



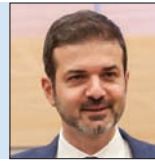
Enemies had pinned hope on sowing discord among Iranian ethnic groups **3**



Strait of Hormuz is a cemetery for aggressors, cleric warns **3**



Biden raps Trump's Iran strategy as a 'self-inflicted disaster' **3**



Esteghlal will play attacking football: Andrea Stramaccioni **15**

Iran's defense capability not a Photoshop

IRGC exhibits wreckage of the RQ-4 Global Hawk



See page 2

Shamkhani says aggressor will regret if Iran attacked

TEHRAN — Ali Shamkhani, Iran's secretary of Supreme National Security Council, said on Thursday that Iran will not attack anyone, however, he insisted on Tehran's position that the aggressor will "regret" if Iran is attacked.

"Iran's policy in supporting security and stability especially in current international situation and given the energy situation is clear. Tehran will not attack anyone. However, if it is attacked, the aggressor

will regret," he said in an interview with RT's Arabic language.

He added that the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf and the Wider Middle East region is the main cause of tension between Tehran and Washington.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps announced on Thursday it had shot down an unmanned U.S. surveillance drone after it breached the country's airspace. **→2**

Iran summons Swiss ambassador over invading U.S. drone

TEHRAN — Iran's Foreign Ministry summoned on Friday Swiss ambassador to Tehran to protest violation of Iran's airspace by the U.S. drone as Switzerland represents U.S. interests in Iran.

Mohsen Baharvand, the assistant for foreign minister and director general

of department of the U.S. affairs, met with Markus Leitner giving him an official note protesting the U.S. drone's violation of the Iranian airspace and warning that Washington is responsible for consequences of such "provocative" actions. **→2**

Yemeni drone attack halts air traffic in Saudi airport

TEHRAN — Saudi Arabian officials have been forced to suspend air traffic at an airport in the southern province of Jizan following yet another major drone attack by Yemeni resistance forces in retaliation for the kingdom's ongoing war against the impoverished country.

Brigadier Yahya Saree, the spokesman for Yemeni Armed Forces, said that the attacks on Thursday by the Yemeni Air Force saw indigenous Qasif-2K drone

destroy a number of targets at the Jizan Airport.

According to Al Masirah television network, the air traffic remained suspended as of the time of this writing.

The attack was yet another testament to the Yemeni resistance forces' expanding power in responding to the years-long Saudi war against the country, which has killed thousands of people since it started in March 2015. **→13**



EDITORIAL

Mohammad Ghaderi
Tehran Times editor-in-chief
@ghaderi62

Political and military defeat of the White House against Iran

The Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps declared that it had stuck down the RQ-4 Global Hawk over Iranian airspace. Also Commander of the IRGC Major General Hossein Salami stressed that the move should alert Washington officials to stay away. The incident sent "a clear message" to the U.S. and other enemies that Iran will show a firm and crushing response to any aggression, Salami stated.

Under such circumstances, the President of the United States has basically lost his control over the situation. This is one of the main reasons for Trump's insistence on holding direct talks with Iran at any time and without preconditions.

The fact is that one of Trump's main goals of economic confrontation with Iran was to put the Islamic Republic of Iran under constant pressure. However, it seems that Trump has made a terrible mistake in this regard! It should not be forgotten that the Islamic Republic of Iran can prevent the widespread impact of these sanctions on its economy through crisis management and effective consultation with other international players.

The fact is that the only reason for the crisis has been the departure of the United States from an international agreement. On the other hand, Donald Trump's government has imposed sanctions against Iran, which has shown little commitment to international treaties. Donald Trump is currently being addressed as a suspect and political offender in the United States! The president of the United States has become the symbol of Washington's complete defeat against Tehran. Perhaps the day that Donald Trump had left the nuclear deal with Iran, he never imagined that he would reach such a point!

Without a doubt, the trump can not blame the people in this complex equation, such as John Bolton and Mike Pompeo! Trump is the main culprit for the complete failure of the United States against Iran. On the other hand, the Islamic Republic of Iran has shown that it stands against all of the U.S. conspiracy with its full potential.

Iran vows firm response if U.S. retaliates over drone downing

TEHRAN — Iran will respond firmly should the United States retaliate over the downing of its drone over the Strait of Hormuz by the Iranian military, according to the spokesman for Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC).

"The U.S. has no right for a military response after Iran reacted to this infringement. Iran is determined to offer a firm response to any aggression," said Keyvan Khosravi, Sputnik reported.

The remarks by the SNSC official came after the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) early on Thursday shot down a U.S. surveillance drone for violating Iran's airspace.



Reacting to the incident, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif expressed Tehran's in-

tentions to prove that the United States is lying in its claim that its drone was downed by the Iranian army in international airspace.

When asked if the United States will strike back, U.S. President Donald Trump said, "You'll find out."

Tensions between the United States and Iran have escalated a year after Washington pulled out of the nuclear deal with Iran and reimposed sanctions on it. The United States also sent warships to the Persian Gulf last month.

Tensions rose further after Washington accused Tehran of a recent attack on oil tankers and destabilizing the region.

Jubeir: We do not want war with Iran

By staff and agency

Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir said on Thursday that his country does not want war with Iran.

His remarks came after Iran shot down a U.S. surveillance drone on Thursday when the aircraft breached Iran's airspace.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Friday that the U.S. drone violated the Iranian airspace from the United Arab Emirates and it was targeted near Kouh-e Mobarak.

Zarif has said that the "B-Team", that consists of White House National Security Advisor John Bolton, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (bibi), Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed (MBZ) are trying to drag

President Trump into a war with Iran.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE welcomed the move by U.S. President Donald Trump to withdraw from the 2015 nuclear deal and reimposing sanctions on Iran. The two countries have also promised to compensate for Iran's oil exports which Trump has threatened to zero out.

Despite such hostile moves, Iran has said it is ready to heal rifts with Riyadh and Abu Dhabi.

During a visit to Iraq in May, Zarif proposed a "regional non-aggression pact" with the Arab states on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf.

"In #Iraq, where I've held substantive and productive meetings with the President, PM, Speaker, FM & leadership of two parliamentary coalitions. Proposed regional non-aggression

pact: #NeighborsFirst," he tweeted.

During a joint press conference with Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohamed Ali Alhakim, Zarif said that Iran sought the best of relations with the Persian Gulf littoral countries and would welcome any proposals for dialogue and de-escalation toward that end.

Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Abbas Araghchi said that a "regional non-aggression pact" will pave the way for neighboring countries to build trust and have constructive interaction.

During a meeting with Qatari Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani in May, Araghchi said security would prevail in the region when all regional countries enjoy security and economic benefits.

Zarif: Iran to start second phase of limiting nuclear commitments on July 7

TEHRAN — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said that Iran will start a second phase of diminishing its undertakings under the 2015 nuclear deal, aka Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), on July 7.

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

Behrooz Kamalvandi, spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), announced last Monday that Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium will exceed 300 kilograms by June 27. **→3**



IRNA / Kazem Ghane



PERSPECTIVE

Hanif Ghaffari
Head of the Tehran Times
Politics Desk

The necessity of "effective reaction" against U.S. hybrid war

The recent trip of Ali Shamkhani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council to Russia was of crucial importance, especially because he talked about "hybrid threats" posed by United States to Iran and other world countries.

Over this trip, Shamkhani made a speech in the international security conference held in the Russian city of Ufa on Tuesday. This was a joint meeting with top officials from Russia, China, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Shmakhani also had one-on-one meetings with high-ranking officials from these countries to discuss security issues.

There are a number of subjects that should be highlighted here:

1. One of the most important topics discussed over Ufa meeting was the threats of U.S. "hybrid warfare" for Iran and other countries who play an important role in the international arena.

Discussing this topic means that the Asian countries whether in central, eastern or western parts, have now found a better understanding of the meaning of U.S. "hybrid warfare."

Hybrid warfare is a complex and calculated political warfare that blends conventional military strategies with other influencing methods.

Hybrid warfare is not necessarily a "military warfare", on the contrary, it is based on analyzing both the potential and the actual strengths and weaknesses of all the players in the field.

According to Munich Security Conference 2015, hybrid warfare may include using diplomacy, economic power, mass communication for propaganda, cyber-attacks, and even supporting local riots and guerrilla warfare.

So, when we talk about U.S. hybrid war against other international powers, we need to forget about the classic definition of war and adopt a new outlook. **→3**

Iran writes to UN on U.S. destabilizing actions

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — In a letter addressed to United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres and the UN Security Council on Thursday, Iran denounced the violation of its airspace by a U.S. spy drone, calling on the international community to confront Washington's destabilizing actions.

Majid Takht Ravanchi, Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations, said in the letter that "we are not after war but will defend against any aggression."

The following is the full text of Takht Ravanchi's letter to Guterres posted on IRNA website:

Your Excellency,
Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing to inform you about another unlawful and yet a very dangerous and provocative act by the U.S. military forces against the territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at 00:14 hours local time on Thursday 20 June 2019, a U.S. unmanned aircraft system, taken off from one of the bases of the U.S. military forces in the South of the Persian Gulf, conducted an overflight through the Strait of Hormuz to Chabahar port in a full stealth mode as it had turned off its identification equipment and engaged in a clear spying operation. When the aircraft was returning towards the western parts of the region near the Strait of Hormuz, despite repeated radio warnings, it entered into the Iranian airspace where the air defense system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, acting under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, targeted the intruding aircraft at 04:05 hours local time on the same date at the coordinates N255943 and E570225 near the Kouh-e Mobarak region in the central district of Jask in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Such a provocative act is a blatant violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, in particular its Article 2(4). Iran condemns, in the strongest possible terms, this irresponsible and provocative wrongful act by the United States, which entails its international responsibility.

While the Islamic Republic of Iran does not seek war, it reserves its inherent right, under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, to take all appropriate necessary measures against any hostile act violating its territory, and is determined to vigorously defend its land, sea and air.

This is not the first provocative act by the United States against Iran's territorial integrity. It is reminded that in all such cases, the Islamic Republic of Iran has officially protested to the U.S. through its interests section in the Embassy of Switzerland in Tehran.

The international community is called upon to demand the United States to put an end to its continued unlawful and destabilizing measures in the already volatile region of the Persian Gulf.

It would be highly appreciated if you could have the present letter issued as a document of the Security Council.

Please accept, your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Iran summons Swiss ambassador over invading U.S. drone

1 → Baharvand also sent the message that Iran does not seek war with any country, however, the armed forces of the Islamic Republic will strongly respond to any act of aggression.

"Iran's armed forces practice self-restraint as far as possible in order to maintain peace in volatile region of the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman. However, if the other side takes provocative and inconsiderate actions, it will face retaliatory response whose consequences are unpredictable and will cause harms to all sides," Baharvad explained.

The Swiss envoy promised to immediately convey the message to Washington.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Friday that the U.S. military drone entered the Iranian airspace from the United Arab Emirates and it was targeted near Kouh-e Mobarak.

"At 00:14 U.S. drone took off from the UAE in stealth mode and violated Iranian airspace," Zarif wrote on his Twitter account.

Zarif said, "It was targeted at 04:05 at the coordinates (25°59'43"N 57°02'25"E) near Kouh-e Mobarak."

Iran has submitted a protest letter to the United Nations over the violation of its airspace by the United States.

Foreign Minister Zarif said Iran has found parts of the downed drone in its territorial waters.

"We've retrieved sections of the U.S. military drone in OUR territorial waters where it was shot down," Zarif explained.

Tehran has released two videos that show the flight route of the stealth drone as well as the moment it was brought down by an Iranian made air defense shield called "Third of Khordad".

Majid Takht-e Ravanchi, Iran's ambassador to the UN, wrote a letter on Thursday to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and the UN Security Council stating that "Iran condemns, in the strongest possible terms, this irresponsible and provocative wrongful act by the United States, which entails its international responsibility."

"While the Islamic Republic of Iran does not seek war, it reserves its inherent right, under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, to take all appropriate necessary measures against any hostile act violating its territory, and is determined to vigorously defend its land, sea and air," he said.

According to Fars, Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Major General Hossein Salami said that the move should alert Washington officials to stay away.

The incident sent "a clear message" to the U.S. and other enemies that Iran will show a firm and crushing response to any aggression, Salami said.

"Borders are our red lines and any enemy which violates them will not go back home and will be annihilated. The only way for enemies is to respect Iran's territorial integrity and national interests," he asserted.

Joe Biden raps Trump's Iran strategy as a 'self-inflicted disaster'

By staff and agencies

Former Vice President Joe Biden weighed in Thursday on the rapidly escalating tensions between the U.S. and Iran, charging that President Donald Trump has upped the odds of a military confrontation by "walking away from diplomacy" with Tehran.

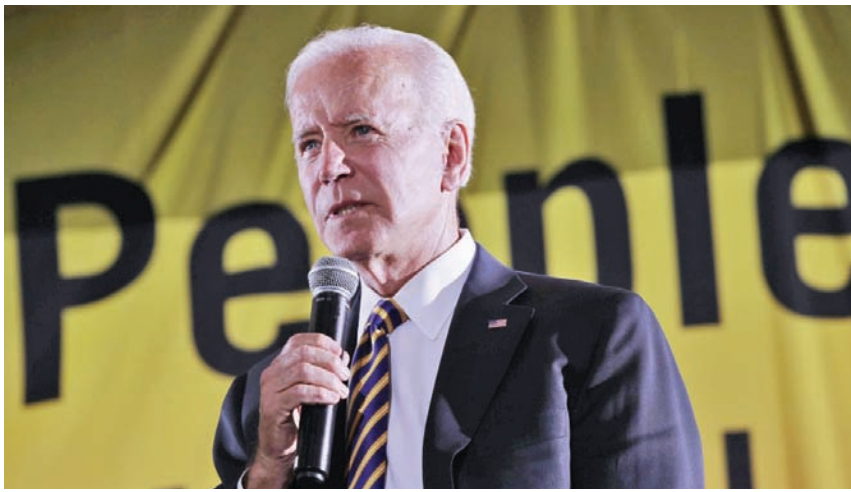
"President Trump's Iran strategy is a self-inflicted disaster," Biden, a Democratic 2020 White House contender, said in a statement, Politico reported.

"Two of America's vital interests in the Middle East are preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and securing a stable energy supply through the Strait of Hormuz," he said. "Trump is failing on both counts."

"It's sadly ironic that the State Department is now calling on Iran to abide by the very deal the Trump Administration abandoned," Biden said, referring to Trump administration's withdrawal from the Iran nuclear agreement.

"By walking away from diplomacy, Trump has made military conflict more likely. Another war in the Middle East is the last thing we need," he added.

The remarks from Biden came hours after Iran's military claimed responsibility for shooting down an American drone, which



"It's sadly ironic that the State Department is now calling on Iran to abide by the very deal the Trump Administration abandoned," Biden said, referring to Trump administration's withdrawal from the Iran nuclear agreement.

it said had violated Iranian airspace.

U.S. presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders also warned the Trump administration against "another war based on lies", the Morning Star reported.

The Democratic senator from Vermont vowed to do all he can "to stop the U.S. attacking Iran" as Washington ratchets up regional tensions.

In an interview with U.S. broadcaster MSNBC, Sanders branded the Iraq and Vietnam wars as "the two worst foreign policy disasters ... based on lies that came from the White House."

"I will do everything that I personally can as a United States senator to stop the United States attacking Iran," he said.

"If we go into a war with Iran this will be an asymmetrical war ... There will be never-ending wars in the Middle East. It will make the war in Iraq look like a cakewalk."

He later tweeted: "The Vietnam War was based on a lie. The Iraq War was based on lies. We cannot allow Trump to drag us into war with Iran."

The situation in the Gulf of Oman has remained tense since the U.S. accused Iran of attacking two oil tankers last week, while Iran strongly rejected the allegations.

Downing of drone sends clear message to U.S.: IRGC

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said on Thursday that the downing of a U.S. spy drone over the southern parts of Iran sends a "clear message" to Washington.

The message is that while Tehran is not seeking war it is completely ready to fight if necessary, Major General Hossein Salami said.

Speaking at an event in the western province of Kordestan, he stressed that the Islamic Republic will respond firmly to any act of intrusion.

"You heard today that in the early morning the Guard's Aerospace Force bravely downed an intruding American drone,"

he said. "This is the manner in which the Iranian nation confronts its enemy."

"The downing of the American drone conveyed a clear message and it was the fact that the defenders of Iran's borders will give a crushing and finishing response to intrusions by any foreign entity," the IRGC chief asserted.

Noting that Iran considered its borders as "red line", the general said: "Any enemy that breaches these borders won't go back."

"We declare that we don't want to go into war with any country but we are fully prepared for war and today's incident was a clear indication of this," General Salami continued.

Qatar urges peaceful ties between Iran, Persian Gulf Arab states

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Doha has highlighted the need for peaceful ties between Iran and the littoral Arab states of the Persian Gulf.

In a press conference on Friday, Qatari Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani stressed that the regional crises should be resolved through constructive dialogue, IRNA reported, citing the Al-Khaleej Online.

Al-Thani also asked the international community to resolve the recent disputes and tensions between Iran and the United States through dialogue to prevent the negative effects of the crisis on the Persian Gulf security.

On attack on two oil tankers in the Gulf

of Oman, the Qatari foreign minister said Doha condemns such actions, which not only undermines the security of the region but also affects the whole world.

On June 13, two tankers caught fire after explosions caused by sabotage attacks in the Gulf of Oman. 44 sailors of the two foreign oil tankers were rescued by an Iranian vessel in coordination with Hormuzgan maritime search and rescue center.

They were transported to Jask Port in the east of the Iranian province of Hormuzgan as a humanitarian gesture.

The two tankers, the Marshal Islands-flagged and the Panama-flagged, were on their ways to Taiwan and Singapore from Qatar and Saudi Arabia, respectively.

Enemies had pinned hope on sowing discord among Iranian ethnic groups

TEHRAN (MNA) — Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei have said that enemies had pinned hope on fueling ethnic and religious differences in Iran, but Iranians foiled this plot.



He made the remarks in a Monday meeting with the staff of the Congress of Martyrs of Kordestan province in Tehran. The meeting was reported by the Leader's official website on Thursday.

Ayatollah Khamenei said that the wise people of Kordestan managed to foil enemies' plots in the early years after the Islamic revolution.

He went on to say that people of Kordestan and West Azarbaijan province have greatly served the Islamic Revolution and killed enemies' hopes.

During the Sacred Defense years, people of Kordestan both fought the foreign enemy as well as anti-Revolution forces, he said, praising martyrs of this Iranian region.

He called on the youth generation to study the history of how the Islamic Revolution has reached the current strong point and what efforts have been behind all these achievements.

Strait of Hormuz is a cemetery for aggressors, cleric warns

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Mohammad Javad Haj Ali Akbari, an interim Friday prayer leader in Tehran, has said the Strait of Hormuz has always been a cemetery for the aggressors and will continue to be so.

His comments came one day after Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) shot down an intruding American spy drone in the southern coastal province of Hormozgan.



Addressing worshippers in Tehran, Haj Ali Akbari rejected the U.S. government's claim that the drone was flying in international airspace, Mehr reported.

Following the drone incident, U.S. President Donald Trump issued a series of cataclysmic threats, insisting that the RQ-4 Global Hawk was flying over international waters when it was taken down by an Iranian missile.

However, the GPS coordinates released by Iran put the drone eight miles off the country's coast, inside the 12 nautical miles from the shore, which is Iran's territorial waters.

Haj Ali Akbari also said U.S. allies in the region should buy their defense systems from the Islamic Republic, "because Iran's defense systems have successfully shot down an advanced American drone, while the U.S. defense systems are vulnerable to Yemeni drones."

The cleric warned the U.S. government against waging a war on Iran, saying, "We have never waged a war and will never do so, but we tell them 'if you start a war, you won't be the one finishing it'."

Advisor tells Trump: Don't make a mistake

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — A top foreign policy advisor to the Iranian parliament speaker has warned President Donald Trump against making a mistake after Iranian military downed an invading U.S. spy drone over the Strait of Hormuz, saying the move was a firm message to the U.S. government.

"Warning to @realDonaldTrump: if making a mistake, the end of line will be determined by powerful #Iran," Hossein Amir Abdollahian said in a tweet on Thursday.

"Today, #Trump & #WhiteHouse hawks just received a resolute message from a small portion of Iran's great defense capacities, leading to the shoot-down of the #US advanced #drone," he added.

Earlier in the day, Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) had shot down an intruding American spy drone over country's southern coastal province of Hormozgan.

In a statement issued early Thursday, the IRGC said the U.S.-made Global Hawk surveillance drone was brought down by its Air Force near the Kouch-e Mobarak region — which sits in the central district of Jask County — after the aircraft violated Iranian airspace.

After the incident, Trump tweeted that "Iran made a very big mistake!"



MP rules out talks with West over nuclear deal experience

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — A member of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee says Iran will not hold new rounds of negotiations with the West because of its previous experience with regard to the 2015 nuclear deal which the U.S. ditched last year.

"We negotiated with the West for several years, which led to Barjam (nuclear deal), but there will definitely be no negotiations with the West in the future," Alaeddin Boroujerdi said,



Mehr reported on Thursday.

On the 60-day deadline that Iran has set for the remaining signatories to the nuclear deal, he said Iran would take a firm move if they fail to fulfill their duties to save the accord by the deadline.

The 60-day deadline was declared to the remaining nuclear deal parties — the European Union, Germany, France, Britain, Russia and China — on May 8.

"Europe is expected to quickly fulfill their

obligations with regard to Barjam," he said, adding that actions, rather than words, are important for Iran.

In May 2018, U.S. President Donald Trump pulled the U.S. out of the nuclear deal, also known as the JCPOA, and reimposed sanctions on Tehran.

The move has been met with worldwide objections, yet Tehran argues that the international community has failed to protect Iran's economic interests in the face of U.S. sanctions.

Presence of Nazanin Zaghari's husband outside Iran embassy 'intimidating and insulting': envoy

TEHRAN (Press TV) — Iran's UK ambassador Hamid Baeidinejad says the presence of the British husband of imprisoned dual British-Iranian citizen, Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, outside the embassy has been intimidating.

Richard Ratcliffe camped outside the

embassy and began a protest last weekend to call for the release of her wife, who is serving a five-year term in Iran on espionage charges.

Baeidinejad said the presence of Ratcliffe, who is being visited by a group of other people outside the building, is "intimidating and insulting".

"His presence is disrupting the work of the embassy and apparently what he has in mind is a campaign of pressure against the embassy," he added.

Baeidinejad expressed "sympathy with him" saying, "We are sorry about this situation, but this situation has occurred by

the wrongdoing of a national lady and she has a verdict of five years in prison."

He said Ratcliffe was free to go to the embassy and apply for a visa to travel to Iran.

Earlier this week, Baeidinejad rejected claims by Radcliff that he has been denied a visa to go to Iran to see his wife in prison.

U.S. spy drone downed after Iran's several warnings: commander

TEHRAN (Tasnim) — The deputy commander of Khatam al-Anbia Air Defense Base, the headquarters of Iran's Air Defense, said the country's forces targeted and shot down the U.S. spy drone over the Iranian territorial waters after issuing several warnings.

The downing of the U.S. military's unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) is the result of the "aggressive" nature of Washington and its ignorance of other countries' rights, Brigadier General Qader Rahimzadeh said on Friday.

"On numerous occasions, the American planes have received warnings because of violating international regulations, crossing the designated border lines, and entering our territorial waters," he noted.

"All of the warnings and their flight routes have been recorded," the commander added.

"The Americans' non-compliance with the international law has caused their aircraft to be hit and shot down after (receiving) several warnings," Brigadier General Rahimza-

deh stated.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said on Thursday that a U.S. spy drone that violated the Iranian territorial airspace in the early hours of the day was shot down by the IRGC Aerospace Force's air defense unit near the Kooh-e-Mobarak region in the southern province of Hormozgan.

The intruding drone was reportedly shot by Iran's home-grown air defense missile system "Khordad-3rd".

Zarif: Iran to start second phase of limiting nuclear commitments on July 7

1 → Zarif made the remarks in a joint press conference with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu in Isfahan on Friday.

Cavusoglu had arrived in Isfahan a day earlier, on June 20, for a working visit at the invitation of Zarif.

During their press conference, Zarif said mutual relations are on the right track, adding Cavusoglu's trip was important to the two countries' strategic relations and signing of a political cooperation document between their respective foreign ministries.

Following a meeting between the two countries' delegations earlier this year, Cavusoglu and Zarif also signed a plan meant to strengthen cooperation in bilateral, regional, and international relations during their Friday meeting.

Zarif also said that following a meeting earlier

by the two heads of state in Tajikistan, Iran is ready to boost trade with Turkey.

The two foreign ministers also discussed energy, banking, and tourism relations, as well as the current state of affairs in Syria, Yemen, and the Persian Gulf.

The necessity of "effective reaction" against U.S. hybrid war

1 → 2. Trump administration has proven the world that it will not respect the international agreements and decisions. Trump unilaterally left U.S. nuclear deal with Iran, abandoned Paris Agreement and is now challenging other international agreements such as North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). These actions are all red flags for the whole world about the immediate danger of U.S. to the world.

Therefore, as a first step, the world independent countries need to form a joint understanding about "Washington's threat to the humanity" and "the parameters of U.S. hybrid warfare." meetings such as Ufa conference will be a major step toward achieving this goal.

Now, in 2019, Washington is trying to rearrange his battle

plan against other countries based on a complex set of new parameters. This new dangerous scheme, designed by U.S., will not be thwarted, unless new offensive and defensive strategies against U.S. hybrid war are designed.

Washington has majorly devised this complex scheme based on the "predictable behavior" of its contestants; but with drafting a new "guideline for counteracting U.S. hybrid war", this scheme can be thwarted.

3. The meeting between Afghanistan's six neighboring countries in Russia, has been one of the events that sabotaged parts of U.S. plans in successful operation of its hybrid war against the countries who are key decision-makers in West Asia and Indian subcontinent.

"Purposeful distribution of tasks" between Afghanistan's neighboring countries in solving its issues (provided that each of the countries meet their responsibilities) will disrupt a major part of Washington and NATO's plans. In such an environment, there will be enough room left for others to help, so that the crisis in Afghanistan will finally end and the country achieve real, permanent security.

The recent conference in Ufa is an example of "effective reaction" of active countries such as Iran, Russia, China and India against U.S. hybrid war. These kind of reactions must continue and be defined as long-term permanent plan because Washington's hybrid warfare against world countries will not stop under any circumstances, even if Trump goes out of office.

NIOC should focus on petro-refinery projects: Parl. Research Center

E N E R G Y **TEHRAN** — The Research Center of Iran's parliament said in a report that petro-refineries are two times more profitable than refineries and suggested that National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC)'s new refinery projects be defined as petro-refineries.

The report dubbed "Petro-refineries, their role in competing the oil value chain and the status in Iran's oil industry" stated that constructing petro-refineries is one of the most important ways to alleviate severe economic impacts of price fluctuations and achieve a much higher margin of profit, Mehr news agency reported.

The report further emphasizes the importance of completing the value chain of the oil and gas industry to increase value added and prevent crude oil sales as one of the principles that has been underlined in the country's Sixth National Five-Year Development Plan (2016-2021).

"According to French energy giant Total, by 2020 global demand for oil products will increase by 1.1 percent while the demand for polymers increases by 3.3 percent, so with this in mind, the crea-



tion of a hybrid system of refining and petrochemicals (petro-refinery) seems a necessity," the report read.

Petrochemical industry is one of the

most important pillars of Iran's economy and one of the main suppliers of foreign currency especially euro for the country. Iran is currently producing near 63

million tons of petrochemical products annually and with several new projects underway, the number is expected to jump over 65 million tons, further cementing the Islamic Republic's stance as a major petrochemical supplier to the world markets.

The country also plans to establish a new petrochemical complex in Hormozgan Province adjacent to Persian Gulf waters, which will increase the country's petrochemical output by 15 million tons per year.

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

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

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

Oil prices extend gains amid Middle East tensions, rate cut hopes

Oil prices rose on Friday, with Brent crude heading for its first weekly gain in five weeks on tensions in the Middle East after Iran shot down a U.S. military drone and on hopes for a drop in U.S. interest rates that may stimulate global growth.

While U.S. President Donald Trump played down the destruction of the drone, tensions remain high after the latest incident in the Persian Gulf, which followed tanker attacks last week that raised concerns about crucial oil supplies being disrupted.

The demand-side picture has also improved, with expectations that the U.S. Federal Reserve will cut interest rates at its next meeting and with plans by Beijing and Washington to resume talks to resolve a trade war that has hit economic growth prospects.

Brent crude was up 39 cents, or 0.6%, at \$64.84 a barrel by 0034 GMT. The global benchmark rose 4.3% on Thursday and is heading for a weekly gain of more than 4% after four weeks of decline.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude was up 32 cents, or 0.6%, at \$57.39 a barrel. The U.S. benchmark rose 5.4% on Thursday and is on track for a nearly 10% increase this week.



Potential supply "disruptions have boosted energy prices combined with the dollar weakness after the Fed signaled an interest rate is near," Alfonso Esparza, senior market analyst at OANDA, said in a note.

A weaker greenback tends to support oil prices because crude is usually priced in dollars.

"Trade anxiety has died down, pushing energy prices higher as global growth will not be pressured by a prolonged

tariff war," Esparza said.

Concern about slowing economic growth and a U.S.-China trade dispute had pulled oil lower in recent weeks. That came after Brent reached a 2019-high above \$75 in April.

Trump said on Thursday he suspected the drone was shot down by mistake and that "it would have made a big difference" to him if the remotely-controlled aircraft had been piloted.

While the comments appeared to suggest Trump was not eager to escalate the latest in a series of incidents with Iran, he also warned that: "This country will not stand for it".

Tehran said the unarmed Global Hawk surveillance drone was on a spy mission over its territory, but Washington said it was shot down over international airspace.

Several top U.S. House Republicans said on Thursday the United States must undertake a "measured response" to Iran.

Tension has been rising in the Middle East, home to over 20% of the world's oil output, after attacks on two tankers near the Strait of Hormuz, a chokepoint for oil supplies.

Washington blamed Tehran for the tanker attacks. Iran denied any role.

Clean power to overtake fossil fuels in Britain in 2019

Britain, the birth place of coal power, is set this year to use more electricity from zero-carbon sources such as wind, solar and nuclear than from fossil fuel plants for the first time, the country's National Grid said on Friday.

As stated by euronews.com, Britain was home to the world's first coal-fuelled power plant in the 1880s, and coal was its dominant electricity source and a major economic driver for the next century.

But last week it became the first G7 country to commit to reach net-zero emissions by 2050, a target requiring a big increase in low-carbon power, and an even steeper reduction in fossil fuel use.

European leaders have also this week discussed moving to a tougher climate target but have struggled to find unanimity among member states.

The "incredible progress that Britain has made in the past 10 years means we can now say 2019 will be the year zero-carbon power beats fossil fuel fired generation for the first time," National Grid CEO John Pettigrew said.

Data from National Grid shows low-carbon power generation contributed around 48% of Britain's electricity in the first five months of 2019 while fossil fuels such as coal and gas-fired plants contributed around 47%. The rest comes from biomass and storage.

The transition has been largely due to a huge increase in Britain's wind power capacity, with wind contributing almost a fifth of the country's power in the first five months of 2019, up from just 1%

in 2009.

Britain's windy coastlines in particular have proved to be an ideal host for large wind projects, with the northwest coast of England home to the world's largest offshore wind farm, Orsted's Walney Extension.

The increase in zero-carbon power marks a huge shift from a decade ago when coal and gas plants provided around three-quarters of the country's electricity.

Britain plans to phase out all coal-fired power generation by 2025 and further cuts in greenhouse emissions will be vital if the country is to meet the net-zero target, the government's climate advisers have said.

Germany, which gets around 35% of its electricity from renewable sources has struggled to reduce its emissions due to its high portion of coal power, which contributed more than one-third of its power last year.

The National Grid data showed 9% of Britain's electricity came from imports from Europe via interconnectors with France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Ireland during the first five months of the year.

National Grid said the growing number of power interconnectors Britain has with its neighbors, such as nuclear power dominant France, will help Britain further curb its fossil fuel use.

An interconnector planned with Norway will give Britain access to Norway's carbon-free hydro power, while also enabling Britain to export its growing wind capacity, National Grid said.

Asian LNG prices slip as cargoes flood; North Asian demand slows

By Jessica Jaganathan

Asian spot prices for liquefied natural gas (LNG) slipped this week on the back of a surplus of cargoes globally while imports from North Asia appeared to be slowing down this month, industry sources said.

Spot prices for August delivery to North-east Asia are estimated to be about \$4.60 per million British thermal units (mmBtu), down about 10 to 30 cents from last week, the sources said.

Prices for July delivery are estimated at about \$4.40 per mmBtu, stable from the previous week, they added.

A flurry of sell tenders flooded the global market while demand remained stable, industry sources said.

"Demand is actually quite alright, but it's the supply that's depressing prices," a Singapore-based LNG trader said.

Exxon Mobil Corp's Papua New Guinea LNG export plant, Australia's Ichthys plant, Nigeria LNG, Angola LNG plant and Abu Dhabi National Oil Co (ADNOC) offered cargoes for July loading or delivery, industry sources said.

Supply was also coming in for August with Oman LNG offering three cargoes, sources added.

Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Co (KUFPEC) may have sold a cargo for loading from Australia's Wheatstone plant between July 30 and Aug. 3 at \$4.20 per mmBtu, industry sources said, though this could not immediately be confirmed.

In Singapore, Gunvor sold a cargo for loading over Aug. 9 to 13 to BP at \$4.80

per mmBtu, they added.

The surplus of cargoes come as imports of the super-chilled fuel into Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and China look set to dip by more than 10% in June from the previous month, according to shiptracking data from Refinitiv.

The LNG tanker 'Seri Camar' has been floating in Malaysian waters after loading the ship from Sabah oil and gas terminal in early June, data from Refinitiv and data intelligence firm Kpler showed.

■ The first LNG export cargo

The tanker 'Valencia Knutsen', which is carrying the first LNG export cargo from Royal Dutch Shell's Prelude floating LNG, is currently anchored in South Korea with destination stated as Geoje, Refinitiv data showed on Friday.

On the demand side, Indian Oil Corp may have bought a cargo for delivery on Aug. 22 at \$4.50 per mmBtu, industry sources said, though this could not immediately be confirmed.

India's Gujarat State Petroleum Corp (GSPC) is seeking two cargoes for delivery in August, sources said.

Providing some support, LNG loadings from Semptra Energy's \$10 billion Cameron export terminal in Louisiana have been delayed after the first cargo from the project was exported last month to start up operations.

At least two commissioning cargoes, one for France's Total and another for Spain's Repsol, were delayed, according to industry sources and shiptracking data.

(Source: finance.yahoo.com)

Miners see 50% renewables as standard, but are aiming for 100%

Consider this statistic. An average size off grid mine with a 30MW power plant will likely burn about \$1.4 billion of diesel fuel over a 20-year period, at current prices. That's about one third of the total cost of the mine.

According to sasknewsnow.com, now, the Australian mining industry has suddenly discovered that there is a cheaper, cleaner and smarter way to power their operations, and the sector is now emerging as the unlikely source of the next boom in renewables investment.

The Australian mining industry is not usually regarded as the go-to cohort for the push into clean energy and emissions abatement, if their lobbying groups and peak bodies are anything to go by.

But while the likes of the Minerals Council of Australia spend enormous resources pushing for new coal generators and even nuclear, and promoting these ideas through their close links with the government, the industry itself now find themselves at the forefront of the transition to renewable energy.

Which makes the principal theme at this week's Energy and Mines conference in Perth all the more extraordinary. If there was consensus among the 300-strong people in attendance, it could possibly be best summed this way: More than 50 percent renewable share at Australian mine sites should now be considered the norm, and 100 per cent renewables will follow soon enough.

ARENA CEO Darren Miller, in announcing support for two ground-breaking projects combining wind, solar and batteries at the Agnew gold mine and the GMA garnet mine near Kalbarri, says the cost reductions in renewables are game changing.

■ Replacing fossil fuels

'It is not a case of whether we replace fossil fuels with renewables, but how we integrate them.' And he says the opportunity goes beyond stationary energy, thanks to the emergence of batteries and hydrogen, and into transport as well.

'We will see rapid and ongoing cost reductions in battery costs, and mining companies moving to battery vehicles and hydrogen.'



All the more striking was the mood that this was more than just a change in electricity supply. It could preface a fundamental re-think about the nature of mining in Australia.

Low cost renewable electricity means mining companies will no longer just shovel ore into shipping containers to export it for value-adding overseas, they will now look at establishing refining, processing and smelting industries considered impossible up to now.

'I think there is a huge opportunity for industry, and for the refining and processing of copper, lead, zinc, and manganese, says Justin Brown, the executive director of Element 25, which is looking to source a minimum 50 per cent and up to 90 per cent renewables for the 100MW supply needed at it Butcherbird manganese project in the Pilbara.

The Butcherbird project is looking to export value-added manganese plate, now that wind and solar has provided cheap power to enable Australian companies to compete with Chinese producers. And the Australian project will have the added advantage of being low-carbon.

"It can be a viable alternative to just shipping the ore out," Brown says, suggesting that the renewable hydrogen export story should be supplemented by the side of exporting zero carbon products such as steel, alumina and others. "Why not?" he asks.

It's not exactly what I expected when I took the plane in Sydney to cross the Nullarbor. The political and mainstream media talk in the eastern states is dominated by scare stories that renewables will be the death of Australia's economy, kill manufacturing and destroy jobs.

■ The mining industry

The mining industry here think that sort of talk is just nuts. Luckily for them, they can pretty much ignore the federal government and its neanderthal approach to energy and emissions.

It has taken the mining industry a while to get to this point, however, as they are conservative bunch.

This five-year old graph - produced for an ARENA report - highlights the fact that solar PV has been beating diesel costs since around 2012.

Miners and other off grid users pay a whopping \$250-\$400/MWh for electricity, and solar PV prices have slumped even further than that assumed in this graph, to well below \$100/MWh.

Part of the problem was that miners were not convinced that solar, or wind, could be absorbed easily into an off-grid location without affecting reliability.

Numerous pilot projects have proved this is not the case, and the rapid improvement in battery technologies, integration and control system has now given the confidence that this technology is both cheaper and more reliable than what they have now.

Having recognized the opportunity, the mining industry is unlikely to muck around. After all, on off grid sites, they don't have to stuff around with policies, and regulators and rule makers can't get in their way.

Consider the potential. According to Juwi, the global mining industry consumers around 400TWh of electricity a year, about twice the consumption of Australia's entire grid.

Stephen Hanson, the chief operating officer of Juwi, which built the ground-breaking solar and battery storage facility at the Degussa copper mine in W.A. says the global mining industry consumes around 400TWh of electricity a year, about twice the consumption of Australia's entire grid.

Persian Gulf OPEC producers to keep July production within current deal

OPEC's oil producers from the Persian Gulf are not in a rush to increase production in July despite the fact that the current agreement expires at the end of June and the cartel and allies will discuss their future oil policy in the first days of July.

According to oilprice.com, the Persian Gulf oil producers — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — will keep their July production within the limits set by the current deal expiring in June, OPEC sources told Reuters on Thursday.

The Saudis are pumping in June at around the same rate as in May, while their production in July will continue to comply with the current production cut deal, Reuters' sources said.



OPEC's de facto leader and largest producer Saudi Arabia pumped 9.69 million bpd in May, according to OPEC's secondary sources, while under the deal, the cap for the Kingdom is 10.311 million bpd. Kuwait and the UAE also over-complied with their share

of the cuts in May, though in much smaller proportions than the Saudis.

Earlier this week, The Wall Street Journal reported that Saudi Arabia is cutting its oil production even deeper this month as concerns over oil demand growth have

intensified. The Saudis are also asking other producers to follow and restrain production, OPEC officials told The Journal.

While the Persian Gulf producers Kuwait and the UAE will follow the Saudi's lead, the biggest unknown at the OPEC+ meetings rescheduled for July 1-2 is whether non-OPEC Russia will continue to play ball and agree to roll over the cuts.

"Russia is the only country that is yet to decide," an OPEC source told Reuters today, confirming comments from Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih from earlier this month that a "rollover is almost in the bag" for OPEC, but the cartel has yet to discuss the pact with the non-OPEC producers led by Russia.

‘Fake news’ about China trade dents credibility of U.S.

By Hu Weijia



GLOBALTIMES-As US President Donald Trump levels accusations of “fake news” and stirs up distrust of the media, he also keeps making mistakes when it comes to economic data and continues a trade war with China based on “fake” figures.

Trump was quoted by the Washington Post and the New York Times as saying that “We have never taken in 10 cents from China. We would lose \$500 billion a year with China.” It isn’t the first time such figures were mentioned by Trump. According to a post on the White House website on May 9, Trump said “we’re the piggybank that everybody steals from, including China. We’ve been paying China \$500 billion a year for many, many years.”

According to data from the Office of the US Trade Representative, the US goods and services trade deficit with China was \$378.6 billion in 2018. Chinese customs statistics showed the US trade deficit with China was \$323 billion last year. The figure of \$500 billion is quite different from the official figures when it comes to the US trade deficit with China. What’s more, data compiled by FactCheck.org show the US collected more than \$10 billion in customs duties on Chinese imports each year from 2010 to 2018. It is unreasonable to say the US has “never taken in 10 cents from China.”

Trump may need a fact-check of his remarks before delivering speeches, posting tweets or rolling out policies. Trump formally launched his re-election campaign with a rally on Tuesday in Florida. The American people need to figure out whether the president will rely on false figures or claims to “Keep America Great.”

False claims made by a president can do nothing but affect the image of a country. Trump has more than once accused China of manipulating its currency, but the US Treasury in May again decided not to label China as a currency manipulator. Trump accuses China but doesn’t even have the evidence to persuade officials in his government. With the US economy mired in multiple hidden perils amid trade tensions, it is advised that the Trump administration not resort to extreme repression for the sake of winning re-election. The only way out is to get back on track to restore trade ties with China.

World looks with hope at Xi’s North Korea visit

Chinese President Xi Jinping embarks on a historic visit of North Korea on Thursday. The first visit since 2005 by a top Chinese leader to the country has the international community watching intently.

This is a big event on China-North Korea relations. North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has visited China four times since last year. Xi’s return visit makes bilateral ties robust at the highest levels.

The traditional China-North Korea friendship has stood the test of time and transformed into a strategic asset for the two countries. China and North Korea are comrades, close neighbors, and good partners. This is a strategic choice made by the two sides based on history and reality, the international and regional situation and China-North Korea relations as a whole.

The traditional friendly relations between the countries also help consolidate peace and stability in Northeast Asia, and continuously provide impetus for solving the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue. Take the two North Korea-US summits as an example. In terms of travel, China provided the North Korean leader the means of transportation and railway passage. The strategic trust between the two countries has always been a key source of confidence in attempts to resolve the Peninsula standoff. The outside world often misinterprets top-level exchanges between China and North Korea. The perception is driven partly by ideological bias and partly by a narrow geopolitical perspective.

Some elites in the US and South Korea are naturally wary of high-level exchanges between China and North Korea. A large part of this is a misunderstanding of the basic fact that China has a stake in the Korean Peninsula issue, and driven by some selfish considerations. Such people hope that China shouldn’t be involved in the formulation of the roadmap for resolving the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue. At the same time they hope that China will fully cooperate and push forward Washington’s plans, actively responding to those plans even if they contradict China’s interests.

There are some Americans who always suspect that China is playing the North Korea card amid the trade war. They are too sensitive and measuring others on their own terms. The friendship between China and North Korea is built upon long-term strategic interests of both sides, rather than on a calculation to solve one specific problem.

On the whole, the Korean Peninsula problem is thorny and the international environment has become increasingly complex, which adds many unfavorable parameters to China-North Korea cooperation. Addressing these issues is a big deal for both countries. China and North Korea should not only open up new areas of bilateral cooperation, but also work together for a settlement of the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue so as to create greater space for the continuous progress of ties. This will test the courage and wisdom of both countries and come out with flying colors in the test of history.

By Rebecca Gordon and Tom Engelhardt

ANTIWAR — How about a little round of Auld Lang Syne? After all, when it comes to war crimes, whatever he ends up doing, Donald Trump will still be a johnny-come-lately. Remember, for instance, that top officials in the administration of George W. Bush, including Vice President Dick Cheney and National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, reportedly had methods of torture demonstrated to them in the White House and officially green-lighted such methods in their post-9/11 campaign to, as they put it, “take the gloves off” in the Global War on Terror. Similarly, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, on hearing about stress techniques being used by the CIA on prisoners in the war on terror, complained that they were too timid. “I stand for 8-10 hours a day,” he wrote. “Why is standing limited to 4 hours?” Meanwhile, Justice Department lawyers were promoting what were then being euphemistically called “enhanced interrogation techniques” as anything but torture. They even redefined “severe physical or mental pain or suffering” in the classic legal description of such acts more or less out of existence. An act would not be considered torture, they decided, if “intent” wasn’t there — and the only way to know about intent would be to ask the potential torturer. (Even then, he or she would need to have “specific intent to cause pain” in mind.)

This was the mentality of the Bush White House as CIA “black sites” (essentially secret torture prisons) spread around the planet, while Guantánamo was set up as the administration’s offshore Bermuda Triangle of injustice. The CIA even waterboarded — in a blunter age, it was known as “the water torture” — one prisoner 83 times in a single month (a technique banned after Barack Obama came into office). So candidate Donald Trump was in good company in 2016 when he began claiming that he would load up Gitmo “with some bad dudes,” while bringing “back waterboarding, and a hell of a lot worse.” In that campaign year, he repeatedly called for its use and swore that, as president, he’d approve it “in a heartbeat” because “only a stupid person would say it doesn’t work... [and] if it doesn’t work, [the terrorists] deserve it anyway, for what they’re doing.” We’re talking, of course, about a candidate without pity who swore that, in fighting ISIS, he would do more than just kill its members. “When you get these terrorists,” he said, “you have to take out their families.”

His rally audiences ate it up and so a man who was openly and preemptively proud of being a future war criminal — no euphemisms for him — was elected president of the United States. Think of that as you consider what TomDispatch regular Rebecca Gordon has to say today about his urge to pardon convicted (or accused) war criminals in the lower ranks of the U.S. military. It’s a small, small world we live in and it’s getting smaller every day. ~ Tom

Clemency for the Lowly, Free Passes for the Mighty

Memorial Day has come and gone and President Trump did not issue his pardons after all. There was substantial evidence that he was planning to use the yearly moment honoring the country’s war dead to grant executive clemency to several U.S. soldiers and at least one military contractor. All have been accused, and one already convicted, of crimes in the never-ending war on terror. But apparently Trump received enough resistance from serving and retired senior military officers and former soldiers, including presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg, to change his mind — for now.

The Friday before Memorial Day, the president was evidently still undecided but moved, so he told reporters, by his compassion for former fighters who are being “really treated very unfairly.” After all, he explained, “Some of these soldiers are people that have fought hard and long. You know, we teach them how to be great fighters, and then when they fight...” — well, we’re sometimes cruel enough to hold them to the standards set by U.S. and international law. Of course, there are those, including ethics students of mine in the Reserve Officer Training Corps, who might argue that part of the training to be a “great fighter” is learning to obey the laws of war, including, for example, the Geneva Conventions.

Trump has already pardoned one war criminal. On May 6th, he granted full executive clemency to Michael Behenna, convicted in 2009 of murdering an Iraqi prisoner named Ali Mansur Mohammed. Behenna served five years of a 25-year sentence and was paroled in 2014. What did Behenna do to Mansur? Guardian



columnist Gary Younge offers some details: “On Mansur’s release Behenna was supposed to take him home, but instead took him to a secluded area, stripped him naked and shot him dead, later claiming Mansur had made a lunge for his gun.” Now, Behenna has a presidential pardon and Ali Mansur Mohammed is still dead.

Who else is in line for a possible pardon? The list includes Nicholas Slatten, a former contractor for Blackwater, twice convicted of murder in federal court for his part in the infamous Nisour Square massacre of 14 civilians in Baghdad in 2007. Blackwater, you may recall, was a mercenary outfit owned until 2010 by Erik Prince, a Trump confidant and the brother of Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos. Also under consideration for pardons:

Army Major Matthew Golsteyn, a Green Beret accused of murdering an unarmed Afghan

Navy Special Warfare Operator Chief Edward Gallagher, accused among other things of “stabbing a defenseless teenage captive to death, picking off a school-age girl and an old man from a sniper’s roost,” and “indiscriminately spraying neighborhoods [in Mosul, Iraq] with rockets and machine-gun fire,” according to the New York Times

A “group of Marine Corps snipers charged,” as the Times also reported, “with urinating on the corpses of dead Taliban fighters”

Trump seems to have taken an interest in Gallagher’s case as early as this March, when he tweeted, “In honor of his past service to our Country, Navy Seal #EddieGallagher will soon be moved to less restrictive confinement while he awaits his day in court. Process should move quickly!” For once, Trump wasn’t lying and soon afterwards he ordered the Navy to release the prisoner from the brig while he awaits trial. Gallagher is now merely restricted to his base.

Small Fry Get Tried, Big Fish Walk Both military figures and civilians have expressed disgust at Trump’s Memorial Day pardon talk. Some, like Buttigieg, argue that pardons for war crimes endanger those now serving in the military. “If the president blows a hole in” the military justice system, the Democratic candidate for president told the Washington Post, “he is blowing a hole in the military and he is putting troops’ lives at risk” by signaling to adversaries that the United States is not bound by the laws of war, so they needn’t be either.

Other critics point to potential harm to the integrity of the military justice system, which requires that military commanders refrain from seeking to influence ongoing judicial processes. Presumably the category of “military commanders” includes the commander-in-chief. Yet Trump has done just that, most recently by telling reporters he might wait until after the trials are over to consider issuing those pardons, a pretty strong signal to the courts of the outcomes he’d like to see.

Outrageous as these potential and actual pardons may be, even the most outraged of observers continue to avoid a more significant issue: only relatively low-level soldiers and contractors have been held responsible for crimes committed in the war on terror. With all the

recent discussion of pardons and war crimes, who’s talking about holding responsible the authors of the policies that put those soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq in the first place? (Or, for that matter, in Syria, Yemen, Niger, or any of the other acknowledged and unacknowledged battlefields in our forever wars?) If the crime is big enough — like creating or countenancing a U.S. torture archipelago that stretched from Thailand to Poland to Guantánamo Bay, or lying to the world to justify launching an aggressive war on Iraq — the risk of trial is nonexistent. No pardons required.

Should pictures surface of you tormenting Iraqis in some foreign prison like Iraq’s Abu Ghraib, as Army reservists Charles Graner and Lynndie England did, you might indeed end up in jail for a while and become the possible object of a presidential pardon. If, however, you’re Major General Geoffrey Miller, who ran the Guantánamo prison for then-Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld — well, you’re a hero. In 2003, Rumsfeld dispatched Miller from Cuba to take charge of U.S. military prisons in Iraq, especially Abu Ghraib, and to “Gitmo-ize them,” which he certainly did. And if you’re Donald Rumsfeld himself, who approved the use of torture at Guantánamo in an infamous December 2002 memo requested by Miller, you’re an elder statesman and honored philanthropist.

War Crimes and Cover-Ups Of course, the war on terror isn’t the first American conflict in which higher-ups have escaped responsibility for war crimes. I was only 17 in November 1969, but I still remember when investigative reporter Seymour Hersh broke the story of the My Lai massacre in Vietnam. He recounted the events of a day of horror in March 1968 when a small



band of U.S. soldiers, led by Lieutenant William Calley, systematically murdered somewhere between 350 and 570 Vietnamese civilians, all of them old men, women, or children. It would later emerge that, in addition to shoving Vietnamese peasants into ditches and machine gunning them, executing people kneeling outside a temple, setting fire to homes, and shooting people as they ran out to escape the flames, soldiers raped many women and girls.

A witness told Hersh, “They didn’t

The United States was not always so reluctant to put national leaders on trial for their war crimes. That’s exactly what this country, along with the other three “Great Powers” of World War II — France, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union — did when they tried high-ranking Nazis and their enablers at Nuremberg.

put up a fight or anything. The women huddled against their children and took it. They brought their kids real close to their stomachs and hugged them, and put their bodies over them trying to save them. It didn’t do much good.”

Alone among the 26 servicemen tried for My Lai, Lieutenant Calley was convicted in 1971 of murder. All the rest were acquitted. Calley was sentenced to life in the military prison at Fort Leavenworth, later reduced to 20 years. However, in a move that would presage Donald Trump’s order to release Eddie Gallagher, the day after Calley’s conviction, President Richard Nixon arranged for him to be moved to Fort Benning, Georgia, where he lived under house arrest until his parole a mere three-and-a-half years later.

As Nick Turse revealed in the Nation 40 years later, My Lai was no aberration. It was part of a larger operation called Speedy Express, conceived at the highest military levels, involving civilian murders committed across a wide swath of South Vietnam’s Mekong Delta. As Turse wrote in 2008:

“From December 1968 through May 1969, a large-scale operation was carried out by the Ninth Infantry Division, with support from nondivision assets ranging from helicopter gunships to B-52 bombers. The offensive, known as Operation Speedy Express, claimed an enemy body count of 10,899 at a cost of only 267 American lives. Although guerrillas were known to be well armed, the division captured only 748 weapons.”

Quoting an anonymous sergeant who in 1970 wrote a 10-page letter to Army Chief of Staff General William Westmoreland, Turse added that

“these killings all took place for one reason: ‘the General in charge and all the commanders, riding us all the time to get a big body count. Nobody ever gave direct orders to “shoot civilians” that I know of, but the results didn’t show any different than if... they had ordered it. The Vietnamese were dead, victims of the body count pressure and nobody cared enough to try to stop it.”

No one was ever prosecuted for the crimes of Operation Speedy Express and only William Calley was ever convicted for the horrors of My Lai, themselves but one example of what Westmoreland’s anonymous correspondent called, “a My Lay [sic] each month for over a year.” Indeed, the expression “a Lieutenant Calley” came to signify a low-level scapegoat for war crimes ordered (however implicitly) by higher ups who managed to keep their hands — and their legacies — clean of the taint of atrocity.

Of course, no high-ranking officer, cabinet-level official, or U.S. president would ever stand trial for the crimes of the Vietnam War. Not for the extensive use of the incendiary napalm against defenseless civilians; not for the CIA’s infamous Phoenix

Program in which between 20,000 and 40,000 Vietnamese were murdered (often after being tortured); not for the carpet bombing of parts of North Vietnam and significant parts of South Vietnam; not for the deaths of as many as two million civilians in North and South Vietnam.

Remember Nuremberg?

The United States was not always so reluctant to put national leaders on trial for their war crimes. That’s exactly what this country, along with the other three “Great Powers” of World War II — France, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union — did when they tried high-ranking Nazis and their enablers at Nuremberg.

In his opening remarks at the first Nuremberg trials in 1945, Robert Jackson, the chief prosecutor for the United States (and an associate justice of the Supreme Court), issued a warning: “We must not forget that the record on which we judge the defendants today is the record on which we will be judged tomorrow.” ➡7

JUNE 22, 2019

ANALYSIS & INTERVIEW

Different interpretations of polls in U.S.

By Saeed Sobhani

TEHRAN — Donald Trump believes that most of the polls in the country are invalid and he can easily win the presidential election next year! On the other hand, many survey institutes have argued that Trump has lost its previous position in key states such as Florida, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Michigan. Given the US state and electoral electoral structure, the probability of failure Trump will increase in next year's elections. Here are some of the latest American media commentary on poll results:

What Are the Chances of Trump Being Reelected?

John Cassidy wrote in New Yorker that On Tuesday night, in Orlando, Donald Trump formally launched his 2020 reelection effort with another big rally. After what happened in 2016, it behooves political analysts and commentators to approach the upcoming campaign with caution. So, I will put it no more strongly than this: with sixteen and a half months to go, the President and his campaign staff have reasons to be concerned.

The good news for Trump is that he retains a solid base of support, and the demographic to which he has the strongest appeal—white Americans who don't have a college degree—still represents a very big chunk of the electorate. Plus, the unemployment rate is just 3.5 per cent, and most Americans are optimistic about the economy. The bad news for the Trump campaign is that other demographic groups seem to have turned even more heavily against him, and a strong economy has failed to lift his approval ratings. Moreover, recent polls suggest that he is in trouble in a number of battleground states, including the three that were key to his victory last time: Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

You probably don't need reminding that, thanks to the vagaries of the American political system, Trump won with just 46.1 per cent of the national vote, and a favorability rating that was considerably lower. On November 7, 2016, the day before the election, 37.5 per cent of American voters had a favorable opinion of him, according to the Real Clear Politics poll average, which suggests that either the polls were wrong or large numbers of people voted for him despite not particularly liking him. After his victory, his favorability rating rose to the low forties during the transition, where it has largely stayed. The latest R.C.P. poll average showed him with a favorability rating of 43.8 per cent, which is pretty close to his latest job-approval rating—44.3 per cent on Wednesday. It doesn't seem to matter what he does or says: these numbers don't change much.

Among whites without a college degree, according to the network exit poll, Trump defeated Hillary Clinton by more than two to one—sixty-six per cent to twenty-nine per cent. This slice of the electorate represents Trump's heartland, and according to the exit poll it accounted for about a third of all voters in 2016. (Thirty-four per cent to be precise.) However, some political experts believe that estimate is too low. In a 2017 study that drew on actual voter files, national-opinion surveys, and their own post-election polling, John Halpin and Ruy Teixeira, of the Center for American Progress, and Rob Griffin, a political scientist at George Washington University, concluded that forty-five per cent of the voters in 2016 were whites without a college degree—eleven percentage points more than the figure from the exit poll.

The more there are of this type of voter,



the better Trump's chances. So what about 2020? Ongoing demographic changes are steadily making the country more diverse. But, in a 2018 analysis, Griffin, Teixeira, and William H. Frey, a demographer at the Brookings Institution, estimated that next year whites without college degrees will make up forty-four per cent of the electorate—just slightly more than in 2016. If this analysis is correct, non-college whites will still be the biggest single voting bloc on the basis of race and education. Plus, they are spread out across the country. The “concentration of Democratic support in metropolitan areas diffuses over-all demographic advantages and increases the chances that large turnout and support from Trump's base, primarily white non-college-educated voters in more rural and working class states, can once again lead to a narrow victory” in the Electoral College, Halpin and Teixeira noted.

But if Trump has a potential pathway back to the White House, he also has some very big obstacles in his way, beginning with the fact that, even if white non-college voters did make up forty-four per cent of the 2020 electorate, and he got two-thirds of their support again, it would leave him at roughly thirty per cent of the over-all vote. To win, he also has to attract the support of other groups, such as whites with college degrees, independents, and Latinos. But the message of the 2018 midterms, and of recent opinion polls, is that many people in these groups have had their fill of him and want him gone. Outside of his base, he's just not popular. And that is putting it mildly.

For example, according to the latest Fox News Poll, Trump's approval rating among self-described independents is thirty per cent, among self-described “moderates” it is thirty-two per cent, and among suburban women it is thirty-three per cent. The poll also provided direct evidence that people in these groups are unwilling to overlook Trump's character flaws. In response to the question “Do you think a politician can have low moral and ethical standards and still be a good leader?” sixty-five per cent of independents said no, as did sixty-two

per cent of moderates and sixty-six per cent of suburban women.

Another problem for Trump is that, at least according to the polls, the strong economy doesn't seem to be benefitting him very much politically. As he arrived in Florida, a Quinnipiac University poll indicated that fifty-four per cent of Floridians think that they are better off than they were in 2016, and only twenty-three per cent think they are worse off. But the same poll showed that fifty-one per cent of Floridians disapprove of the job Trump is doing, and just forty-four per cent approve.

Perhaps voters understand that the economy was already growing steadily when Trump took office, and they don't give him much credit for subsequent developments. But there is also widespread skepticism about his economic policies, particularly the highly regressive 2017 tax bill and the tariffs on goods from China and other countries. In the Fox News poll, thirty-three per cent of respondents said that they believe tariffs help the economy, versus forty-five per cent who said that tariffs hurt the economy. In another question, the pollsters also asked people to say whether Trump's economic policies benefit everyone, no one, or just certain groups. Thirty-one per cent of respondents said that the policies benefit everyone; forty-eight per cent said that they benefit people “with more money.”

Interestingly, the (correct) belief that Trump's policies are targeted at helping the well-to-do is widespread among his core demographic. Thirty-two per cent of whites without a college degree said that his policies benefit everyone; forty-four per cent said they benefited people with more money. On the basis of these polls, it seems like Trump's tax bill didn't even fool his base.

The other challenge facing Trump is the electoral map. At this early stage, he is lagging behind the Democratic frontrunners in some of the states he could not win without, such as Florida, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Public polls have been showing this trend for months, and last week it

emerged that the Trump campaign's own polls have found the same thing. According to ABC News, internal polls showed Joe Biden leading the President by fifty-five per cent to thirty-nine per cent in Pennsylvania, and by fifty-one per cent to forty-one per cent in Wisconsin.

Over the weekend, the Trump campaign dismissed these polls, which were taken in March, as out of date, and fired several of its pollsters. “The president's new polling is extraordinary and his numbers have never been better,” Brad Parscale, the campaign chairman, said in a statement. Trump also weighed in. “Our polls show us leading in all 17 Swing States,” he said on Twitter. And yet, hours after he posted this tweet, the Quinnipiac poll of Florida showed that, in head-to-head matches, he would trail Joe Biden by nine points, trail Bernie Sanders by six points, and trail Elizabeth Warren by four points.

A degree of skepticism is in order. Historically, head-to-head polls taken this early haven't had much, if any, predictive value in Presidential elections, an analysis at Five-Thirty-Eight pointed out. It certainly seems likely that Trump's numbers in the battleground states will improve as we get closer to the election: practically nobody in the political world expects a Democrat to carry Florida by nine percentage points. But how much movement will there be? With opinions about Trump already so firmly set on all sides, it isn't certain that prior experience will provide much of a guide to this election. Indeed, nothing is certain, except that there is a very long way to go, and that the election will be bitterly fought. Buckle up.

Democrats asked to create ideal candidate to beat Trump pick white man: poll

Rebecca Klar reported in The Hill that When asked to describe their ideal candidate to beat President Trump, the majority of Democrats picked a white, middle-aged man, despite a historically diverse primary field with women, minorities and younger candidates competing for the nomination, according to a new USC Dornsife and Los Angeles Times national poll. The poll found 56 percent of Democratic voters thought a white male candidate would be the best nominee to take back the White House in 2020, according to the LA Times. The poll also found two-thirds of Democrats described “the ideal candidate to beat Trump” as white, and three-quarters of polled Democrats said someone between the ages of 41 and 65 would be the strongest candidate.

When asked about specific candidates, however, Democrats tended to favor the two eldest candidates, former Vice President Joe Biden, 76, and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), 77, according to the poll. Democrats felt Biden had the strongest chance of defeating Trump, with 47 percent saying he'd “probably win,” and 39 percent saying he'd “definitely win.”

Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) who did not fit the polled voter's ideal candidate description by two marks, as a non-white woman, came in third as the Democrat's choice to most-likely defeat Trump, according to the LA Times poll. The poll found voters thought Harris had a 9 percent chance of “definitely” winning and 37 percent chance of “probably” winning.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren was close behind, with the same 37 percent chance of a probably win and 8 percent chance of a definite win, according to the poll. As the LA Times points out, conversations and polls over electability have been controversial and are often seen as an inaccurate measure of how a candidate will perform in elections.

many survey institutes have argued that Trump has lost its previous position in key states such as Florida, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Michigan. Given the US state and electoral electoral structure, the probability of failure Trump will increase in next year's elections.

U.S. maximum pressure jeopardizes Korean Peninsula stability

By Mu Lu

GLOBALTIMES — Dialogue and consultation should persist with the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue toward a peaceful settlement of disputes. Washington's maximum pressure on North Korea won't help find a solution. The US has halted fuel deliveries to North Korea, claiming the country was “exceeding its annual ceiling for 2019,” AFP reported on Wednesday. However, the information has not yet been confirmed. The US move has undoubtedly jeopardized previous efforts to alleviate the situation.

Top North Korean and US leaders held summits in June last year and February this year. Although they couldn't reach a consensus during their second meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam in February, their efforts were on the right track that met the two countries' interests. Now the US insists on maximum pressure through sanctions on North Korea. This will once again complicate the situation.

The UN Security Council resolution is a starting point to ease tensions. It should be a method to promote regional stability, not a tool for Washington to pressure Pyongyang. The abrupt US initiative to



maximize sanctions despite stability on the peninsula and in Northeast Asia is harmful to the denuclearization process. AFP cited diplomatic sources saying that China and Russia had blocked the US initiative. After talks with President Xi Jinping who visited Russia in early June, Russian President Vladimir Putin made the statements, “We proceed from the premise that there is no, nor can there be, any alternative to the

peaceful, political and diplomatic settlement of the region's problems, including the nuclear issue.”

The US has been creating tensions, irresponsibly leading to twists and turns in the negotiations. A North Korean foreign ministry spokesman claimed on June 4 “Had the United States done anything of a little help in addressing the issues on the basis of serious position and sincere

attitude for implementing the DPRK-US Joint Statement, the issue of denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula might also have seen much progress.”

As a close neighbor to North Korea, China has always supported efforts to resolve the nuclear issue through peaceful means, and is willing to offer humanitarian assistance to help its people tide over difficulties. This is consistent with a humanitarian spirit. Washington needs to keep restraint and restart the dialogue with Pyongyang instead of escalating the antagonism. It should show more sincerity instead of showing off its power.

Washington may need to consider Seoul's advice. On June 12, South Korean President Moon Jae-in called for “a meeting between the leaders of North Korea and the US as soon as possible” before their willingness for dialogue weakens due to prolonged deadlock. If the US doesn't know how to overcome the stalemate, then releasing the North Korean cargo ship Wise Honest that it seized can be a start to rebuild momentum for dialogue, Special Advisor to President Moon for Foreign Affairs and National Security Moon Chung-in said on Friday in New York.

Of crimes and pardons

6 → As it turned out, he was wrong. The practices established at Nuremberg, and the understandings behind them, later codified in the 1950 Nuremberg Principles, have not proved to be the record by which U.S. actions in war, whether in Vietnam or in today's never-ending war on terror, have been judged. Nonetheless, it's worth taking a look at those ideas, because they provide an excellent basis for assessing just who are the real war criminals still walking among us.

Nuremberg established the principle that the international laws of war are real laws and that breaking them is a real crime. That's what the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands, was created to adjudicate — even though the United States quickly removed itself from the ICC in 2002, the year it began functioning. It was then that President George W. Bush's top officials started getting nervous about their new CIA torture program. And lest we think of that as ancient history, remember that it was John Bolton, President Trump's current national security advisor, who delivered the news to the United Nations that the U.S. was leaving the court.

Under the Nuremberg Principles, even heads of state or other high government officials are not immune from prosecution for war crimes or crimes against humanity, nor can anyone be exonerated for them on the sole grounds of a superior's orders. (That defense was nevertheless used by the My Lai killers and some of those President Trump is now thinking about pardoning.)

Before the Nuremberg tribunals could begin, the organizers had to decide what the charges would be. They settled on three major kinds of offense, which still frame the way we think about war crimes today. The first (which generated the most disagreement among the four Great Powers) was “crimes against peace” — in other words, involvement in launching a war of aggression. The French and the Soviets were dubious about trying Nazi officials for a crime that wasn't explicitly identified in international law when the war started. Ironically, in view of this country's twenty-first-century wars, it was Robert Jackson, backed by Secretary of War Henry Stimson, who in 1945 argued that all the rest of Germany's war crimes sprang from this initial crime of waging an unprovoked war of aggression. In short (and logically enough), no war, no war crimes.

“War crimes” — violations of the laws of war such as mistreatment, torture, or execution of prisoners, or disproportionate harm to civilians — formed the second category. The third was, like the first, a new kind of crime made necessary by the unprecedented genocide of the Holocaust, and it was called “crimes against humanity.”

As I argued in my book American Nuremberg: The U.S. Officials Who Should Stand Trial for Post-9/11 War Crimes, there's a sense in which most of the crimes of the U.S. war on terror — the tortures, the drone assassinations, the hundreds of thousands of pointless civilian deaths, the millions of people displaced and turned into refugees — sprang from the determination of then-Vice President Dick Cheney and his coterie of neocons to commit a crime against peace by invading Iraq. (Some of his acolytes like Elliott Abrams and John Bolton have ominously resurfaced in the Trump administration and have been doing their best lately to gin up new wars of aggression against Venezuela and Iran.)

Some (myself among them) have argued that the invasion of Afghanistan was also a crime against peace. Starting what has become the longest war in U.S. history was not the only option available to the Bush administration after the 9/11 attacks. It could have, for example, treated them as a horrendous crime, rather than an act of war, and used international channels like the International Criminal Court to prosecute those responsible. It could have continued its negotiations with the Taliban government for the extradition of Osama bin Laden and other al-Qaeda leaders. After all, the Trump administration is talking to the Taliban now. How many lives might have been saved with a little more patience in 2001?

In any case, U.S. war crimes, including torture, sprang from the desire to invade Iraq. Within a few days of the al-Qaeda attacks of 9/11, Donald Rumsfeld and his deputy Paul Wolfowitz were already pushing for a war against Iraq, according to George W. Bush's autobiography. At a Camp David “war council” held four days later, Bush wrote, Rumsfeld told him that “dealing with Iraq would show a major commitment to antiterrorism.”

As many of its victims have reported, one of the original purposes of the CIA's infamous torture program (and its archipelago of “black sites” around the planet) was not to prevent further attacks on the United States, but to get someone, anyone, to admit to a connection between Iraqi autocrat Saddam Hussein and al-Qaeda and the 9/11 attacks. (There was none, of course.)

One of those prisoners was a Libyan named Ibn al-Shaykh al-Libi who was shipped to Egypt and waterboarded until he agreed to the proposition that, as President George W. Bush put it in an October 2002 speech to the nation, “Iraq has trained al-Qaeda in bomb-making and poisons and deadly gases.” In the same speech, Bush even explained where he got this “information,” saying, “Evidence from intelligence sources, secret communications, and statements by people now in custody reveal that Saddam Hussein aids and protects terrorists, including members of al-Qaeda.” Secretary of State Colin Powell then repeated this claim in an infamous speech to the U.N. Security Council justifying the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Al-Libi later recanted, saying his statement implicating Iraq had been forced out of him under torture, but by then, of course, Washington's war in Iraq was well underway.

The Other War Criminals

If the United States had been judged by the standard set at Nuremberg, people of much higher position than Eddie Gallagher would be lining up today for Trump pardons. The list would be long indeed, but would certainly include President George W. Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, CIA Director George Tenet, Attorneys General Alberto Gonzales and John Ashcroft, and Zalmay Khalilzad, who was Bush's ambassador to both Afghanistan and Iraq and is presently serving as U.S. special representative for Afghanistan reconciliation.

Meanwhile, our current criminal president contemplates pardoning the small fry, even as he orders an investigation into the agencies that had the temerity to investigate the Russian hacking of the 2016 election. We can only hope that one day soon he also finds himself in need of a pardon — like the one President Gerald Ford gave Richard Nixon after he avoided impeachment by resigning from office.

Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

Apartment

Apt in Darous
brand new, 4th floor, 220 sq.m
3 master bedrooms, unfurn
2 parking spots, **\$2500**
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Modern Apt in Fereshteh
brand new, 7th floor, 400 sq.m
3 Bdrs., fully modern furn
Walk-in closet, equipped kitchen,
laundry, terrace
spj, green yard, well designed
roof garden, parking
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Kaveh Blvd
almost new, 2th floor, 110 sq.m
2 Bdrs., fully furn, sauna Jacuzzi,
gathering room parking, **\$1400**
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Zafaranih
brand new, 6 floors, 360 sq.m
4 Bdrs., unfurn, modern equipped
kitchen, balcony
spj, roof top elevator
4 parking spots, **\$3700**
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Bagh Ferdows
2th floor, 150 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.
spj, parking, **\$2300**
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

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

Villa

Villa in Elahieh
duplex, 4500 sq.m land, 1000
sq.m built up, one separate suite
servant quarter, beautiful green
garden outdoor swimming pool
football field completely renovated
& renewed, 2-side entrances, lots
parking
\$20000

Suitable for Embassies
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Triplex Villa in Jordan
1380 sq.m land, 2000 sq.m built
up, furn, outdoor swimming pool,
yard, parking, 4-side entrances
Price: Negotiable
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

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

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

Villa in Aqdasieh
duplex, 750 sq.m land, 500 sq.m
built up, 5 Bdrs., nice garden
indoor swimming pool, sauna
3 parking spots, **\$6500**
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 Zafar
brand new, 6 floors, 6 apts
sq.m administrative office 1400
license, 400 sq.m commercial flat
parking spots, **\$20000** 16
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Office in Valiasr
administrative office license
3 units, 102 sq.m, lots of parking
near Niayesh highway
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Whole building in Jordan
administrative office license
brand new, 6 floors, 6 apts
each apt 150 sq.m, gathering room,
6 parking spots, **\$11000**
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

Office in North Shirazi
administrative office license
brand new, 6 floors, 6 units
each unit 120 sq.m flat
5 parking spots, **\$12000**
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Office in Saadat Abad
administrative office license
4 units, 750 sq.m, parking
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Ideal Offers

Apt in Qeytarieh
2th floor, 110 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.
furn, equipped kitchen
storage, parking, **\$900**
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Jordan
2th floor, 148 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.
fully furn, spj, parking
\$900
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Elahieh
1th floor, 97 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.
fire place, furn, elevator
storage, parking, **\$500**
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Darous
3th floor, 115 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.
furn, spj, parking, **\$1400**
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Mirdamad
6th floor, 86 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.
fully furn, elevator, parking
\$800
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Saadat Abad
8th floor, 52 sq.m, 1 Bdr.
furn, spj, renovated
parking, **\$1000**
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Evin
300 sq.m, 3 Bdr., unfurn, spj
elevator, 30 sq.m terrace
storage, parking, **\$1800**
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

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.

SHANON
Shanon_tari@yahoo.com
+989121907875
Tel : 88510081

Jordan Villa (\$3500) 1000sq.m, 5bdrs, S/p, & yard Velenjak Villa (\$5000) 1600sq.m, 6bdrs, S/p, & yard		
Farmanieh (\$2000) 220sq.m, 3bdrs S/p, S, J, pkg balcony, & F.F	Elahieh penthouse 400sq.m, 4bdrs, S/p Sauna, Jacuzzi, pkg (\$3000) Fully Furn	Jordan bldg 5storey, 15bdrs enough pkg lots New (\$12000)

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

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

TEHRAN TIMES
Iran's Leading International Daily

ENGLISH PERSIAN GLOSSARY

واژه نامه اصطلاحات مطبوعات
انگلیسی - فارسی

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

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

For more information contact:

Tel: 021 - 430 51 450

times1979@gmail.com

Two new Earth-like planets discovered near Teegarden’s Star

An international research team led by the University of Göttingen has discovered two new Earth-like planets near one of our closest neighboring stars. “Teegarden’s star” is only about 12.5 light years away from Earth and is one of the smallest known stars. It is only about 2,700 °C warm and about ten times lighter than the Sun. Although it is so close to us, the star wasn’t discovered until 2003. The scientists observed the star for about three years. The results were published in the journal Astronomy and Astrophysics.

Their data clearly show the existence of two planets. “The two planets resemble the inner planets of our solar system,” explains lead author Mathias Zechmeister of the Institute for Astrophysics at the University of Göttingen. “They are only slightly heavier than Earth and are located in the so-called habitable zone, where water can be present in liquid form.”

The astronomers suspect that the two planets could be part of a larger system. “Many stars are apparently surrounded by systems with several planets,” explains co-author Professor Stefan Dreizler of the University of Göttingen. Teegarden’s star is the smallest star where researchers have so far been able to measure the weight of a



An international research team has discovered two new Earth-like planets near one of our closest stars. Teegarden’s Star is about 12.5 light years away and is one of the smallest known stars.

planet directly. “This is a great success for the Carmenes project, which was specifically

designed to search for planets around the lightest stars,” says Professor Ansgar Reiners

of the University of Göttingen, one of the scientific directors of the project.

Although planetary systems around similar stars are known, they have always been detected using the “transit method” -- the planets have to pass visibly in front of the star and darken it for a moment, which only happens in a very small fraction of all planetary systems. Such transits have not yet been found for the new planets. But the system is located at a special place in the sky: from Teegarden’s star you can see the planets of the solar system passing in front of the Sun.

“An inhabitant of the new planets would therefore have the opportunity to view the Earth using the transit method,” says Reiners. The new planets are the tenth and eleventh discovered by the team.

Carmenes is carried out by the universities of Göttingen, Hamburg, Heidelberg, and Madrid, the Max-Planck-Institut für Astronomie Heidelberg, Institutos Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas in Barcelona, Granada, and Madrid, Thüringer Landessternwarte, Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias, and Calar-Alto Observatory.

(Source: Science Daily)

Climate change affected the people of the Amazon before Europeans arrived



Long before Europeans arrived in the Americas, the people of the Amazon were being significantly impacted by climate change, a new report suggests.

While some adaptive Amazonian populations flourished prior to 1492, others disappeared in the wake of dramatic shifts in temperature and rainfall, according to a new survey.

Scientists analyzed climate and archaeological data related to the period between 700 to 1300. Their findings -- published Monday in the journal Nature Ecology and Evolution -- showed groups that featured rigid social hierarchies and farmed intensively declined and dissolved in the wake of ancient climate change. Groups without social classes and groups that practiced more sustainable farming practices were able to successfully adapt to climate change.

Migration and conflict between groups also contributed to the decline of some groups in the Amazon.

«Some Amazon communities were in decline or had changed drastically before 1492,» lead researcher Jonas Gregorio de Souza, who conducted the study while at the University of Exeter, said in a news release. «Our research shows climate change was one of the responsible factors, but some groups survived because they had been working with their natural environment rather than against it. Those who farmed intensively, and had more pressure to

produce surplus food because of a strong class structure, were less able to cope.»

To track the climate shifts that impacted early Amazonian groups, scientists studied pollen and charcoal remains, as well as stalagmites and lake sediment cores. Analysis of archeological remains helped researchers identify varying social structures and the farming strategies used by different groups.

Scientists found evidence of social classes among the Marajoara people of the eastern Amazon. The elites lived in large mounds. Researchers determined that several factors, including a decline in rainfall totals, precipitated the dissolution of the Marajoara by around 1200.

Conversely, the people of the Santarém culture, which emerged around 1100, were flourishing around the same time. They grew a diversity of crops and used restorative forest management practices.

Archaeologists have previously found evidence that people of the Amazon used canals and other types of infrastructure to manage seasonal floods.

«This study adds to the growing evidence that the millennium preceding the European encounter was a period of long-distance migrations, conflict, disintegration of complex societies and social reorganization across lowland South America,» said Jose Iriarte from the University of Exeter. «It shows the weather had a real impact.»

(Source: UPI)

Bats’ brains sync up when they socialize, study finds



Bats’ brains sync up during activities such as grooming, mating or fighting, researchers have found.

The brain waves of highly social Egyptian fruit bats started to match when they were tracked in a chamber using wireless neural recording devices.

The study could help scientists understand why social interactions are different for those with neurological disorders, such as autism, and why some people do not pick up on social cues as easily.

In the first study of synchronized brain activity in a non-human species, the researchers from the University of California, Berkeley looked at brain waves and electrical activity from individual neurons of bats.

When the bats socialized, scientists found that the waves in their brains started to resemble one another. Remarkably, they could predict if bats were likely to directly interact, using the level of correlation in the bats’ brains.

“The inter-brain correlations were so strong that you could easily see them in the raw data,” said Wujie Zhang, whose study was published in the journal Cell.

“This is the first time in my career where a result was so robust that it popped out from the data like that.”

Researchers say the synchronization was due to sharing social experiences -- two bats placed in identical but separate

chambers did not sync up despite both being busy grooming.

And if three bats shared the same social environment but only two of them were actively socializing with one another, all their brains still synchronized.

Study author Michael Yartsev said: “It’s kind of like, if you think about a dinner table, some people could be talking back and forth, while another person would be sitting there, still paying attention, while still being part of the social interaction. Under that analogy, then, supposedly all of the brains would be correlated simultaneously.”

Some correlations have been found between brain activity in socializing humans. This is the result of one person picking up social cues from the other and modulating their behavior.

Studies have so far been limited to using brain imaging techniques that do not measure electrical activity directly.

“Animal models are really important for being able to study brain phenomena at levels that we can’t normally access in humans,” added Professor Yartsev.

“Because bats are extremely social and naturally live in highly complex social environments, they are a great model for tackling important scientific questions about social behavior and the neural mechanisms underlying it.”

(Source: The Independent)

Barrier Reef corals help scientists calibrate ancient climate records

Corals can help scientists track ancient climate patterns, but new research suggests that traditional analysis methods for analyzing coral’s ancient growth aren’t as accurate as previously thought.

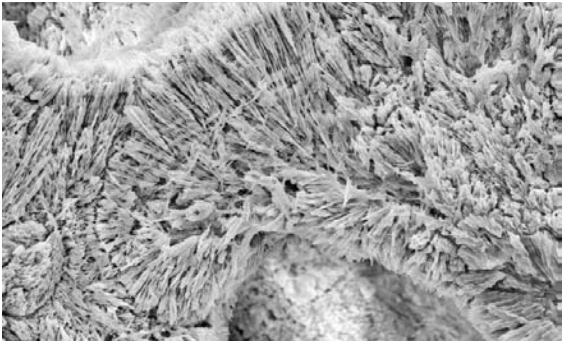
Luckily, scientists have developed an improved method, a combination of high-resolution microscopic analysis and geochemical modeling. Researchers described the new technique this week in the journal Frontiers in Marine Science.

Deciphering the climate records coded in coral skeletons is similar to deciphering tree rings. As coral grows, new layers of calcium are deposited. Each layer traps geochemical signatures that can provide clues to the climatic conditions.

By measuring the amount of strontium and the lighter isotope of oxygen trapped in different calcium layers, scientists can estimate ancient sea surface temperatures. However, the technique isn’t perfect.

Researchers compared coral-based sea-surface temperature records against temperature probe measurements.

“Remarkably, the coral records are accurate most of the time, but there are instances where measurements have been off by as much as nine degrees Celsius, and this needs to be rectified,” Bruce Fouke, a professor of geology and microbiology at the University of Illinois,



said in a news release.

As they grow, coral polyps deposit aragonite, a crystallized form of calcium carbonate. Unfortunately for climate scientists, seawater can also deposit aragonite crystals as it passes through the coral skeleton. Through a process called diagenesis, these seawater-derived crystals can alter the skeleton’s chemistry.

“It is difficult to tell the diagenetic aragonite from the original coral skeleton without using high-powered microscopes,” said Kyle Fouke, an undergraduate student at Bucknell University. “It is also challenging to know exactly when the diagenetic alteration took place -- days

or decades after the skeletons were formed. Unless you are using the newest microscopy techniques to help select your samples, you could be collecting and measuring a mix of the two very different temperature records.”

To better understand the effects of diagenetic aragonite, scientists surveyed Porites coral skeletons growing on the Great Barrier Reef.

“Based on our analyses, we see that the older portions of the coral heads growing in deeper seawater contain a higher concentration of diagenetic aragonite,” Fouke said.

The team of scientists was able to differentiate between the coral and diagenetic aragonite using a combination of light, electron and X-ray microscopy techniques. The high-definition imaging techniques also revealed an array of different aragonite crystallization patterns. Scientists suggest some patterns represent seasonal variations in skeletal growth, while other smaller-scale patterns likely code geochemical changes on a daily cycle.

Researchers used their findings to develop a correction factor that can be applied to previous coral surveys and other climate studies that relied on aragonite analysis.

“Because this has been achieved using the carbonate mineral aragonite, which is ubiquitous among marine life, this same correction factor can be used with other sea creatures that secrete carbonate skeletons and shells,” Fouke said.

(Source: UPI)

Zebra stripes may help beat the heat

A gangrene-inducing bite in Africa, 40 years of curiosity, and backyard experiments her daughters still complain about have all come together to tell Alison Cobb one thing: Stripes help zebras keep their cool. New research published in the Journal of Natural History shows stripes may create air flows that give zebras a kind of natural air conditioning system that helps them ward off the blazing sun.

“It’s about thermoregulation to avoid the heat and cold,” said Cobb, a retired amateur naturalist, who conducted the research with her zoologist husband, Stephen Cobb. Other scientists argue the main reason for stripes is to deter biting insects.

When she was four years old, Cobb, now 85, first wondered about zebra stripes after reading Rudyard Kipling’s story “How the Leopard Got His Spots.” A nature documentary she watched claimed zebra stripes were a type of camouflage. But camouflage seemed a poor explanation to Cobb in light of her own observations in Africa of lions prowling up and down herds of zebras deciding which one to eat. She had also witnessed zebras spending a great deal of time grazing in the hot midday sun -- more than the antelopes which lived in the same area -- and believed the stripes might be helping them deal with the heat.

Forty years ago she did her first experiment by draping different colored felt coats on water-filled oil drums out in the sun and taking the temperature of the water inside. Without direct access to research animals, she enlisted the help of her three daughters, aged 8, 9 and 10. She made them wear rugby shirts she sewed with zebra stripes and had her “experimental animals” crawl around on their hands and knees in the sun in England.

“They still complain about it. They are now in their early 60s,” Cobb said.

But when she touched the different stripes on their backs, they could tell her which was black and which was white without seeing. But this still didn’t give her a full explanation: If the white spots were cooler, why did they have black bits at all? Plus, she knew from extensive experience with horses that the animals sweat a lot, and she was still unsure how sweat would interact with the different colored stripes.

She didn’t get the chance to get close to zebras again until her 70th birthday, when she and her husband traveled back to Africa to test her idea on a couple of captive zebras living on private ranches in Kenya in December 2003. They measured the temperatures of adjacent black and white stripes on various parts of the zebras every 15 minutes throughout the day, as well as taking ambient air temperatures near the animals. They also took similar measurements of a zebra hide wrapped around clothes in the shape of a horse left in the sun on the ranch.

The research didn’t come without casualties -- Stephen Cobb got bit by a territorial male stallion, and his wound later turned to gangrene. “He still has a scar,” Alison Cobb said.

But their research proved enlightening. They found the temperature of the black and white stripes differed greatly on the living animals, with greater differences at the hottest points of the day. The stripes on the inanimate hide had a similar difference between black and white stripes, but the highest temperatures of the black stripes were 15 degrees Celsius hotter than the peak black stripe temperatures of living zebras.

The research couple believes that these differences in temperature are enough to cause small air eddies. In the living zebras, these air flows could help to cool the zebras in the hottest times of the day by speeding up the evaporation of sweat.

The Cobbs also noted that the living zebras were able to stick their black hairs straight up in the air, and did so at some of the hottest times of the day. They hypothesize this behavior may also help in heat regulation, though the mechanism is still unclear.



Gabor Horvath, a researcher at Eotvos Lorand University in Budapest who has studied zebra stripes, but was not involved in the Cobbs’ research, does not believe that thermoregulation is the primary function of zebra stripes.

“Such alleged convective air eddies could be formed exclusively above horizontal striped surfaces,” he said in an email. “If the main function of zebra stripes were cooling by these air eddies, then only the nearly horizontal areas of the back of zebras should be striped.”

Tim Caro, a wildlife biologist at the University of California, Davis who has also studied zebra stripes but was not involved in the Cobbs’ research, said that “it’s an interesting descriptive study” about the differences in temperature between black and white zebra stripes. However, he doesn’t think the article advances our understanding of the principal evolutionary drivers of these stripe patterns in the animals. His research and that of Horvath and others indicates the stripes could deter insects from landing.

“We’re absolutely sure that it’s about thwarting biting flies,” Caro said, adding that tsetse and horseflies that pester the zebras in Africa can carry deadly diseases like African horse sickness, equine influenza and a form of horse sleeping sickness called nagana. “They just cannot afford to let these biting flies land on their coats.”

At the same time, Caro still believes that the stripes have thermal consequences for zebras. He, Horvath and the Cobbs all agree that there likely isn’t one single reason zebras have evolved stripes.

(Source: Inside Science)

Australia nets \$8.2 billion from Chinese tourism

The number of international visitors to Australia hit 8.5 million in the 12 months to March 2019, with China being the biggest source of visitors, data released Wednesday revealed.

According to a report in China Daily, Tourism Research Australia released its latest International Visitor Survey, revealing that the total number of visitors rose 3 percent from the previous year while the amount they spent rose 5 percent to \$44.3 billion Australian dollars (US\$30.4 billion).

China remained Australia's leading tourism market, with the number of visitors from the country growing 2.9 percent to 1.3 million.



The amount spent by Chinese visitors grew by 10 percent to 12 billion Australian dollars (US\$8.2 billion), representing an additional \$1.1 billion Australian dollars (US\$757 million) poured into Australia's economy.

Meanwhile, visitor numbers from India grew by 14.6 percent to 342,694 after a 17 percent jump between 2017 and 2018, the report said.

More than 50 percent of Indian visitors travelled to Australia to visit friends and family compared to 30 percent of all international visitors. Indians also stayed in Australia for an average of 61 nights, double the overall average, but 57 percent of those were spent with friends or family.

Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Simon Birmingham said that the data was proof that a marketing campaign targeting travelers in Asia was working.

"Whilst some markets are showing maturity or the importance of our focus on high-value travelers, in others we're starting to see stronger growth," Birmingham told the Australian Financial Review.

"With its emerging middle class, proximity to Australia, improving air access and increasingly competitive airfares, there is definitely further opportunity to expand south and southeast Asia's tourism potential."

Visitors from France, Canada and the Netherlands all rose by more than 5 percent but those from Britain fell 4 percent, the report said.

Professor Brian King from Hong Kong Polytechnic University's School of Hotel and Tourism Management, said he believed the numerous direct flight routes established between Australia and major provincial capitals in China would mean many first-time tourists would still pick Australia for travel.

"Though the growth of the Chinese economy is decelerating — and some of this is a consequence of the trade war — the demand among Chinese consumers for services continues to grow fast, including for outbound tourism," he told ABC.net.

"So I anticipate that (China's outbound tourism sector) will be growing faster than the overall Chinese economy." *(Source: Asia Times)*



ROUND THE GLOBE

Lower Valley of the Awash

A UNESCO World Heritage, the Lower Awash Valley paleo-anthropological site is located 300 km northeast of Addis Ababa, in the west of the Afar Depression. It covers an area of around 150 km2.



The Awash Valley contains one of the most important groupings of paleontological sites on the African continent. The remains found at the property, the oldest of which date back over 4 million years, provide evidence of human evolution, which has modified our conception of the history of humankind. The most spectacular discovery came in 1974, when 52 fragments of a skeleton enabled the famous Lucy to be reconstructed.

Excavations by an international team of palaeontologists and pre-historians began in 1973, and continued annually until 1976, and ended in 1980. In that time, they found a large quantity of fossilized hominid and animal bones in a remarkable state of preservation, the most ancient of which were at least four million years old.

In 1974, the valley produced the most complete set of remains of a hominid skeleton, Australopithecus afarensis, nicknamed 'Lucy', dating back 3.2 million years. Afarensis has since been proved to be the ancestral origin for both the Genus Australopithecus and Homo-sapiens.

A recovered female skeleton nicknamed 'Ardi' is 4.4 million years old, some 1.2 million years older than the skeleton of Australopithecus afarensis 'Lucy'.

There is a wealth of paleo-anthropological and pre-historic tools still awaiting discovery and scientific study and these are seen as constituting an exceptionally important cultural heritage resource.

(Source: UNESCO)

Iran, Iraq ink MOU to expand tourism ties

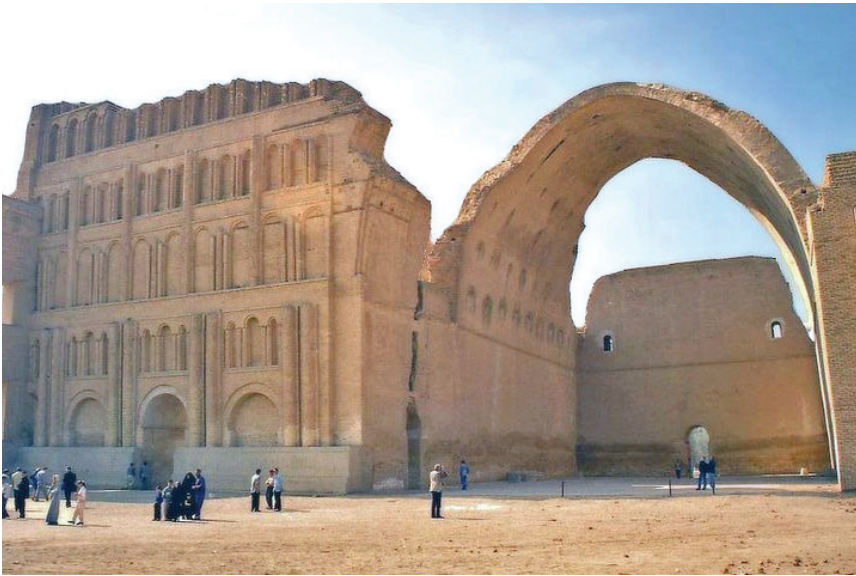
TOURISM TEHRAN — Iran and Iraq have recently agreed in principle to further develop ties in the arenas of tourism, pilgrimage, cultural heritage and handicrafts, CHTN reported.

In this regard, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed on Wednesday between Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization, and Iraq's Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities.

"Amongst the most important articles of the MOU is to compile a joint dossier on possible UN recognition of Arba'een pilgrimage," said CHHTO Deputy Director Vali Teymouri, a signatory to the agreement.

"The memorandum of understanding includes 11 articles, which are aimed at increasing cooperation between the two [neighboring] countries in the field of tourism, especially in medical tourism," the official said.

"Four articles are dealing with cultural heritage..., which are connected with Iran's contribution to developing the UNESCO dossier of Wadi Al-Salam Cemetery in Najaf [which homes to remains of millions of Muslims and dozens of scientists] as well as its expertise to restore Taq Kasra, [which



A view of the ruined Taq Kasra in Iraq

is an architecturally-important Sasanian-era Persian monument]," he explained.

The Iraqi side undertook [a task] in this memorandum to provide a place for the supply of Iranian handicrafts in one of the cities of Baghdad, Karbala and

Najaf, Teymouri said.

The MOU was inked in Ardebil on the sidelines of the 2nd International Health Tourism Conference of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), running in the Iranian city from June 18 to 20.

Spain conference addresses "Iran, Cradle of Civilization"

HERITAGE TEHRAN — Spain's Archeological Museum of Alicante (MARQ) on Wednesday hosted a well-attended conference devoted to ancient Iranian arts and history.

The conference was in line with "Iran, Cradle of Civilization", an enormous loan exhibit from the National Museum of Iran, being held by MARQ from March 14.

A number of Spanish cultural officials, academics, archaeologists and experts as well as some Iranian and U.S. counterparts delivered speeches at the conference, attended by tens of researchers, students and enthusiasts, CHTN reported.

"Iran, Cradle of Civilization" features pieces of a large span of Iranian history, starting from pre-historical era to the Islamic period, including ones as old as seven to 10,000 years

old, a letter by King Abbas of the Safavid Empire to Spanish King Filip the third about the first Iranian ambassador to Spain, and a 400-year-old copy of the holy Quran.

Running through Sept. 1, the exhibit also turns the spotlight on the earliest developments of agriculture and livestock farming from the very beginning to cuneiform clay tablets, gold beakers and ornaments, bronze weapons and beautifully painted ceramics associated with successive Iranian kingdoms.

"Iran, Cradle of Civilization" was previously on show at Drents Museum, Assen, the Netherlands, where it was well received by museumgoers from June to November 2018. Back in March, The Drents museum won an audience prize in New York at the prestigious Global Fine Art Awards for its contribution to hosting the major loan exhibit.

Hungarian tour operators visit Yazd

TOURISM TEHRAN — Following their visits to Shiraz, a group of Hungarian tour operators and travel associates toured Yazd, holding talks with local officials and fellows of the central Iranian province, which its historical capital of the same name is a UNESCO World Heritage.

"A group of 14 experienced tour operators visited Yazd on a tour jointly organized by the Foreign Ministry and Tehran's embassy in Budapest," Homa Khorshidi, a local tourism official, said on Thursday, CHTN reported.

The tour operators held talks with members of Yazd City Council, tourism mission of Yazd Chamber of Commerce,



and private sector investors, exploring ways to expand ties, making package tours.

Yazd Jameh Mosque, Dowlatabad Garden, the Yazd Atash Behram, also known

as Atashkadeh-e Yazd, Towers of Silence, and adjacent desert landscape were among destinations the group visited.

Last Sunday, the tour operators hold talks with local officials and counterparts in Shiraz, in the first leg of their travel to Iran's well-known "golden tourism triangle", which is composed of Shiraz, Yazd and Isfahan.

With its winding lanes, forest of badgirs (wind catchers), mud-brick houses, atmospheric alleyways and centuries of history, Yazd is a delightful place to stay, referring as a 'don't miss' destination by almost all travel associates in the region. The oasis city is wedged between the northern Dasht-e Kavir and southern Dasht-e Lut on a flat plain ringed by mountains.

How ancient is yoga? Seals recovered from Indus valley civilization sites tell a fascinating story

A Tibetan monastery in north India, 1985: Harvard scholar Herbert Benson and his team visited this monastery, high in the Himalayas. They found that the monks practiced a form of yoga resulting in a meditative trance so deep it affected their body temperatures. The team filmed monks using their own bodies to dry wet clothes when the outside temperature was -200C. The monks were able to sleep peacefully on rocky ledges at 15,000 ft, dressed just in light shawls. Benson's videos stimulated great interest in yoga in the West. Can we say anything about the origins of yoga? To answer this, let's skip to a different time and place.

The Indus valley, third millennium BC: Just as prehistoric cave dwellers acted on their creative impulses and produced beautiful and powerful cave art, Indus valley civilization (IVC) dwellers inscribed visuals of their own stories on seals decorated with narrative imagery. As archaeologist Rita Wright shows, these seals are inscribed with quite a variety of tales. In one, a woman simultaneously attempts to tame two tigers, while in another, two men are uprooting acacia trees, but a woman tries to prevent them. These seals might indicate that women had an important role in nurturing plants as well as animals (going to the extent of trying to tame wild animals instead of hunting them).

Quite a few seals concern yogis. In one, a seated figure is locked in a yogic stance, completely oblivious to a great deal of commotion all around him. He is surrounded by wild animals, but shows no alarm. Near him, another man is spearing a water buffalo, but the yogi is undisturbed, totally immersed in his inner world. In another seal, two kneeling people present an offering to a figure seated in a yogic posture. These kneeling people seem to be important personages, because two snakes spread their hoods over their heads, symbolically associated only with royalty or nobility.

Probably the most well-known of the Mohenjo-daro seals is the "Pashupati" seal — in which a three-faced being wearing horned headgear is seated in a yogic trance, surrounded by Indus animals such as lions, elephants, and buffaloes. "Pashupati" is associated with Rudra (who later transformed into Shiva, the ultimate yogi). Shiva is said to have five faces, of which three are visible in the Pashupati seal.

Obviously, since many of the seals contain figures in yogic postures, we can say that yoga existed during the time of IVC. However, we can go beyond that. In the imagery on the seals, the individuals performing yoga are treated with a great deal of respect. The figures in the seals show utmost concentration, and are not disturbed in the least by all the hunting going on around them, nor do they get distracted by the various humans or animals approaching them. So, it is unlikely that the people who made the seals were beginners exploring and experimenting with yoga — yogic practitioners seem to have already attained a very high degree of proficiency, so they commanded reverence and were known for their powers of mindfulness.

This suggests that yoga originated even earlier than the IVC seals. However, in Mehrgarh — an older site to the northwest of IVC sites — which flourished between 7,000 BC and 2,800 BC — archaeologists did not find any figures in yogic postures, though they did find many figurines of normal human beings. Moreover, while Mesopotamian and Persian seals at the time of IVC also show narrative imagery — they lack any figures seated in yogic poses.

While cities of the IVC declined, yoga survived and was formally codified by Patanjali much later in his Yoga Sutra (Patanjali's date is estimated to be the 1st century BC). For Patanjali, yoga was not just about a variety of physical stances (asanas). Rather, it was a holistic system with both psychological and physical aspects. It included

meditation, pranayama, and even introspective exercises such as learning to accept oneself and others. According to Patanjali, yoga was the ability to restrain random thoughts (yogah chitta-vritti-nirodhah). Those who could achieve a high level of concentration in meditation continued to be regarded very highly, as is evident from literature of the subsequent centuries.

For example the 6th century CE mahakavya (epic poem) "Kiratarjuniya", by the poet Bharavi, depicts Arjuna as a hero, not because of his abilities in battle, but because of his power to still all contemplation and meditate. (The sixth canto of the poem describes how Arjuna's meditation made even wild beasts in the forests on the hill feel more tranquil, by the power of influence).

The astounding feats of the Tibetan monks recorded by Benson can be accomplished by very advanced yogis, but the beneficial mental and physical effects of yoga even for completely normal and less advanced practitioners are well documented. In fact Benson, who was a professor at the Harvard Medical School, used his findings about yoga and meditation to perfect relaxation and meditation-based treatments of many diseases (including high blood pressure, heart diseases, anxiety, and insomnia) at the Mind/Body Institute at Boston.

To return to the question posed by the title of this article, yoga appears to be even older than the IVC, which would mean that it has existed for at least 5,000 years. Many other ancient accomplishments of ours died out, such as our skills in metallurgy, town planning, and our surgical knowledge as evident from the samhitas of Charaka and Sushruta. Yoga, however, thrived and even spread to other countries — whether we think of asanas, meditation, or pranayama. As yoga lovers in India and elsewhere celebrate International Yoga Day today, they can rejoice in its enduring legacy.

(Source: The Times of India)

Iran opens biopharmaceutical factory in Turkey

HEALTH **TEHRAN** — The first Iranian pharmaceutical factory in Turkey that produces recombinant protein drugs and biologic medicines was inaugurated.

CinnaGen Pharmaceutical Group launched the new production line in Turkey with the name of CinnaGen ilac, Tasnim news reported on Monday.

CinnaGen is an Iran based biotechnology company that was founded in 1994. As of 2016, it manufactured biosimilar drugs, laboratory diagnostic reagents for in vitro use, and recombinant proteins, and exported to other countries in the Middle East and to countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Turkish Minister of Health Fahrettin Koca, Governor of Istanbul Province Vasiip Sahin, the top directors of CinnaGen Group and an official from Iran’s Science and Technology Vice-Presidency attended the opening ceremony.

This new Iranian biopharmaceutical factory is located in an industrial zone in tekirdag.

The factory produces 22 types of medicine that are mostly used for treating recombant, life-threatening diseases such as cancer, osteoporosis, multiple sclerosis (MS), as well as nervous system and blood diseases, announced Esmael Qaderifar who is the director of center for development of strategic technologies in Iran’s Science and Technology Vice-Presidency.



According to Qaderifar, it is among the largest biopharmaceutical manufacturers in Middle East and North Africa region (MENA).

“The factory is built on a 7,500-square-meter land,” said Qaderifar. “The total investment for building this factory was \$100 million. \$30 million was spent for tools and the machinery and \$70 million for transferring the technology of CinnaGen Group to Turkey,” he added.

“The factory’s products can both meet the needs of Turkey’s local market and can also get into international markets, especially the ones in Europe.”

“It is the first time that an Iranian knowledge-based company has been able to set up a knowledge-based factory in another country,” said Qaderifar.

■ exporting Iranian-made medicines

Over the opening ceremony, Dr Ferhat

Farsi, CEO and founding partner of CinnaGen Ilac said the factory is built in Turkey, in the gates of Europe, so that Iranian medicines can be exported to European countries as well.

According to Farsi, the technological base of the factory was established by eight Iranian experts and with the purpose of sharing technology with other countries.

“The products will not only meet the needs of Turkish markets but they can also be sent to 20 other countries all around the world,” he added.

According to the acting director of Food and Drug Administration, Iranian medicines are exported to 30 countries.

On Monday, Mohammadreza Shanesaz said that a special department for “national production” might be opened in Food and Drug Administration to further support the domestic production of medicines.

In February 2019, secretary of biotech development center (BioDC) at science and technology vice-presidency Mostafa Qanei said that there are 146 biopharmaceuticals in the global market, out of which, 22 items are available in Iran which are monoclonal antibodies and recombinant proteins.

He said that the domestically manufacturing of biotechnology products has so far saved one billion dollars for the country.

Previously in October 2018, the biotech development center (BioDC) announced that medicine is on top of the list of exports of biotechnology products in Iran.

Smoking causes 30% of cancer deaths in Iran: expert

HEALTH **TEHRAN** — About 30% of cancer-related deaths in Iran are caused by smoking cigarettes, the vice president of Ahvaz’s Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences for health affairs announced, ISNA reported on Thursday.

Mehdi Hosseinzadeh pointed to No Tobacco National Week, which was held from June 15 to 21 in the country, as a great opportunity to implement some general plans toward decreasing smoking nationwide.

The national week focuses on World Health Organization’s campaign on World No Tobacco Day (May 31), with the theme of ‘Don’t let tobacco take your breath away’, he explained.

The motto of the national week, ‘no tobacco in public places, citizenship rights’, also declared nationwide, he said.

Any kind of smoking, including cigarette and hookah, is a big part of the problem. It raises your blood pressure and makes blood more likely to clot, he lamented.

It is notable that hookah contains cancer-related substances 46 times more than cigarette as well as carbon monoxide (CO)

six times more in comparison with cigarettes. CO is an invisible, odorless gas that can poison you if you breathe it in.

“Using hookah in public places is a great threat for national health. Moreover, using common hookahs transfer infectious diseases,” he added.

■ 12 percent of Iranian adults are daily smokers

Early this month, Tobacco Prevention and Control Research Center announced that about 12 percent of Iranian adults above 15 years old are daily smokers and including hookah smokers, the percentage of smokers reach about 20 percent.

According to the report, about 20 percent of men and two to three percent of women are daily smokers.

Some 30 percent of women and 35 percent of men smoke hookah, which cause lung diseases and other health problems.

In February, the Iranian Anti-Tobacco Association announced that annually about 60,000 deaths linked with cigarette smoking occur in Iran and 90 percent of the lung cancers develop in people who either smoke



cigarette or people exposed to second-hand smoke.

Iranian Anti-Tobacco Association announced that 200 billion rials (around \$4.7 million) are paid every day for purchasing cigarettes, this amount to 1 quadrillion rials a year (around \$238 billion).

■ What provinces have the highest use?

Deputy Health Minister Alireza Raisi has announced that cigarette use is the highest in Markazi province, West Azarbaijan province, Qazvin province and Alborz province. “Also, hookah is used the most in the prov-

inces of Bushehr, Hormozgan, Sistan-Baluchestan and Fars. In southern provinces, hookah use is more widespread among women than men.”

“Smoking rate is the highest among people between the ages of 45 to 54,” he added.

■ Smoking kills more than 8 million people a year

World Health Organization warns that more than 40 percent of smokers globally die from lung diseases, such as cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and tuberculosis.

The tobacco epidemic is one of the biggest public health threats the world has ever faced, killing more than 8 million people a year. More than 7 million of those deaths are the result of direct tobacco use while around 1.2 million are the result of non-smokers being exposed to second-hand smoke.

The UN agency reports 3.3 million users will die from lung-related diseases. This number includes people exposed to second-hand smoke, among them more than 60,000 children under age five who die of lower respiratory infections due to passive smoking.

How does your brain take out the trash?

Many of us are relatively familiar with the lymphatic system; it performs a number of roles, one of which is clearing metabolic waste from the gaps between cells, referred to as the interstitial space.

However, the central nervous system (CNS), which comprises the brain and spinal cord, does not have any true lymphatic vessels.

Because the CNS is highly active, metabolic waste can build up quickly.

The CNS is also very sensitive to fluctuations in its environment, so the body needs to remove cellular garbage somehow, and that’s where the glymphatic system comes in.

Before the discovery of this brain-based garbage disposal system, scientists believed that each individual cell handled its own metabolic detritus.

If the cellular system became overloaded or slowed down as we aged, metabolic garbage would build up between the cells. This garbage includes products such as beta-amyloid — the protein associated with Alzheimer’s disease.

■ Astroglia

The term “glymphatic” was coined by Maiken Nedergaard, a Danish neuroscientist who discovered the system. The name is a reference to the glial cells, which are vital to this waste clearance system.

Glial cells get relatively little coverage, compared with neurons, despite being just as numerous in the brain. They were long considered little more than lowly support cells, but are now held in higher regard.

Glia protect, nourish, and insulate neurons. They also play a role in the immune system and, as we now know, the glymphatic system.

In particular, a type of glial cell known as astroglia are important. Receptors, called aquaporin-4 channels, on these cells allow cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) to move into the CNS, setting up a current that shunts fluid through the system.

CSF is a clear fluid that surrounds the CNS, providing it with mechanical and immunological protection, among other things.

The glymphatic system, which runs parallel to arteries, also harnesses the pulsing of blood in circulation to help keep things moving.

As the blood vessels expand rhythmically, they drive the exchange of compounds between the interstitial space and the CSF.

The glymphatic system connects with the lymphatic system of the rest of the body at the dura, a thick membrane of connective tissue that covers the CNS.

■ The importance of sleep

Following Nedergaard’s discovery, she ran a series of experiments on mice to develop a better understanding of how this



system worked and when it was most active. In particular, the team focused on sleep and Alzheimer’s.

Nedergaard and her team found that the glymphatic system was most busy as the animals slept. They showed that the volume of interstitial space increased by 60% while the mice were sleeping.

This volume increase also boosted the exchange of CSF and interstitial fluid, speeding up the removal of amyloid. They concluded that:

“The restorative function of sleep may be a consequence of the enhanced removal of potentially neurotoxic waste products that accumulate in the awake [CNS].”

This early work inspired a wave of new studies, the most recent of which was published this month. The researchers looked at the impact of high blood pressure on the function of the glymphatic system.

Over time, high blood pressure causes blood vessels to lose their elasticity, becoming increasingly stiff. Because the regular pulsing of arterial walls drives the glymphatic system, this stiffening impedes its function.

Using a mouse model of hypertension, the scientists demonstrated that high blood pressure-induced artery stiffening did interfere with the way that the garbage disposal system worked; it prevented it from efficiently getting rid of large molecules in the brain, such as beta-amyloid.

This finding might help explain why scientists have found links between elevated blood pressure and cognitive decline and dementia.

■ Parkinson’s disease

Parkinson’s disease is another condition characterized by the buildup of protein in the brain. In this case, the protein is alpha-synuclein.

This has led some researchers to wonder whether the glymphatic system might be implicated here, too.

In Parkinson’s disease, there is disruption in the dopamine pathways of the brain. These pathways play an important role in sleep-wake cycles and circadian rhythms; therefore, people with Parkinson’s often experience sleep disturbances.

A review published in Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews proposes that the disrupted sleep patterns could hinder the glymphatic removal of debris, including alpha-synuclein, helping it build up in the brain.

■ Brain trauma

Chronic traumatic encephalopathy results from repeated blows to the head; it used to be called “punch-drunk” syndrome because it occurs in boxers.

Symptoms can include memory loss, mood changes, confusion, and cognitive decline.

Some researchers believe that disruptions to the glymphatic system caused by brain trauma may increase the risk of developing chronic traumatic encephalopathy.

The authors of the review write that, following a traumatic brain injury, “Difficulties with sleep onset and maintenance are among the most commonly reported symptoms.”

As we have seen, this interferes with the glymphatic clearance of proteins from the interstitial space during sleep.

At the same time, these types of injury can cause the relocation of aquaporin-4 channels — those important receptors on astroglia that are vital for glymphatic clearance — into a position that hinders the removal of junk proteins from the interstitial space.

The authors believe that the disruption of this system could “provide one link in the explanatory chain connecting repetitive [traumatic brain injury] with later neurodegeneration.”

■ Diabetes

Beyond a possible role in neurological conditions, some researchers have investigated how disturbances in the glymphatic system may be involved in the cognitive symptoms of diabetes.

Scientists have shown that diabetes can impact a range of cognitive functions, both early in the disease’s progression and further down the line.

Some researchers are asking whether the glymphatic system might be involved here, too. A study carried out in mice used MRI scans to visualize the movement of CSF in the hippocampus, a part of the brain involved in forming new memories, among other tasks.

The scientists found that in the mice with type 2 diabetes, clearance of CSF “was slowed by a factor of three.” They also found a correlation between cognitive deficits and impairment of the glymphatic system — if the trash was not getting cleared, thinking skills were hampered.

(Source: Medical News Today)

The effects of stress and depression on IVF success rate

HEALTH **TEHRAN** — Does stress and depression in women affect the success rate of in vitro fertilization (IVF)?

A new research has tried to answer this question.

In vitro fertilization is a process of fertilization where an egg is combined with sperm outside the body, in vitro.

According to Royan Research Institute website, the study was conducted by a group of researchers in Royan Institute, Ahvaz’s Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences and Gilan University of Medical Sciences.

Results of the study were also published in the journal BMC Research Notes.



Women who undergo assisted fertility treatments might experience depression and anxiety because of their fertility problem and the uncertainty of the methods used. On the other hand, recent studies have shown that the effects of psychological distress on the IVF treatment outcome is unclear.

In total, 142 women undergoing IVF treatment participated in this prospective study. The clinical pregnancy rate was 26.8% in this study. Controlling for age, infertility duration, and cause of infertility, there were no relationship between IVF outcome and anxiety.

The research concluded that anxiety, depression, and stress symptoms were not associated with the IVF clinical success rate.

Can you improve emotional intelligence?

It’s our emotional intelligence that gives us the ability to read our instinctive feelings and those of others. It also allows us to understand and label emotions as well as express and regulate them, according to Yale University’s Marc Brackett.

Most of us would probably like to think that we can do all of the above. We spot and understand emotions in ourselves and others and label them accurately in order to guide our thoughts and actions.

■ What is emotional intelligence?

The theory of emotional intelligence -- and the term itself -- originated at Yale and the University of New Hampshire. Peter Salovey, the 23rd president of Yale University, and John “Jack” Mayer, professor of psychology at the University of New Hampshire, wrote up the theory in 1990, Brackett said.

Their work demonstrated how emotions had a marked impact on an individual’s thinking and behavior, said Robin Stern, associate director for the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence and an educator, author and licensed psychoanalyst.

Experts have continued to build on that framework to refine definitions of what exactly is at the core of emotional intelligence. “Emotional intelligence is being smart about your feelings. It’s how to use your emotions to inform your thinking and use your thinking to inform your emotions,” she said.

■ Why emotional intelligence matters

Canaday further suggests that emotional intelligence is a better predictor of career success than an impressive résumé or a high IQ score.

Well ... just reflect on your own work experiences, Canaday suggests.

Has anyone you worked with ever been let go or asked to leave, even when they had the competency or technical skills for the job?

“We might be hired for technical talents, but we are often fired because we lack emotional intelligence,” Canaday said.

Individuals with a low level of emotional intelligence can be successful, she said, but she argues that those individuals could be even more successful if they had a higher level of emotional intelligence.

“It is how well you can collaborate, how well you engage with others and influence. It’s the stories you can tell, the way you can bring data to life in a way that connects with others. Those are the things that are going to set you apart.”

■ Can I improve my emotional intelligence?

So maybe you need to improve your emotional intelligence. How do you do that?

From the earliest ages, children should be taught how to recognize their emotions, understand what those emotions mean and label them accurately in order to express and manage themselves, Stern said.

For adults who did not receive a solid education on emotional intelligence, improving will require some hard work. Canaday suggests creating an action plan including specific goals. “Pick one or two areas where you want to grow, and get some advice on how to best start to embody whatever factor of emotional intelligence you are trying to develop.”

If you are trying to gain better control of your anger, for example, you might find a healthy outlet for it -- whether it be yoga, meditation or boxing.

Canaday also suggests seeking out perspectives from those who may not agree with you. “Be intentional about that. Take active steps to do that. If you constantly surround yourself with people who believe just like you do, then you are hearing the same conversations, and you are not growing, and you are not learning to be open to perspectives.”

Brackett advises seeking out strategies that are effective for managing emotions. Practice them and then evaluate how those strategies are working for you. It’s important to “spend time reflecting on and thinking about your influence and how people respond to your emotions, be more self- and socially aware about your presence.”

Stern suggests prolonging the time between when you are triggered by something and when you respond. Pause, slow down and take a deep breath. Imagine what your best self looks like. Taking the time to pause and think about what your best self would do in each situation may help you avoid letting your emotions control you. You are allowing yourself time to manage your emotions.

(Source: cnm.com)

Melting of Himalayan glaciers has doubled in past 20 years, study warns

The rate glaciers are melting in the Himalayas has doubled in just 20 years, according to a study which examined 40 years of satellite data.

Glaciers have been losing more than a vertical foot and a half of ice each year since 2000. This equates to 8 billion tons of water being released – or the equivalent of 3.2 million Olympic-size swimming pools.

The rate of melting is more than double that which took place between 1975 and 2000, according to the study published in Science Advances. It is the latest indication climate change is threatening the water supplies for 800 million people living downstream.



“This is the clearest picture yet of how fast Himalayan glaciers are melting over this time interval, and why,” said lead author Joshua Maurer, a PhD candidate at Columbia University.

These glaciers currently harbour 600 billion tons of ice and they may have lost as much as one quarter of their mass over the past four decades. On Mount Everest long-lost corpses of climbers are even starting to emerge from the ice.

At this rate of decline, two-thirds of the Himalayas’ ice cover – referred to as Earth’s ‘Third Pole’ – will be gone by 2100.

Rising temperatures are to blame, according to scientists who estimate that from 2000 to 2016 temperatures were 1C warmer than between 1975 and 2000.

Scientists scanned satellite images from 650 glaciers spanning 2,000 kilometers from west to east. Many of the 20th century observations were from declassified photographs taken by US spy satellites. Researchers used these to create 3D models that could show the changing elevations of the glacier over time.

Between 1975 and 2000 glaciers lost on average 0.25 meters of ice. In 2000 this loss increased to around half a meter every year and at lower levels the decline is up to five meters a year.

Another driving factor is Asian nations burning more and more fossil fuels, sending soot into the sky. This eventually lands on the surface of the glacier where it absorbs solar energy and accelerates melting, researchers believe.

The Himalayas are not melting as fast as the Alps, but the general progression is similar.

Eight-hundred million people depend on seasonal runoff from Himalayan glaciers for irrigation, hydropower and water. There is currently more run-off during warm seasons but scientists say within the next few decades this will decrease as the glaciers lose mass. This will eventually lead to water shortages.

The study shows that “even glaciers in the highest mountains of the world are responding to global air temperature increases driven by the combustion of fossil fuels,” said Joseph Shea, a glacial geographer at the University of Northern British Columbia who was not involved in the study.

“In the long term, this will lead to changes in the timing and magnitude of streamflow in a heavily populated region.”

“It shows how endangered [the Himalayas] are if climate change continues at the same pace in the coming decades,” said Etienne Berthier, a glaciologist at France’s Laboratory for Studies in Geophysics and Spatial Oceanography, who also was not involved in the study.

The study follows research from last month that found glaciers in the high-mountain regions around the Himalayas were shrinking 1.6 times faster between 2000 and 2016 than the period between 1951 to 2007.

(Source: The Independent)

WORDS IN THE NEWS

Food scares

(August 31, 2000)

Two reports from opposite sides of the world showed how the food we eat can be dangerous to our health.

The new research, published by the National Academy of Sciences, **provoked fears** that other animals, such as pigs and **poultry**, may carry **BSE** while appearing healthy. The lead scientist on the new research, Professor John Collinge, is a member of the British government’s **BSE advisory council**. He says the **findings** suggest more **spot checks** on **apparently healthy** animals **destined for human consumption** may be needed, to ensure they aren’t silently carrying the disease. But food safety experts in Britain say there’s no evidence to suggest this is the case, and say existing controls on animal feed and **slaughter** provide adequate protection to consumers. Ever since the **contaminated** milk poisoned nearly fifteen-thousand people in June, Japan has been **in the grip of** a food scare. The number of products **recalled** from the shops **has reached record proportions**, with angry consumers reporting everything from dead flies in tomato juice to a **lizard** in a bag of potato chips. The authorities have promised tough action to restore public confidence.

■ **Words provoked fears:** made people worried
■ **poultry:** birds such as chickens and ducks are called poultry
■ **BSE - Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy:** disease found in some animals which can be passes to people. More commonly called ‘Mad Cow’s Disease’
■ **advisory council:** organization for giving advice
■ **findings:** the results of an investigation are called the findings
■ **spot checks:** unexpected inspections
■ **apparently healthy:** seem or look to be well
■ **destined for human consumption:** to be used as food for people
■ **slaughter:** killing of animals
■ **contaminated:** if something has been made dirty, unclean or poisonous, it has been contaminated
■ **in the grip of:** dominated by, very worried about
■ **recalled:** if a product is recalled then the company that makes it asks people who have bought it to return that product to the shops.
■ **has reached record proportions:** has become bigger than ever before
■ **lizard:** a kind of animal, reptile, like a snake with legs

(Source: BBC)

Scientific co-op, knowledge exchange essential for promoting peace, welfare for all: minister

SOCIETY **TEHRAN**—In the today’s world where challenges a country is facing becomes other countries’ problems in no time, scientific cooperation and knowledge exchange for sustainable development are essential for promoting peace and welfare for all, the cooperation, labor and social welfare minister has said.

Mohammad Shariatmadari made the remarks on Wednesday over in his address to Asia-Pacific ministers at the 108th Session of the International Labor Conference held in Geneva, Switzerland, on June 10-21, according to a report published on the ministry’s portal.

Some 60 percent of the whole world’s population constituting 3.4 billion people, including workforce, are living in Asia-Pacific region, he said, adding that despite the differences all countries in this region should cooperate to create sustainable employment opportunities for all.

Things are changing fast now and have impacts on the workforce, technology advances, climate change, demographic changes, etc. are affecting various regions differently, he added.

He went on to say that new technologies have seriously affected jobs and had various consequences for the economies and job opportunities, so that following the new technology trends and teaching necessary vocational skills to the workforce are vital.

The minister also highlighted that despite economic growth there are not enough decent job opportunities in some economies in the region.

Shariatmadari also mentioned ILO’s most recent report, entitled Asia-Pacific Employment and Social Outlook 2018 (APE-SO): Advancing decent work for sustainable development regretting the increasing number of unemployed and people having informal jobs.



Based on ILO’s report, despite two decades of economic growth, Asia-Pacific still faces structural weaknesses in its labor markets.

According to the first edition of the APE-SO, although the regional unemployment rate is projected to remain at 4.1 per cent through 2020, the vulnerable employment rate is expected to creep up towards 49 per cent, reversing a downward trend of at least two decades.

While the Asia-Pacific region has made rapid progress to substantially reduce extreme poverty, one fourth of all workers in the region – 446 million workers – still lived in moderate or extreme poverty in 2017 and nearly half of the workforce – 930 million people – were still making a living in vulnerable employment as own-account or unpaid contributing family workers.

More than two in three workers were in informal employment in 2016, which is closely linked to the 48.6 per cent of workers still in vulnerable categories of employment. The

informal employment rate is particularly high in Southern Asia, where almost 88 per cent of workers were informally employed.

The minister also noted that employment would lead to reducing poverty, saying that economic growth cannot solely result in poverty reduction unless it creates decent jobs.

Empowering and supporting the youth would help in having a brighter future, he suggested.

Shariatmadari also lamented that one-sided, unfair U.S.-sanctions imposed on Iran would definitely affect human rights, social justice, and everyone’s right to have a decent job, this is economic terrorism.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has established a national plan for decent jobs creation in line with sixth national development plan, he highlighted.

Using the youth potential, empowering work institutes, developing vocational skills, and supporting firms, specially newly funded knowledge-based companies are

of the plans to generate decent jobs in the country, he stated.

Emphasizing the fact that Iranian government has attached a great importance to the development of innovative technology startups he also explained that Iran played host to the 1st Asia Pacific Innovation Forum held on June 10-12.

The theme of the Forum was “Technology Start-ups for Sustainable Development” in recognition of technology as a key means for sustainable development goals. The Forum was an opportunity to showcase the most innovative technology start-up initiatives, discover frontier technological advancements from across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond, and develop partnerships with other member States so that the countries in the region can move forward together to face great opportunities and challenges of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Iran has gained considerable experience and knowledge in supporting startups knowledge-based companies and is ready to exchange this knowledge with other countries in the region, he concluded.

This year the 108th International Labor Conference brought together over 6,000 delegates from around the globe to find solutions to the challenges of the future of the world of work, and celebrate the Centenary of the International Labor Organization.

The conference, which is often called an international parliament of labor, has several main tasks.

The crafting and adoption of international labor standards in the form of conventions and recommendations, supervising the application of conventions and recommendations at the national level, and representing a forum where social and labor questions of importance to the entire world are discussed are some of the main tasks.

Sadiq Khan announces car-free day in London to tackle air pollution

Sadiq Khan has announced plans to implement London’s biggest car-free day to date, closing 12.3 miles (20km) of roads in the center of the capital in September.

Roads will be closed for the event around London Bridge, Tower Bridge and much of the City of London to help tackle the capital’s air pollution crisis, which kills thousands of people each year and leaves two million – including 400,000 children – living in areas with illegally dirty air.

Boroughs across the city will also hold events promoting walking, cycling and public transport, as well as creating scores of “play streets”.

It is the first time a London mayor has closed down large sections of roads in the city center. Khan said the day would offer an opportunity for people to leave their cars behind and explore streets by foot or by bike.

“I encourage as many Londoners as possible to join in the fun and see the city from a different perspective,” he said.

The event, which will take place on 22 September, has been given a cautious welcome by campaigners.

Areeba Hamid of Greenpeace UK said: “It’s exciting to see London adopting the idea of having a car-free day, something great cities across the world from Paris to Bogotá have been giving a try ... Reducing toxic air pollution and carbon emissions are vital, but they are far from the only benefit of reclaiming our streets.”

Fiona Sutherland from London Play, a charity that campaigns for more opportunities for children to play in the city, said: “[This] will give people the opportunity to witness a transformation on their doorstep. When cars no longer dominate, what we often forget is valuable public space. For a few hours, children, whose lives are most



negatively affected by traffic, will take priority. We hope that it will be the beginning of long-term change.”

Dr Audrey de Nazelle, an academic at the Centre for Environmental Policy at Imperial College London, said the event was important to show people how enjoyable a car-free city would be.

“Being aware of the scale of air pollution health problems is not enough. Actually living the joys of a car-free or carless city will do much more to create a positive vision of what a future healthy London could be like,” she said.

Hundreds of activities will take place across the closed streets in central London, with 18 boroughs planning to work with residents to create play streets for children, where communities can get together. It is hoped more than 150,000 Londoners will join in.

The move comes as concerns mount about the impact of the UK’s poisonous air, which causes 40,000 early deaths a year.

Last year, an unprecedented joint inquiry by MPs described air pollution as a “national health emergency”. Their report was scathing about the government’s clean air plans, which have been judged illegal three times in the high court. The latest proposal, rejected by the court, was described as “woefully inadequate” by city leaders and “inexcusable” by doctors.

(Source: The Guardian)

Eastern European states block bid for EU climate change 2050 decarbonisation target

Three central and eastern European countries blocked a new EU climate change target on Thursday night, undermining global action to cut carbon emissions.

EU leaders had hoped to commit all the union’s member states to going carbon neutral by 2050 at a summit in Brussels, but in the end only 25 out of 28 countries were on-board.

Hungary, Poland, and the Czech Republic all refused to support writing the target into the EU’s strategic programme for 2019-24. The plan was supported by Brussels and had gathered significant momentum in recent weeks.

A planned reference to the 2050 target to reduce emissions to net zero was removed from the summit’s draft conclusions following the meeting. Instead, a footnote was added, with an explanation that “for a large majority of member states, climate neutrality must be achieved by 2050”.

The rejection of the target is a blow to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, which aims keep the global temperature increase to well below 2C and pursue efforts to keep it to 1.5C.

Efforts to meet the EU target could make a comeback at a later date: the rotating EU presidency, which set the agenda at summits like this week’s is passing to Finland later this month. Finland’s government is keen on fighting climate change, and recently committed itself to an even more ambitious target of decarbonising its economy by an earlier date, 2035. However, the chance to include it in the EU’s strategic agenda has been missed.

Environmental groups reacted angrily to the news, and called on EU leaders to hold an emergency summit to agree the policy ahead of a key UN climate change



meeting in the autumn. “Hollow words can’t rebuild a house flattened in a mudslide or repay a farmer who’s lost their harvest to drought,” Greenpeace EU climate policy adviser Sebastian Mang said.

“Merkel and Macron failed to convince Poland and bring others on board. With people on the streets demanding action and warnings from scientists that the window to respond is closing fast, our governments had a chance to lead from the front and put Europe on a rapid path to full decarbonisation. They blew it.”

Increasing numbers of member states swung behind the 2050 target in recent weeks, and the support from the 25 countries represents a significant increase on the just eight who supported the move back in March.

A watered down version of the text however failed to ultimately bring the final opposed member states on-side.

“We cannot agree, for now,” Polish prime minister Mateusz Morawiecki said ahead of the meeting, arguing that his country needs more EU cash to help convert its economy away from coal power generation.

Czech prime minister Andrej Babis added: “Why should we decide 31 years ahead of time what will happen in 2050?”

(Source: The Independent)

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ج

500,000 Afghan nationals studying in Iranian schools

Currently, about 500,000 Afghan students are studying in Iranian schools free of charge, secretary general of the national commission on children’s rights has announced.

Mahmood Abbasi made the remarks during a meeting with member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, juvenile judge Rinat Winter, on Monday. Over the past four decades, Iran has hosted over 4 million foreign nationals, especially Afghans, he noted, IRNA reported.

PREFIX/SUFFIX

“-ment”

■ **Meaning:** a word ending that indicates action or process
■ **For example:** I’ve made a few very minor **adjustments** to the decor, but in general it was excellent.

PHRASAL VERB

Hit somebody with something

■ **Meaning:** to tell someone something interesting, exciting, or shocking
■ **For example:** The next morning, Steve hit me with the truth.

IDIOM

The burning question

■ **Explanation:** what everyone is asking, and what we all want to know about, is called the burning question
■ **For example:** Who leaked the information? That’s the burning question!

۵۰۰ هزار کودک افغانستانی در ایران تحصیل می کنند

دبیر مرجع ملی کنوانسیون حقوق کودک گفت: هم اکنون نیز حدود ۵۰۰ هزار نفر از کودکان افغان به طور رایگان در ایران تحصیل می کنند. به گزارش روز دوشنبه خبرگزاری ایرنا محمود عباسی در دیدار با رینات وینتر، رئیس کمیته حقوق کودک سازمان ملل متحد در ژنو گفت: در چهار دهه گذشته ایران همواره میزبان چهار میلیون خارجی به ویژه افغانستانی ها بوده است.

Bahrain conference amounts to Arab ‘normalization’ of ties with occupying Israel: Haniyeh

TEHRAN — A senior leader of the Palestinian Hamas resistance movement has strongly condemned the forthcoming U.S.-led conference in Bahrain in support of President Donald Trump’s controversial proposal for “peace” between the Israeli regime and Palestinians, dubbed “the deal of the century,” saying it amounts to Arab “normalization” of ties with the occupying Israeli regime.

Addressing representatives of foreign media in Gaza City on Thursday, Ismail Haniyeh, the head of the Hamas political bureau, said that the upcoming confab, which is scheduled for June 25-26, are in line with U.S. and Israeli attempts to pull the plug on the Palestinian national project, and aims to downgrade the Palestinian cause from the issue of people looking for freedom and independence to economic and humanitarian woes.

Haniyeh then called on Bahraini monarch King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifah “not to hold this workshop,” vowing protests “in all Palestinian land and beyond.”

“We clearly express our rejection and non-acceptance of any Arab or Islamic country



holding such a conference, which constitutes normalization with the occupation,” the senior Palestinian official pointed out. Meanwhile, Palestinian Presidential

spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeineh has described the U.S.-sponsored economic workshop in Bahrain as a “strategic mistake,” arguing that the event will pave the way for Arab normal-

ization of relations with the Tel Aviv regime whilst it continues to occupy Palestinian land and refuses to withdraw in defiance of the Arab Peace Initiative.

The Arab Peace Initiative, proposed by Saudi Arabia in 2002, calls on Israel to agree to a two-state solution along the 1967 lines and a “just” solution to the Palestinian refugee issue. The initiative has been repeatedly endorsed by the Arab League in 2002, 2007, and 2017.

Abu Rudeineh then termed Bahrain workshop as a provocative move, emphasizing that such bids would further escalate tensions in the Middle East, which is already plagued by war and conflict, and would reach a point of no return.

He went on to say that Palestinians will not negotiate under pressure, threats or dictation. “Any step must be accepted by the Palestinian people and its leadership,” the senior Palestinian official highlighted.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat said on Tuesday that the Bahrain conference is doomed to failure in the face of the Palestinian nation’s resistance and steadfastness.

Muallem vows to ‘liberate all of Syria’ from terrorists

TEHRAN — Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Muallem has stressed the Damascus government’s resolve to rid the entire Arab country of foreign-backed terrorists and retake all Syrian territory.

In an interview with Lebanon-based Arabic-language al-Mayadeen television news network, al-Muallem said the entire Syrian territory will be liberated from terrorists very soon.

“We haven’t attacked anyone... We want to liberate our land and this is a legitimate right for us,” he said.

“Therefore, I say that terrorism will end very soon and the states will last and continue, particularly if the people in these states are steadfast and they have the hope that liberating all of the Syrian territories has become close.”

His remarks came as Syria’s army launched ground operations inside Idlib

and parts of adjacent provinces which are under the control of foreign-backed terrorists.

Syria has stepped up its bombardment of militant hideouts in the northwest since late April. Idlib, along the border with Turkey, is the last remaining bastion of foreign-backed terrorists.

Al-Muallem went on to say that Damascus does not want fighting to continue and is not after any conflict with Turkey.

“We don’t seek military confrontation with Turkey, but this is different from confronting the terrorist organizations which are originally blacklisted by the United Nations.”

According to Press TV, Al-Muallem, however, complained that the Ankara government didn’t honor its commitment to implement the de-escalation zone agreement in Idlib.

Saudi Arabia buys \$300 million worth of spy software from Israel

TEHRAN — Saudi Arabia has reportedly purchased \$300 million worth of spy software from Israel as Riyadh presses ahead with its crackdown against dissidents and pro-democracy campaigners in the ultra-conservative kingdom.

Arabic-language al-Khaleej Online news website, citing unnamed senior Arab sources, reported that representatives from the Riyadh regime and Israeli firms met and struck a deal without a mediator in the British capital city of London at the end of last May.

Tel Aviv and Riyadh have no diplomatic ties as Saudi Arabia does not recognize Israel. But the two sides have increased backchannel cooperation in recent years.

According to the sources, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates are aware of

the deal, which they described as “major and fairly lucrative.” They said the first phase of the accord includes the delivery of 1,000 small but sophisticated tracking devices, which can be placed in the target’s mobile phone to fully monitor the movements of their owners both in Saudi Arabia and abroad.

Israeli representatives have received full payment for the deal before handing over the devices.

The second part of the deal will be implemented by 2020, under which another 2,000 devices will be handed over to Saudi officials.

Last November, Israeli daily newspaper Haaretz revealed that Saudi Arabia had negotiated the purchase of a system that hacks into cellphones with a secretive Israeli technology firm, Press TV reported.

In another rebuke to Trump, Senate votes to block Saudi arms sale

TEHRAN — The US Senate on Thursday delivered another strong rebuke of President Donald Trump’s handling of the US relationship with Saudi Arabia, expressing disapproval the administration’s move to bypass Congress to complete eight billion dollars in US weapons sales to the kingdom.

The 53-45 vote rejects Trump’s claim that “emergency” circumstances require the United States to provide Riyadh more precision-guided bombs because of “Iranian threats”.

Senator Bob Menendez, a top Democrat leader on foreign affairs, and Senator Lindsey Graham, a Republican and political ally of Trump, led the challenge to the Saudi arms sales.

“These weapons won’t counter Iranian threats. This is all about using them in Yemen,” Menendez said in remarks to the Senate on Wednesday.

Trump and his advisers used the emergency declaration to bypass a requirement in the Arms Export Control Act that Congress approve such arms sales amid growing opposition by politicians to providing US precision-guided weapons to Saudi Arabia.

The planned sale also provides for co-production and manufacture of hi-tech bomb components in Saudi Arabia for the first time.

■ Outrage over Yemen, Khashoggi

The vote shows continuing bipartisan political opposition within Congress to the White House’s “business as usual with Saudi Arabia” approach. It is unclear if there would be enough votes to overcome a likely Trump veto of the measure should it make it to his desk.

Senate Republicans, however, are preparing legislation to impose new parameters on the US-Saudi strategic rela-

tionship, including potential financial sanctions on persons involved in the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

US legislators have grown increasingly uncomfortable with the Saudi-UAE aerial bombing campaign in Yemen that has caused thousands of deaths and a severe cholera outbreak.

“What’s happening in Yemen is a humanitarian disaster that has been exacerbated by the very weapons we have been giving the Saudis,” Menendez said.

Outrage in Congress peaked after the former Washington Post columnist Khashoggi was killed in October 2018 in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. The CIA has concluded Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) played a role in the assassination of Khashoggi, who had been critical of Saudi human rights abuses. Saudi officials have rejected that conclusion.

In a long-anticipated report released on Wednesday, UN extrajudicial executions investigator Agnes Callamard said Khashoggi’s death “constituted an extrajudicial killing for which the State of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is responsible” and said MBS should be investigated.

“This report has reignited and even deepened the concern about why this administration seems incapable of holding Saudi Arabia accountable,” Menendez said, citing its “horrific details” about a discussion between the killers of how to cut up Khashoggi’s body.

Trump has declined to apply available US sanctions under the Global Magnitsky Act to the Saudi government for Khashoggi’s killing.

Since the murder, the administration gave a regulatory



green light to US companies to offer the sale of nuclear power technology to Saudi Arabia, despite concerns it could lead to Saudi development of nuclear weapons.

Separately, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo recently blocked the inclusion of Saudi Arabia on a forthcoming US list of countries that recruit child soldiers, dismissing State Department experts’ findings that the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen has been using under-age fighters, Reuters News Agency reported, citing unnamed people familiar with the matter.

Trump vetoed a resolution in April that would have withdrawn US military support for the Saudi-UAE war in Yemen. Politicians in Congress were not able to come up with enough votes to override the veto, Al Jazeera reported.

N. Korea-China friendship ‘invincible’: Kim told Xi

TEHRAN — North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has hailed “immutable and invincible” relations between Beijing and Pyongyang as Chinese President Xi Jinping wrapped up a historic visit to the North.

Kim told the Chinese president that his visit was an opportunity to demonstrate “the immutability and invincibility of the DPRK-China friendship before the world,” the North official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported on Friday.

At a time when “serious and complicated changes are happening in international and regional situations,” the two leaders

agreed to “promote close strategic communication” and develop their “common interests,” KCNA added.

Xi, the first Chinese president to visit Pyongyang in 14 years, left the North on Friday, pledging his country’s assistance for Pyongyang’s efforts to ensure its own security and development.

In an address on Thursday, Xi said the North under leader Kim Jong-un had “initiated a new strategic line of economic development and improving people’s livelihoods, raising socialist construction in the country to a new high tide.”

China — the North’s key diplomatic supporter and main provider of trade and aid — was the first foreign nation Kim paid a visit to, since the two sides began working to improve ties back in 2018.

Kim travelled to China three more times to meet Xi in the past two years.

According to analysts, Xi’s visit to Pyongyang was aimed at sending a message to Washington, just a week before the G20 summit in Japan, where he will possibly meet U.S. President Donald Trump.

Washington-Pyongyang ties came to a

halt following the failure of a second summit between Trump and Kim in Vietnam.

Back in May, Pyongyang announced that the talks will never be resumed unless Washington “comes forward with a new method of calculation.”

Chinese media quoted Kim as saying that he was “willing to be patient” in the talks with the U.S., but wanted “the parties concerned” to meet him halfway.

Xi told Kim that Beijing “positively evaluated” the Pyongyang’s efforts, according to China’s official broadcaster CCTV.

Yemeni drone attack halts air traffic in Saudi airport

➔ The Houthi Ansarullah movement has so far carried out several high-profile drone and missile attacks against vital targets across Saudi Arabia, successfully bypassing the advanced air defenses of the kingdom which are mostly provided by the US.

“Yemen has advanced techniques, US systems, spread throughout Saudi Arabia, cannot intercept them,” Saree said.

He also pointed that Yemeni ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and drones are able to hit any targets in Saudi Arabia and that strikes will not be limited to Najran, Jizan and Asir which are closer to Yemeni territories.

He warned the Riyadh regime that Yemen was going to broaden its “deterrence area.”

The general also confirmed that Yemen had the ability to continuously manufacture missiles and drones for the years to come despite an aerial and maritime blockade by Saudi Arabia and its allies.

Saree also underlined Yemen’s “full right and legitimacy” in responding to the aggression. Press TV reported.

■ Yemeni snipers hunt 11 Saudi soldiers in Jizan and Najran

According to Al Masirah, sniper units of Yemen’s Army and Popular Committees targeted 11 Saudi mercenaries in 24 hours.

The Yemeni forces also fired a short range Zilzal 1 missile as well as a Bader F ballistic missile at gatherings of US-Saudi mercenaries in Najran.

Yemeni forces also killed and injured several Saudi forces in what Al Masirah described as “well planned and executed ambush.”

Yemeni forces also targeted Saudi mercenaries with a bomb in Asir.

‘Historic’ UK decision outlaws arms sales for Saudi war on Yemen

TEHRAN — The British government has temporarily suspended granting new permissions for export of arms to Saudi Arabia after a top UK court ruled them unlawful because they are used by Riyadh against civilians in Yemen.

Liam Fox, who serves as UK’s international trade secretary, said on Thursday that while the government was trying to have the Court of Appeal ruling reversed, it had halted issuing new licenses for sales of arms to Saudis and their allies.

“We are carefully considering the implications of the judgment for decision-making,” said Fox while addressing members of the British parliament.

“While we do this, we will not grant any new licenses for exports to Saudi Arabia and its coalition partners which might be used in the conflict in Yemen,” he added.

The decision came after the Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT) won a lawsuit against the British government earlier in the day.

The group had argued in the lawsuit that the UK had been violating international law by providing fighter jets and bombs to Saudis and allies that are being used to kill civilians in Yemen.

According to Press TV, the ruling came despite an earlier decision by Britain’s High Court which had exonerated the British government from responsibility in the Yemen war.

The previous ruling, issued in 2017, had argued that Saudi Arabia and its allies “were not deliberately targeting civilians” in Yemen.

England’s Court of Appeal had earlier on Thursday said the government broke the law by failing to assess properly whether the arms it sells to Riyadh violated its human rights commitments.

“The question whether there was an historic pattern of breaches of international humanitarian law on the part of the [Saudi-led] coalition required to be faced,” said judges in their ruling.

Recurrent reports published in the British media have shown that London has been a main contributor to the four-year plight of the Yemenis as it has supported Saudi Arabia and allies with everything they need to bomb the people.

A Saturday report by the Guardian newspaper showed that Britain was in fact been “doing much of the killing in Yemen” by providing British fighter jets and training pilots that drop the British bombs on the Yemenis.

Tens of thousands of people have been killed since Riyadh launched its illegal military campaign against Yemen in March 2015 in a bid to restore power to a resigned fugitive president.

The country, the poorest in the Arab world, has suffered badly from the campaign as hundreds of thousands remain internally displaced and many more are in dire need of humanitarian aid.

Thousands of protesters again hit HK’s streets

TEHRAN — Thousands of people gathered in Hong Kong on Friday calling for the territory’s leader to resign and for the government to scrap a controversial extradition bill.

Responding to calls on social media, demonstrators started arriving outside the Legislative Council Complex at about 7am.

People were urged to renew their protests after a Thursday afternoon deadline for the government to respond to their demands passed without any official response. Many were students dressed in black and wearing goggles and facemasks.

The police headquarters in Wan Chai, about a 500-metre walk from the legislature offices, was a new focal point for Friday’s actions. Several hundred protesters staged a sit-in in front of the building’s main entrance.

Joshua Wong - the recently released activist leader who rose to prominence during the 2014 Umbrella Revolution - told Al Jazeera he could possibly be rearrested under the “hardline suppression of the police force” for taking part in an unauthorized protest.

Wong said the demonstration at police headquarters showed the anger of the protesters at the treatment of their comrades at the hands of riot officers after violent clashes last week.

He said, however, Friday’s actions were a peaceful occupation of the roads around the building, and protesters would not try to storm the complex.

Wong said his organization, Demosisto, encouraged people to join the demonstration, and the past two weeks encouraged his view of Hong Kongers’ political and civil sense.

“It’s the miracle of Hong Kong,” said Wong.

Erdogan says Russian S-400 ‘a done deal’, warns U.S. of retaliation

TEHRAN — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said Turkey’s purchase of advanced Russian-built S-400 air defense missile systems is “a done deal”, warning that Ankara will retaliate if the Washington imposes sanctions over the purchase.

The S-400 is an advanced Russian missile system designed to detect, track, and destroy planes, drones, or missiles as far as 402 kilometers away. It has previously been sold only to China and India.

Turkey and the US, two NATO allies, have been at log-

gerheads for months over Ankara’s purchase order for the S-400s, which Washington claims are incompatible with NATO systems and the F-35 stealth fighters.

Furthermore, Washington has given Ankara until the end of July to cancel its purchase of the Russian missile defense systems or see another deal - for the purchase of F-35 stealth fighters from the US - canceled.

“The positions where those missiles will be deployed have already been decided,” Erdogan further said, speaking at a rare news conference for foreign media in Istanbul

on Thursday.

He reiterated that the missile systems would arrive in the first half of July.

The White House has time and again threatened to impose sanctions on Turkey if it presses ahead with its 2017-finalized deal with Moscow for the advanced missile system.

“I do not see any possibility of these sanctions happening,” Erdogan further noted, warning that if they did, “we will have sanctions of our own,” Press TV reported.

Cameroon soccer team delay departure for Africa Cup of Nations over pay dispute

Cameroon's soccer team have refused to leave their hotel to board a flight to the Africa Cup of Nations in Egypt because of a players' pay dispute, a team spokeswoman said on Friday.

The reigning champions are set to start the tournament on Tuesday in a match against Guinea-Bissau, but the players did not appear for their flight on Thursday evening amid a spat over bonus payments.

"The Lions are still in Yaounde. They did not agree with their managers on the amount of their premiums," the spokeswoman told Reuters.

Pay disputes before major competitions are not unusual for African soccer federations who often do not have sufficient resources to pay their players high sums. Nigeria and Ghana have experienced similar problems in recent World Cups.

Ministry of sports spokesman Gabriel Nloga said the players had each been paid a bonus of 20 million CFA francs (27,364.33 pounds). A source at Cameroon's soccer federation said the players had asked for twice that.

Cameroon has a rich soccer history, with both male and female teams taking part in a number of past World Cups.

The women's team was one of three African teams to qualify for the World Cup taking place in France. They reached the last 16 on Thursday after a 2-1 win over New Zealand.

(Source: Reuters)

Petr Cech appointed Chelsea technical and performance advisor

Former Chelsea goalkeeper Petr Cech has returned to the club as technical and performance advisor.

Cech, 37, spent 11 years as a player at Stamford Bridge, winning 13 trophies, including four Premier League titles and the Champions League.

He joined London rivals Arsenal in 2015 and retired after their Europa League final defeat by the Blues in May.

Chelsea said the former Czech Republic international will "provide advice on all football and performance matters".

Cech will also "facilitate strong links" between the academy and first team.

"I feel very privileged to have this opportunity to join Chelsea again and help create the best possible high-level performance environment to continue the success the club has had over the past 15 years," said Cech, who will work closely with Blues director Marina Granovskaia.

"I'm looking forward to the new challenge and hope I can use all of my football knowledge and experience to help the team achieve even more success in the future."

Granovskaia said Chelsea "always hoped" Cech would return to the club.

Former manager Maurizio Sarri left Chelsea last week to join Juventus after one season in charge, and Derby County boss and former Blues midfielder Frank Lampard is the favourite to take over.

Chelsea are unable to sign any players after being given a two-window transfer ban by world governing body Fifa - a decision they are appealing against at the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

(Source: Goal)

Real Madrid launch bid of £115m plus two players for Neymar

Real Madrid have launched a sensational bid for Neymar as they attempt to beat rivals Barcelona in the race for the Brazilian's signature

Neymar is widely expected to leave Paris Saint-Germain this summer, with the forward reportedly keen on a return to Barcelona.

However, according to Mundo Deportivo, Real Madrid have already made an offer for the 27-year-old as the Galticos look to continue their summer spending.

Zinedine Zidane has already marked his Bernabeu return with the signings of Eden Hazard, Eder Militao, Ferland Mendy and Luka Jovic and it seems the Frenchman is not done yet with the club pursuing a move for Neymar.

PSG are believed to value the player at €300m and Real have attempted to meet that valuation in a cash-plus-player offer.

Los Blancos have bid £115m plus either James Rodriguez or Gareth Bale the report suggests.

PSG were hoping to agree a contract extension with their prized asset and even re-hired Leonardo as the club's Sporting Director, with the belief that he could persuade Neymar to stay.

The improved contract offer would have added a further year to his deal and seen Neymar earn upwards of £26m a year.

(Source: Express)

Chelsea set to confirm Lampard move

Chelsea expect to finalise the appointment of Frank Lampard as their new manager next week, sources have told ESPN FC.

Lampard has been identified by club owner Roman Abramovich as the preferred choice to take over from Maurizio Sarri, unveiled as the new Juventus coach on Thursday.

Chelsea are prepared to pay the £4 million needed to release Lampard from his contract with Derby, but the Championship club's desire to secure a replacement before sanctioning his departure has slowed the process.

Lampard is expected to sign a three-year contract and be accompanied by former Chelsea academy coach Jody Morris and long-time fitness coach Chris Jones.

Derby had wanted to keep Lampard after a positive first season in which he led a vibrant young team to the Championship playoff final, and are reported to have offered him a contract extension.

Lampard will work closely with former Chelsea teammate Petr Cech, announced as the club's new technical and performance adviser on Friday.

Cech will provide advice on all football and performance matters, work to improve the pathway from the academy to the first-team squad and travel with the senior side home and away.

(Source: ESPN)

Stars turn up and viewers tune in, but VAR steals headlines at women's World Cup

While FIFA rejoice at global television viewing figures for the women's World Cup, there have been too many empty seats inside stadiums and on the field VAR is stealing headlines.

The latest came in the wake of the retaken penalty for Argentina that knocked out Scotland on Wednesday. That followed similar controversy in Nigeria's loss to France, another retaken penalty preventing the Super Falcons from securing qualification for the knockout phase.

■ Law changes wreak havoc

If the use of Video Assistant Referees at the 2018 World Cup in Russia was ultimately deemed a success, recent modifications to the laws of the game are causing problems.

Scotland and Nigeria were undone by a change to the law on penalty kicks, which means a goalkeeper must now have "at least part of one foot on... the goal line when the kick is taken".

The VAR found that Scotland goalkeeper Lee Alexander, like Nigeria's Chiamaka Nnadozie, had strayed fractionally in front of the line, and penalties either missed or saved were retaken and converted.

In contrast, encroachment into the box by attacking players has not been deemed worthy of a VAR intervention. Meanwhile, VAR is struggling to adapt to the new definition of handball.

"The use of VAR has become so ludicrous that, just maybe, there will be a backlash and its use restricted rather than expanded,"



wrote British newspaper The Times.

VAR is being introduced in the Premier League next season but a spokesman explained to Britain's Press Association that decisions on goalkeepers' movements before penalties will be left to on-field officials.

Critics might suggest FIFA are using the women's World Cup as a laboratory to see how VAR copes with the law changes, although the fact hardly any of the officials on the field had prior experience to working with video assistants has not helped.

■ Star turns

All of this has drawn attention away from the on-pitch successes, with the favorites -- notably France, the USA, England and Germany -- advancing to the last 16 untroubled.

In the absence of Norway's Ballon d'Or winning star Ada Hegerberg, others have stepped up. Among them are Brazil's Marta, who became the World Cup's all-time leading scorer with 17 goals, and USA striker Alex Morgan, who grabbed five in her country's 13-0 demolition of Thailand, the biggest ever

victory at the tournament.

That game underlined the gulf that remains between the leading nations and the rest in the women's game, even if Morgan is keen for the tournament to keep expanding.

"It's great to see quality games and quality teams, and my hope is eventually we cap it at 32 teams," she said.

Chile's Christiane Endler carried a torch for the developing nations as her world-class display in her country's 3-0 loss against the USA highlighted how women's goalkeeping is improving.

"We don't even have a professional league in Chile," said Endler, who plays for Paris Saint-Germain.

■ Empty seats

Fans are watching around the world. Brazil's 1-0 win over Italy drew in 46 per cent of the daytime television audience in Rio de Janeiro. In Italy, 7.3 million tuned in.

The BBC reported 6.1 million watched England beat Scotland on television in the UK, another record. In France, almost 11 million viewers watched the hosts' opening game against South Korea.

There is a fervor around the host nation's games, which have attracted sell-out crowds. Often, though, attendances have been disappointing. Most matches have not sold out.

Meanwhile, fan zones in host cities have not attracted huge numbers, but despite all that organizers are happy as the business end of the World Cup begins.

(Source: AFP)

Messi focussing on positives as Argentina's Copa hopes hang by thread

Lionel Messi was looking at a glass half full after his penalty kept alive Argentina's hopes of reaching the Copa America knock-out stages following a 1-1 draw with Paraguay.

Five-time Ballon d'Or winner Messi's 57th-minute penalty cancelled out a first-half opener from Paraguay's Richard Sanchez on Wednesday night.

But Argentina also had goalkeeper Franco Armani -- perhaps lucky to still be on the field at that point after denying Derlis Gonzalez a clear goalscoring opportunity in the first half -- to thank for saving a second-half penalty. "We have to think positively and keep our confidence," said Barcelona forward Messi.

"We need to improve and arrive in the best shape possible for the next match ... and we have to win."

Defeat would not have ended Argentina's hopes of reaching the quarter-finals since eight of the 12 participating teams will progress to the knock-out stages.

As well as the top two in each of the three groups, the best two third-placed finishers qualify.

"It would crazy if we couldn't progress from the group given that there are practically three teams that go through," said Messi, who will turn 32 on Monday.

Defeat at the Minerao stadium in Belo Horizonte would have meant that Argentina could finish no higher than third -- Colombia have already won the group after two straight wins.



Now they know that victory over invitees Qatar in Porto Alegre on Sunday will likely be enough to see them into the quarters.

However, the Asian champions are in the same boat as Argentina, with one point from two matches, and are even ahead of Lionel Scaloni's team on goal difference.

And Argentina have showed few signs of finding the kind of form that took them to three major tournament finals in as many years -- all lost -- from 2014-16.

- 'Searching for a team' -

Argentina had been second best in the first half of their 2-0 defeat by Colombia last Saturday, but then still conceded

ed both goals in a much improved second-half showing.

Scaloni dropped Manchester City's Sergio Aguerro and Angel Di Maria of Paris Saint-Germain for the Paraguay match but Argentina produced another disjointed and unconvincing display.

But Messi insisted that the level of competition is tougher than some appreciate and pointed to Venezuela holding Brazil to a 0-0 draw on Tuesday as proof.

"We knew it wasn't going to be easy playing in a Copa America, we're searching for a team, for a performance," said Messi.

"Venezuela made it hard for Brazil. At the moment we're not winning any more in the (Argentina) shirt and we have to put things right to earn the three points" against Qatar. Messi came to Brazil hoping to end a painful run of losing finals with Argentina.

Despite winning La Liga 10 times and the Champions League four times with Barcelona, he's never won a major honor with his country.

Three times -- 2007, 2015 and 2016 -- he's lost in a Copa America final and in 2014 Argentina were also defeated by Germany in the World Cup final.

But after their first two performances here, the question is not whether they can end their 26-wait for a major title, but simply whether they can avoid taking the first flight home.

(Source: AFP)

Diego Maradona issues angry response to reports he has Alzheimer's



Diego Maradona has angrily denied reports he has incurable Alzheimer's.

The retired footballer posted a video on his Instagram page insisting he was "not dying" from the irreversible brain disorder and branding the people behind the rumours: "Sons of they know who."

The 58-year-old has spoken out after Argentinian newspaper Cronica published a report pointing to the former Barcelona and Naples star suffering "neurological problems" and the "start of Alzheimer's".

Maradona raged: "They're lying, they're lying. They speak of Alzheimer's and they don't know what it means."

"The word Alzheimer's is an awful word. People with Alzheimer's die. I'm not dying. These sons of they know what throw it out there to create confusion. I don't do confusion."

His lawyer Matias Morla, who insisted Maradona stepped down as manager of Mexican side Dorados last week to focus on his health and undergo shoulder and knee surgery, added: "In the light of reports Diego Maradona is suffering from the onset of Alzheimer's I wish to state that none of the medical tests he has undergone show anything of the sort."

"In Mexico, where Maradona was managing a football team and technical staff, the club carried out different health check-ups, some with psychologists and psychiatrists, and they all produced satisfactory results with no medical information supporting what has been reported."

Blaming the Alzheimer claims on a "malicious source who only sought to generate conflict," he added: "Today Diego is focusing on his health and he's going to have an operation on his shoulder and knee so he can return to work as quickly as possible."

The retired footballer's daughter Dalma, responding to reports one of Maradona's sisters had said she wanted him admitted to hospital, said she had called him after reading the claims and confirmed he was on "top form."

Cronica set alarm bells ringing about Diego's health with a front-page report which read: "There's a concern in his family circle because of a deterioration in his state of health."

"There's talk of neurological problems and the onset of Alzheimer's."

"One of his sisters wants him to be admitted to hospital as soon as possible. There's total secrecy in his innermost circle."

(Source: Mirror)

Fernando Torres announces retirement from football



Former Liverpool, Chelsea and Spain striker Fernando Torres has announced he is to retire from football.

The 35-year-old, who is currently playing for Sagan Tosu in Japan, confirmed the end of his football career on social media.

He wrote: "I have something very important to announce. After 18 exciting years, the time has come to put an end to my football career."

"Next Sunday, the 23rd at 10:00AM, local time in Japan, I will have a press conference in Tokyo to explain all the details. See you there."

Torres joined Sagan Tosu in July 2018 after leaving boyhood club Atletico Madrid for a second time. He has scored just four goals in 32 games for the J League side.

The striker came through the youth system at Atletico, making his debut against Leganes in a Spanish second division game in March 2001.

He scored his first goal for the club a week later in a 1-0 victory over Albacete, before helping Atletico to promotion to La Liga the following season.

Torres then established himself as one of the most prolific strikers in Spain,

top-scoring for them in five successive seasons, which earned him a move to Liverpool.

The Spaniard was a huge success at Anfield and, while he did not win any silverware, he registered 81 goals in 142 games before his shock move to Chelsea on Deadline Day in January 2011.

Torres' time in London got off to a slow start. His first game for Chelsea was a 1-0 defeat to Liverpool, and he scored just once in 18 games for the club during the remainder of the 2010/11 season.

Torres' fortunes did pick up though, and he won the FA Cup and the Champions League in 2012, as well as the Europa League in 2013, before leaving for AC Milan in 2014.

He then returned to Atletico six months later, winning another Europa League title in 2018 in his penultimate match before his move to Japan.

Torres was arguably most successful on the international stage, and was an important member of the Spain side that won back-to-back European Championships in 2008 and 2012, as well as the World Cup in 2010.

(Source: Sky Sports)

Esteghlal will play attacking football: Andrea Stramaccioni

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Esteghlal d e s k newly-appointed coach Andrea Stramaccioni says his team will play attacking football.

The Italian coach was officially named Esteghlal coach on a two-year contract on Thursday. The former Inter coach attended a press conference in Tehran.

“First, I would like to thank the Esteghlal officials because I have been warmly welcomed here and I am proud of being Esteghlal coach. One of the reasons I decided to come here is a good relationship between Iran and Italy. I know that I will experience so many difficulties in Iran. Iran play a different style than Italy but it’s normal that the fans have requested to display Italian style in their team,” Stramaccioni said.

“I know that Esteghlal have not won a title in the league in the last six years and it will be difficult to be top in the league because there are several teams who are better than us. we have a lot of work to do, because some players have left the team and we have signed some new players,” the Italian coach added.

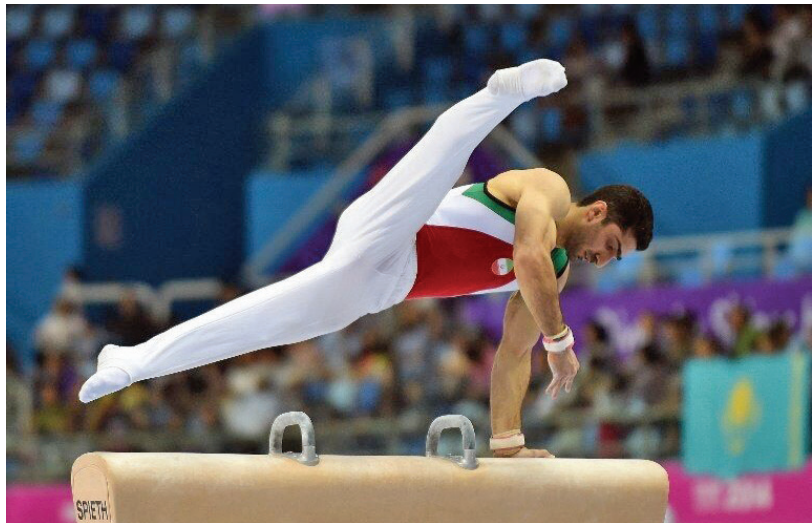
“I will not promise the fans to win the title this season but we will do our best to improve the quality of the team. All teams play for win in any tournament and we have to keep going step by step,” Stramaccioni stated.

“I am interested in playing attacking football. Defensive football makes a bad situation. My teams have always played attacking football but we have to see our players at first to know that which style of football we can play. If you don’t know your players, you will not get result,” he concluded.



© Tehran Times/ Mohammad Reza Abbasi

Iran win two medals at Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championships



S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Saeid d e s k Reza Keikha and Mehdi Ahmad-Kohani took two medals at the 2019 Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championships in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on Friday.

In the men’s pommel horse, Keikha scored a total of 14.567 points to win a silver medal.

Gold medal went to Jordan’s Ahmad Abu-Al-Soud and Liu Rongbing from China claimed a bronze medal.

Ahmad-Kohani also won a bronze

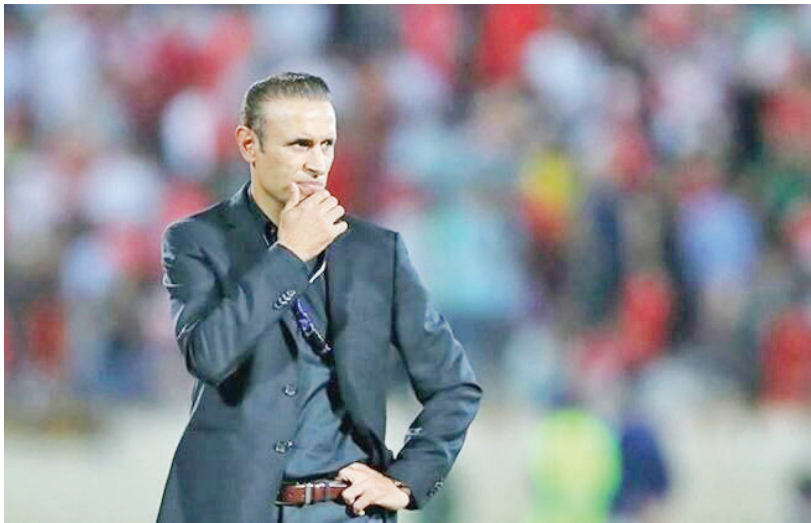
medal in men’s rings.

He scored 14.533 points in the event. Chinese representative Lan Xingyu clinched a gold medal ahead of North Korean gymnast Jong Ryong-il.

The 2019 Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championships was the eighth edition of the Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championships, and were held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 19 to 22 June, 2019.

The competition brought 80 athletes together.

Yahya Golmohammadi inch closer to Persepolis return



S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Padideh coach d e s k Yahya Golmohammadi is on the verge taking charge of Persepolis football club.

Golmohammadi is a candidate to replace Branko Ivankovic as well as Afshin Ghotbi and Mehdi Mahdavia. However it seems Golmohammadi has a better chance of returning to Persepolis, because Mahdavia currently works as Hamburger SV U21 coach and Ghotbi also failed to make a splash in Foolad football club last season.

Golmohammadi led the Reds in 2012-13 season but failed to win a trophy with the

Iranian popular football team. He will have a difficult task to coach titleholders Persepolis.

Ivankovic left Persepolis to join Al Ahli of Saudi Arabi on a two-year contract. He built the most decorated resume of any coach in Persepolis history. Under leadership of him, Persepolis won three successive Iran Professional League. The Reds, also won one Hazfi Cup and three Super Cups.

Furthermore, Persepolis reached the AFC Champions League final for the first time ever, where they lost to Japanese outfit Kashima Antlers 2-0 on aggregate.

Iran beaten by Japan at AFC U-20 Futsal Championship semis

Japan rose to the occasion as they defeated reigning champions Islamic Republic of Iran 8-4 to seal their place in the final of the AFC U-20 Futsal Championship IR Iran 2019 on Thursday.

It was a match worthy of a final, as it featured two teams with intense rivalry.

Japan, who were making their first semi-final appearance, had a bright start when goalkeeper Tabuchi Hiroshi’s long throw found Takehiro Motoishi in the box, but Takahashi Yudai shot the subsequent pass straight at Mohammadali Niknamtorghabe.

Four minutes into the game, Japan were awarded a free-kick after Mahdi Dehghannezhad had brought Matsukawa Kota down just outside the box, which cost Iran dearly, as the East Asians demonstrated their set-piece prowess with Hashimoto Reira finding the back of the net.

In all three of their previous games, Iran had not conceded a goal first, which forced them to turn on the power and they began pushing Japan back into their half.

Ali Akrami came extremely close in the ninth minute after a series of passes saw the ball at his feet but he was denied by the upright, but it mattered little, as Iran drew level a minute later through a set-piece, with Masoud Yousef Shavardazi etching his name on the scoresheet after unleashing a crackling left-footed strike.

Japan were reduced to making quick passes within their own final third due to the Iranian pressure, and paid the price for a lapse in concentration by their defense when Iran’s Sajjad Sarbaz intercepted Hatakeyama Yuki’s back pass inside the box, and the forward made no mistake in beating Hiroshi in the 18th minute.

Iran’s lead, however, lasted less than 30 seconds when Yamada Kaito was left to his own devices on the left flank, where he then surged down the court before sending it to Otsuka Hiroto to redirect the ball into the goal mouth from close range.

Japan dominated possession in the opening minutes of the second half, and while they suffered a scare in the



22nd minute when Salar Aghapour and Reza Ghanbarisaeidabad were denied by Hiroshi, a moment of brilliance from Osawa Mashashi from outside the box caught the Iranian ‘keeper off guard in the 24th minute.

Backed by a thunderous home crowd, it didn’t take long for Iran to find the equalizer, this time Dehghannezhad stealing the spotlight after he outmuscled Kimura Yuta in front of the box and drilled his strike home.

The tenacious Dehghannezhad showed that he is unstoppable when presented with a chance at the edge of the box, as he put Iran back in front with a strike similar to his previous effort.

With four minutes left on the clock, Kaito came off the bench as Japan’s fifth attacking member. He was then brought down right outside the box, but Motoishi failed to beat Niknamtorghabe with his free-kick.

Japan’s power play almost backfired in the 39th minute when Belal Esmaili Kooraneh intercepted a pass but his strike from distance missed the target by mere inches as the ball bounced off the post.

There was to be drama in the final 40 seconds when

Iran into Asian Beach Handball C’ship semis

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iran advanced to the Asian Beach d e s k Handball Championship 2019 semifinals despite suffering a 2-1 loss against Oman on Thursday.

Team Melli had already defeated Japan, Thailand, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan in Weihai, China.



Iran will face four-time champions Qatar on Saturday.

The tournament includes two groups of six teams.

Group A consists of Chinese Taipei, Vietnam, Afghanistan, the Philippines, Indonesia and Qatar, while Iran are in Group B along with Oman, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Pakistan and Thailand.

The competition serves as a qualifier for both the 2019 ANOC World Beach Games in Qatar and the 2020 IHF Men’s Beach Handball Championships to be held in Italy.

The top two teams will receive a direct ticket to Italy.

Iran’s women’s out of FIBA 3x3 World Cup

IRNA — Iran were knocked out of the International Basketball Federation 3x3 World Cup 2019 in Amsterdam, Netherland on Thursday.

Iran lost to Czech Republic 22-8 in Pool C and failed to advance to the next stage.

Team Melli started the campaign with a 22-8 against Spain but went on to beat Mongolia 19-18 in the next match.

Iran also lost to Romania 21-7 in this competition.

Iran’s national women’s team, headed by Nika Beyk-Liklee, was composed of Saeideh Elli, Shadi Abdolvand, Kimiya Yazdian Tehrani and Delaram Vakili.

The FIBA 3x3 World Cup 2019 is being held in Amsterdam, Netherlands from June 18 to 23.

Taremi linked with KV ostende

TASNIM — Iran international striker Mehdi Taremi has been reportedly linked with a move to Belgian top-flight football club KV Oostende.

Taremi will leave Qatari football team Al-Gharafa and he is set to join KV Ostened, voetbalprimeur.be reported.

He is Persepolis football team target as well but prefers to continue his career in an European football team.

Koninklijke Voetbalclub Oostende, also called KV Oostend, or KVO, are a Belgian football club from the city of Ostend, West Flanders.

The team were founded in 1904.

Alipour on eve of joining Zulte Waregem

PLDC — Persepolis striker Ali Alipour will likely join Belgian top-flight football club Zulte Waregem.

Alipour will reportedly pen a contract with Zulte Waregem for 700,000 euros.

The 25-year-old striker has negotiated with Persepolis’s officials and will leave his team, the local media reported.

Spanish football team Union Deportiva Almeria also eyed the Iranian striker.

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 Zultse VV and KSV Waregem, a former first division regular.

Mohajeri named Iran’s Nassaji coach

TASNIM — Mohammad Reza Mohajeri has been named as new head coach of Nassaji Mazandaran.

The 54-year-old coach replaced Majid Jalali in Ghaemshahr-based football club.

Nassaji finished in 10th place in Iran Professional League (IPL) last season.

Mohajeri led Machine Sazi last season and now is going to start a new challenge in another Iranian top-flight football club.

Mohajeri started his coaching career in Shirin Faraz in 2011 and has also coached Siah Jamegan and Padideh.

Georgian midfielder Kakashvili joins Machine Sazi

Persian Football — Iranian football club Machine Sazi completed the signing of Georgian midfielder Kakhaber Kakashvili.

The 25-year-old has joined the Tabriz-based football club on a two-year contract for an undisclosed fee.

Kakashvili, who has most recently played at Norchi Dinamo, was a member of Machine Sazi in the 2016-17 season.

He has also played in Iranian football club Gostaresh Foolad.

Rasoul Khatibi has been recently named the head coach of Machine Sazi.

(Source: the-afc)

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



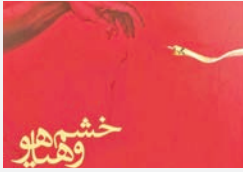
GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

It is enough wisdom for you that it clarified
salvation and depravity for you.

Imam Ali (AS)

WHAT'S IN ART GALLERIES

Painting



■ An exhibition of paintings by Ali Khaleq is underway at Salees Gallery.

The exhibit named “Sound and Fury” will run until June 26 at the gallery located at 148 Karim Khan Ave.



■ Paintings by Zahra Momeni are currently on view in an exhibition at Shalman Gallery.

The exhibit titled “The Loneliness Fences of a Woman” will be running until June 26 at the gallery located at 27 Kavusi Alley, West Rudbar St., off Mirdamad Blvd.



■ A collection of paintings by Safa Amirmoqaddam is on display in an exhibition at Shokuh Gallery. The exhibit entitled “Salvation” runs until July 2 at the gallery located at 19 Amir Nuri Alley, North Salimi St. near Andarzgu Blvd.

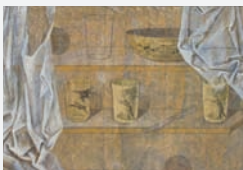


■ Behnaz Behnamfar is showcasing her latest paintings in an exhibition at Negar Gallery. The exhibit named “In the Presence of History” will run until June 26 at the gallery located at 33 Delaram Alley, Roshanai St. in the Qeitarieh neighborhood.



■ An exhibition of paintings by Mani Gholami is underway at Soluk Gallery. The exhibit titled “Cinema at Home” will be running until July 2 at the gallery located at No. 1, First Alley, Takhti St. off Fereshteh St.

Painting/drawing

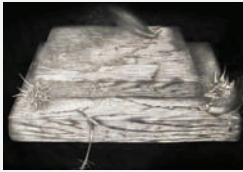


■ Homa gallery is hosting an exhibition of paintings and drawings by Sima Shahmoradi. Entitled “The Season of Bitter Oranges”, the exhibit runs until July 2 at the gallery located at No. 8, Fourth Alley, Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.



■ Paintings and drawings by Mitra Shahmoradi are on display in an exhibition at Golestan Gallery. The exhibition will be running until June 26 at the gallery that can be found at 42 Kamasai St. in the Darus neighborhood.

Drawing



■ A collection of drawings by Reihaneh Afzalian is being shown in an exhibition at Vaali Gallery. The exhibit named “Remainder” will be running until July 9 at the gallery located at No. 71, Khoddami St. off of Vanak Square.



■ Hoor Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of drawings by Farshid Maleki.

The exhibition runs until July 9 at the gallery, which can be found at 12 Naeimi Alley, North Mirza Shirazi St., off Motahhari Ave.

Photo



■ Sima Moshtagi is displaying her photos in an exhibition at Haft Samar Gallery. The exhibit named “Smokes and Aromatic Sticks” runs until June 26 at the gallery located at No. 8, Fifth Alley, Kuh-e Nur St., Motahhari Ave.



■ An exhibition of photos by Samira Taqizadeh is underway at Sheis Gallery. The exhibit titled “Out” will run until June 26 at the gallery located at Shirzad Alley, near Daneshju Park.

Court bans comedy “We Are All Together” over Kermani accent of its villain

By Seyyed Mostafa Mousavi Sabet

TEHRAN — A court in Kerman ruled last Tuesday that theaters in the southern Iranian province must stop screening director Kamal Tabrizi’s “We Are All Together” over the Kermani accent of a drug dealer character in the comedy.

“The decision was made due to the Kermani people’s negative response in the social networks to the Kermani accent of a man playing the role of a drug dealer in the film,” Kerman Public Prosecutor Dakhoda Salari said in a press release.

“This province has always worked as a shield protecting the country from drug traffickers, therefore it doesn’t deserve such an unflattering portrayal,” he lamented.

He also said that the court has filed a lawsuit against the producer and director of the movie, and it is seeking to stop the screening of the movie across the country.

The all-star cast and crew of the movie have protested the decision in a statement published on Thursday.

They expressed their sadness about the decision to stop screening the movie in Kerman and added, “The film has nothing insulting to any Iranian ethnic group.”

“Using villains and protagonists in a story is a dramatic necessity,” they wrote and added, “Provoking ethnic tension about cultural works and films is harmful and is a countercultural move.”

“We should not forget that the screenwriters and some members of the cast are from Kerman and we are all Iranians,” the statement concluded.

“We Are All Together” is about a group of passengers who survive a plane crash.

Tabrizi has an old hand in making movies with provocative stories.

In February 2014, his docudrama “Ancient Land” sparked a storm of protest from large groups of Bakhtiari people who claimed the series insulted the ethnic group in southwestern Iran by linking a Bakhtiari family to the Iranian monarchy and calling them British occupiers’ agents.

IRIB stopped broadcasting the series immediately and promised to modify it for broadcasting. Tabrizi made some modifications and renamed the series “Motherland”. In September 2017, he announced IRIB’s plan to rebroadcast



A scene from director Kamal Tabrizi’s “We Are All Together”.

the 60-episode serial in October. So far, however, the plan has not been implemented.

Tabrizi’s controversial comedy “The Lizard” was banned shortly after its premiere in 2003 following fierce criticism from Iranian officials and Muslim clerics.

The movie, which had been warmly received by people,

was about Reza, the Lizard, a thief who disguised himself as a cleric to escape from prison.

Tabrizi also stepped across the red line of Iranian cinema authorities with his “Leily Is with Me”, a comedy focusing on the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, which is called the Sacred Defense in Iran.

Iran’s “African Violet”, “Am I a Wolf?” honored at Tripoli Film Festival

TEHRAN — The 6th Tripoli Film Festival honored Iranian movies “African Violet” and “Am I a Wolf?” on Wednesday, the organizer announced.

“African Violet” directed by Mona Zandi-Haghighi received a special jury award and “Am I a Wolf?” by Amir-Hushang Moein won the award for best animated film during the closing ceremony of the festival held in Tripoli, Lebanon.

“African Violet” is about a woman who chooses to look after her former husband who is suffering from an illness.

The animation “Am I a Wolf?” tells the story of a group of schoolchildren who are performing the familiar story of a wolf attacking herd animals. The central scenes depict a nanny goat in grief for losing the yearlings and an angry

wolf facing each other. The story ends when the wolf, struck by lightning, falls into the river. After the show the children receive applause, but the child who played the violent wolf is shown crying by the river. The work, which is composed without any dialog, evokes thoughts among the viewers across age and culture.

The award for best feature went to “Adrift” by Caleb Burdeau from Italy, Bosnia and USA while “Festival” co-directed by Tomasz Wolski and Anna Gawita from Poland was selected as best documentary.

Canadian director Larissa Corriveau’s “The Lure of the Deep” was picked as best short movie, and another special jury prize was presented to Egyptian director Hana Mahmoud for her “Like the Sun”.



Director Mona Zandi-Haghighi accepts a special jury award for her drama “African Violet” at the 6th Tripoli Film Festival in Lebanon on June 19, 2019.

“Brooklyn” appears in Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN — Irish author Colm Toibin’s novel “Brooklyn” has recently been published in Persian by Morvarid Publications in Tehran.

Translated by Denis Ajiri, the 2009 book is about a young girl, Eilis Lacey, who lives a boring life in a small town in Ireland with her mother and older sister Rose, until the day Rose introduces her to Father Flood, a priest who wants to help Eilis immigrate to America to find work.

When Eilis arrives New York, she has difficulty adjusting to her new life until she meets Italian-American Tony Fiorello.

They begin dating and she gradually grows more comfortable living there as their romance becomes more serious.

“Brooklyn” won the 2009 Costa Novel Award, was shortlisted for the 2011 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award and was longlisted for the 2009 Man Booker Prize. In 2012, The Observer named it as one of the 10 best historical novels.

Irish filmmaker John Crowley made a screen adaptation of the book in 2015 that won numerous awards and was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Picture.



Front cover of the Persian version of Irish author Colm Toibin’s novel “Brooklyn”.

Tarantino’s “Reservoir Dogs” adapted for Tehran stage

TEHRAN — American filmmaker Quentin Tarantino’s 1992 film “Reservoir Dogs” adapted for the stage by Iranian director

Mehdi Ashraafi will be performed at Tehran’s Divare Chaharom Theater on Sunday.

“Reservoir Dogs” tells the story of six criminals, who are hired to carry out a robbery. The heist

is ambushed by police and the gangs are forced to shoot their way out. At their warehouse rendezvous, the survivors, realizing that they were set up, try to find the traitor in their midst.

Mehdi Afrasteh, Navid Mohsenian, Hamid Jananeh, Hossein Hayati and Kaveh Akbari are the main members of the cast for the play, which will remain on stage until July 11.

Pokemon Go creators release Harry Potter mobile game Wizards Unite

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — The creators of mobile gaming phenomenon Pokemon Go unleashed a new game on Thursday that features Harry Potter and other characters from the wizarding world made famous in best-selling books and blockbuster movies.

Harry Potter: Wizards Unite was co-developed by Pokemon Go developer Niantic Inc and AT&T Inc’s Warner Bros., which owns the rights to develop entertainment based on author J.K. Rowling’s popular Harry Potter series.

Wizards Unite had been scheduled to debut on Friday, but players in the United States found they were able to download it on Thursday afternoon.

Like Pokemon Go, Wizards Unite uses augmented reality and Google mapping to make it look like characters are appearing in the real world. Players see characters, creatures and other elements overlaid on the landscape that they see through their phone’s camera as they move around.

In Wizards Unite, users play the role of a new recruit within the Statute of Secrecy Task Force to help solve a mystery. Players can discover artifacts, cast spells and encounter characters from the Potter

films and prequel movie series “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them,” the developers said.

“You see all your favorite characters and artifacts, whether it’s the Sorting Hat, or Buckbeak, or whether it’s Harry himself or Newt Scamander,” said Jonathan Knight, studio head of Warner Bros. Games San Francisco.

There is also a new story that unfolds within the game, Knight said. “There’s a crafting game where you’re collecting potion ingredients and creating potions and using them to be a better wizard,” he said.

Pokemon Go exploded after its introduction in 2016, sending players into city streets, offices, parks and restaurants to search for colorful animated characters.

Actress Tiffany Haddish, an avid fan of the Harry Potter books, was given an early look at Wizards Unite. At a launch event held by Warner Bros., Haddish said her favorite part of the game was that it forces people to move around to search for clues and characters. She said she had lost five to 10 pounds when she was walking around playing Pokemon Go.

“I’m about to be starting playing this like crazy,” Haddish said. “Maybe I’ll lose 10 to 15 pounds. Who knows?”

Paul Simon, Alice Quinn honored by Poetry Society of America

NEW YORK (AP) — Paul Simon doesn’t care much for requests, but he might ask you to sing along.

The singer-songwriter’s latest honor came from the Poetry Society of America, which celebrated him Tuesday during a dinner benefit at the New York Botanical Garden.

Simon and longtime poetry editor Alice Quinn were the guests of honor, their careers both lasting for decades and making them revered names among lovers of words.

Quinn has championed Sharon Olds, Edward Hirsch and countless other poets as an adjunct professor at Columbia University, the poetry editor at The New Yorker (from 1987 to 2007) and an editor at Alfred A. Knopf. She is stepping down as executive editor of the poetry society, where she has served since 2001. She was introduced by Pulitzer Prize winner and U.S. poet laureate Tracy K. Smith, who praised her contributions to “the inner life across this country and beyond.”

Quinn noted that Simon had been a supporter of the poetry society and remembered seeing him in the offices of Knopf, which published a book of his lyrics. Simon was then introduced by former U.S.

poet laureate Billy Collins, who noted that Simon was among the first rock songwriters to use the word “poetry” in a song (“I Am a Rock”) and to name poets, reading lines about Robert Frost and Emily Dickinson from Simon’s “A Dangling Conversation.”

Simon, meanwhile, was alternately playful and contrarian. He chastised Collins for misremembering a discussion they had about writing and wondered about the meaning of awards when the planet was “disintegrating.” He joked about making room for his poetry society award among his “shelves and shelves” of prizes, right next to a special trophy for being the “best-dressed dad.”

His acceptance came in three parts: He read work by two poets who died this year, Les Murray and W.S. Merwin; chatted briefly on stage with Collins about writing; and, to everyone’s obvious pleasure, performed a few songs.

Simon, 77, has retired from touring and his voice sounded strained at first. But he grew stronger, and even danced a little, as he ran through such favorites as “Me and Julio Down by the Schoolyard” and “The Boxer,” asking the audience to join in on the chorus of “Lie-La-Lie” as a small backing group added touches of jazz and Cajun music.