

Abe told the Leader he was carrying a message from the U.S. president.

“We have no doubts about your (Japan's) goodwill and seriousness, but regarding what you quoted from the U.S. president, I personally do not consider Trump worthy of exchanging any messages with, and do not have and will not have any response for him,” the Leader told Abe.

Following the remarks, Trump tweeted that it was “too soon” to hold any negotiations between the two sides.

“While I very much appreciate P.M. Abe going to Iran to meet with Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, I personally feel that it



is too soon to even think about making a deal. They are not ready, and neither are we,” Trump said.

## Iran deals heavy blow to U.S. spy network: Intelligence Ministry

**1 →** “The U.S. espionage network includes a considerable number of professional CIA spies who have received a blow in the recent attack from the Intelligence Ministry of the Islamic Republic and its global allies,” the official said, adding that the spies involved in the case are regarded as “premium sources” by the CIA, because of their close cooperation with the U.S. spy agency and the information they had been providing.

Highlighting the counterespionage activities of the Intelligence Ministry at the international level, the official

said Iran uses the “capacities of other allies’ (intelligence) services” in the battle against the U.S.

The official also said Iran's success to uncover Washington's international cyber espionage network not only prevented hostile intelligence measures against Tehran, it also disrupted a remarkable part of the global intelligence activities of the United States.

The Americans take advantage of the cyber-space to act against Iran and also to contact their spies across the world through safe communication systems, the



official said, adding that Iranian forces managed to penetrate into the U.S. cyber espionage systems, which operate un-

der the guise of social, health or athletic websites.

“Detection of the spies was not confined to Iran alone, although Persian websites were also among those sites,” the intelligence official stated, adding that a number of the spies were identified as Iranians committing treason and cooperating with the CIA from inside the country.

Some of those Iranian nationals were brought to justice, while a number of others were used for infiltration into the U.S. cyber espionage network, the official added.

## Pompeo's plot: U.S. stages Gulf of Tonkin revival in Gulf of Oman

**1 →** Furthermore, given the timing of the attacks, it would be beyond irrational for Iran to target a Japanese-owned tanker while the country's prime minister was meeting with Iran's Supreme Leader. Yet, Pompeo, turning logic on its head, claimed that the Iranian government had indeed “insulted Japan by attacking a Japanese-owned oil tanker just outside Iranian waters,” while simultaneously assuring Abe that it did not want war.

As if on cue, Pompeo came on stage with rhetorical escalation, declaring, “Taken as a whole, these unprovoked attacks present a clear threat to international peace and security.” Previously, the U.S. secretary of state went so far as to suggest that Iran carried out the attacks, including the May 12 sabotage near Fujairah, “to raise the price of crude oil throughout the world.” U.S. Central Command officials even trotted out a grainy video, which they claimed was taken by a navy surveillance plane, of an unexploded mine attached to the hull of the Kokuka Courageous. The mine, referred to as a “limpet,” was supposedly of a type used by Iran and was similar to the explosive devices used in the previous attacks.

However, Yutaka Katada, the president of Kokuka Sangyo, the shipping line that owns the Kokuka Courageous, disagreed with the U.S. official narrative about a limpet mine being the cause of the explosion. “I do not think there was a time bomb or an object attached to the side of the ship,” he said. “Our crew said that the ship was attacked by a flying object,” he added citing the fact that the holes caused by the explosion were well above the water line. Because of this fact, he explained, “There is zero possibility that they were torpedoes.”

Previously in May, the U.S. had escalated tensions in the Persian Gulf by dispatching the USS Abraham Lincoln carrier strike group and a B-52 bomber task force allegedly to counter heightened threats to U.S. forces posed by Iran. Given that Iran is literally encircled by U.S. nuclear-capable forces, it seems utterly implausible that the Islamic Republic is the state actor posing the threat. Nevertheless, U.S. Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, insisted that the deployment was not confrontational. “This is not intended to be a provocation,” he emphasized. “This is not intended to reinforce our offensive capability in the region,” even though it obviously looks

**Despite claims by the U.S. Navy that the stricken tankers were under their purview, the Iranian rescue ship was the first to arrive on the scene of the incident and pull the tankers' crewmembers to safety.**

like the U.S. is preparing for a strike on Iran.

If the plot woven by Pompeo and his accomplices induces a vague but familiar feeling, perhaps it is due to the uncanny similarity with an incident in the Gulf of Tonkin in 1964, which was used by U.S. officials to create a pretext for launching a full-scale war on Vietnam. The plot should have a familiar ring: a patrol boat from the Democratic Republic of Vietnam was reported to have attacked the USS warship Maddox without provocation in international waters, thereby justifying a severe U.S. military response, which was announced shortly after the 11 o'clock nightly news by U.S. president Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ) on August 4.

There had been a defensive response by North Vietnamese patrol boats against ongoing CIA covert raids along the coast involving the Maddox on August 2, and intelligence reports suggested another retaliatory action was planned for August 4. However, the attack never happened. Admiral John Stockdale, who was flying an aircraft from the USS Ticonderoga, said that he saw nothing at all to indicate the North Vietnamese had made an assault on the Maddox. Yet despite the lack of clear and convincing evidence, defense secretary Robert McNamara called LBJ at 11:00 am to report

**Given the timing of the attacks, it would be beyond irrational for Iran to target a Japanese-owned tanker while the country's prime minister was meeting with Iran's Supreme Leader.**

## Iranian lawmakers hail Leader's firm stance against U.S.

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iranian lawmakers on Tuesday lauded the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei for his firm stance against the United States in a recent meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

In an open letter to the Leader, 210 members of parliament described Ayatollah Khamenei's stance as a “display of dignity, wisdom and expediency,” Mehr reported.



They also condemned a Thursday attack on two oil tankers in the Sea of Oman, saying the impacts of Ayatollah Khamenei's meeting with Abe angered those who are opposed to the region's peace and security, and induced them to commit such an act.

Last week, Abe came to Tehran for the first time to meet Ayatollah Khamenei and President Rouhani. Abe said he was carrying a message from U.S. President Donald Trump.

In response, Ayatollah Khamenei said, “We have no doubts about your goodwill and seriousness, but with regard to what you relayed from the U.S. president, I see no merit in Trump as a person to deserve the exchange of any messages, and I do not have any answer for him and will not give him any either.”

The Leader said Iran has “no trust” in the United States and will not at all “repeat the bitter experience” from the negotiations that led to the conclusion of a 2015 nuclear deal, which Washington later ditched.

“Iran engaged in talks with the U.S. and the Europeans for some five or six years, and achieved a result. The Americans, however, breached a done deal,” said the Leader, emphasizing that no wise man would enter talks with a country that has reneged on all agreements.

## Russia hails IRGC 'huge contribution' to terror fight

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — A senior Russian official on Tuesday hailed the “huge contribution” of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) to the battle against ISIL terrorists.

Sergey Naryshkin Naryshkin, director of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, said the IRGC “has made a huge contribution to the fight against ISIL in Syria and Iraq.”

Naryshkin also slammed the U.S. government for imposing sanctions on other countries.

The U.S. is introducing new sanctions spontaneously and impulsively without taking into account even the opinion of its closest allies, the Russian official remarked, Mehr reported.

“It's no secret that over the past several years they [sanctions] have become a favorite method of the U.S. policy,” Naryshkin said.

“What is especially alarming is that the restrictions are introduced absolutely arbitrarily, spontaneously and impulsively.”

“Their initiators do not take into account the long-term consequences and the opinion of the closest economic partners,” Naryshkin stressed.

As an example, he cited the U.S. decision to include IRGC on its list of terrorist organizations.

Back in April, the IRGC was formally blacklisted by the U.S. as a foreign terrorist organization.

In response to the move, Iran's top security body, the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), issued a statement declaring the United States a “terrorist government”, and blacklisted “CENTCOM and all its affiliates a terrorist group”.



## Turkish FM set to visit Iran on Thursday

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu will travel to Iran on June 20 at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif.



Cavusoglu is slated to participate at the first meeting of the joint economic commission of the two countries which will be held on June 21 in Isfahan, Mehr reported.

Zarif traveled to Ankara in April to confer on regional developments as well as ways to expand bilateral ties.

During his visit, he met with President Erdogan and Cavusoglu as well as other Turkish officials.

Tehran and Ankara are interested in developing relations in all fields, especially in the economic and commercial areas.



STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	237148.2
IFX	3034.1

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	47,179 rials
GBP	52,605 rials
AED	11,437 rials

Source: cbi.ir

COMMODITIES

Brent	\$60.69/b
WTI	\$51.86/b
OPEC Basket	\$61.25/b
Gold	\$1,348.65/oz
Silver	\$14.94oz
Platinum	\$800.25/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

Over 730,000 tons of basic goods unloaded at Shahid Rajaei Port in 80 days

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Over 730,000 tons of basic commodities have been unloaded at Iran's largest container port, Shahid Rajaei, during the 80-day period from the beginning of current Iranian calendar year (March 21), Director General of Ports and Maritime Department of Hormozgan Province Allah-Morad Afifipour announced. The official said that the goods were unloaded from 24 vessels, IRIB reported on Monday.

on May 21, the deputy director of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) said following a directive by President Hassan Rouhani, IRICA is providing new facilities for importers of basic goods which makes them able to clear their commodities in less than an hour, IRNA reported.

“For basic goods such as meat, system formalities and clearance procedures will be carried out in less than an hour and importers can transport their goods soon after,” Mehrdad Jamal Orounaqi said.

Projects underway to boost annual copper concentrate output by 450,000 tons

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Projects have been already started for increasing the country's annual production of copper concentrate by 450,000 tons, IRIB quoted Ardeshir Sa'd-Mohammadi, the managing director of the National Iranian Copper Company, as saying.

Production of copper concentrate in Iran during the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20, 2019), was five percent more than

the planned figure, according to the data released by Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

IMIDRO data put the country's copper concentrate output at 1.18 million tons in the past year, which is 1.123 million tons more than the planned amount.

Also as reported, National Iranian Copper Company earned over 100 trillion rials (about \$2.38 billion) from the copper sales in the previ-



ous year, which was seven percent higher than the planned figure.

As announced by the directors of the company, achieving 150 trillion rials (about \$3.57 billion) from sales has been targeted for the current year.

Meanwhile, IMIDRO has announced that production of copper cathode and anode in the

country exceeded the planned amount in the past Iranian year.

The National Iranian Copper Company produced 247,300 tons of copper cathode and 313,700 tons of copper anode in the previous year, showing 15 percent and 21 percent rise, respectively, from the projected figures.

Iran, Russia ink 8 co-op MOUs in 15th Joint Economic Committee meeting

**1 →** An MOU was also signed for co-operation between the Institute of Standards and Industrial Research of Iran and Russia's Federal Agency on Technical Regulation and Metrology (Rosstandart).

The two sides inked yet another MOU regarding economic, commercial, industrial, and transit cooperation and also in development of port and freight services.

Iranian Society of Consulting Engineers and Russia's National Association of Construction Engineering Consultants (FIDIC) also signed an MOU for mutual cooperation.

Another MOU was signed between a subsidiary of the Iranian energy ministry called SATKAB and a Russian company to collaborate in manufacturing energy industry's required equipment.

Cooperation in oil, gas, petchem sectors

The two sides also signed an MOU for energy cooperation at the end of the two countries' third energy working group meeting which was held on Monday.

As reported, cooperation in areas like exploration, extraction, production and investment in the oil, gas, petrochemical industry was emphasized in the MOU.

Synchronization of the two countries' standards for oil industry equipment was another article covered in the MOU, which with its implementation the parties could use each other's technical equipment in the oil and gas industry.

Bilateral cooperation in the Caspian Sea region was another issue which was agreed upon in the MOU. In this regard Iranian Research

Institute of Petroleum Industry and the country's energy research institutes are going to have close cooperation with their Russian counterparts.

Garmsar-Ince Boroun electrification to start in 2 months

On the sidelines of the 15th Iran-Russia Joint Economic Committee meeting, the sides also discussed and agreed on the details of the Garmsar-Ince Burun railway electrification project.

“During the event, positive negotiations were held in various sectors, including the electrification of Garmsar-Ince Boroun railway, and given the progress made in the negotiations, the project is expected to start within the next two months,” Ardakanian said after meeting with his Russian counterpart Alexander Novak on Tuesday.

Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as

RAI) is collaborating with the Russian Railways for the electrification of Garmsar-Ince Bouron line.

According to Saeed Rasouli, the previous head of RAI, the electrification of Garmsar-Ince Bouron line requires technically advanced equipment and technology, and the production process of these equipment has already begun in Russia.

The 15th Iran-Russia Joint Economic Committee meeting and the second Iran-North Caucasus trade conference kicked off on Saturday in Tehran and the two countries energy ministers co-chaired the event.

Meanwhile, the second Iran-North Caucasus trade conference was also held, and the Minister of North Caucasus Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergei Chebotarev and Reza Ardakanian also attended this conference.

Annual exports of decorative, facade stones at \$350m

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iran exported \$350 million worth of decorative and facade stones during the past Iranian calendar year (March 2018-March 2019) IRNA reported quoting Malek Rahmati, the vice-president of the Iranian stone association.

According to Rahmati, Iran is currently producing 13 million tons of such stones, cementing its place among the worlds' top five

countries in this industry.

Statistics suggest that the number of decorative and facade stone mines in the country exceeds 2,000, of which only 200 are currently active.

“The annual production capacity of the country's active mines is estimated at 30 million metric tons and these mines have created 380,000 job opportunities directly

and indirectly,” Rahmati said.

The official noted that, based on a five-year plan for the country's stone industry, the value of exports in this area was supposed to reach \$2 billion, but this goal isn't realized because the practical steps and support required by the ministry of industry did not take place.

“Iranian stone industry has high potential, proper reserves, color variation and superior

quality compered to rivals, but it needs support and incentives to realize these potentials,” he added.

Mentioning the unjust U.S. sanctions, Rahmati noted that the country's stone industry is obviously experiencing a tough period, however the current hurdles can be eliminated with serious presence in different global markets, especially overseas exhibitions.

Second Announcement

IN THE NAME OF GOD  
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NO. 98-03/111

**Tender Holder:**  
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

**Subject of Two-Stage Tender:**  
Purchase of Equipment for Infrastructure, Storage, Communication Processing of IRIB Data according to the tender documents.

**Deadline of Receiving Documents:**  
As of publishing second announcement of advertisement latest by the business hour dated on **Monday June 24, 2019.**

**Place of Receiving Documents:**  
Secretariat of Tenders' Commission, Technical Purchasing (KALA) Dept., Media Technology and Development Deputy Office, Bldg. No. 2, IRIB, Jam-e Jam St., Vali-e Asr Ave., Tehran

**Type and Amount of Guarantee for Participating in Tender:**  
The amount of **USD 43,196** which should be in the form of extendable bank guarantee

**Time and Place of Delivering Priced Bid:**  
The sealed A, B & C packages/envelopes should be submitted within one main envelope marked with tender number no later than **15 p.m. on Saturday July 27, 2019** and submitted to the Secretariat of Commission of Tenders.

**Time and Place of Opening Envelopes**  
The date of opening envelopes A&B is at **8:30 a.m. on Monday July 29, 2019** in the office of Vice President of IRIB Planning and Financial Resources and opening of envelope C will be after technical evaluation.  
It should be noted that bidders should hold license from the authorized bodies.

For more information, please contact the following phone numbers: **0098-21-22166313**  
It is obvious that cost of publishing two advertisements shall be borne by the winner of tender.  
**Public Relations Dept. of IRIB**

Second Announcement

IN THE NAME OF GOD  
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NO. 98-03/110

**Tender Holder:**  
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

**Subject of Two-Stage Tender:**  
Supplying HD Transmission Equipment for TV Channels according to the tender documents.

**Deadline of Receiving Documents:**  
As of publishing second announcement of advertisement latest by the business hour dated on **Monday June 24, 2019.**

**Place of Receiving Documents:**  
Secretariat of Tenders' Commission, Technical Purchasing (KALA) Dept., Media Technology and Development Deputy Office, Bldg. No. 2, IRIB, Jam-e Jam St., Vali-e Asr Ave., Tehran


**Type and Amount of Guarantee for Participating in Tender:**  
The amount of **USD 35,544** which should be in the form of extendable bank guarantee

**Time and Place of Delivering Priced Bid:**  
The sealed A, B & C packages/envelopes should be submitted within one main envelope marked with tender number no later than **15 p.m. on Saturday July 27, 2019** and submitted to the Secretariat of Commission of Tenders.

**Time and Place of Opening Envelopes**  
The date of opening envelopes A&B is at **8:30 a.m. on Monday July 29, 2019** in the office of Vice President of IRIB Planning and Financial Resources and opening of envelope C will be after technical evaluation.  
It should be noted that bidders should hold license from the authorized bodies.

For more information, please contact the following phone numbers: **0098-21-22166313**  
It is obvious that cost of publishing two advertisements shall be borne by the winner of tender.  
**Public Relations Dept. of IRIB**






**N.I.O.C**  
1398.1650

Second Announcement

**Call for public tender:**

**Two-Stages (compressed-semi compressed) tender renewal**

**Subject of Tender: (Provision of Three tugboats and a guided ship for moving drilling rigs)**



**National Iranian Drilling Company**

The Tender holder	Registration No. through national electronic tendering system	Tender No. /Tndent No.	Estimated value (Rial/Euro)
National Iranian Drilling Company	3/191/447	sn k97/- 06 / 33 – 5274	(6,779,850) AED

Qualitative evaluation of tenderers

Method	
	1-Based on minimum scoring made in award criterion reflected in the tenderers pre-qualification forms. (60 score) – Technical evaluation (60 score)
	2- Tenderers which has a four active current contract with NIDC, will not be allowed to participate in other tenders .
	3-Tenderers which have a two active current contract with same subject (exactly same subject) with NIDC, will not be allowed to participate in other tenders.

Purchasing & Submitting

Tender Document Distribution by Company	
	The distribution of the documents will be started one day after the publishing of second advertisement and ended on the following tenth day thereof.
<b>Distribution Place</b>	.....
<b>Submitting Method</b>	Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of 990,000 Iranian Rials under account number 4001114004020491 in name of "NIDC Incomes Centralized Fund" issued by I.R. of Iran Central Bank. Submitting format Request for the purpose of receiving Tender Documents
<b>Closing date</b>	..... Days after the last time of Purchasing 14
<b>Documents Receiving Method</b>	<b>Address</b> Hall No. 107, 1 <sup>st</sup> floor, Tender Committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. Tel: +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569

Tender Guarantee

<b>Value of guarantee</b>	266,766 AED or 3,051,000,000 IRR
<b>Type of guarantee</b>	✓••Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. ✓••Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt under account number 4001114006376636 in name of "NIDC saving account" by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran.
<b>Duration of credit &amp; quotation</b>	Tender Guarantee should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one time in initial validity duration.

(Name of department)

More of this & other tenders are accessible by click on: [www.nidc.ir](http://www.nidc.ir) <http://sapp.ir/nidc/pr>

تهران تایمز نوبت اول ۹۸/۳/۲۸ نوبت دوم ۹۸/۳/۲۹



## U.S. overconfidence led to the trade war



By Wei Jianguo

**CHINADAILY** — By increasing the tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese goods from 10 percent to 25 percent, the United States has launched a trade war against China. Worse, the US claims China provoked the trade war by insisting on a substantially rewritten draft agreement, which according to the US reneged on previously agreed terms, which is not true. Instead, no agreement could be reached between the two sides despite the many rounds of negotiations because of the hard stance the US had adopted.

In my view, the US failed to anticipate three outcomes of the trade frictions and the unsuccessful trade talks.

First, China's determination to defend its core interests has exceeded US expectations. While serving as a senior government official, I have participated in many bilateral and multilateral negotiations. And experience tells me that a good agreement is that which respects both sides' core interests and major concerns, and satisfies them to the greatest extent. It is difficult to implement an agreement that satisfies one party and disappoints the other.

Since the US has gone too far, directly infringing on China's core interests, China cannot sit idle. In the last round of trade talks, the Chinese delegation stuck to its bottom line, demanding a respectful and equal agreement. It is this determination that the US failed to anticipate.

Second, the US failed to appreciate China's ability to resist US pressure. When it comes to overall bilateral relations, China has dealt with the US with sincerity, hoping to resolve their disputes through negotiations. But the US mistook this as China's weakness and chose to exert "extreme pressure" in the negotiations, which China had to resist.

The US might have assumed that just like other countries, which could not withstand its "extreme pressure". China also would make concessions. But China has not only overcome

**Although the US has shifted its policy from the earlier engagement and containment of China to an all-out suppression of China, no country can stop the global trend of development. The shift in economic power to the East will continue. And China's huge and consumer market will continue to grow.**

The root cause of the US' failure to understand China is its failure to evaluate China's achievements in the four decades of reform and opening-up. American policymakers still claim that it is the US that has fueled China's growth since the 1980s, as if its achievements are not the fruits of its people's labor but gifts from the US. Also, they wrongly believe that China cannot do without the US and therefore will welcome the punches it delivers without even thinking of hitting back.

China has not buckled under US pressure because its economic foundations are strong and economic growth is sustainable. China may suffer some losses in the short term, but in the medium and long term it will overcome the difficulties to achieve greater development.

The short-term improvement of the US economy and introduction of some new economic policies could have misled Washington into believing that the US is "winning" the trade war. In fact, the short-term improvement of the US economy is the immediate effect of the tax cut policy, whose impact will gradually disappear over time.

Yet we should look at the outcome of Sino-US negotiations rationally. The relationship between China and the US has not become one of full-scale confrontation, as some experts and scholars have suggested.

Although the US has shifted its policy from the earlier engagement and containment of China to an all-out suppression of China, no country can stop the global trend of development. The shift in economic power to the East will continue. And China's huge and consumer market will continue to grow. If the US chooses to exit such a market, no amount of tariffs can compensate for the losses it would suffer. Therefore, US companies will continue to operate in the Chinese market, and the trend of overall cooperation between China and the US will not change in the long run.

Cooperation is the only way Sino-US relations can improve. China does not want the trade war to continue nor do most Americans. So we must remain cool-headed and identify the general direction of win-win cooperation between China and the US. And Beijing and Washington should avoid confrontation, meet each other halfway, and handle trade and bilateral relations with mutual respect and equality.

# The White House is furious about Fox News!

## Trump in the siege of American media

By Saeed Sobhani

**TEHRAN** — The president of the United States looks very angry about the recent Fox News poll! Donald Trump, who has been a liar until yesterday, like the New York Times and the Washington Post, has now challenged his favorite TV channel poll!

What is the reason for the anger of Donald Trump?

As Fox News reported, Former Vice President Joe Biden is still, by far, the leader in the Democratic Party's presidential nomination race. His lead reflects the mood of the party, as Democratic primary voters want someone who will unite Americans, provide steady leadership, and who has high ethical standards. In addition, while Democrats best President Trump in hypothetical matchups and keep his support at 41 percent or lower, none of the challengers hits 50 percent.

These are some of the findings from the latest Fox News Poll. Biden tops the list of Democratic contenders with 32 percent support among primary voters. Bernie Sanders trails at 13 percent, Elizabeth Warren at 9 percent, and Pete Buttigieg and Kamala Harris both at 8 percent. Next is Beto O'Rourke at 4 percent, Cory Booker at 3 percent, and Amy Klobuchar and Andrew Yang each garner 2 percent. Julian Castro, John Delaney, Tulsi Gabbard, Kirsten Gillibrand, and Tim Ryan receive 1 percent a piece. Since March, Sanders is down 10 points, while Buttigieg (+7), Warren (+5), and Biden (+1) have gained ground.

Biden comes in first (by wide margins) and Sanders comes in second among men, women, whites, and non-whites. Among primary voters 45 years and over, Biden leads by over 30 points, while among those under age 45 he has only a 3-point edge.

Self-described moderate Democrats give Biden a 29-point advantage, while he leads by a narrower 10 points among Democrats who identify as progressive. Overall, Democratic primary voters divide when choosing between a candidate with "high ethical standards" (52 percent) and one who can "defeat Donald Trump" (45 percent). By a 74-23 percent margin, they prioritize nominating a candidate who will "unite Americans around shared beliefs" over "fight against extreme right-wing beliefs."

They also prefer, by a 72-25 percent margin, their nominee provide "steady, reliable leadership" rather than "a bold, new agenda."

Those prioritizing steady leadership go big for Biden (37 percent) over Sanders (12 percent). Support spreads more evenly among those wanting a candidate with a bold agenda: Biden (21 percent), Sanders (17 percent), Warren and Buttigieg (12 percent each), and Harris (11 percent). Biden leads among those Democrats wanting a uniter (+20 points) and a fighter (+13), and he is the choice for both those preferring a candidate with high ethical standards (+12) and one who can beat Trump (+27).

"Some on the left mock Biden as naive for suggesting he can bring Americans together, but primary voters prefer his steady style and unifying approach," says Democratic pollster Chris Anderson, who conducts the Fox New Poll with Republican Daron Shaw. "A big question is whether another candidate can provide a viable alternative for voters who like Biden's approach, but aren't enthused with his candidacy."

President Trump officially launches his reelection campaign June 18. More voters would be enthusiastic if Trump were to win reelection than felt that way in 2016 -- and fewer would be scared. The share

of those feeling enthusiastic is up 8 points since October 2016 overall and up 18 among Republicans. The number of voters feeling scared is down 16. Still, half would be displeased (20 percent) or scared (30 percent) if Trump is reelected.

Trump trails the Democrat in each of the possible 2020 head-to-head matchups tested and never gets above 41 percent support. At the same time, none of the challengers hits 50 percent. Biden tops Trump by 10 points (49-39 percent) and Sanders is up by nine (49-40) -- both of these leads are outside the poll's margin of error. Warren has a two-point edge over Trump (43-41), and Harris (42-41) and Buttigieg (41-40) are up by one (within the margin of error).

he president's current standing is actually better than where he stood at this point in the cycle four years ago. In June 2015, Democrat Hillary Clinton was ahead of Trump by 17 points. "Trump's current position in the polls is far from ideal," says Shaw. "But he's definitely in the game. His base is on board and he'll have ample opportunity to frame the choice set moving forward while the Democrats battle for voter and media attention in the debates."

A 60 percent majority doesn't think a politician with low moral standards can be a good leader, yet voters say they will place greater importance on supporting a candidate who shares their views (55 percent) than one who is highly ethical (40 percent).

Some 70 percent of Democrats don't believe a politician with low moral standards can be a good leader compared to just 48 percent of Republicans. Democrats prioritize supporting a candidate who is highly ethical over one who shares their views on major issues by 6 points. It is more lopsided, in the opposite direction, for Republicans, as they put issues over ethics by 42 points.

Abortion is sure to be a hot issue for both sides in 2020. Views split: 50 percent of voters think abortion should be legal all (31 percent) or most of the time (19 percent), while 46 percent say it should be illegal all the time (12 percent) or except in cases of rape, incest, or to save the life of the mother (34 percent). Most Democrats (68 percent) say it should be legal and most Republicans (68 percent) say illegal.

Overall, 64 percent of voters think the Supreme Court should let Roe v. Wade stand, and a 61 percent majority opposes their state passing a law similar to ones in Alabama and Georgia that ban abortion in all cases other than to save the life of the mother.

Conducted June 9-12, 2019 under the joint direction of Beacon Research (D) and Shaw & Company (R), this Fox News Poll includes interviews with 1,001 randomly chosen registered voters nationwide who spoke with live interviewers on both landlines and cellphones. The poll has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus three



percentage points for all registered voters, and 4.5 points for Democratic primary voters (449).

President Donald Trump took on the "fake news" again today. While that in itself hardly qualifies for a headline, this part of his tweet du jour (or du hour) does: It targets Fox News. "Something weird going on at Fox," the leader of the free world appeared to notice today.

He was talking about a new poll from Fox News that found 50% of Americans favor his impeachment or removal from office. More context on that and the second part of Trump's double-duty tweet below, but read it first:

@FoxNews Polls are always bad for me. They were against Crooked Hillary also. Something weird going on at Fox. Our polls show us leading in all 17 Swing States. For the record, I didn't spend 30 hours with @abcnews, but rather a tiny fraction of that. More Fake News @BretBaier

The poll that elicited Trump's friendly fire was released Sunday and reported today on Fox & Friends (one of said "friends" being the president, of course). It showed that 50% of respondents believe that POTUS should be impeached or removed from office. The president obviously was not amused.

The tweet in question also took aim at another news outlet, ABC News, for the title of its widely seen and cited George Stephanopoulos sit-down with Trump. That special, which is titled 30 Hours -- Donald Trump and aired on ABC's 20/20 -- showed, among many other things, the former Clinton press secretary asking about Trump's leaked internal polling that shows him trailing Democratic challengers in 15 of 17 swing states. The president immediately denied that, saying on camera, "Those polls don't exist."

But word also spread today that Trump has cut ties with some of his pollsters -- apparently over the leaks and not the results. Make your own inferences.

Separately tonight, CBS News announced that its Major Garrett will interview Trump campaign manager Brad Pascale. It will air Wednesday on CBS Evening News and digital

outlet CBSN.

Meanwhile, It's worth noting that perhaps even Fox News didn't know what to make of its poll that so riled Trump. Mediaite noted today that that FNC misrepresented its own findings -- twice. First, Fox & Friends showed a graphic that noted 50% of pollees replied "No" to whether Trump should be "impeached or removed from office." One problem: The actual question was, "Do you think President Trump should be impeached and removed from office, or not?" The answer to that query was 43% saying "yes," 7% saying "impeachment only" and 6% saying "don't know"

It's not entirely clear why Trump cited Bret Baier in today's tweet, but the latter sometimes has been critical of the former of late.

Trump Team Cuts Ties With Pollsters After Dismal Polling Numbers Leaked

Huffington post reported that Donald Trump's reelection campaign team has reportedly severed ties with some of its pollsters after leaks of some dismal internal polling data, which showed him trailing former Vice President Joe Biden in several key states. Trump had called the polling numbers taken back in March "fake polls" after they were reported by the press last week and insisted that he is winning "very big" in several key states.

The pollsters' removal was reported by The New York Times and NBC News on Sunday, with the outlets citing a presidential adviser and someone close to the campaign, respectively.

The decision to cut ties with three of its five pollsters is meant to prevent further disclosures of survey data, the Times reported.

According to the Times, Trump had instructed his aides to deny that there was any internal polling that showed him trailing Biden after news broke about its existence. They were also told to say that they had contrasting data that showed Trump doing well.

"We are winning in every single state that we've polled. We're winning in Texas very big. We're winning in Ohio very big. We're winning in Florida very big," Trump said during an Oval Office meeting with Polish President Andrzej Duda on Wednesday.

He also tweeted out that his numbers are "the best numbers WE have ever had."

.....The Fake (Corrupt) News Media said they had a leak into polling done by my campaign which, by the way and despite the phony and never ending Witch Hunt, are the best numbers WE have ever had. They reported Fake numbers that they made up & don't even exist. WE WILL WIN AGAIN!

This denial came despite public polls that showed Trump trailing Biden, including a recent Fox News poll that put him behind both Biden and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (Mass.). A spokesperson for Trump's reelection campaign declined to comment when reached by HuffPost on Sunday.

## West deliberately ignores SCO's contribution to peace, development

By Chen Yu

**GLOBALTIMES** — Chinese President Xi Jinping attended the 19th Heads of State Council Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on June 14. In his speech, Xi proposed building the organization into a model organization of international relations amid a changing global milieu. Since its establishment in 2001, the SCO has taken strides in facilitating cooperation in various fields. The organization now has eight members, four observer states and six dialogue partners.

However, opinion in the West hasn't paid heed to the SCO's achievements. It bad-mouths the organization and believes that after new states join the SCO, differences in values and systems among members will lead to numerous contradictions within the group, leading to its collapse. The progress the SCO has made in recent years proves how untenable such views are.

It is true that there are conflicts between two new member states, India and Pakistan. However, the organization can help the two neighbors bridge differences and contribute to regional security and cooperation. First, the SCO offers more meeting opportunities for leaders, diplomats and military officials of the two countries.

Other SCO member states have also made their own contri-

bution to helping improve relations between India and Pakistan. For example, when India-Pakistan ties soured earlier this year, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Kong Xuanyou paid a visit to Islamabad in March, trying to help ease tensions between the strained neighbors.

Second, security cooperation within the SCO can help New Delhi and Islamabad to build consensus. Since the establishment of the SCO, member states have made significant achievements in security cooperation both in traditional domains as well as non-traditional areas like counter-terrorism and anti-drug operations.

The Afghanistan situation is a highlight of SCO security cooperation. The meeting of the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group at the level of deputy foreign minister has been held for three consecutive years.

During this summit, a road map for further steps by the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group was signed. The road map is aimed at forging consensus, developing collaboration and contributing to peace and development in Afghanistan.

India and Pakistan have a huge interest in such security cooperation. In fact, since they joined the SCO, the two neighbors have participated in security cooperation, which helps both nations develop areas of interest and seek ways to fostering peace.

India and Pakistan are important stakeholders in the Afghan situation and counter-terrorism. With the two nations within

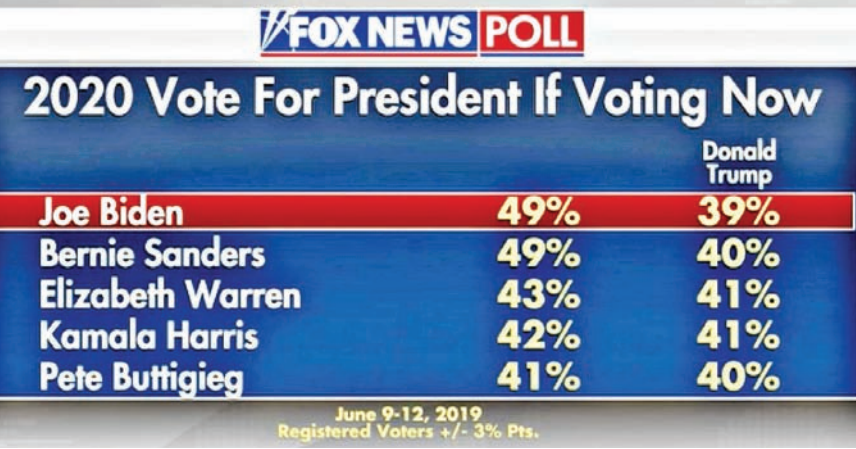
its fold, the SCO can carry out regional security cooperation with greater flexibility, so as to promote regional and global peace and development.

Turning a blind eye to the SCO's contribution to peace and development in the Eurasian region, Western public opinion tries to show that the goal of the organization is to build hegemony and confront the West in the region. This misplaced belief is rooted in the Western zero-sum mind-set and a lack of understanding of the organization.

Currently, SCO member states account for about 20 percent of the global economy and 40 percent of world population.

In terms of both size and role, the organization can be regarded as an important platform for promoting multilateralism. The Shanghai Spirit that encompasses mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, mutual consultations, respect for cultural diversity and a desire for common development, and multilateralism is the reason why the SCO has continuously grown and become an epitome of regional peace and cooperation.

These concepts are opposite to how the West thinks and go against protectionism and unilateralism. Amid growing global uncertainty, the SCO's commitment to the Shanghai Spirit is particularly commendable. In the future, the SCO will continue to devote itself to multilateralism and promoting fairer and more reasonable international relations in politics, trade, economy and security.





# Iran is wisest not to damage burgeoning favorable opinion

**1 →** There is anyway not a shred of hard evidence Iran attacked any tankers in or near the Persian Gulf. Maybe the time has finally arrived where the U.S. and its “allies” can’t fool anyone any longer with falsehoods, as it did with the Gulf of Tonkin decades ago, with claims of Iraqi WMD, with false claims against Libya and Serbia, and as it has done on numerous occasions with Syria. The mere fact that Iranians literally rescued the sailors on one of the tankers hit in the Gulf of Oman ought to be proof enough that Iran almost certainly did not attack the ships.

No one in the mainstream U.S. media has made the connection that the escalation against Iran has been pushed primarily by Israel supporters, but even Trump has admitted that casino magnate Sheldon Adelson, Trump’s top Zionist donor (and we know Trump loves “money” above all else) advised him to hire hawk John Bolton. No question the tanker attacks are getting milked by the Zionists and the Saudis, who have stood between the U.S. and better relations with Iran that eventually would have evolved and been based U.S. maintenance of the JCPOA.

As for Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, it appears he’s playing some kind of game and he even thinks it is funny. He admitted with a laugh back in April that as chief of the CIA the organization lied, cheated and stole, but this has been par for the course in U.S. foreign policy for decades, just as it has been for Israel and the Saudis, too. Pompeo does not seem to care whether a new war in the Middle East occurs, given his Christian “evangelical” beliefs about some



supernatural outcomes regarding some absurd return of Jesus.

But of course the good news, if there is any at this time, is that the American public is not nearly as complacent and lazy as it has been, and more alert to what’s been going on now and for decades. In any event, Trump’s tenure in the White House has been marked

by one crisis after another, and almost all the crises have been sparked by aggression of various forms against other countries, whether economic or military.

But as one observer who at least tries to be informed about the current dangers, it does seem possibly wise to suggest that’s Iran’s leaders not threaten or in fact chip

away at components of the still standing JCPOA agreement by warning it is going to ramp up uranium enrichment unless Europeans, in particular, abide by their alleged commitments under the nuclear agreement. Doesn’t this only or primarily fuel further false justifications for the war postures of the Trump Administration precisely at a time when world opinion in general, and even the opinions of many Americans, seem to be decidedly on Iran’s side and against further conflicts in the Middle East?

Even if enhanced uranium enrichment were adopted by Iran, it’s not likely such would prove to be a deterrence to Iran’s enemies in the same way that North Korea, ALREADY HAVING the capacity to produce and launch nuclear weapons, is actually a deterrence to U.S. aggression. If Iran, say, were to push too far towards weapons grade uranium, even so far as 20 or 50 percent, it’s not hard to imagine the U.S. and its “allies” would argue that Iran is headed towards making its own nuclear deterrence, and use that as a pretext to try to destroy ALL of Iran’s achievements in nuclear technology for energy generation well before there was any chance Iran could (in theory anyway) produce nuclear weapons.

To date over the past year, Iran has managed correctly to negotiate a horrific minefield of economic oppression which anyway is not permanent. Even if for a while Iran cannot sell its resources, it remains a rich country in so many respects. What is far less permanent worldwide is positive U.S. standing and “empire”. And the same can be said for the barbaric Saudis and the apartheid loving Zionists.

**To date over the past year, Iran has managed correctly to negotiate a horrific minefield of economic oppression which anyway is not permanent.**

## The U.S. trade war against human rights

**GLOBALTIMES** —The US Trade Representative’s Office on Monday kicked off seven days of public hearings about the plan to levy tariffs on an additional \$300 billion worth of Chinese goods. The timeline shows that Washington will trigger the new tariff plan on July 2 at the soonest. The US is obviously boosting pressure on China.

China is already well prepared for an all-out trade war launched by the US. The trade war is highly likely to be protracted. Whether an agreement can be reached or not, US pressure on China will last a long time. It is the general consensus in Chinese society that a trade deal will hardly alter the situation. Most Chinese believe that the trade war extends beyond trade itself, but is part of the US containment of China’s comprehensive strategy for rejuvenation.

Chinese society has been mobilized to stand up to the great game determining the destiny of the Chinese nation in the 21st century. Chinese people are mentally prepared and ready to withstand more potential storms in the future. Chinese people hope to live a stable life and see good China-US relations. But the US political elites’ arrogance and their extreme practices toward Chinese companies such as Huawei have made people realize that the US lacks good will.

The US seeks to overwhelm China’s will, force China to accept unequal conditions, deprive China of the right to further development, and maintain its hegemony by stopping others.

The Chinese people will never agree to abandon the right to further development. The greatest thrust of China’s development lies in the strong desire for a better life among over a billion people. The trade war risks Chinese people’s future welfare. Chinese people will firmly support the Chinese government in not yielding to Washington, no matter the temporary costs they must pay.

The per capita GDP in China is only one-sixth of that of the US. Continuing to develop China’s economy and increase its per capita GDP is the basic right of the Chinese nation.

There was a time when China lagged behind the world, but that does not mean that China is supposed to be poor forever. This is what we are entitled to change. That is what human rights genuinely mean.

If the trade war goes on, it will exert an overwhelming impact on the world industrial chain. The US cannot remain unaffected. Its supply and marketing network, which plays a significant role in American people’s living standards, will be hit hard.

Listing Chinese products for \$300 billion more in tariff hikes will lead to a sharp price increase in US consumer goods. A poll conducted by pro-Trump news broadcaster Fox News showed that more Americans think that the trade war is affecting their lives rather than helping the US economy.

The US government drew the conclusion at a whim that a trade war would help revitalize US manufacturing. Yet over 600 US companies wrote a letter to



Trump on June 13, articulating their opposition to the trade war.

The trade war is a special battle against China’s human rights. It is a declaration of US hegemony. Washington is intensifying its attacks, but the Chinese people are pursuing an increasingly prosperous life. They hope their children can live a better life than themselves.

Such a strong desire will make us despise our opponent’s arrogant offense. The Chinese people know what they are fighting for.

## U.S. is the greatest threat to world peace and stability

**TEHRAN (FNA)** - The United States continues to push the world peace and stability against the wall with all those trade conflicts and sanctions against friends and foes.

Fighting back with facts, the World Bank is warning that as a consequence of the US trade wars, oil bans and sanctions, global business confidence has gone down the drain, slowdown in global trade has deepened, and investment in emerging and developing economies has dropped. Because of this worrisome and devastating trend, the International Monetary Fund is also warning that the trade wars and escalating conflicts in the Middle East and Persian Gulf will decelerate global growth.

This terrible global outlook is only bolstered by the fact that much of the global economic and security problems today can be traced back to Trump’s military adventures and protectionist policies. The fall in stock markets is traced to his trade tussle with Beijing. The recent loss in the manufacturing confidence in the U.S. has come as a direct consequence of the threat to slap tariffs on allies. The new reports and warnings issued by the World Bank and the IMF, or those by the United Nations, are also tied to the US role in destabilizing the global economy and oil trade with its extended preoccupation with trade wars and military deployments.

This serves as further proof that the Trump administration officials are indeed lying about their true intentions. The vast majority of their geopolitical intentions remains completely in the shadows and is never subjected to meaningful examination - which only increases the chances of market uncertainties and catastrophic security consequences.

What’s more, the trade wars and conflicts

are set to continue. The amoral program remains shrouded in secrecy, which includes a near certainty that levies on European goods are also up for grabs, or that the ongoing political debates in Congress and global concerns won’t terminate the security concerns in the Persian Gulf.

These are only some of the overwhelming facts that have managed to make it into the news and onto the record. After considering the trail of global economic and security consequences that follow the American flag wherever it goes, it is safe to say the US is exceptional in many things; responsibility and fairness in global trade and security is not among them. The threat is also being consistently propped up by the concept of American exceptionalism. So, it’s also safe to conclude that this makes the US the biggest threat to global security and stability.

Behind the clouds, however, Washington’s geopolitical goals are wishes, being fought for the worst possible reasons. The tussle is just a wish, a pie-in-the-sky ideal, without a definite and practical outcome. It comes from the egos of a decaying hegemonic power and a narcissistic president that don’t live in a reality-based universe.

History shows us nevertheless that those who launch wars are always defeated. History also tells us that independent nations like Iran can protect themselves in any escalating conflict. They could simply go beyond the region to increase pressure on the US.

President Trump and his White Supremacist faction should therefore stop highlighting the positive aspects of their trade wars and military escalations. It is overblown. The pointless tussle, backed by no American ally in Europe, is far less



about trade balance and regional security, and more about power and political hegemony: The US hegemony of the world and the trade and technological dictatorships of its corporations and Pentagon.

The futile efforts made by the Trumpsters, who advocate a doctrine of permanent war, as well as their technological dictatorships, who try to push their opponents under the bus by supporting the post-colonial status quo, will go nowhere. Their dream of sanctioning Iran into submission, dominating the world in financial and economic terms, and ensuring that no nation,

or a bloc of nations, would ever challenge their unholy agenda, will never come true. What they fail to see is the catastrophe that their fantasies have caused for the US and its handful of partners.

If history is a witness, all nations who have accomplished great things have had great aims, too. They fixed their gaze on goals that were positive and high. The US-imposed wars and conflicts are not a great thing at all. Behind the clouds, they are just a silly wish with no great goal and honor. It’s not as though they were not warned of the inevitable blowback.

**The futile efforts made by the Trumpsters, who try to push their opponents under the bus by supporting the post-colonial status quo, will go nowhere.**

### Cover-Ups and truth tellers

By Lawrence Davidson

**Consortium News** —In a May, 22, 2019 appearance in the White House Rose Garden, President Donald Trump declared that “I don’t do cover-ups.” Various news outlets immediately started to enumerate a long list of bona fide cover-ups associated with the president.

What can one say about this bit of Trumpian nonsense? Can you accuse a person of lying who actually seems not to know the difference between truth and untruth? Trump’s inability in this regard is demonstrated daily, and The Washington Post fact checker puts the running count of presidential lies at 10,111, with no end in sight. When it comes to reality, the president appears to be a malignant version of Walter Mitty.

Unfortunately, Trump’s behavior is but the tip of the iceberg when it comes to cover-ups. One can surmise that just by virtue of being the head of the U.S. government, the president — any president — must be directly or indirectly associated with hundreds of such evasions. That is because, it can be argued without much paranoia, that every major division of the government is hiding something — particularly when it comes to foreign activities.

Of course, being cover-ups by the government may make them appear acceptable, at least to a naive public. Many of them are rationalized as necessary for the sake of national “security.” And, of course, everyone wants to be “secure,” accepting the notion that “people sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf.”

The fact that much of this violence is done to other innocent people trying to get a peaceful night’s rest is “classified” information. So woe be it to the truth tellers who defy these rationalizations and sound off. For they shall be cast out of our democratic heaven into one of the pits of hell that pass for a U.S. prison—or, if they are fleet-footed, chased into exile.

Melodramatic, Except ... Assange and Manning

Well, that sounds a bit melodramatic — unless you happen to be Julian Assange, the publisher of WikiLeaks, or his notable informant, Chelsea Manning, or, taking one step back from the firing line, the Freedom of the Press Foundation.

The Trump administration is now seeking, via the “Justice” Department, to destroy Assange and Manning. Both are truth tellers or, if you want, whistleblowers who, by revealing the truth about government behavior during the Iraq War, badly embarrassed Washington. The rush to punishment is being carried out with a maliciousness for which this president and his bureaucratic minions seem temperamentally well-suited. Always keep in mind that there are plenty of unethical professionals, in this case operating in the guise of government lawyers, available to serve the disreputable purposes of disreputable bosses.

Julian Assange has been charged with an 18-count indictment alleging that he “unlawfully obtained and disclosed classified documents related to national defense.” It goes on to allege that Assange accomplished this when he “conspired with Manning and aided and abetted her in obtaining classified information ... to be used to the injury of the United States or to the advantage of a foreign nation.” Manning’s sentence for these “offenses” was subsequently commuted by President Barack Obama, but she is now in jail for refusing to testify before a grand jury investigating Assange.

The attack on Assange and Manning has brought into question the viability of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and the notion of a free press — seminally important matters. Here is how the Freedom of the Press Foundation describes the implications of the indictment against Julian Assange:

“Put simply, these unprecedented charges against Julian Assange and WikiLeaks are the most significant and terrifying threat to the First Amendment in the 21st century. The Trump administration is moving to explicitly criminalize national security journalism, and if this prosecution proceeds, dozens of reporters at The New York Times, The Washington Post and elsewhere would also be in danger. The ability of the press to publish facts the government would prefer remain secret is both critical to an informed public and a fundamental right. ... Anyone who cares about press freedom should immediately and wholeheartedly condemn these charges.”

Given these circumstances, one might be surprised, and very disappointed as well, to know that a concerted opposition to this threat from the so-called Fourth Estate (the press and news media) has yet to materialize.

Too Few Protecting Journalism

In Washington, D.C., the Newseum’s monument to the five freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment: religion, speech, press, peaceful assembly, petitioning government for redress of grievances. (dbking, CC BY 2.0, Wikimedia Commons)

The truth is that, beyond fact-checking the statements of a pathological president, too few journalists are willing to go out on a limb on the issue of a “free press,” or, if you will, for the integrity of their own profession. As it is, most of the American mass media more or less toes a government line and has done so for a very long time. They do this because their owners and editors are either in agreement with the government, see it as economically necessary to appear as traditionally loyal Americans to their readership, or have selectively hired reporters and other staff who are too passive to resist government pressure. Thus, episodes such as the 1972 reporting about the Nixon-inspired break-in at the Watergate and the revelation of the Pentagon Papers in 1971, along with the occasional local investigative expose, are exceptions rather than the rule of journalistic behavior. At best, if a newspaper or TV station wants to appear politically risqué they will confine the effort to a supposed “balanced” editorial page or segment.

If the journalistic establishment appears hesitant, civil liberties organizations such as the ACLU readily agree with the Freedom of the Press Foundation. The ACLU Director, Ben Wisner, notes that “For the first time in the history of our country, the government has brought criminal charges against a publisher for the publication of truthful information.” The key words here are “publisher” and “truthful information.” Wisner goes on to say that “It establishes a dangerous precedent that can be used to target all news organizations that hold the government accountable by publishing its secrets.” In other words, Trump and his minions are taking a step in the direction of dictatorial censorship.

Two Opposing Issues

Wisner’s comment suggests that there is often a real tension between what the government wishes to keep secret and issues of public morality and common decency. Indeed, Manning’s stated motive in dealing with WikiLeaks was to “remove the fog of war and reveal the true nature of 21st century asymmetric warfare.” Hence, in 2010, Manning, after being rebuffed by The New York Times and The Washington Post, sent WikiLeaks some 750,000 classified or otherwise “sensitive” military and diplomatic documents. Much of this material showed the U.S. waging a cruel and lawless operation in Iraq that any normal American should find troubling. This is probably part of the reason why this revelation was judged by Washington to be injurious to the U.S. ➔



# Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

## Apartment

Apt in Farmanieh  
2 floors totally, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
361 sq.m, 4 Bdrs., renovated 450  
sq.m garden  
2 parking spots, **\$2500**  
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Duplex Apt in Elahieh  
sq.m, 3 Bdrs., fully furn spj 280  
gym, elevator, parking  
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Andarzgoo  
1<sup>st</sup> floor, 125 sq.m, 1 Bdr.  
fully furn, elevator  
storage, parking, **\$1900**  
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in South Kamranieh  
250 sq.m, 3 Bdrs., furn  
spj, gym, parking, **\$2500**  
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Duplex Apt in Fereshteh  
320 sq.m, 4 Bdrs., unfurn  
huge terrace, good light  
renovated, parking  
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Zafaranieh  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 400 sq.m with  
4 Bdrs., unfurn, spj, parking  
**\$3500**  
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

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

## Villa

Villa in Darband  
triplex, 1800 sq.m land, 500 sq.m  
built up, 5 Bdrs., unfurn outdoor  
swimming, garden renovated,  
parking, **\$9000**  
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Villa in Niavaran  
900 sq.m land, 1000 sq.m built up,  
8 Bdrs., 7 bath rooms  
3 kitchens, saloons with one suit  
for servant, Jacuzzi, swimming  
pool, outdoor / indoor parking  
**\$10000**  
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

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

Villa in Elahieh  
duplex, 3000 sq.m land  
furn/unfurn, 500 sq.m built up  
Beautiful garden, parking  
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Duplex Villa in  
Shariti-Mirdamad  
290 sq.m, 4 Bdrs., unfurn, balcony,  
fire place, parking  
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Triplex Villa in Zafaranieh  
1700 sq.m land, 600 sq.m  
built up, 10 Bdrs., furn / unfurn  
outdoor swimming pool  
2-side entrances, **\$13000**  
Ms.Sara: 09128103207



Holder of

ISO 9001:2008

ISO 10004:2012

ISO 10002:2014

From Oxford Cert Universal

**Best Consultation**

**Best Services, Best Result**

Intl. Department Manager "Tina 09128103205"

Tel: 22662452-8, Fax: 22667173

**Hot Line: 28141**

info@parsdiplomatic.com

**www.parsdiplomatic.com**

## Building & Office

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

Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Whole Building in Darous  
2 floors, 700 sq.m land  
one apt 330 sq.m with 4 Bdrs.  
another duplex apt 300 sq.m with  
5 Bdrs., furn, equipped kitchen,  
renovated, huge terrace  
mountain view, parking  
**\$5000**

Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Whole Building in Zafar  
3 floors, each apt 200 sq.m  
clean & nice, elevator, parking  
**\$3800 totally**

Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Office in Vanak Square  
administrative office license  
almost new, 6 floors, 6 units  
1000 sq.m flat, 4 lines elevator  
roof top, cafe shop  
10 parking spots  
**\$40 per sq.m**

Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Whole Building  
in South Kamranieh  
20 apts, 216 sq.m to 204 sq.m  
70 Bdrs. totally, spj, gym  
industrial kitchen, restaurant  
driver's room, security system  
20 parking spots  
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

## Ideal Offers

Apt in Jordan  
brand new, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 100 sq.m  
2 Bdrs. furn, balcony, parking  
**\$1500**  
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Darous  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 115 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.  
furn, spj, parking, **\$1400**  
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Duplex Villa in Zafaranieh  
560 sq.m, 4 Bdrs., unfurn  
swimming pool, Jacuzzi  
Storage, parking  
**\$6000**  
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Zafar  
1<sup>st</sup> floor, 95 sq.m, 2 Bdrs., furn  
balcony, elevator, parking  
**\$800**  
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Dezashib  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 100 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.  
furn, balcony, storage, parking  
good access to subway  
**\$1300**  
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

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

Apt in Jordan  
5<sup>th</sup> floor, 150 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.  
fully furn, parking, **\$1300**  
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

مالکین محترم

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

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت

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

مالکین محترم

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

**PARSIAN Real Estate**  
**SHANON**  
Shanon\_tari@yahoo.com  
+989121907875  
Tel : 88510081

**Zafaranieh Apt**  
250sq.m, 3bdrs  
S/p, S, J, & pkg  
(\$1800)

**Sa'adat abad (\$1400)**  
200sq.m, 3bdrs, F.F

**Niavaran Villa**  
2000sq.m, 5bdrs  
S/p, S, J, & yard  
(\$6000)

**Mountain View**  
**Aghdasieh (\$2000)** 220sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, F.F  
**Gheitarieh (\$2200)** 240sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, F.F  
**Mahmoodieh (\$2700)** 300sq.m, 4bdrs, S/p, S, J, F.F

**Villa in Best Part of  
Zaferanieh  
(Fully Renovated)  
For Embassy  
and Ambassador  
Residence**  
**0912114576**

**Building for Rent in  
FARMANIEH**  
Building in 3 floors, each floor  
3 bedrooms, two receptions, 3  
bathrooms, kitchen, LG cooling,  
heating system, extra two bedrooms  
with bath for housekeeper, coered  
parking for 6 cars and garden  
Recently Renovated,  
Ready to Move  
Call: 0912-9485310



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

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

For more information contact:

**Tel: 021 - 430 51 450**

times1979@gmail.com

**Don't Waste Your Time**  
Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties  
**www.DeltaHOME.ir**  
The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners  
**HOME**  
Real Estate  
Member of DELTA Real Estate Group  
(021) 88888865

**maharaja**  
Indian Restaurant  
**FIRST INDIAN RESTAURANT  
IN IRAN**  
**PRIVATE PARKING LOT**  
Jahan Hotel (Exelsior) - Rahimzade Alley - Taleqani  
Crossroads - Valiasr St. Tel: 66476855

**TEHRAN TIMES**  
Iran's Leading  
International Daily  
Advertising Dept

Tel:  
**021 - 430 51 450**



# Apollo 11 at 50: Mission’s scientific legacy was just getting to the moon

In 1961, when President John F. Kennedy called on the United States to put a man on the moon by the end of the decade, he wasn't inspired by a curiosity about the moon's formation.

Kennedy felt the intense pressure of the Cold War, and in the wake of Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin becoming the first human in space, Kennedy called on the United States to "catch up to and overtake" the Soviet Union in the so-called space race.

"This was war by another means," Roger Launius, former chief historian of NASA, told UPI.

Today, dozens of scientific experiments regularly travel to and from the International Space Station, and each new NASA mission features an array of scientific instruments and objectives. But during the early 1960s, NASA wasn't sure if space exploration beyond near-Earth-orbiting satellites -- let alone scientific exploration of the moon -- was even possible.

"The point of Apollo 11 was to meet Kennedy's commitment," said John Logsdon, space historian and a professor of political science and international affairs at George Washington University. "Anything else that would have interfered or complicated the success of the mission wouldn't have been given priority."

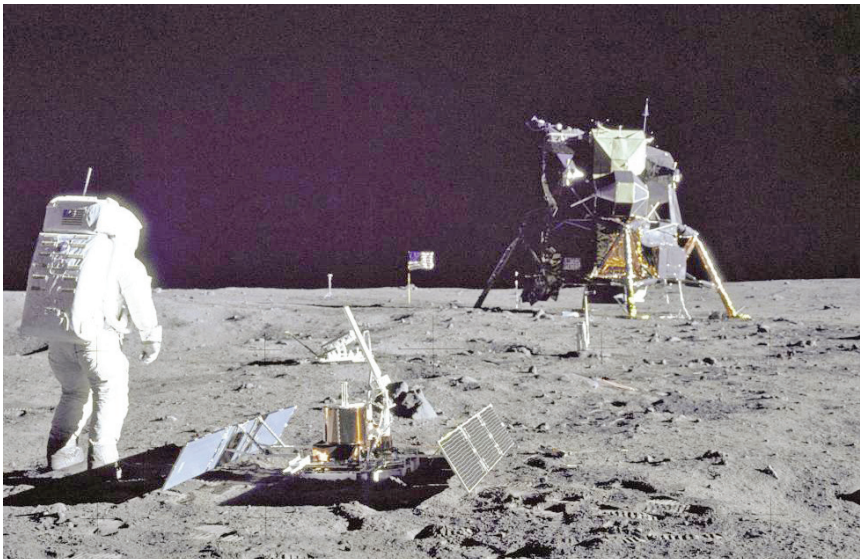
Apollo 11's scientific mission, Logsdon contends, was secondary and non-essential. "Apollo 11 went to land on the safest place on the moon," Logsdon said. "It was also, scientifically, probably the least interesting place you could go."

Mare Tranquillitatis, or the Sea of Tranquility, where Apollo 11 touched down on July 20, 1969, is one of the oldest, flattest lunar regions. For engineers, big, flat lunar plains without much differentiation are the best bet for safely landing spacecraft.

"But it's not good for collecting lots of different kinds of rocks and soil samples," Launius said.

Even if Apollo's scientific mission was secondary -- an afterthought, even -- it was still significant.

"The science was actually huge even though it was not the primary goal of the mission," said science journalist and space historian



Andrew Chaikin.

In addition to setting foot on the moon, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin collected 47.5 pounds of lunar material and brought it back to Earth. The lunar samples allowed scientists to test a variety of hypotheses about the moon's formation and history.

Prior to the moon landing, there was still some debate about whether the moon was a cold fossil, a frozen relic, or a planetary body that had experienced volcanic activity.

"The Apollo 11 samples proved without a doubt that the moon had been volcanically active," Chaikin said.

There were even some scientists who argued the moon was covered in a thick layer of dust. The Apollo 11 astronauts, they predicted, would sink into the surface upon leaving the lander. The prediction, obviously, proved false.

Prior to Apollo 11, lunar scientists weren't certain about much. Scientists weren't sure whether the moon was young or old, or if it was composed of the same materials as Earth or something different.

The samples collected by Armstrong and Aldrin helped settle these basic scientific questions.

"Most importantly, the lunar samples proved the moon had underground differentiation, it's materials had become hot enough to melt and separate into layers," Chaikin said. "In the Apollo 11 samples, there were very small grains of anorthosite -- remnants of the original crust that formed after the molten moon first cooled."

The Apollo 11 mission also confirmed the moon was indeed an ancient object -- its rocks as old as Earth's -- and that it could be, according to Chaikin, a kind of "Rosetta stone for decoding the earliest years of the solar system."

"The Apollo 11 samples also revealed the critical role large impacts play in the evolution of young planets and moons," Chaikin said.

One of the things scientists first noticed when they got lunar rock samples under microscopes back on Earth was that all the water was gone.

"They were absolutely bone dry," Chaikin said. "Scientists couldn't find water molecules chemically bound to the minerals inside the moon rocks."

The revelation confirmed that the moon had failed to hold onto any significant stores of volatiles, which suggested the moon was

the product of a massive collision between Earth and another planetary body.

Despite the lack of water, the first moon rocks proved Earth and its moon shared a common geologic ancestry. However, isotopic analysis also proved the two bodies were distinct.

But it's true that Apollo 11 wasn't a scientific mission. The United States and its space agency put a man on the moon to prove that it could -- to demonstrate its engineering and technological might.

"The great legacy of Apollo was pulling this thing off under a deadline," Chaikin said. "The country funded an experiment in how to do hard things with large numbers of people."

The feat set the stage for future space missions. "It was a necessary step for future missions for which you could plan different activities, like scientific investigation and exploration," Logsdon said. "After 11, there were advertised scientific objectives for each mission."

"Each of the Apollo missions were designed to be more extensive and involved than the one before," Launius said. "Each of those of missions did more than the last."

By the time of Apollo 15, mission astronauts were outfitted with a lunar rover.

"Once you've got the lunar rover, you can move," Launius said. "The Apollo 15 astronauts traveled more than 20 miles, and they were able to go over to places that were scientifically interesting."

While the scope of NASA's scientific missions steadily increased in the wake of Apollo 11, the agency's budget did not. By the time Armstrong and Aldrin made history, NASA's budget was already falling. After peaking in 1965, the agency's budget shrank for a decade before stabilizing.

Today, NASA is once again trying to manage an array of ambitious scientific space missions, while meeting the president's call for a return to human spaceflight. Of course, NASA has proven it can send astronauts to the moon. Now, the agency wants to go to the moon and stay there.

"The real question is: Can we go back to the moon and do in a way that's sustainable and cost-effective," Chaikin said.

(Source: UPI)

## How canines capture your heart: scientists explain puppy dog eyes

In a project that has all the makings of a Roald Dahl classic, scientists have hit on an answer to the mystery of how man's best friend got its puppy dog eyes.

The sad, imploring expression held such power over humans during 33,000 years of canine domestication that the preference for dogs that could pull off the look steered the evolution of their facial muscles, researchers have said.

The result is that dogs gradually acquired a new forehead muscle named the levator anguli oculi medialis, or LAOM, and have used it to deploy the doleful look to devastating effect ever since.



"They are very powerful animals in how they capture our hearts," said Prof Bridget Waller, the director of the Centre for Comparative and Evolutionary Psychology at the University of Portsmouth. "We pay a lot of attention to faces, they are meaningful to us, and this expression makes dogs look juvenile and sad. It induces a nurturing response. It's a cute factor."

Puppy dog eyes are achieved by the LAOM raising the inner eyebrows, in some cases quite dramatically. The movement makes the eyes look larger and the face more babyish. Humans use different muscles to produce a similar expression when they are sad, which may explain why it brings out the caregiver in people.

To investigate how the look developed in dogs, the UK-US research team acquired wolf and dog cadavers from taxidermists and US state organizations and dissected their heads to compare the facial muscles. No animals were killed for the research.

Dissections of six dogs -- a chihuahua, a labrador, a bloodhound, a German shepherd, a Siberian husky and a mongrel -- found all had the LAOM muscle. But in the four grey wolves studied, the muscle was missing, save for a few scant muscle fibers. Since all dogs are derived from wolves, the comparison suggests the LAOM arose in the domestication process.

Only one other difference was noted in the head dissections. A muscle called the retractor anguli oculi lateralis (RAOL), which pulls the eyelids out towards the ears, was less prominent in wolves than dogs. The Siberian husky, one of the most ancient breeds, was the only dog found to lack the RAOL muscle, according to the report in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

After establishing that dogs and wolves have different muscles around the eyes, the researchers filmed the animals to see how their expressions varied. They filmed nine wolves in two different animal parks, and 27 dogs, mostly Staffordshire bull terriers, in shelters across the UK. The footage was reviewed by a trained specialist who was not told about the scientists' hypothesis. The specialist recorded when the animals made the puppy dog eyes expression, and rated its intensity on a five-point scale.

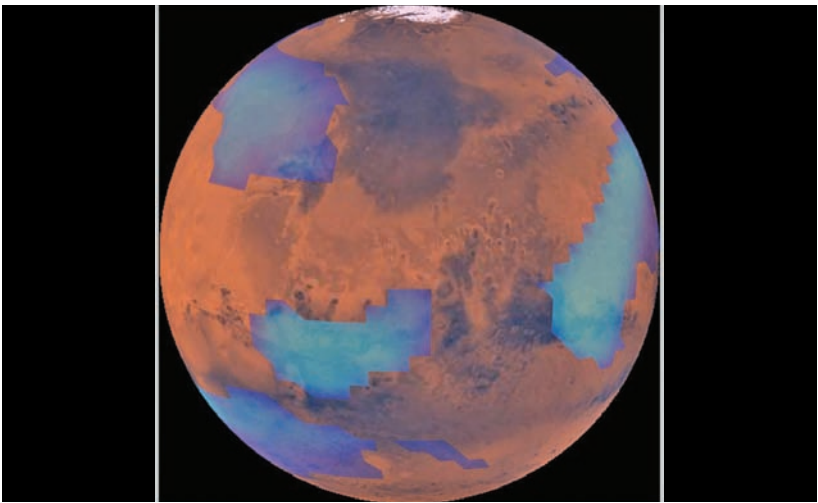
Dogs pulled the doleful face far more frequently than wolves, but the most striking finding was the intensity of the expressions. While dogs and wolves both produced "low intensity" expressions, only dogs appear to have weaponised the look and achieved what the scientists classified as "high intensity expressions".

The look has a real impact. In a previous study, Waller showed that the more dogs deployed the expression, the faster they were rehomed from shelters. In that regard, puppy dog eyes were more effective than tail wagging or the speed at which dogs bounded over to visiting humans.

Waller does not believe dogs originally produced the expression to win humans over. More likely, she said, is that animals that happened to deploy puppy dog eyes tapped into a response humans had evolved over millennia of living in large groups, where reading facial expressions was crucial.

(Source: The Guardian)

## Meteors explain Mars' cloud cover



New research suggests the wispy clouds found 18 miles above the Martian surface are made of icy dust produced by meteors hitting the Red Planet's atmosphere.

The findings -- published Monday in the journal Nature Geoscience -- are a reminder of the connection between space and atmospheric dynamics.

"We're used to thinking of Earth, Mars and other bodies as these really self-contained planets that determine their own climates," lead researcher Victoria Hartwick, a graduate student in the University of Colorado, Boulder, said in a news release. "But climate isn't independent of the surrounding solar system."

For a cloud to form, water vapor must have something to condense onto. On Earth, water vapors condense onto tiny dust or sea salt particles. The same cloud-starting particles aren't available on Mars. The Red Planet has dust, but the particles aren't blown 18 miles up into Mars' middle atmosphere.

Scientists estimated meteors could explain the high-elevation clouds. Two to three dots of space debris slam into the Martian atmosphere everyday. When the bits of space rock collide with Mars' atmosphere, dust explodes into the middle and upper layers of the atmosphere.

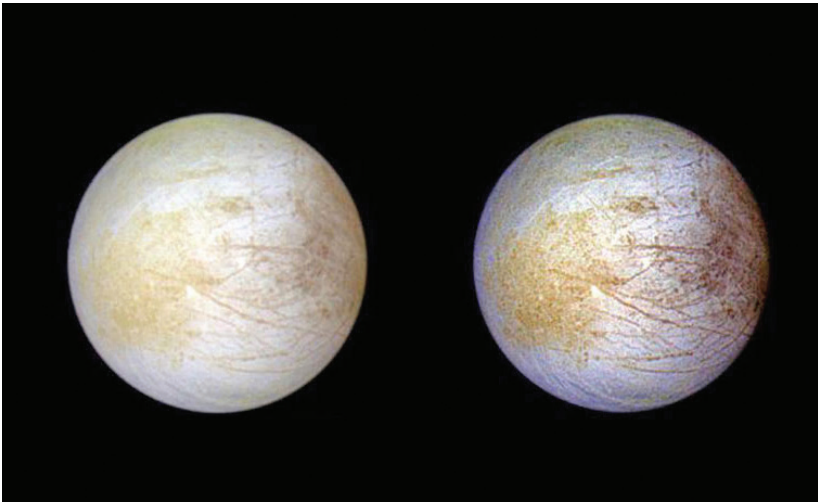
Researchers built a detailed simulation to see how space dust is incorporated into the Martian atmosphere. The findings showed meteor dust fuels Mars' cloud formation.

"Our model couldn't form clouds at these altitudes before," Hartwick said. "But now, they're all there, and they seem to be in all the right places."

The clouds found in Mars' middle atmosphere are small and sparse, but they can impact Mars' climate. The research showed the clouds can trigger temperature swings. By studying Mars' clouds and its atmospheric dynamics, researchers might be able to accurately model the evolution of the Red Planet's atmosphere.

(Source: UPI)

## Table salt may be hiding in Europa's underground sea



What flavors our food may also season the sea of Jupiter's moon Europa.

Sulfate salts were thought to lurk in the watery ocean under the moon's icy crust. But data from the Hubble Space Telescope suggest that common table salt dominates the sea's chemistry, researchers report June 12 in Science Advances.

"This could mean that the ocean chemistry is more similar to what we're used to on Earth and what we see at Enceladus, which is an ocean moon of Saturn," says Samantha Trumbo, a graduate student in planetary sciences at Caltech.

The scientists surveyed Europa's chaos terrain, or regions where the surface ice has been heavily disrupted, possibly by material swelling up from below. "If anywhere was going to represent the internal composition, it would be these places," Trumbo says.

Data from the Galileo mission in the 1990s had suggested a hidden sea containing salts, suspected to be sulfates. But later studies on infrared light reflected

from Europa failed to find chemical signatures for sulfates originating in the ocean. New data from Hubble homed in on Europa's visible spectrum and revealed that the chaos terrain of one of the moon's hemispheres contains the fingerprint of irradiated sodium chloride.

When electrons crash into sodium chloride, as is thought to happen on Europa, the collision ejects chloride ions. Electrons fill these vacancies in the salt, changing its color from white to a yellowish hue. That color matches what's seen in some of the moon's rough patches.

Liquid water is thought to be essential for life. If Europa's ocean turns out to be more similar to Earth's than was thought, that could raise tantalizing questions about the moon's ability to support life. "People think that, if there were a place elsewhere in the solar system where there might be life, Europa is a candidate," Trumbo says.

(Source: sciencenews.org)

## Scientists have found evidence a strange group of quantum particles are basically immortal

Nothing lasts forever. Humans, planets, stars, galaxies, maybe even the Universe itself, everything has an expiration date. But things in the quantum realm don't always follow the rules. Now, scientists have found that quasiparticles in quantum systems could be effectively immortal.

That doesn't mean they don't decay, which is reassuring. But once these quasiparticles have decayed, they are able to reorganise themselves back into existence, possibly ad infinitum.

This seemingly flies right in the face of the second law of thermodynamics, which asserts that entropy in an isolated system can only move in an increasing direction: things can only break down, not build back up again.

Of course, quantum physics can get weird with the rules; but even quantum scientists didn't know quasiparticles

were weird in this particular manner.

"Until now, the assumption was that quasiparticles in interacting quantum systems decay after a certain time," said physicist Frank Pollman of the Technical University of Munich.

"We now know that the opposite is the case: strong interactions can even stop decay entirely."

Quasiparticles aren't particles the way we typically think of them, like electrons and quarks. Rather, they're the disturbances or excitations in a solid caused by electrical or magnetic forces that, collectively, behave like particles.

Phonons - the discrete units of vibrational energy that oscillate the atoms in a crystal lattice, for example - are often classified as quasiparticles, as are polarons, electrons trapped in a lattice surrounded by a cloud of polarisation.

The researchers involved with this latest study developed numerical methods for calculating the complex interactions of these quasiparticles, and ran simulations on a powerful computer to observe how they decay.

"The result of the elaborate simulation: admittedly, quasiparticles do decay, however new, identical particle entities emerge from the debris," said physicist Ruben Verresen of the Technical University of Munich and the Max Planck Institute for the Physics of Complex Systems.

"If this decay proceeds very quickly, an inverse reaction will occur after a certain time and the debris will converge again. This process can recur endlessly and a sustained oscillation between decay and rebirth emerges."

(Source: sciencealert.com)

## Used SpaceX rocket launches three Earth imaging satellites into orbit

SpaceX used a previously launched rocket to carry a trio of Earth-observing satellites into space last week.

In March, a two-stage Falcon 9 rocket was used to launch the SpaceX Demo-1 mission, the first orbital test of the Crew Dragon spacecraft. On Wednesday, the reusable rocket blasted-off from California's Vandenberg Air Force Base with a payload featuring three Canadian Space Agency satellites.

The so-called Radarsat Constellation Mission's three satellites will be used to image planet Earth in radio-wavelength light. The Radarsat program began in 1995. The program's inaugural satellite operated from 1995 through 2013. Radarsat-2 has been orbiting Earth since December 2007. The new satellites will form a Radarsat foursome. The three satellites will orbit Earth at an altitude of 370 miles.

According to a press release from SpaceX, the new C-band Synthetic Aperture Radar satellites will aid the Canadian government's maritime surveillance abilities, as well as its ecosystem and climate change monitoring efforts. The satellites' images will also prove useful to disaster relief efforts.

"Built by MDA, a Maxar company, the three-satellite configuration of the RCM will provide daily revisits of Canada's vast territory and maritime approaches, including the Arctic up to 4 times a day, as well as daily access to any point of 90 percent of the world's surface," SpaceX wrote.

Images collected by the satellites will be used to map the North Atlantic, the Arctic Ocean and the Great Lakes, as well as to develop climate models useful to farmers.

According to NASASpaceFlight.com, the satellites can produce images at resolutions between 16 and 164 feet and boasting widths of 12 to 218 miles.

(Source: UPI)



## Meybod worthy of being world city for Zilou, WCC-APR director says

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — World Crafts Council-Asia Pacific Region Director Ghada Hijavi has said that Iran’s Meybod deserves bearing the tile “World City for Zilou”, which the council bestowed it in 2018.

“The people’s love and affection for the art of Zilou-weaving and their efforts to preserve this art makes it possible to survive the title for the city,” she said.



WCC-APR Director Ghada Hijavi visits a crafts workshop in Iran’s Meybod, June 17, 2019.

“In the workshops that I visited, women were active... and this presence and activity should be continued in the light of holding training courses and the development of workshops.”

Hijavi attended a major festival of Zilou, which the oasis city hosted from June 13 to 17. Zilou is a traditional type of floor covering usually in blue and white.

According to the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization, Iran’s exports of handicrafts fetched some \$289 million in the past Iranian year 1397 (ended March 20), showing three percent growth year on year.

## Turkey, Russia vow to increase mutual tourism

Russia and Turkey agreed on June 17 to expand cooperation in tourism and strengthen cultural ties at the opening of a joint festival in St. Petersburg.

Speaking at a news conference in St. Petersburg, Turkey’s Vice Consul General Taner Arican noted that Russia sends the most tourists to Turkey every year.

Last year, six million Russian tourists came to Turkey, with 20% from- St. Petersburg, Arican said, opening an international festival “Saint Petersburg-Turkey”.

“Turks like and know Saint Petersburg as an extremely beautiful city with its centuries-old history. We respect its culture and traditions. Thanks to such events as this festival, we hope to develop our cooperation and get to know each other more closely,” he said.

Arican said the “Saint Petersburg - Turkey” festival included a photo contest on “Petersburg through the eyes of the Turks. Istanbul through the eyes of the Russians,” as well as a photo exhibition, a performance of Turkish shadow theater “Karagoz”, and a cross-exhibition of Russian and Turkish artists in St. Petersburg and Istanbul.

Also, in the framework of the festival, an information desk on St. Petersburg was opened in Ankara.

(Source: Hurriyet daily news)



## ROUND THE GLOBE

### Grimeton Radio Station

A UNESCO World Heritage, the Varberg Radio Station at Grimeton in southern Sweden is an exceptionally well-preserved monument to early wireless transatlantic communication.

The property consists of the transmitter equipment, including the aerial system of six 127-m high steel towers.

Located on the Swedish west coast, it lies within the “great circle” – an area without obstacles to radio waves – that is centered on New York, the hub of the transatlantic transmitting system.



The station property consists of the transmitter equipment, including the aerial system with six enormous steel towers each 127 meters high, buildings housing the original Alexanderson transmitter, and short-wave transmitters with their antennae, as well as a residential area with staff housing.

The station’s main buildings, built in the neoclassical style, were designed by architect Carl Akerblad, and the antenna towers – the tallest constructions in Sweden at that time – were designed by structural engineer Professor Henrik Kreuger.

Although the station is no longer in regular use, its equipment is maintained in operating condition. This property is an outstanding illustration of the development of telecommunications. It stands as a testimony to the earliest part of a new era of communications.

The Grimeton Radio Station, which is still fully operational, retains all the significant elements linked to early wireless telecommunication, including the pre-electronic Alexanderson transmitter equipment housed in its neoclassical building as well as the comprehensive aerial system with towers and antennae.

(Source: UNESCO)

# Iranian president inaugurates new airport terminal

**TOURISM**  
d e s k

**TEHRAN** — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Tuesday inaugurated a new passenger terminal within the Imam Khomeini International Airport in southern Tehran.

The domestically-constructed “Salam Terminal” has a capacity to transport five million passengers per year and is planned to operate both domestic and international flights, Mehr reported.

The president, accompanied by a delegation, visited different parts of the terminal before performing the inauguration ceremony.

Addressing the ceremony, Rouhani said, “I am glad that today, in the wake of the toughest economic sanctions, we have achieved a success in the air industry of the country.”

“The people of Iran will disappoint the enemies by being hopeful and fervent, preventing them from reaching their goals,” ikac.ir quoted Rouhani as saying.

“Despite all hardships and pressures that the enemies have imposed on us with the aim of convincing our people that the country’s development has stopped and the people are hopeless about the future, we are witnessing new developments in the economy of the country every day.”

“The opening of this terminal is different from other economic projects; it means cooperation and unity among different sectors in completing such an important social, economic and cultural project,” the president explained.

Referring to tourism as a key goal of the government, Rouhani said, “Development of the country’s air industry is the best



Iranian President Hassan Rouhani delivers a speech at the inauguration ceremony of “Salam Terminal” in the Imam Khomeini International Airport, June 18, 2019.

and easiest way for the development of the tourism industry”.

“Today, we are able to provide other countries with services in many technical and engineering fields, in a way that officials of foreign countries state in bilateral meetings that the Iranian companies’ quality and pace are so much better than other countries,” he said.

IKAC CEO Ali Rostami’s talk in

the ceremony, defined domestic development of the gigantic structure, saying: “The terminal was designed and built by an Iranian expert team under the sanctioned conditions of the country and the Salam International Terminal has been set up completely by domestic firms.”

“Today, despite sanctions and pressures, our airplanes and air industry

## Underground cave found in central Iran

**HERITAGE**  
d e s k

**TEHRAN** — Iranian researchers have so far explored some 500 meters of an underground cave, found in Barzok region of Kashan county, Isfahan province.

“Up to the moment, between 500 and 600 meters from this beautiful cave, which has corridors and various spaces, has been revealed, however, access to other spaces is not possible due to narrow paths,” a local academic said, IRNA reported on Monday.

The cave, which was accidentally found beneath a residential house, has four paths that are extended some 100 to 150 meters in length. The paths are mainly oriented towards the Barzok Marjanan mountain, Mohammad Mashhadi-Noushabadi said.

“Of other sections of the cave are four rooms each measuring four to five meters in length and width. Approximate height of one of which reaches 10 meters,” he said.



## Wanted: Someone to eat ribs and travel the country. Salary: \$5000 a week

Summer barbecue just got a whole lot tastier.

Reynolds Wrap is looking for someone to travel across the United States in search of the tastiest ribs. If the savory barbecue wasn’t enough, they’re also handing out a \$10,000 check to go along with it.

“If you don’t mind being paid to taste some of the most delicious BBQ ribs across

the country, posting envy-inducing pictures of your food and falling asleep every night dreaming about your next rack of ribs, then you could have what it takes to be the next Reynolds Wrap® Chief Grilling Officer,” the company states in a news release.

The person chosen will travel across the country for the first two weeks of

August in search of the best barbecue in America. Along the way, the CGO will be in charge of posting photos, grilling techniques and other multimedia on the company’s website and social media channels.

An influencer for rib lovers, basically. The position includes prepaid travel and lodging for you and a guest. The

hardest part will be picking who goes with you.

Those interested in applying need to submit a photo of themselves grilling along with 100 words about why they would be the best fit for the position. Apply by Wednesday, June 19, at midnight CT on the Reynolds Wrap website.

(Source: CNN)

## Fossil teeth reveal ancient hyenas in the Arctic

Modern hyenas are known as hunters and scavengers in Asian and African ecosystems such as the savanna.

But in ancient times, these powerful carnivores also roamed a very different landscape, inhabiting the frigid Arctic during the last Ice Age, according to a new study led by the University at Buffalo.

The research, which will be published on June 18 in the journal Open Quaternary, reports on the first known fossils of hyenas from the Arctic. The study and all information in this press release are embargoed until 6 a.m. U.S. Eastern Time on Tuesday, June 18.

The study reveals that two ice age fossil teeth discovered in Yukon Territory in Canada belonged to the so-called “running hyena” Chasmaporthetes. The specimens, recovered in the 1970s, were tentatively thought to be from hyenas by previous paleontologists, but the new paper is the first to confirm the fossils’ identity and report on them in detail, assigning them a genus based on comparisons to a global sample of hyena fossils.

The findings fill an important gap in scientists’ knowledge of how hyenas reached North America. Previously, Chasmaporthetes fossils had been found as far north as Mongolia in Asia and the southern United States in North America, with no sites in between.

“Fossils of this genus of hyenas had been found in Africa, Europe and Asia, and also in the southern United States. But where and how did these animals get to North America? The teeth we studied, even though they were just two teeth, start to answer those questions,” says paleontologist Jack Tseng, Ph.D., the paper’s first author and an assistant professor of pathology and anatomical sciences in the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at UB.

### ■ How hyenas got to North America

Ancient hyenas likely entered North America via Beringia, an area, including Alaska and Yukon Territory, that connects Asia with North America during periods of low sea levels. From there, the animals made their way south all the way to Mexico, scientists say.



This Ice Age fossil tooth -- tucked away for years in the collections of the Canadian Museum of Nature -- belonged to the ‘running hyena’ Chasmaporthetes, according to a new University at Buffalo-led study.

The newly described fossils are important in part because they provide the first proof of ancient hyenas living in Beringia.

“It is amazing to imagine hyenas thriving in the harsh conditions above the Arctic Circle during the ice age,” says study co-author Grant Zazula, Ph.D., Government of Yukon paleontologist. “Chasmaporthetes probably hunted herds of ice age caribou and horses or scavenged carcasses of mammoths on the vast steppe-tundra that stretched from Siberia to Yukon Territory.”

“Our previous understanding of where these far-ranging hyenas lived was based on fossil records in southern North America on one hand, and Asia, Europe and Africa on the other,” Tseng says. “These rare records of hyenas in the Arctic fill in a massive gap in a location where we expected evidence of their crossing between continents, but had no proof until now.”

The fossil teeth are most likely between about 1.4

is working; this is normal for a country that has no problem buying airliners and maintenance parts, but in our country, we are achieving that under pressures and problems.”

On June 8, the terminal was fully passed the test Operational Readiness and Airport Transfer (ORAT) to ensure a smart and streamlined operational readiness preparation.

Currently, IKIA only carries out international flights. But plans are underway to transfer a portion of domestic flights to Imam Khomeini International Airport after the inauguration of Salam Terminal.

IKIA has been distinguished as the third fastest-growing major airport in the world, Mehr reported. “Reportedly, plans are underway to add another terminal to the airport.”

Back in May, Kjell Kloosterziel, the head of steering committee at the Netherlands Airport Consultants (NACO), paid a visit to the passenger terminal, saying that he felt it has been a success.

The Salaam International Terminal is a successful project for the country’s airport industry and “I think you can be only proud of your country,” Kloosterziel said.

Imam Khomeini International Airport registered 47,446 takeoffs and landings in the last Iranian fiscal year that ended March 20, 2019 to register a 19% decline. Over 7.27 million passengers and around 141,704 tons of cargos were transported from the airport during the period to be ranked third on the list of Iran’s busiest airports. The figures show a 19% and 14% decline year on year.



# Cool down with eating and drinking during heat waves

By Setareh Behrooz

Nature provides you great options to cool down your body during hot days of summer. Being outdoors more often—and sweating—increases risk for health problems such as dehydration, skin sensitivities, and vitamin and mineral deficiencies.

But the good news is that there is a delicious solution for it. Eat and use in-season fruits. Their nutrients are highest in summer.

Here is some suggestions proposed by the Iranian expert Nasrin Haj Seyyed Javadi of the National Nutrition and Food Technology Research Institute, according to Shafaonline website.

## ■ Sip on cooling drink

Summer inspires us to sip more water and other drinks. Drinking hydrate, refresh and cool down our bodies.

In hot season, syrups and drinks made from lemon, flixweed seed, sekanjebin (made from vinegar and mint), chicory extract (Kasni) as well as low-fat milk, doogh and other natural fruit juices are great options, which make you feel cool.

## ■ Meat vs. grains

Decrease the consumption of meat during summer and replace it with grains like lentil, beans, split peas and chickpea, which makes you feel full longer.

The number of meals should be increased in order to decrease their volume.

Remember that foods that contain more fat, protein and complex carbohydrates heat the body up while digesting that food.



The temperature difference of cold foods have an initial cooling effect, but when your body starts digesting the food or drink, your body temperature rises as your body produces energy to digest what you have eaten or drunk.

## ■ Dairy

Dairy especially yoghurt is a good replacement for meat as well. Yoghurt is a great combination of protein, calcium and carbohydrates, which has active microorganisms improving body immunity system.

Date, honey, sweet foods as well as some spices like pepper increase body activity and provides warmth to your entire body.

Interestingly enough, chilies actually cool us down through evaporative cooling by enhancing circulation and causing us to perspire.

## ■ Yoghurt and cucumber

The mixture is one of the good option for a meal during summer. You can add herbs, walnut and raisin to it and use it as a dip with traditional bread.

**Decrease the consumption of meat during summer and replace it with grains like lentil, beans, split peas and chickpea, which makes you feel full longer.**

## FDA to publish list of approved traditional medicines



**HEALTH DESK** TEHRAN — The list of traditional and herbal medicines approved by the Iranian Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will be published by the end of the Iranian month of Tir (July 22), said the director of FDA's department for natural and traditional supplements.

According to Mahnaz Khanavi, the list will be available to the public after its completion, IRIB reported on Sunday. "80% of the traditional medicines and 50% of herbal medicines are now on the list, and the rest will be added by the end of Tir," said Khanavi.

"All the traditional and natural supplements that have received license for production or being imported into the country, will be on this list and if any new items are to be added, they first need to be examined by the council; if any supplement already exist we won't issue permit for their production or import," she added.

"The list of all natural and traditional medicines and food supplements are al-

ready available on the FDA's website and the list is updated every three months, but the new list will be an official document and guideline to the public, with the history and facts about every item," said Khanavi.

In mid-April, the national council for science and technology development of medicinal and aromatic plants and traditional medicine announced that it supports over 170 innovative products in over 150 knowledge-based companies.

Meanwhile, the vice president for science and technology Sourena Sattari has announced that 170 knowledge-based companies active in medical herb industry are influential in value-added chain.

According to the World Health Organization, traditional herbal medicines are naturally occurring, plant-derived substances with minimal or no industrial processing that have been used to treat illness within local or regional healing practices. Traditional herbal medicines are getting significant attention in global health debates.

## Swiss Embassy representatives visit MAHAK



**HEALTH DESK** TEHRAN — Erwin Bollinger, Attorney, LLM, Head of Bilateral Economic Relations Division and Federal Council Delegate for Trade Agreements along with other representatives from the Swiss Embassy paid a visit to MAHAK, a charity society dedicated to treating pediatric cancer in Iran, on Sunday.

After the tour around MAHAK hospital, a meeting was held with the presence of the CEO of MAHAK and members of MAHAK's boards of trustees and directors along with representatives from the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, Iran-Swiss Chamber of commerce and the Swiss Embassy in Iran.

At the beginning of the meeting Javad Karbassizadeh, the chairman of MAHAK's board of directors welcomed the Swiss delegation and appreciated their concern about cancer-stricken children.

Bollinger, after listening to an introduction regarding the achievements of MAHAK Charity during the past 28 years, said: "Thank you for providing us with the opportunity of having this visit. I'm impressed with all

■ **Bread, cheese and watermelon**  
As a meal, it is a great choice for those with warm temperament.

■ **Bread, cheese, cucumber and tomato**

It is one of the most appropriate options for hot season, which can be great with some scallion and dried mint.

■ **Limit caffeine and carbonated soft drinks**

Foods with cold temperament makes your body cool down. Carbonated soft drinks and drinks like coffee should be limited during summer. Although tea is an exception due to its cold temperament, which cools the body.

Green tea with summer fruit flavor would be the best choice.

## ■ Magic fruits and herbs in summer

Different herbs and fruits are available during summer. They can be used fresh as a salad.

Carrot, watermelon, melon and peach are great options, which can provide water for body as well as fibers.

Watermelon and melon has a small amount of energy but great amount of water. Composed of 32 percent water, watermelon is considered as a detox food.

Like melon and watermelon, grape detoxify your blood brings you freshness. With high amount of sugar, it is a good option to provide energy in hot weather.

Cherry, fig, peach and apricot are other fruits that can be used during hot weather.

Most of them have laxative nature and they contain low calories.

## Iran exports medicine to 30 countries

**HEALTH DESK** TEHRAN — Iranian medicines are exported to 30 countries, announced the acting director of Food and Drug Administration.

Mohammadreza Shanesaz said a special department for "national production" might be opened in Food and Drug Administration to further support the domestic production of medicines, ISNA reported on Monday.

"The necessary paperwork for establishing this department is being prepared. Anyway, we have to expand our support for local producers and knowledge-based companies to smooth out this process," Shanesaz remarked.

According to Shanesaz, Currently, 120 factories in the country produce medicine and 70 factories produce raw pharmaceutical materials. There are also 56 distributing companies and 12,000 pharmacies all around the country.

"Fortunately, we have now the capacity to produce any new medicine that are deemed necessary in only two years," he said.

According to Shanesaz, the Health Ministry has decided for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to open a "base" in the ministry.



"The FDA base can constantly screen the inventory of medicines and raw materials, so that no problem will arise. This office will also expedite the process of supplying and distributing the pharmaceuticals," he added.

In January, the vice president for science and technology Sourena Sattari announced that Knowledge-based companies meet about 97 percent of the domestic market's need to medicine which saves \$550 million for the country.

## When healthy eating becomes a dangerous obsession

When eating healthy becomes an around-the-clock obsession, it could be a sign of trouble.

An extreme preoccupation with clean eating is an eating order called orthorexia nervosa. Though less well-known than anorexia nervosa or bulimia -- and not as well-documented -- a new study review says orthorexia can also have serious emotional and physical consequences.

"Orthorexia is really more than just healthy eating," said review co-author Jennifer Mills, an associate professor of health at York University in Toronto. "It's healthy eating taken to the extreme, where it's starting to cause problems for people in their lives and starting to feel quite out of control."

The review of published research from around the world on the disorder was recently published in the journal *Appetite*.

Mills and her colleague Sarah McComb looked at risk factors and links between orthorexia and other mental disorders. Orthorexia, unlike some other eating disorders, is not yet recognized in the standard psychiatric manuals.

## ■ Healthy eating to the extreme

No clear line divides healthy eating from orthorexia's extreme eating.

The foods someone with orthorexia might avoid are the same as those someone with healthy habits might avoid -- such as preservatives, anything artificial, salt, sugar, fat, dairy, other animal products, genetically modified foods or those that aren't organic.

It boils down to whether avoiding foods leads to obsession -- excessive time and energy thinking and fretting about what to eat. Some people may eliminate numerous categories of food and eat only a very small number of things. People with orthorexia are typically less concerned about cutting calories than with the perceived quality of their food.

"They often are taking more and more time thinking about the foods they're needing to purchase, particular foods, that makes it really difficult for them to just live their lives," said Lauren Smolar, who wasn't involved with the review. She is director of programs for the nonprofit National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA). "It can result in malnutrition or weight loss in a really difficult and potentially dangerous way."

A person with orthorexia might be so focused on types of food and how that food is prepared that it becomes impossible to eat anything not made at home.

"It can lead to all kinds of related problems, like isolation, or not being able to eat at other people's houses or not being able to eat in a restaurant for fear that the food won't have been prepared in a very pure, clean way," Mills said. "Those are the kinds of things that might lead someone to feel that it's taking over their life."

Cultural trends could be fueling those fears, Mills said. With the internet and social media, people have unlimited access to information -- some of it good and some not based on scientific evidence.

Eating trends that restrict certain foods are concerning, said Smolar, who added that dieting is one of the biggest triggers for eating disorders. All foods are good in moderation, she said, and a diverse diet is best.

Though many think of eating disorders as a problem affecting young women, orthorexia appears to be experienced equally by men and women, the study found.

People who follow a vegan or vegetarian diet or who have a poor body image are at a higher risk.

For some, the underlying cause is another eating disorder, and clean eating is seen as a socially acceptable way to restrict calories, Mills said. For others, obsessive-compulsive or anxiety disorder may manifest in the need to eat in this very rigid way.

"In that sense it is very similar to what we see in other kinds of obsessive-compulsive disorder, where somebody might be afraid that they're going to get sick or they're going to be getting exposed to germs if they don't wash their hands enough or if they don't do something in a very particular way," Mills said.

## ■ Getting help

Orthorexia should be taken seriously, Mills said. Talk to your primary care doctor about any concerns. Meeting with a psychologist who specializes in anxiety disorders, eating disorders or body image also can be helpful, she said.

(Source: WebMD)

## Phantom sensations: The mystery of how brains process touch

Have you ever thought someone had touched your left arm when, in fact, they had reached for your right one? Scientists know this phenomenon as a phantom sensation, and it may help shed light on how the human brain processes touch.

Have you ever experienced a phantom sensation? A new study begins to unravel the mystery.

The human brain holds many mysteries, and this is illustrated most clearly by the existence of a range of phenomena, such as phantom limb pain. This particular phenomenon occurs when a person believes they can detect pain or other tactile sensations in a limb that they have lost through amputation.

Some people experience tactile hallucinations, in which they mistakenly believe they feel a sensation when, in fact, no factors could have induced it.

Tactile hallucinations usually occur in individuals living with a psychological condition, such as schizophrenia. However, people who are entirely mentally and physically healthy can also experience a similar phenomenon.

For instance, when a person receives a touch on their left hand, they may believe that they felt this touch in their left foot or vice versa. Scientists call this a phantom sensation, and researchers are still puzzled as to why this phenomenon occurs.

In a new study, whose findings appear in *Current Biology*, a team of researchers from New York University and the Universities of Hamburg and Bielefeld in Germany explain in more detail what characterizes phantom sensations.



They argue that a better understanding of this phenomenon could help specialists decipher similar mysteries, including phantom limb pain.

"The limitations of the previous explanations for how and where our brain processes touch become apparent when it comes to individuals who have had parts of their bodies amputated or suffer from neurological diseases," notes study coauthor Prof. Tobias Heed. He emphasizes that to this day, scientists know surprisingly little about how the human brain processes the sensation of touch.

"People who have had a hand or a leg amputated often report phantom sensations in these limbs," Prof. Heed observes.

"But where exactly does this false perception come from?"

■ **A changing understanding of brain processes**  
Previously, scientists thought that our conscious perception of where a touch occurred stems from a topographical map in the brain. Following this assumption, parts of the body, such as the hands, feet, or the face are represented on this map," says Prof. Heed.

However, this new study, which focuses on fully healthy participants, indicates that the way the brain attributes sensations of touch is much more complicated.

"Our new findings [...] demonstrate that other characteristics of touch are also used to attribute a touch to parts of the body," Prof. Heed notes.

In the current study, the investigators conducted five different experiments, each of which involved the collaboration of between 12 and 20 healthy adults. In each experiment, the participants agreed to have tactile stimulators attached to their hands and feet.

The researchers used these stimulators to generate touch sensations in two different parts of the body in quick succession and then asked the participants to report where they had felt the touches. Prof. Heed and team repeated this test several hundred times for each participant.

"Remarkably, in 8% of all cases, subjects attributed the first touch to a part of the body that had not even been touched -- this is a kind of phantom sensation," says lead author Stephanie Badde.

(source: medical news today)



## FDA to penalize manufacturers producing unlabeled GM foods

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — Iran’s Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will penalize food manufacturers who have not labeled genetically modified (GM) food products, Vahid Mofid, the caretaker of the FDA department of food and beverages has announced.

“We obliged the manufacturers to affix GMO labels to all genetically modified products since 6 months ago,” he added, IRNA reported on Sunday.



All food products containing ingredients derived from GMOs must be labeled, including soybean and corn oil, rapeseed and cottonseed, he also noted.

He went on to say that eight laboratories in addition to the Energy & Power Industries Laboratories Company can test the products in terms of containing GM organism.

Labeling the products is merely done out of respect for the customer and providing the consumer with different choices and has nothing to do with the product’s safety and health, he concluded.

### ■ Why genetically modified food should be labeled?

GM foods stem mostly from plants, but in the future foods derived from GM microorganisms or GM animals are likely to be introduced on the market. Most existing GM crops have been developed to improve yield, according to World Health Organization.

GM foods are being produced at a lower price than organic foods and are believed to have a greater benefit in terms of durability and nutritional values.

Answering to the question whether GM foods are safe or not WHO explains that foods currently available on the international market have passed safety assessments and are not likely to present risks for human health.

In addition, no effects on human health have been shown as a result of the consumption of such foods by the general population in the countries where they have been approved. Continuous application of safety assessments based on the Codex Alimentarius principles and, where appropriate, adequate post market monitoring, should form the basis for ensuring the safety of GM foods.

Nonetheless, those consumers who are concerned with the health hazards of such products can choose organic products or at least try to learn more about genetic engineering and decide what’s best for them and their families.

In Iran many are opposed to the use and importation of genetically modified food. In late May a public spearheaded campaign dubbed “no to genetically modified organisms” has called on the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei to legally ban production and importation of any kinds of GMOs in or to the country.

Moreover, according to the European Commission nineteen out of the 28 member state countries of the European Union have voted to either partially or fully ban GMOs. This comes after the European Commission called for each EU nation to vote if they wanted to opt out of having to grow GMO crops even if they were allowed to do so within the boundaries of the EU.

Several countries such as France, Germany, Austria, Greece, Hungary, the Netherlands, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Bulgaria, Poland, Denmark, Malta, Slovenia, Italy and Croatia have chosen a total ban. Wallonia, the French-speaking region of Belgium has opted out, as well as Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Flemish region of Belgium, England and Romania are open to GMOs.

## WORDS IN THE NEWS

### Mobile phone technology

(August 17, 2000)  
Mobile phone technology is improving all the time. Soon it may be possible to get the Internet on your phone. But, would you want it? BBC Science correspondent Toby Murcott reported. Current mobile phones have a very small **bandwidth** and sending data is slow and **cumbersome**. Even so, a technology known as WAP - Wireless Application Protocol - has been available for about a year and offers a kind of **miniature** internet on a mobile phone. WAP was heavily **promoted** when **launched** but has not **lived up to** the early predictions. The slow speeds and limited service mean that WAP is seen more as **a curiosity** than a serious **replacement** for the Internet. However, the next generation of mobile phones will have much greater bandwidth and offer a far wider range of services. They **predict** that the **vast** majority of internet connections will be by mobile communication **devices** closer to pocket computers than **portable** telephones. The technology for this is being developed but **it remains to be seen** whether people really will want to **swap** large clear desktop computers for tiny screens in their pockets.

■ **Words**  
**bandwidth:** the amount of information or data that a mobile phone can send and receive at the same time is described as its bandwidth  
**cumbersome:** inconvenient  
**miniature:** very small, tiny  
**promoted:** something that is promoted is advertised and publicized  
**launched:** when a product is launched it is released to the public for the first time so that they can buy it  
**lived up to :** if you live up to something then you do what others believe you are able to do  
**a curiosity:** something with novelty value but not taken seriously is a curiosity  
**replacement:** a replacement is something which takes the place of another object or, in this case, form of technology  
**predict:** if you make an educated guess about what will happen in the future, then you predict  
**vast:** big, huge  
**devices:** small tools and machines are devices  
**portable:** something you can carry is portable  
**it remains to be seen:** ...it has not yet been proven whether.....  
**to swap:** if you swap something then you exchange it for something else  
(Source: BBC)

# Iran becoming more vulnerable to desertification

**ENVIRONMENT** **TEHRAN** — Desertification and land degradation are seriously threatening our planet and lives of millions of people accordingly.

Iran is also becoming more vulnerable to desertification and currently, according to the Forests, Range and Watershed Management Organization, 100 million hectares of the country’s land area is threatened by desertification.

Iran, being an arid and semi-arid country, has lower precipitation and higher evaporation rate compared to world averages which both increase the country’s vulnerability to land degradation and desertification, Khosro Shahbazi deputy director for aquifer management at the Forests, Range and Watershed Management Organization told ISNA news agency on Tuesday.

The United Nations’ official definition says desertification is land degradation in typically dry areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities.

According to NASA, scientists are beginning to say that desertification is a reduction in the productivity of the land that is not reversible. In other words, land is desertified when it can no longer support the same plant growth it had in the past, and the change is permanent on a human time scale. Many things can cause desertification.

Drought, overgrazing, fire, and deforestation can thin out vegetation, leaving exposed soil. If the nutrient-rich top soil blows or washes away, plants may not be able to return. Overfarming or drought can change the soil



so that rain no longer penetrates, and the plants lose the water they need to grow. If the changing force is lifted—drought ends or cattle are removed, for example—but the land cannot recover, it is desertified. The loss of productive land for a season or even a few years is one thing, but to lose it effectively forever is clearly far more serious.

Shahbazi went on to expolain that currently 32.5 million hectares of lands in the country are decertified.

More than 20 million hectares of lands in 22 provinces, namely Sistan-Baluchestan, Semnan, Kerman, Isfahan, Markazi, Khuzestan, Khorasan Razavi, South and North Khorasan are prone to wind erosion, he regretted.

## Alborz province sinks 29cm annually, NCC warns

**ENVIRONMENT** **TEHRAN** — Iran’s National Cartographic Center (NCC) has warned that northcentral Alborz province, adjacent to Tehran, is suffering from land subsidence by an annual rate of 29 centimeters, which must be tackled before incurring great loss, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

Land subsidence, a gradual settling or sudden sinking of the Earth’s surface due to subsurface movement of earth materials is mainly caused by aquifer-system compaction, drainage and decomposition of organic soils, underground mining, oil and gas extraction, hydro compaction, natural compaction, sinkholes, and thawing permafrost.

Masoud Shafiei, the NCC director, in a letter to responsible officials has warned about the phenomenon and requested them to take urgent measures.

According to a study carried out by the NCC, the area most affected by subsidence is Alborz province, as an area of 700 square kilometers is running down with the highest annual rate of 29 centimeter.

Mehrshahr country is also subsiding at a rate of 18 centimeters annually, in addition to other counties running down by 5 to 8 centimeters.

Earlier in June, Ali Beitollahi, secretary of the national working group on natural



disasters said that 18 densely populated provinces are vastly subsiding and consequently become increasingly vulnerable to flooding and natural incidents as well as bearing huge infrastructure damage.

Excessive groundwater withdrawal, Inefficient irrigation methods in addition to digging illegal wells are the main causes of groundwater extraction-induced subsidence, as out of 50,000 wells pumping underground water resources in the capital, 30,000 are illegal not having a permit, therefore, the country’s ground water condition is worrisome, he added.

In September 2018, geologist Mohammad Javad Bolourchi said that in the Iranian calendar year 1384 (March 2005-March 2006), the subsidence rate in Tehran plain has been measured at 17 centimeters a year, it has been measured 12 centimeters in Varamin county, in southern Tehran.

## National program for leopard conservation to be implemented

**ENVIRONMENT** **TEHRAN** — A national leopard conservation plan which was developed some four years ago, will be implemented in the country by the Department of Environment (DOE), Arezoo Sane’ei, director for Asian Leopard Specialist Society has said.

In the Iranian calendar year 1391 (March 2012- March 2013), a comprehensive plan centering on conservation, management, raising awareness, research and monitoring of Persian Leopard was proposed, which was fully drawn up three years later.

The program which brings together the responsible officials, and NGOs as well as academic society, finally will go into effect thanks to the DOE’s efforts, she added.

Although, no budget has been earmarked in this regard, the implementation is possible in case of the responsible bodies cooperation and using available resources, she highlighted.

Pointing out that the plan has been designed with numerous organizations cooperating in this regard, she noted that some 47 related organizations have been tasked with implementing the plans, IRNA reported on Sunday.

## System to be set up for monitoring, forecasting agricultural drought

**ENVIRONMENT** **TEHRAN** — A system will be launched to monitor, forecast and report the agricultural lands being hit by drought, Amir Qaderi, an official with Disaster Management Organization has announced.

Over a meeting of a special working group for addressing drought and risks threatening agricultural sector, a plan for establishing a system for monitoring and forecasting agricultural drought in the country was approved and submitted to the Disaster Management Organization for review, he explained.

“Following the study of other countries’ experiences and existing global methods, the necessity of establishing a domestic system to recognize the lands prone to agricultural drought was emphasized,” he noted.

He went on to add that the plan was prepared in a collaborative initiative between the research centers of the country’s Meteorological Organization and Soil Conservation and Watershed Management Research Institute affiliated to the Ministry of Agriculture.

The plan is very valuable and its implementation is one of the basic requirements in risk management and agricultural drought crisis in the country, Qaderi highlighted.

He further concluded that the budget

In a video message released in advance of the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, marked on Monday, UN Secretary-General António Guterres warned that the world loses 24 billion tons of fertile land every year, and that the degradation in land quality is responsible for a reduction in the national domestic product of up to eight per cent every year.

UN Chief Guterres said that “desertification, land degradation and drought are major threats affecting millions of people worldwide, particularly women and children.”

Guterres said that it is time to “urgently” change such trends, adding that protecting and restoring land can “reduce forced migration, improve food security and spur economic growth”, as well as helping to address the “global climate emergency”.

The UN says by 2025, two-thirds of the world will be living under “water-stressed” conditions – when demand outstrips supply during certain periods – with 1.8 billion people experience absolute water scarcity, where a region’s natural water resources are inadequate to supply the demand. Migration is likely to increase as a result of desertification, with the UN estimating that, by 2045, it will be responsible for the displacement of some 135 million people.

Restoring the soil of degraded land, however, can be an important weapon in the fight against the climate crisis. With the land use sector representing almost 25 per cent of total global emissions, the restoration of degraded land has the potential to store up to 3 million tons of carbon annually.



required for the implementation will be provided from disaster management funds, IRNA reported on Sunday.

Agriculture highly depends on climate and is adversely affected by climate extremes caused mainly by anthropogenic climate change and increasing climate variability. Moreover, agricultural production risks and vulnerability of agriculture may become an issue in several regions around the world as mainly droughts and heat waves are likely to increase the incidence of crop failure.

Indeed, drought is considered one of the major natural hazards with significant impact to environment, society, agriculture and economy. Specifically, agricultural drought refers to the availability of soil water to support crop and forage growth and there is no direct relationship between precipitation and infiltration of precipitation into the soil.

### ENGLISH IN USE

#### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ع

## \$2.8b government aid paid to quake-stricken Kermanshah

The government has so far spent 120 trillion rials (about \$2.8 billion) to make up for the damages caused by earthquake in the western province of Kermanshah, Esmaeil Najjar, head of the National Disaster Management Organization has said.

“Over 104,000 residential units have been destroyed through the earthquake last year, 52,000 of which have been reconstructed,” he explained.

He went on to say that some 23,000 quake-affected houses in villages have been retrofitted and provided to the residents, and some 4,000 houses are being reconstructed for the families residing in rental houses.

### PREFIX/SUFFIX

#### “-iatric, -iatry”

- **Meaning:** medicine
- **For example:** *Pediatric* dentists are good for kids without obvious problems.

### PHRASAL VERB

#### Hit upon something

- **Meaning:** to have an idea or discover something suddenly or unexpectedly; come up with
- **For example:** Then we hit on the idea of asking viewers to donate money over the Net.

### IDIOM

#### Burn your fingers

- **Explanation:** if you burn your fingers (or get your fingers burnt), you suffer financially as a result of foolish behavior
- **For example:** Jack got his fingers burnt playing on the stock market.

## کمک ۱۲ هزار میلیاردی نظام به مناطق زلزله زده کرمانشاه

اسماعیل نجار رئیس سازمان مدیریت بحران کشور گفت: نظام ۱۲ هزار میلیارد تومان برای بازسازی مناطق زلزله زده کرمانشاه هزینه کرده است. وی گفت: در جریان زلزله کرمانشاه، ۱۰۴ هزار واحد مسکونی تخریب شد و ۵۲ هزار واحد مسکونی احداث شده است.

وی با اشاره به اینکه ۲۳ هزار واحد روستایی ساخته شده و در اختیار ساکنان قرار گرفته است، افزود: برای سه تا چهار هزار خانوار مستأجر کرمانشاهی نیز تعیین تکلیف شده و برای آنها سرپناهی در حال احداث است.



# Muslim Brotherhood brands Morsi's death 'murder'

➤1 Meanwhile, Mohamed Morsi was buried on Tuesday in eastern Cairo, his son said.

He was buried at dawn alongside other senior figures of the Muslim Brotherhood, his son, Ahmed Morsi, said on his Facebook page.

The burial was attended by members of the family in Cairo's Madinat Nasr after authorities refused to grant permission for a burial in Morsi's home province of Sharqiya in the Nile Delta, Ahmed Morsi said.

"We washed his noble body at Tora prison hospital, performed prayers for him in the prison mosque ... the burial was at the cemetery for Muslim Brotherhood spiritual guides," Ahmed wrote.

Morsi's lawyer, Abdel Moneim Abdel Maksoud, confirmed the burial took place in Al-Wafaa wa al-Amal cemetery early on Tuesday.

Amnesty International said the Egyptian government bears responsibility for the death of the former president, amid pressing international demands for a fair and transparent investigation into the circumstances surrounding his final hours.

Rami Khouri, from the American Univer-

sity of Beirut, said military governments in the Middle East and North Africa are now worse than ever in the treatment of their civilian populations.

"The extent of the brutality of which the Egyptian and other Arab governments are doing - jailing tens of thousands of people, arresting people simply because of an opinion they expressed on social media, preventing any kind of free media ... as well as torture and fake trials - this is much worse than it's ever been in the Arab world," Khouri told Al Jazeera.

"This is the double tragedy. Not only were Morsi and the Muslim Brothers and their democratic allies crushed after 2012, but the pressure against them has become even more brutal ... These things need to be exposed to daylight and be analysed honestly and accurately."

According to Egyptian authorities, a medical report showed no apparent recent injuries on Morsi's body.

## Iran extends condolences for Morsi's death

Iran was extending condolences to the Egyptian nation over the death of Egypt's



ousted former president, Mohammed Morsi.

The Foreign Ministry's spokesman, Abbas Mousavi, says in a statement that, "while respecting the viewpoints of the great and brave Egyptian nation, the Islamic Republic

of Iran offers its condolences to the Egyptian people, as well as Morsi's family and supporters."

Mousavi's statement added "wishes for divine blessing and mercy" for Morsi.

## Russia slams as 'cover up' U.S. claims on nuke testing

TEHRAN — Russia has slammed as "unfounded" repeated U.S. claims accusing Moscow of conducting nuclear tests beyond the the "zero yield" limit agreed in a nuclear test ban treaty, insisting that the move serves as a "cover up" for Washington's own plans to withdraw from the agreement.

"The United States continues making unfounded accusations over Russia's violation of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)," said the Russian Foreign Ministry in a Monday statement cited by state news agency TASS, in reaction to a June 13 statement issued by the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA).

"We once again stress that all such accusations are absolutely unfounded. They can be only considered as "a cover up" for Washington's steps on leaving the CTBT and resuming full-fledged nuclear tests," the ministry further underlined.

The DIA had claimed in its statement that Russia has carried out tests that caused nuclear explosions. The allegation came following a speech in Washington by DIA Director Lt. Gen. Robert Ashley, in which he suggested Russian violation of the CTBT.

"The United States believes that Russia probably is not adhering to its nuclear testing moratorium in a manner consistent with the 'zero-yield' standard," Ashley asserted on May 29 while addressing the Washington-based con-



servative think tank, The Hudson Institute.

"Zero-yield" refers to a nuclear test where there is no explosive chain reaction of the sort caused by an atomic bomb nuclear warhead.

Asked specifically whether U.S. intelligence agencies had concluded Russia was conducting such tests in violation of the treaty, Ashley added, "They've not affirmed the language of zero yield."

"We believe they have the capability to do it, the way that they're set up," Ashley further stated without pointing to

any concrete evidence verifying the vague claim.

According to Press TV, the CTBT bans all nuclear explosions, either military or civilian, in any type of situation. It's been signed and ratified by Russia, while only signed but not ratified by the U.S.

Moscow strongly rejected Ashley's assertion immediately after his speech last month, when Russia's Permanent Representative to International Organizations in Vienna, Mikhail Ulyanov, insisted in a statement carried by TASS that Moscow does observe the moratorium for nuclear tests. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov also dismissed Ashley's claims as nonsense on May 31.

Russia's foreign ministry further pointed out in its statement on Monday that the U.S. has not even bothered to invent at least a new scheme for fulfilling its plans and is almost completely repeating steps it took in abandoning the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty.

"Apparently, soon we should expect a statement of the U.S. administration that it does not consider it possible to remain in the CTBT, which is allegedly violated by other parties," it added, underlining that the crucial international treaty has become "another object of the destructive U.S. policy on undermining the international architecture of agreements in the sphere of non-proliferation and arms control."

## More than 300,000 flee Congo violence, complicating Ebola fight: UN

More than 300,000 people have fled inter-ethnic violence in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo since early June, complicating the tracing and treatment of patients at risk from Ebola, UN aid agencies said on Tuesday.

At least 161 people have been killed in a northeastern province of Democratic Republic of Congo in the past week, local officials said on Monday, in an apparent resurgence of ethnic clashes between farming and herding communities.

"Violence in northeastern parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo is reported to have displaced more than 300,000 since early June. The situation in Ituri province has deteriorated since the middle of last week, with multiple attacks involving the Hema and Lendu groups," the UN refugee agency spokesman Babar Baloch told a news briefing.

The UNHCR fears that the escalation could engulf large parts of the province, amid reports of killings, kidnappings

and sexual violence unleashed against civilians, he said. The government is trying to bring the clashes under control, he added.

As Congolese flee violence at "this massive scale", fears are that more people will try to seek safety in Uganda, crossing Lake Albert, Baloch said.

An Ebola epidemic in Congo, which spread to Uganda last week, has caused 2,168 infections since August, including 1,449 deaths, with Ituri accounting for about 10 percent

of cases and deaths, WHO spokesman Tarik Jasarevic said.

"We are always saying the mobility of the population in North Kivu and Ituri is a risk factor," Jasarevic told the briefing.

"So every time you have people moving in high numbers, it is more complicated to do the work of follow-up, contact tracing, follow up on the people who are supposed basically to be observed on a daily basis for 21 days," he said, referring to the disease's incubation period.

## Syria does not want fighting with Turkey: Muallem

TEHRAN — Syria's Foreign Minister Walid al-Muallem says Damascus does after any conflict with Ankara after Turkish and Syrian government forces reportedly exchanged fire in Syria's northwestern province of Idlib, the last major bastion of terrorists in the Arab country.

"We hope that our military and the Turkish military do not fight. This is our principled stance," Moualem said at a joint press conference with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in the capital Beijing on Tuesday.

"What we are fighting is terrorists, especially in Idlib, which is Syrian territory, part of our country," he said.

Muallem's comments came days after Turkey's Defense Ministry claimed that Syrian government forces had carried out a deliberate attack on one of its observation posts in the troubled region, denying Russian assertions that a ceasefire had been put in place in Idlib.

According to Press TV, Russia and Turkey earlier brokered a full ceasefire agreement in Idlib aimed at halting clashes between government forces and militants in the area.

Moscow, a Damascus ally, and Ankara, which backs a number of militant groups in Syria, signed an agreement last September to create a demilitarized zone in Idlib that would be evacuated of all heavy weapons and militants.

That agreement put on hold a Syrian government offensive to liberate Idlib, where between 10,000 and 15,000 militants are estimated to be holed up.

Militants, however, have persisted in their stay in the zone and refused to leave the area under the deal. Furthermore, terror outfits have repeatedly violated the truce by launching numerous attacks on outposts held by the Syrian army and Russian forces.

The Syrian foreign minister criticized Turkey for "occupying" parts of Syria, challenging Turkish "military presence in certain parts" of the Arab country.

"The question now is, what does Turkey want to do in Syria? Turkey is occupying part of Syrian soil, and has a military presence in certain parts of Syria," Muallem added.

"Are they protecting the Nusra Front? Are they protecting certain terrorist forces," he said. "This question needs to be asked of Turkey, what are their actual aims? We are fighting those terrorist groups and organizations. The whole world believes those people we are fighting are terrorists."

Wang, for his part, voiced Beijing's support for Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity and its fight against terror, saying China would help with reconstruction efforts in the Arab country.

Muallem arrived in Beijing on Sunday for a six-day visit, which came at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart.

He was expected to discuss bilateral ties as well as the latest regional and international developments with senior Chinese officials, according to Syria's official news agency SANA.

On Monday, the Syrian foreign minister held talks with

with Jerusalem as its capital," he stressed.

About Gheit's warning apparently directed at a yet-to-be-released peace plan proposed by U.S. President Donald Trump, dubbed as the so-called Deal of the Century, which has already been strongly rejected by Palestinians. They say the U.S. actions so far have shown Washington is blatantly biased in favor of Israel and its peace plan will quash their aspirations for statehood in the occupied West Bank and besieged Gaza Strip.

Furthermore, the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority, led by President Mahmoud

Abbas and the Gaza-based Hamas resistance movement have also boycotted a U.S.-led economic conference scheduled to be held in the Bahraini capital Manama next week. As part of Trump's plan, the conference will focus on proposals for the Palestinian economy.

While the precise outlines of the draft plan of the Deal of the Century are not known, Palestinian and Arab sources, who have been briefed on it, say it jettisons "the two-state solution."

Elsewhere in his remarks, Aboul Gheit said Israel's acceptance of an Arab Peace Initiative proposed by Saudi Arabia in 2002, which offers

Israel normal ties in return for withdrawal from territory seized in 1967, was the only acceptable solution for Arab countries.

According to Press TV, Relations between the Palestinian Authority and the U.S. took an unprecedented dip in late 2017, when Washington recognized Jerusalem al-Quds as Israel's "capital." Since then, Palestinians have shown little interest in discussing a plan that they anticipate will fall far short of their core demands.

The Trump administration has said that its secret plan would require compromise by both sides.

## Cover-Ups and Truth Tellers

➤7 We have two issues here and they are in opposition.

First, there is the formal issue of the government (actually all governments) having made it illegal to acquire and make public, in an unauthorized fashion, classified information. However, it is clear that information is often classified not only because it might be militarily or diplomatically harmful but because it is likely to be found repulsive by a government's own citizens. This proved to be the case with at least some of Manning's revelations.

That brings us to the second issue — what are the proper behavioral standards to which we want to hold our government, our military, and our diplomatic corps? How are we to know if they are meeting those standards when they have the advantage of legally keeping official behavior secret?

So it is a conundrum. As libertarians like to put it, "all that which is immoral for men acting individually is equally immoral for men acting in association."

However, no one seems to have both the legal clout and the courage to demand moral standards for the government, at least not when it comes to foreign policy. Oddly enough, there are domestic laws that make it a criminal offense to withhold incriminating information from the police. But those laws have no application here, though they really should. So the entire situation is managed for the sake of one side of the dilemma — the government. On the other side, the casualties continue to pile up.

Most of us are told that our government is the best, most progressive one in existence — a model for all the world. And, if you go along with the likes of Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, the U.S. government takes a seat at the right hand of God.

However, what happens when truth tellers who notice starkly immoral U.S. government behavior reveal that fact to the public? With but rare exception, what happens is that you get a reversal of values. To name the operatives of the U.S. government as criminals, you often must reveal "classified" evidence. It is that revelation that instantly becomes the primary offense. What the revealed information might say about government wrongdoing recedes into the shadows, and it is the truth teller who becomes the primary criminal.

## 'UN inspection mechanism to operate in Hudaydah ports'

Yemeni Minister of Transport Zakaria al-Shami says the Houthi Ansarullah movement and the United Nations have agreed on a mechanism to inspect ships docking at ports in the country's strategic western province of Hudaydah following Houthis' withdrawal from three of Yemen's Red Sea ports last month as part of a peace agreement.

"We agreed with the UN on a mechanism to inspect ships docking in the ports of Hudaydah and its implementation will start in the coming days," Yemen's Arabic-language al-Masirah television network quoted Shami as saying at a meeting of the Red Sea Ports Corporation on Tuesday.

He then called on the Saudi-led military coalition, which is engaged in a military campaign on Yemen and monitors ships on the high seas heading to the Arab country, to fulfill its obligations under the Stockholm deal struck last December in Sweden.

Under the deal, representatives from the Houthis and Yemen's ex-president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi agreed to withdraw their troops from Hudaydah's main port and two other nearby ports, as well as Hudaydah city and allow deployment of UN monitors.

Meanwhile, an unnamed United Nations source confirmed that an agreement had been reached with UN inspection body — the Verification and Inspection Mechanism for Yemen (UNVIM).

UNVIM still needs to sign a separate agreement with the Saudi-led alliance.

Last month, Ansarullah fighters unilaterally pulled out of the ports of Saleef, used for grain, Ras Isa oil terminal and Hudaydah, under the first phase of the Stockholm peace deal.

Under the first phase, the Houthis were expected to pull back five kilometers from the three ports, while Saudi-backed pro-Hadi forces were required to be stationed four kilometers from Hudaydah.

A second phase of withdrawal is scheduled to follow in which both sides pull their troops 18 kilometers outside of Hudaydah and heavy weapons 30 kilometers away.

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

The U.S.-based Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED), a nonprofit conflict-research organization, estimates that the Saudi-led war has claimed the lives of over 60,000 Yemenis since January 2016.

The war has also taken a heavy toll on the country's infrastructure, destroying hospitals, schools, and factories. The UN says over 24 million Yemenis are in dire need of humanitarian aid, including 10 million suffering from extreme levels of hunger.

## UN: World population expected to rise to 9.7 billion in 2050

TEHRAN— The world is about to get a whole lot more crowded, according to a new report by the United Nations, with the planet's population expected to climb to nearly 10 billion by the middle of this century.

The UN's World Population Prospects 2019, published on Tuesday, estimated that the next three decades will see today's figure of 7.7 billion people rise to 9.7 billion by 2050 despite a continued slowdown in the global birth rate.

More than half of the increase will be concentrated in just nine countries - India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Indonesia, Egypt and the United States - while the population of sub-Saharan Africa is projected to nearly double.

"Many of the fastest-growing populations are in the poorest countries, where population growth brings additional challenges in the effort to eradicate poverty, achieve greater equality, combat hunger and malnutrition and strengthen the coverage and quality of health and education systems to ensure that no one is left behind," said Liu Zhenmin, the UN's undersecretary-general for economic and social affairs.

The study concluded that the world's population could reach a peak of nearly 11 billion around the end of the current century, Al Jazeera reported.

## Mideast peace attempts in vain without Palestinian state: Arab League chief

Secretary-General of the Arab League Ahmed Aboul Gheit has warned that any attempt to settle the Israel-Palestine conflict without considering the establishment of a Palestinian state on all territories occupied by the regime in the 1967 Middle East war will be in vain.

Aboul Gheit made the remarks during an event at the Arab League on Monday, saying, "Whatever is rejected by the Palestinian or the Arab side is unacceptable."

"What is acceptable from our side as Arabs as a solution is the establishment of a Palestinian state on the June 4, 1967 borders,



## Report: Rabiot agrees Juve move

Paris Saint-Germain midfielder Adrien Rabiot has reportedly agreed terms over a free transfer to Juventus.

According to El Chiringuito, Rabiot will put pen to paper on a five-year contract with Juve worth €7m a season.

Furthermore, the Bianconeri are ready to pay the Frenchman a signing-on fee of €10m.

The 24-year-old has already played over 200 times for PSG, winning six League titles.

However, a contractual dispute saw him dropped from the French giants' first team in December.

Rabiot had also been linked with Manchester United, but he now looks set to become the latest free agent to join the Old Lady after the likes of Andrea Pirlo, Paul Pogba, Emre Can and Aaron Ramsey.

(Source: Football Italia)

## Lukaku urged to quit Man Utd by Belgium boss

Belgium boss Roberto Martinez has urged Romelu Lukaku to leave Manchester United this summer, and said the forward was "targeted" due to the club's underwhelming performances last season.

Lukaku is a transfer target for new Inter Milan chief Antonio Conte -- with the ex-Everton man having recently labelled the Italian the "best manager in the world."

And Lukaku's international boss has said it would be better for both the player and United to part ways this summer.

"I think it is clear he [Lukaku] is ready for a new challenge," Martinez told HLN. "In his case, a transfer would be good for both the player and the club.

"And if two parties benefit from it, a move away usually happens. Serie A seems to be a good choice for him, although I think he can handle any league.

"I certainly don't think his transfer to Manchester United is a failure. The team did not perform to its capabilities and important players -- such as Romelu, but also Paul Pogba -- were targeted."

Speaking after Belgium's 3-0 Euro 2020 qualifying victory over Scotland, Lukaku said he had "always dreamed" of playing in Italy.

"I was always a big fan of the Italian league," the 26-year-old had told Sport Mediaset. "I have two leagues which I always dreamed about which are the English league and the Serie A."

"So for me the Serie A is my favorite league as well -- I love Italy."

(Source: Soccernet)

## Rafael Benitez offered £12m by Chinese club Dalian Yifang

Newcastle boss Rafael Benitez has received a £12m-a-year offer to take over as manager at Chinese Super League club Dalian Yifang.

Benitez, 59, is out of contract at the end of June but has been offered a new deal by Newcastle owner Mike Ashley.

So far he has been unable to agree a deal and it is becoming increasingly likely Benitez will leave St James' Park after just over three seasons.

The Spaniard is also linked with a move to succeed Maurizio Sarri at Chelsea.

Benitez remains one of the favourites to replace Sarri but Frank Lampard is the overwhelming favourite for the job.

Benitez had an uneasy relationship with the Chelsea fans when he was in interim charge of the club during the 2012-13 season.

There is a chance Benitez may decide not to go to China and wait for another offer - from Newcastle or elsewhere.

However, the lure of China may be too much given the vast sums on offer.

Dalian have won only three of their 13 league games so far this season under South Korean coach Choi Kang-hee.

Newcastle were relegated after Benitez arrived at the club in March 2016 but the former Liverpool boss guided them to promotion as Championship winners the following season.

The Magpies have finished 10th and 13th in the Premier League in subsequent seasons.

(Source: BBC)

## Neymar return to Barcelona is 'doable'

Barcelona are seriously looking into bringing Neymar back to Camp Nou next season, with a high ranking source at the Catalan club telling ESPN FC a transfer "could be doable, but it won't be simple."

Barca, though, are aware that negotiating with Paris Saint-Germain is not like negotiating with other clubs, given the huge economic backing the Ligue 1 champions enjoy from their Qatari owners.

"If it wasn't for that, signing Neymar would be even simpler," the source said.

The source at the Spanish champions also stated that "there has been no direct contact with Neymar's people" but added that "once Neymar makes it known he wants to return to Barca, anything is possible."

Neymar joined PSG from Barca in the summer of 2017 for €222 million, making him the world's most expensive player.

One of the main reasons Barca are now contemplating re-signing him is because of key players in the team's desire to have him back in the dressing room, said the source.

The Brazil international remains good friends with Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez, in particular. Messi recently explained that the trio still speak regularly in a WhatsApp group called "The Three South Americans."

But relations between Barcelona and PSG have been non-existent for a while. The Blaugrana have unsuccessfully tried to sign Thiago Silva, Marquinhos and Marco Verratti from them in the past and in January beat them to the signing of Frenkie de Jong when PSG thought they had the Dutch midfielder tied up.

(Source: Goal)

# Ex-UEFA chief Platini arrested in 2022 World Cup probe

The banned ex-UEFA chief Michel Platini was arrested Tuesday in connection with a criminal investigation into the award of the 2022 World Cup to Qatar.

The French football legend elected to lead European football's governing body in 2007 was taken into custody by French anti-corruption police investigating the awarding of the 2022 World Cup to the gas-rich Gulf state.

Qatar was named to host the World Cup in a decision that triggered controversy over its suitability amid allegations of corruption that ultimately sparked FIFA's worst ever scandal five years later.

France's Financial Crimes Prosecutors Office (PNF) opened a preliminary investigation in 2016 into allegations of corruption, conspiracy and influence peddling surrounding FIFA's award of the World Cup to Qatar and also the 2018 tournament to Russia.

According to Blatter, Qatar won hosting rights as a result of a deal with the French, derailing FIFA's own "diplomatic arrangement" whereby hosting rights would go to Russia in 2018 and then to the United States four years later.

The French investigation centres on alleged French intervention linked to Platini and former president Nicolas Sarkozy.

According to the specialist magazine France Football, a "secret meeting" took place



on November 23, 2010 at the Elysee Palace in Paris between Sarkozy, Qatar's then-Prince (now Emir) Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, and Platini, at that time both UEFA president and vice-president of FIFA.

Just over a week later, FIFA awarded Qatar hosting rights for the 2022 tournament.

Platini has made no secret of his support for Qatar but denies he was influenced by Sarkozy, whose advisor for

sport, Sophie Dion, was also arrested along with Platini.

"It was time to give them the World Cup. I am for that. It's my conviction," he said at the time.

Claude Gueant, Sarkozy's erstwhile chief of staff and former interior minister, was also called in for questioning Tuesday by France's Anti-Corruption Office of the Judicial Police.

The decision to award the event to Qatar ultimately led to a wider corruption probe that led to the overthrow of Blatter and Platini and the arrest of senior FIFA figures.

Platini, 63, led UEFA until 2015 when he was banned from football for four years for ethics violations including receiving a two-million Swiss francs (1.8 million euros, \$2 million) payment from the disgraced former head of FIFA Sepp Blatter.

Qatar has been accused of buying votes in its bid to stage the World Cup and a subsequent report by US independent investigator Michael Garcia unearthed an array of suspect financial dealings, many linked to Sandro Rosell, the ex-Barcelona president who served as a consultant for Qatar.

Platini, a triple Ballon d'Or winner, was expected to succeed Blatter as FIFA president in 2016 before his fall from grace. He has been battling to clear his name ever since.

(Source: CNN)

## FIFA racism risk assessments for 2022 World Cup qualifiers



FIFA is conducting racism risk assessments for all 2022 World Cup qualifiers and sending observers to matches where there is a high prospect of discriminatory incidents.

FIFA Secretary General Fatma Samoura has written to member associations saying there is a particular onus on countries hosting matches to clamp down on discrimination on the road to the Qatar World Cup.

The letter follows particular scrutiny in Europe over players being subject to racist abuse by fans and referees not always following procedures by stopping games.

In a traffic signal coding system, Samoura told national associations when there is "a high probability of discriminatory incidents" the game will be given a red classification and observers sent to the stadium.

For games with a yellow or medium risk, Samoura said FIFA will "continue to assess the temporary dynamics" of the situation to see if observers are in fact warranted.

Central to the risk assessment is analyzing whether there is a history of discriminatory incidents or violence involving the teams or countries in general, including religious tensions.

Criteria outlined by FIFA include exploring "known far-right and other xenophobic

groups, including their football-related activities and supporter links" and the "current geopolitical crises in the countries of the participating teams/associations and in their region that could affect spectators' attitudes."

FIFA will also look at whether fans have a "tendency to commit acts of homophobia or overt sexist abuse based on traditional chants or previous history."

FIFA works with the Fare network to find anti-discrimination match observers.

According to FIFA, observers are required to "understand the language including idiosyncrasies of the country/team they are appointed to observe; know the symbols and codes used in the country/local environment/fan culture; know the fan culture of the country/team/local environment; have an understanding of any wider social and (geo-)political issues at play."

Samoura has reminded associations that referees should implement a three-step procedure which allows them to stop a game, suspend a game and ultimately abandon a game if discriminatory behavior persists.

The letter was sent out three years after FIFA disbanded its anti-racism task, saying it had "completely fulfilled its temporary mission."

(Source: AP)

## 4 shot, 3 arrested at Raptors parade, police say



Four people were shot and wounded at a rally Monday for the NBA champion Toronto Raptors, and three people were arrested, police said.

Droves of Raptors fans ran from the shooting in a stampede from the City Hall square, which was packed with tens of thousands of people. An estimated 1.5 million fans earlier packed downtown Toronto for a parade for the Raptors, raising concerns about safety and overcrowding.

Toronto Police Chief Mark Saunders said four people suffered gunshot wounds but added that none of the injuries were life-threatening. Others suffered minor injuries as they tried to get away from the shooting, said Saunders, who asked for witnesses and people who might have video to come forward and help investigators.

"We do have people arrested with firearms, and that's the start of the investigation," Saunders said.

Asked if it was a targeted shooting or terrorism-related, police spokeswoman Allison Sparkes said the investigation was ongoing.

During a speech from one of the team owners, the host of the rally interrupted

the proceedings to alert the crowd to an emergency and asked for calm. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Toronto Mayor John Tory, NBA Finals MVP Kawhi Leonard and other Raptors players were onstage at the time.

"I want to make sure everyone stays calm," said the host, sportscaster Matt Devlin. "This is serious. Everyone stay calm. ... There is an emergency being dealt with."

Those onstage remained in place, and speeches resumed shortly after.

"I hope all those injured in today's shooting have a speedy recovery, and I'd like to thank the Toronto police for acting so quickly," Trudeau tweeted. "We won't let this act of violence take away from the spirit of today's parade."

Mike Mudidi said he was enjoying the celebrations when he heard screams behind him that someone had pulled out a gun. He said he froze as people started running in all directions.

"I just grabbed my buddies' hands and ran," he said.

Raptors fan Phil D'Souza said the violence left a bad taste in his mouth, and he questioned whether he would attend a similar event in the future.

(Source: ESPN)

## Egypt ready for Africa Cup despite security, price concerns

The Africa Cup of Nations is set to kick off in Egypt on Friday against a backdrop of terror attacks and only days after the death of former Islamist president Mohamed Morsi.

With opening and closing games held at Cairo Stadium, it will be the fifth time that Egypt has hosted the regional tournament, which has expanded this year to include 24 teams.

Cairo last welcomed African teams in 2006, before the country's political landscape was rocked by the Arab Spring of 2011.

This time, Egypt plays host after Morsi, its first democratically elected president, was buried on Tuesday following the ousted and jailed leader's collapse in court and death the previous day.

Authorities are confident the infrastructure is in place to host the continent's largest football contest, but they are on high alert after attacks on tourists near the pyramids and an insurgency in the Sinai Peninsula.

A roadside bomb near the pyramids last month left 17 people wounded, just months after a similar attack in December killed three Vietnamese holidaymakers and an Egyptian tour guide.

The interior ministry in June announced extra security forces would be deployed to maintain "public order" for the competition.

Egyptians were expected to be a major driver of the tournament's reach, but local fans have been up in arms over the cost of watching a game -- either in stadiums or on television.

### ■ Securing the stadiums

Set to run well into the scorching month of July, it will mark the first time Egypt has hosted a major sports tournament since longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak was ousted by mass protests in 2011.



In the wake of the 2013 military overthrow of his successor Morsi led by now President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, Egypt has seen a surge in terror attacks targeting its Christian minority and security forces.

In February last year, Egypt launched a military offensive against militants in the Sinai Peninsula it says are linked to the Islamic State group.

Some 600 suspected militants and 40 soldiers have since been killed in the push, according to official figures.

The country's stadiums have also been sites of violence, with lethal clashes breaking out between fans and security forces.

Fans were banned from watching league matches in Egypt after a February 2012 stadium riot in Port Said left 74 people dead, making it one of the world's deadliest football clashes.

Stadiums reopened three years later but the ban was quickly reinstated after at least 20 fans of Cairo club Zamalek

were killed in clashes with security forces outside a stadium in the capital in February 2015.

Last year, the ban was relaxed but strict security arrangements are still enforced, with police providing permits to fans authorised to attend.

Organisers reduced ticket prices for the Africa Cup of Nations after a backlash from Egyptian football fans in April.

Tickets to matches featuring Egypt, set to be led by star forward Mohamed Salah, were initially priced at 200 pounds (about \$12, 10 euros) for the cheapest admission and graduated up to 600 pounds for premium seats.

### ■ 'More important than politics'

Prices for the cheaper seats have since dropped marginally but they are still out of reach for many in the Arab world's most populous country, where around 28 percent of the population lives below the poverty line.

"The fans' revolution of rage really showed how the organisers were not prepared from the start," said Walid al-Adawi, an Egyptian sports journalist.

He explained that organisers have targeted a certain class of fans, those with access to the internet and who can afford high-priced seats.

The only way tickets can be purchased is through an official online platform.

"If the ticket prices were actually fairly priced, you would have found many enthusiastic fans... but the prices have not appealed to the average punter," he added.

But Mohamed Fadl, a former Egyptian national team player and the African Cup tournament director, chalked the concerns up to the normal hiccups faced by any host nation.

(Source: AFP)



# Pejman Montazeri announces retirement from Iran duty

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Esteghlal and Iran national football team defender Pejman Montazeri has brought curtain down to his career at the age of 35.

He made his debut for Iran against Palestine which he managed to score as Iran beat the West Asian team 7–0 on Oct. 5, 2011.

The center back played every minute at the 2014 World Cup against Nigeria, Argentina and Bosnia and Herzegovina, where Team Melli failed to qualify for the knockout stage.

Montazeri was also a member of Team Melli at the 2018 World Cup in Russia but remained an unused substitute in three matches against Morocco, Spain and Portugal.

The Ahvaz-born player represented Iran national football team in the 2019 AFC Asian Cup, where Team Melli suffered a 3-0 loss against Japan in the competition's semis and failed to advance to the final.

"It's going to be extremely hard to say goodbye but I think it's time to go. I wanted to bid farewell after the 2019 AFC Asian Cup," Montazeri said.

"It has been an amazing journey for me. Thank you to all of the fans and everybody supported me during the last years. Representing my country will always be one of my proudest achievements and I feel honored to have played for Iran," he added.

"I have nothing left to give Team Melli and I think our country has a good young generation. I would also like to thank Marc Wilmots for inviting me to national team for the friendly match against South Korea but as I've already said it's time to give the young players opportunity," Montazeri stated.

"I also leave Esteghlal team but I don't know where I'm going. I leave my team with so many good memories but I know that they are not going to extend my contract," Montazeri concluded.



## Iran U23 football team to play Croatia



**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Iran U23 football team will reportedly play Croatia in a friendly match.

The Iranian team, who are preparing for the 2020 AFC U23 Championship, will meet Croatia in a warm-up match.

On the sidelines of the 69th FIFA Congress, Mehdi Taj, president of Iran football, and Davor Suker, head of Croatia federation, signed a memorandum of understanding to enhance their bilateral cooperation.

Iran U23 football team, headed by Farhad Majidi, will also participate in an Asian tournament ahead of the competition.

The 2020 AFC U23 Championship will be held in Thailand from Jan. 8 to 26.

The top three teams of the tournament will qualify for the 2020 Summer Olympics men's football tournament in Japan as the AFC representatives.

Iran, a powerhouse of the Asian football, have not been in the Olympics since the 1976 games in Munich.

## Australia arrives Iran for FIVB 2019 VNL



**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Australia volleyball team arrived Ardabil, Iran on Tuesday as the first team to participate in Week five of the 2019 Volleyball Nations League.

Team Melli will face Portugal on Friday in Ardabil's Hossein Rezaadeh Hall.

Iran will also face Australia and France on Saturday and Sunday.

The competition is being held between May and July 2019 and the final round will take place in the Credit Union 1 Arena,

Chicago, United States.

This is the first edition of the World League or the Nations League to have the Final Round hosted in North America.

The 16 teams compete in a round-robin format with every core team hosting a pool at least once. The teams are divided into four pools of four teams at each week and compete five weeks long, for 120 matches. The top five teams after the preliminary round join the hosts of the final round to compete in the final round.

## Our 2016 defeat to Jeonbuk is among my worst memories, says Cai Huikang

The 5-0 defeat to Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors in the 2016 AFC Champions League quarter-finals remains a dark day in Shanghai SIPG's Continental history. However, according to midfielder Cai Huikang, the three years since has prepared the club for the return meeting with the Koreans ahead of Wednesday's Round of 16.

The meeting between the champions of China PR and the champions of Korea Republic is one of the most eye-catching fixtures in the 2019 AFC Champions League's last 16 but especially so when the history between the two sides is taken into account.

In 2016, Shanghai SIPG were making their debut in the Continental competition and had impressed in the Group Stage with their attack-minded football led by the likes China PR star Wu Lei, Elkeson and Dario Conca. A Round of 16 victory over FC Tokyo saw the Chinese club into the quarter-finals at the first time of asking, but there they came up against the experienced Jeonbuk.

A goalless stalemate in Shanghai was an even affair, but the return meeting in Jeonju resulted in a comprehensive 5-0 win for the hosts who would go on to win the tournament. Three years have passed since then, but the two sides are now set to meet for the first time since the quarter-finals.

Shanghai SIPG's China PR international Cai Huikang [pictured below, right] spoke exclusively to the-AFC.com to reflect on the tournament so far, share his thoughts on Wednesday's match and look back on the 2016 meeting.

■ Hi Cai Huikang. First off, can we get your view on Shanghai SIPG's 2019 campaign so far? It has not been an easy group, with the team only qualifying in the final match of Group H.

It's true we had a very tough group this year. For instance, we had to score late goals away at both Sydney and Kawasaki to secure important come-from-behind draws.

And, you're correct, we only got our place in the knockout stage confirmed after defeating Ulsan Hyundai in the Matchday Six game, the last fixture in the group. But, you know, that's life - it's not always easy!



■ Next up is Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors. How difficult a match will that be and do you think it's the toughest last 16 opponent Shanghai could have faced?

As the Korea Republic champions we definitely respect Jeonbuk as a very strong team.

In fact, they are responsible for one of my worst memories from three years ago [the 5-0 defeat in the second leg 2016 AFC Champions League quarter-final].

■ You mentioned that 2016 match, how much do you think Shanghai have improved since then?

At that time we had injuries to a lot of key players like Dario Conca and Elkeson, while Hulk had only just arrived at the club and was still acclimatizing.

In these last three years since, I feel we have become more experienced, more mature, more intrepid and so I have a lot of confidence in our team ahead of facing Jeonbuk again.

■ It could be a case of the tournament's best attack (Shanghai have scored 13) vs the best defence (Jeonbuk have conceded just three) - do you see the game going this way?

Personally, I am really proud that we have one of the best attacks in this year's AFC Champions League. However, I do think we should recognise our defence too. We have some

fantastic players in our backline who play for the national team like Yu Hai, Shi Ke and He Guai.

And of course we have our national hero Yan Junling in goal, too. So I would see both our attack and defense as very good!

■ Jeonbuk striker Kim Shin-wook [pictured below] is among their biggest threats, do you agree? And how will you look to defend against this player?

As you say, Kim Shin-wook is a stand-out player in Asia and I know he is very well-known in Continental football. But, although he's physically very imposing and good in the air, we're not scared of him.

In the Chinese Super League there are several other big strikers - for example Graziano Pelle at Shandong Luenng - so we've already had the experience of coming up against this type of players and know how to counter them.

■ How much of a disadvantage - if any - is playing the second game away, and what would you consider a good result in the first leg in Shanghai?

It's fundamental that we win the first leg and thereby get the initiative ahead of the return meeting in Jeonju.

I promise our fans that we will do our very best this Wednesday. (Source: the-afc)

## Siamand Rahman reveals secrets

Alongside China and Egypt, Iran rules the Paralympic powerlifting world. The country has an impressive three world records in the men's field, with Rouhollah Rostami dominating the up to 72kg, and Majid Farzin setting the standard for the up to 80kg.

But the most popular name, and the man able to lift more weight than anyone else in powerlifting, is, of course, Siamand Rahman.



"There are so many good powerlifters in Iran, and it's because of the climate of the country and the regular training camps that are organized by our committee," said Rahman, currently in training for the World Championships in Nur-Sultan in July.

"In addition, talent scouts are always looking out for the young and gifted Para athletes who are enthusiastic about this sport. I can say that training sessions in our national team are more intense than any other team in the world, too."

The system certainly seems to be working well for Rahman, who lifted an incredible 310kg to take Rio 2016 Paralympic gold. He is also London 2012 Paralympic champion, and won gold at the Dubai 2014 World Championships.

He is not finished yet, either. Rahman's to-do list include 2019 World Championship gold, a historic third straight Paralympic title, and a fresh world record, too. At his peak aged 31, do not bet against him getting close to 335kg - the best lift of all time for either able-bodied or Para lifters.

"I am feeling good, and I'm looking forward to the championships, then Tokyo 2020 and hoping to make another world record in the Paralympics," he said.

"Attending the competitions in Kazakhstan is very important to me. It is a prerequisite of Tokyo 2020, and that is my concern.

"I want to make sure I secure my Tokyo 2020 slot first in Kazakhstan - and then win a medal. It's all about getting prepared for the Paralympics.

"I am so excited to compete for the third time in Paralympic Games. I will give my all in Tokyo to set a new world record even better than Rio 2016, to make my fans happy and proud."

### ■ Paralympic dreams

It is the Paralympics that dominate his day-to-day thoughts, even a year out from competition.

"London was one of the greatest events I have ever attended, I had unprecedented and unique feelings," the Iranian said.

"My first appearance was coincided with a gold medal, which was so thrilling. London hosted such a great Games. And at Rio, when I set the record, I could finally achieve what I was aiming at, with the help of my coaches."

Rahman got into powerlifting after attending a gym as a student.

"One of the coaches at gym introduced me to the National Paralympic Committee, and after a while I was invited to the national team.

"I worked hard, day and night, to make progress. At first, I could lift 120kg, and now it is over 300kg! I always thank God that I am part of the Paralympic family."

Now he feels he can be a role model for others in the sport who has made him who he is.

"I am positively influenced by this sport, and it has changed my personal life. I always thank God when I see I can be a role model for the young people. I'm so glad I can make my country proud through this sport. I want to keep improving, keep the right diet, and follow my coaches' instructions, so I can win again." (Source: Paralympic.org)

## One loss and one win for women at FIBA 3x3 World Cup

**TASNIM** — Iran's women's basketball team started the FIBA 3x3 World Cup 2019 with a loss and a win on Tuesday.

Team Melli suffered a 22-8 loss against Spain in the first match but earned a narrow 19-18 victory over Mongolia in the second match.

Team Melli have been drawn along with Spain, Romania, Mongolia and Czech Republic in Pool C.

Iran's national women's team, headed by Nika Beyk-Liklee, composed of Saeideh Elli, Shadi Abdolvand, Kimiya Yazdian Tehrani and Delaram Vakili.

Iran will face Romania and Czech Republic on Thursday.

The FIBA 3x3 World Cup 2019 is being held in Amsterdam, Netherlands from June 18 to 23.

## Golmohammadi shortlisted for Persepolis job

**PLDC** — Four coaches have been shortlisted to take charge of Iran's Persepolis football team.

Branko Ivankovic has reportedly left Persepolis to join Al-Ahli of Saudi Arabia.

The 65-year-old Croat has penned a two-year contract with Al-Ahli.

Now, the officials of Persepolis have started their negotiations with other candidates.

Padideh coach Yahya Golmohammadi, former Persepolis captain Mehdi Mahdavi Kia, ex-Iran and Persepolis coach Afshin Ghotbi and former Iran U-23 coach Zlatko Kranjcar, who also led the team for two months in 2009, are among the candidates to take charge of the team.

Ivankovic led Persepolis to win Iran Professional League title three times. Under tutelage of the Croat, Persepolis also won one Hazfi Cup and three Super Cups.

## Persepolis striker Alipour linked with Zulte Waregem

**TASNIM** — Belgian top-flight football club Zulte Waregem has shown interest in signing Persepolis striker Ali Alipour.

Zulte Waregem are going to sign Alipour for 700,000 euros, however

Persepolis want one million euros for the frontman.

The 25-year-old striker had been previously linked with a move to Spanish football team Union Deportiva Almeria.

Sportvereniging Zulte Waregem are a Belgian professional football club based in Waregem, West Flanders.

Zulte Waregem play in the Belgian First Division A. Their highest finish at

the highest level was second place in 2012–13.

The club are a product of a partnership in 2001 between Zulte VV and KSV Waregem, a former first division regular.



INTERNATIONAL DAILY

www.tehrantimes.com

■ Managing Director: Ali Asgari

■ Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Ghaderi

» Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895

editor@tehrantimes.com

» Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000

» Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051450

» Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807

» Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603

» www.eshterak.ir Distributor: Padideh Novin Co.

Tel: 88911433

» Webmaster: webmaster@tehrantimes.com

» Printed at: Hamshahri No. 3(Rooztab) - ISSN: 1017-94

Tehrantimes79

Tehrantimesdaily

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran

P.O. Box: 14155-4843

Zip Code: 1599814713

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

A little work which lasts is better than excessive work which produces fatigue.

Imam Ali (AS)

## Swedish author Asa Lind to meet her Persian readers in Tehran

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Swedish children's book writer Asa Lind will attend a meeting with the Persian readers of her books at Tehran's Book City Institute on Saturday. The author is due to talk about Swedish literature, children's interest in literature and the main issues affecting their interests.



Asa Lind in an undated photo.

An excerpt of Lind's book series "The Sand Wolf", which has recently been published in Persian, will be read during the meeting.

The book contains a number of warm-hearted, poetic stories about a friendship between a boy and the sand wolf.

Translator Farzad Farbod, author Mehdi Rajabi, and Veronica Nordlund, the Second Secretary of the Embassy of Sweden, will also be attending the meeting.

Lind writes both fiction and non-fiction, and is particularly well-known for her successful Sandwolf series, which won the Nils Holgersson Plaque (an award given by the Swedish Library Association).

Her writing is poetic and philosophical, and in treating children's thoughts and feelings seriously and sympathetically, she tackles some of the larger questions a child may have in a simple manner but without resorting to simplistic answers.

Lind's visit to Tehran is part of a program for "Traces of the North, Nordic Days in Tehran", a cultural exhibition that will open at the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) on Friday.

She is also scheduled to deliver a speech during the exhibition at the IAF on Sunday.

## Berlin meeting to discuss Iran's artistic heritage in German scholars' studies

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — The cultural and artistic heritage of Iran in studies carried in the German-speaking countries will be discussed in the 4th Iranian Studies Forum, which will be held at the Iran House in Berlin from June 28 to 30.



A poster for the 4th Iranian Studies Forum, which will be held at the Iran House in Berlin from June 28 to 30.

Professors and scholars from the University of Gottingen, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, University of Bamberg, University of Tübingen and several other academic centers in Germany, Switzerland, and Austria are scheduled to attend the forum, Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO) has announced.

Pre-Islamic cultural heritage in eastern Iran, development of Persian calligraphy, and ancient Persian myths in Christianity are among the topics, which will be scrutinized during the meeting.

The Iranian Studies Forum is organized annually in collaboration with ICRO and several other international institutions at the Iran House in Berlin.

# Iran, China to collaborate on film industry

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — The general manager of the China Film Co-Production Corporation, Miao Xiaotian, has announced that China is willing to collaborate on joint film projects with Iran, Variety reported on Monday.

"China has signed co-production agreements with 22 countries. Similar agreements between Iran and China are in the works, and will be signed by the end of this year," he said.

He made the remarks on Monday during "Focus on Iran: Dialogue between Iranian and Chinese Filmmakers", a session that the Shanghai International Film Festival organized. Eight Iranian movies are competing at the event that will run until June 24.

Iranian filmmaker Reza Mirkarimi who is also the director of Iran's Fajr International Film Festival gave an overview of Iranian cinema.

The manager of the International Relations Department of the Fajr festival, Kamyar Mohsenin, also attended the meeting.

"Governments can work to promote cooperation between countries, but the implementation should be done by filmmakers. Filmmakers need to have more dialogue. Maybe a movie on children's topics can be a starting point of our collaboration," Mohsenin said.

The CEO of China's Dirty Monkey Films Group, Wang Yibing, noted that Chinese and Iranian filmmakers share a passion for realistic films.

"Each country's complicated social structure and large population provide fertile soil for creativity," he added.

Pointing to "Capernaum", a Lebanese film that premiered at Cannes last year and was a theatrical sensation in China, he concluded that Iranian movies can be just as successful in China.



Organizers of Iran's Fajr International Film Festival Kamyar Mohsenin (2nd L) and Reza Mirkarimi (C) and a number for Chinese film officials attend "Focus on Iran: Dialogue between Iranian and Chinese Filmmakers", a panel discussion at the 22nd Shanghai International Film Festival, on June 17, 2019. (SIFF)

## Iranian Academy of Arts pays tribute to legendary actor Jamshid Mashayekhi



The National Orchestra performs a concert in memory of Jamshid Mashayekhi during a ceremony at the Iranian Academy of Arts organized on June 17, 2019 to commemorate the legendary actor. (Honaronline/Hassan Motahari)

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — The Iranian Academy of Arts (IAA) paid tribute to legendary actor Jamshid Mashayekhi on Monday with a performance by the National Orchestra under the baton of Mashayekhi's son, Nader.

Mashayekhi, who starred in such acclaimed movies as "Kamalolmolk" and "Chrysanthemum", died on April 2 at the age of 85.

The ceremony was attended by large number of cultural figures, artists and musicians, including filmmaker Masud Kimiai, composer Shahin Farhat, Iranian House of Cinema director Manuchehr Shahsavari and Farabi Cinema Foundation director Alireza Tabesh.

Speaking at the ceremony, the director of IAA praised Mashayekhi for his dedication to Persian literature, art and culture of his homeland, and his love of the Iranian people.

A documentary by Hirbod Hosseini, featuring in-

terviews with actors and old chums of Mashayekhi, such as Davud Rashidi, Ali Nasirian and Ezzatollah Entezami, was screened next.

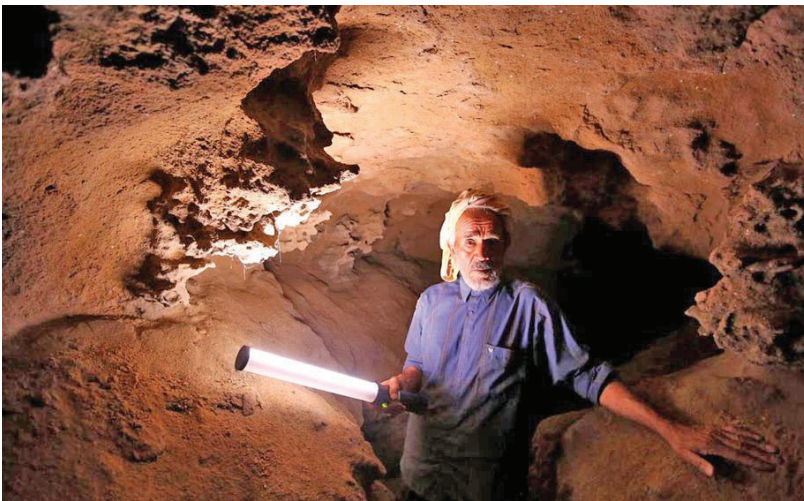
In a short speech filmmaker Kimiai talked about the lofty ability of Mashayekhi in acting.

"I worked with him in three movies and became much closer to him in the film 'Lead'. He had many layers, with different moralities; layers which were filled with poetry. He knew bravery. He was capable of expressing his opinions directly.

"I can hardly talk about those who still remain among us and yet their bodies are gone. I can only say I am proud to have worked with him in my three films," he said with a sigh in his voice.

The ceremony closed with the unveiling of a painting of Mashayekhi's portrait by Habib Derakhshani, and a bust of the actor made by Ahmad Arabbeigi.

## "Darkened Water" to compete in Spanish science film festival



A scene from "Darkened Water" by Iranian director Alireza Dehqan.

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Iranian director Alireza Dehqan's documentary "Darkened Water" ("Owsia") is among the finalists of the first edition of #LabMcCrazy!, an international science film festival in Spain.

The film will be screened in the Student Production section of the festival, which will be held at the University of Navarra

in the Spanish city of Pamplona from September 17 to 20.

The film is about an aqueduct in the central Iranian city of Yazd that has supplied water to the city for 2,500 years. Now, it is rotting away due to bureaucracy and corruption.

Over 1900 movies from 107 countries will compete in various sections of the festival.

## Iran's "Reza" to hit silver screens in France



A French poster for Iranian director Alireza Motamedi's film "Reza".

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Iranian director Alireza Motamedi's drama "Reza" will go on screen in France on August 21, Norte Distribution, a French distribution and production company, has announced.

The film tells the story of a divorced man named Reza who is trying to adapt to his new life after a divorce while he finds

a new romance.

"Reza" received the Ciné+ Distribution Support Award at the 33rd Belfort Entrevues International Film Festival in France last November.

The film is currently on screen at Iran's Art and Experience Cinemas, which are dedicated to screening documentary and art films.

## Comcast partners with Charter, Cox to advance targeted advertising

**NEW YORK (Reuters)** — U.S. cable provider Comcast Corp on Tuesday launched a program to further develop an advertising strategy that better targets audiences, as the TV industry looks to lure more advertisers away from digital players like Facebook Inc and Alphabet Inc's Google.

The initiative, called "On Addressability", aims to create standards for addressable advertising, which targets ads to certain households based on their interests. It has so far been done only on a small scale in TV advertising.

Comcast said it will partner with two other cable providers, Charter Communications and Cox Media, the ad division of Cox Communications, to pool what they have learned from offering addressable advertising, help other content distributors do the same, including how to ensure customer data is used in ways that comply with privacy standards.

While TV is still the best way to reach large numbers of people at one time, it has lacked the targeting, data and measurement

that digital platforms like Facebook offer advertisers, said Marcien Jenckes, president of advertising for Comcast Cable.

"TV is often looked at as the lowest common denominator medium (in advertising), and unless addressability is achieved at scale, we're going to fall short," he said in an interview.

Comcast has worked with TV networks Fox, Viacom and A+E in the past to develop addressable advertising, Jenckes said. He declined to name current distributors the company will work with.

U.S. wireless carrier AT&T Inc and its advertising unit Xandr have also heavily publicized their efforts in addressable ads. Xandr and Comcast-owned advertising technology company FreeWheel are both part of Project OAR, a consortium of companies that is trying to standardize addressable advertising.

Comcast is open to working with Xandr for the On Addressability initiative, but "our understanding is they want to take a more solo approach," Jenckes said.

## Empowerment rules at MTV awards, with win for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

**LOS ANGELES (Reuters)** — Superhero blockbuster "Avengers: Endgame" was the top winner at the MTV Movie and TV awards on Monday in a show marked by messages of empowerment and self-esteem.

The Marvel movie, the second biggest box office hit of all time, took wins for best movie, villain (Josh Brolin's Thanos) and hero (Robert Downey Jr's Iron Man.)

But U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the diminutive, 86-year-old liberal judge, was voted best real-life hero, cementing her status as an unexpected pop culture icon, especially among women. She did not attend the MTV ceremony in the California beach city of Santa Monica.

The MTV Movie and TV awards usually focus on crowd-pleasers and is an irreverent antidote to the more serious winter Hollywood awards season. Winners get popcorn shaped trophies and are chosen by fans voting online.

But while medieval fantasy "Game of Thrones" was named best TV show on Monday, other awards went to darker fare.

"Surviving R. Kelly," in which seven women spoke on camera about what they said was years of sexual and emotional abuse by the "I Believe I Can Fly" singer, won best documentary.

The Lifetime network documentary led to Kelly being dropped by his record company and to criminal charges in Chicago of aggravated sexual assault involving four women, three of them minors. Kelly has pleaded not guilty and is awaiting trial.

"Survivors walked through the fire and then stood again to tell this story," Brie Miranda Bryant, an executive with Lifetime, said in an acceptance speech.

Elisabeth Moss, star of "The Handmaid's Tale", took the award for best performance in a TV show, a category that was entirely made up of women. The bleak drama series portrays a near future in which women are stripped of all their rights, including working and reading.

Brie Larson's "Captain Marvel" triumphed in the best fight category.