# TERNATIONAL

Pages | Price 40,000 Rials | 1.00 EURO | 4.00 AED | 39th year | No.13420 | Wednesday | **JUNE 26, 2019** | Tir 5, 1398 | Shawwal 22, 1440



Iranians don't believe the West's opposition to WMDs 2



New steps to reduce **JCPOA** commitments coming July 7 🔁



**Zero tolerance for** fan misbehavior: Masoud Soltanifar 15



Video game "Dark Summer" on MKO's reign of terror released 16



#### Iran to offer incentives for foreign investments of over \$250,000

**TEHRAN** – Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Farhad Dejpasand said on Tuesday that the government is providing especial facilities for foreign companies that bring in over \$250,000 of investment into the country, IRNA reported.

"Following a plan for supporting foreign investment, we have provided facilities for attracting foreign investments over \$250,000, and on this basis we are expected to have a good performance in foreign investment this year," Dejpasand said in a press conference.

The official noted that in the Q4 of the last Iranian calendar year (December 21, 2018-March 20, 2019), nearly \$4 billion of foreign investment was attracted in various areas while the figure stood at \$1.7 billion in last year's first half (March 21 -September 22, 2018). → 4

#### Russia says downed U.S. drone was in Iranian airspace

By staff and agency Secretary of Russia's Security Council Nikolai Patrushev said on Tuesday that Russia has military intelligence that shows that a U.S. drone was in Iranian airspace when it was shot down by Iran, according

to Reuters. The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) shot down an unmanned U.S.

surveillance drone on Thursday morning after it breached Iran's airspace. The IRGC brought the drone down by firing a surface-to-air missile at it.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said the U.S. military drone entered the Iranian airspace from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and it was targeted near Kouh-e Mobarak. → 2

#### Palestinian protesters reject U.S.sponsored Bahrain meeting

TEHRAN - Thousands of Palestinianshave staged rallies in both the occupied West Bank and the besieged Gaza Strip to express their resentment at a forthcoming U.S.-led conference in Bahrain, which would seek to advance President Donald Trump's controversial proposal for "peace" between the Israeli regime and Palestinians, dubbed "the deal of the

Rallies were held in several West Bank cities, including Ramallah, Tulkarm, al-Khalil, Yatta, Halhoul, Nablus, Jenin and Bethlehem, where participants waved the national Palestinian flag and hoisted signs in condemnation of the Bahrain conference, which is scheduled for June 25-26. They also denounced American plans to undermine the Palestinian struggle for independence and statehood.  $\rightarrow$ 13



#### Pompeo knows the real meaning of "disinformation"

ike Pompeo, United States Secretary of State has turned into a symbol of the failure of U.S. foreign policy and in particular, that of Trump's administration.

Pompeo, who had a key role in U.S. pullout of its nuclear deal with Iran and imposing unilateral sanctions on the country, has now a big challenge ahead as he has no choice other than facing the fact that Iran is "powerful."

Recently, Pompeo accused Iran of spreading disinformation and said that U.S. would exert unprecedented pressures on Iran, if Tehran refuses to hold negotiations.

On Saturday, Iranian foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif tweeted a series of maps showing where U.S. military drone was shot down by Iran. The maps clearly showed that the location was inside Iran's territorial waters. In an offensive statement, Pompeo called the maps "childlike", saying that showing them does not change anything. It seems that Pompeo can no longer hide his anger due to Washington's continuous failures against Iran.

Clearly, the harsh tone of Mike Pompeo in this statement is rooted in his own unstable position in U.S. government and the fact that he has failed in his plans against Iran over the last two years.

Obviously, Pompeo's insults do not deserve a response, but it should be pointed out that U.S. in fact better knows the meaning of "disinformation" as they did when they shot down an Iranian passenger flight from Tehran to Dubai in July 1988 and later claimed that they had incorrectly identified the Airbus as an attacking jet fighter.

The airplane was hit when flying over Iran's territorial waters in the Persian Gulf. The attack destroyed the aircraft and killed all 290 people on board, including 66 children.

Just like, Rex W. Tillerson, John Kerry, Hillary Clinton, Madeleine Albright, Condoleezza Rice, Colin Powell and other U.S. officials and secretaries of state, Pompeo also knows the true meaning of spreading "disinformation" and lying when it comes to devising foreign policies.  $\rightarrow$ 13

#### What Iran gains, what U.S. loses by downing drone

TEHRAN(MNA) - Last week the US Global Hawk spy drone intruded into Iranian airspace, which was shot down by the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps after the dronet violated Iranian airspace and ignored Iran's several warnings.

Although the downing of US military drone by Iranian forces is not unprecedented, but the importance of this matter is double because of special capabilities of the drone and the specific political existing situation between the two countries after the US withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), as well as the beginning of a series of steps taken by Iran to reduce its nuclear commitments under the JCPOA.

Here are some of the most important consequences of this confrontation:

It was a sign of the capability of the Islamic Republic of Iran to defend itself beyond the assessments of military experts in the world, including the Americans. The successful performance of Khordad 3 surface-to-air missile system will surely force the Americans to review their military analysis of Iran's defense capabilities.

Iran's threats in response to US actions were materialized by downing of Global Hawk. As Leader of the Islamic Revolution Seyyed Ali Khamenei had warned the US officials, Iran's move showed that the time of 'getting away with murder' has come to an end for Americans. On the other hand, US inaction against Iran's actions proved that American threats are hollow which is a major blow to the US military credibility

Iran accepted the responsibility for downing of Global Hawk indicating that it is serious about public punishment of the aggressors, contrary to US accusations against in respect with oil tanker attacks which Iran rejected any involvement in those events and called for identifying offenders of those incidents.

Iranian action practically has seriously challenged the US policy of maximum pressure on Iran to bring it to the negotiating table. In this regard, some analysts have analyzed the continuation of US economic policy against Iran as a provocative act that may provoke Tehran to behave more

dangerously against Western interests. This incident caused Iran to have the upper hand and be an active player not a passive one so that now the US has to act in response to Iran's behavior passively.

Iran's action has worried the US' Arab and Zionist allies in the region. Americans who are present in the region to defend their regional allies' interests now have to be more vigilant about their own troops.

The clear message of this incident to neighboring countries is that Iran's defense readiness is enough to tackle any threats and also that they can be targeted in case of aiding the US to take any measure against Iran. They have two choices. They can take steps to reduce tensions with Iran or continue tension with Iran and fill the pockets of the US with their dollars to defend them!

Finally, although the initiator of this incident was not Iran but its outcome ultimately inspired the supporters of the powerful Islamic Iran in the region. This incident may raise questions among the nations of the region about the costs and benefits of their rulers' decisions on their security and military expenditures which are mainly in the pocket of the U.S..



#### Iran's cryptocurrency energy crisis: the issue and solutions

hese days with the summer heat arriving in Iran, once again the issue of electricity consumption and balancing the country's power supply and demand has come under spotlight.

Although at the first glance, basic principles of electricity generation and consumption are just like previous years. however this year, among the variables pertain to electricity consumption, a new notion has emerged: "mining crypto-currencies".

Generating (experts use the term "mining") digital or virtual currency (dubbed cryptocurrency) with cheap electricity in Iran has become one of the major problems in big cities.

On Sunday, Iran's Power Generation and Distribution Company (known as TAVANIR) announced that the country's electricity consumption in the past Iranian calendar month (May 22-June 21) increased by seven percent compared to the same period last year.

Tavanir blamed the illegal activities of cryptocurrency miners for the sudden jump in the country's electricity consumption.

Now, considering Iran's long-lasting electricity problems, mostly in the hot season, the question is how exactly cryptocurrencies are to blame for the current situation and what solutions can be offered to remedy the issue without ignoring the problem all together.

\*\* Heaven of cryptocurrency miners Although, the issue of over-consumption of electricity by cryptocurrency miners has come to surface just recently, however studies show that such activities in Iran have been going on at

least in the past three years. Cryptocurrency mining is a significantly energy-consuming process and in many of the advanced countries the governments impose huge tax fees and certain electricity tariffs for people or companies which are active in this area. In Iran, however, the situation is quite different. →5

#### German MP urges Europe to do efforts for preserving JCPOA

**TEHRAN(MNA)** – Calling on Europe to be more influential in preserving Iran's nuclear deal, known as JCPOA, the German Parliament Member Omid Nouripour underlined the significance of protecting JCPOA on the way to maintain security in Iran, Europe, the Middle East and in general international security.

In his recent one-day visit to Tehran and in

an interview with Mehr news agency, Nouripour criticized Europe because as he said "it has not reacted strongly towards the US measures and have not been active enough to preserve the JCPOA."

"One of the reasons for maintaining JCPOA is that in the absence of it, Saudi Arabia will become more involved in nuclear activities in the pursuit of a nuclear bomb, which will be risky

for the Middle East and Asia," he said. Answering a question about if he has traveled to

Iran with a message to Iranian officials, he said that "the first message is that JCPOA is of great importance to Europe. The second message is that we (the Europeans) know that we must become more active, and finally the third message is that maintaining JCPOA is important for the security of Iran."  $\rightarrow$  7



### "Shabab al-Moqawama" Conf. kicks off in Qom prov.

**TEHRAN** — "Shabab al-Moqawama" Conference with the topic of failure of "Deal of Century" kicked off in Qom province on Tue. in the presence of Sheikh Isa Ahmed Qassim and youth of 60 countries in the world.

Shikh Isa Qassim Bahrain's most senior Shia cleric outlines how a so-called peace plan devised by the United States under President Donald Trump seeks to irreversibly compromise Palestinians' entire entitlements.

Sheikh Isa Qassim made the remarks during an address at a conference in the north-central holy city of Qom in Iran on Monday.

The U.S. announced the scheme last year, but withheld its details. Leaked information, however, indicate that it features serious violations of the Palestinian's age-old demands.  $\rightarrow$ 13

#### Iran says new U.S. sanctions are permanently closing path to diplomacy

**POLITICAL TEHRAN** – Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi has said that the imposition of new sanctions on top Iranian officials by the U.S. is synonymous with "permanent closure of the path to diplomacy".

"The (imposition of) futile U.S. sanctions against Iran's Leader and

the commander of Iran's diplomacy (Foreign Minister Mohammad



Javad Zarif) means the permanent closure of the path to diplomacy with the desperate U.S. administration," Mousavi tweeted on Monday.

"The Trump administration is violating all established international mechanisms for maintaining global peace and security," he added.

His comments came after Trump announced new sanctions against top Iranian officials, including the office of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and senior commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guards

The U.S. had already blacklisted the entire IRGC.

 $Trump\, said\, that\, the\, sanctions\, were\, in\, part\, a\, response\, to\, the\, shooting$ down of a U.S. drone on Thursday, but would have happened anyway.

The IRGC shot down an unmanned U.S. surveillance drone on Thursday morning after it breached Iran's airspace. The IRGC brought the drone down by firing a surface-to-air missile at it.

Zarif said that the U.S. military drone entered the Iranian airspace from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and it was targeted near Kouh-e Mobarak.

To prove that the drone violated Iran's space, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' aerospace unit put the wreckage of the drone on display on Friday.

Iran and the U.S. have been at odds since last year when Trump withdrew from a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and major powers and reimposed sanctions on Tehran.

#### Shamkhani says new steps to reduce commitment to JCPOA coming July 7

**POLITICAL TEHRAN** — Iran will take new steps to reduce its commitments under the nuclear deal with world powers on July 7, Ali Shamkhani, secretary of the



Supreme National Security Council, said on Tuesday in a note to Fars news agency. Shamkhani said European

signatories to the nuclear deal had not done enough to save it. The 2015 deal requires Iran to curb its nuclear program in return for the lifting of

The United States withdrew from the deal last year and reimposed sanctions. Iran says it intends to continue complying with it, but cannot do so

indefinitely unless European countries find ways to protect it from U.S. sanctions.

#### China urges 'calm and restraint' amid Iran-U.S. tension

By staff and agencies

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang has urged "calm and restraint" as tensions between the U.S. and Iran escalate following U.S. President Donald Trump's new sanctions on Iran.

'We believe that blindly applying maximum pressure will not help solve the problem," he said at a press briefing in Beijing.



 $\hbox{``Facts have proved that these'}$ measures have had the opposite effect and aggravated regional unrest," he added.

Geng said, "We hope that the parties concerned will maintain calm and restraint and avoid further escalation of tension.

According to Reuters, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Tuesday that the situation around Iran was developing toward a dangerous scenario.

Trump announced new sanctions against top Iranian officials, including the office of Leader of

the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and senior commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Seyyed Abbas Mousavi denounced the sanctions as "the permanent closure of the path to diplomacy" with the Trump administration.

Tension between Tehran and Washington has increased since Trump withdrew the U.S. from the 2015 nuclear deal in May 2018 and introduced harsh sanctions against Iran.

Tension entered a new phase as the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps on Thursday shot down a U.S. drone which violated Iran's airspace. Trump claimed he called off retaliatory air strikes minutes before

#### **Rouhani attends Cultural Revolution meeting**

POLITICAL TEHRAN - President Hassan Rouhani park ticipated on Tuesday in the meeting of the

Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution. The agenda of the meeting was to discover ways to promote Hijab (Islamic dress code).

## Zarif: Iranians don't believe the West's opposition to WMDs

"Those who annihilate generations with bombs seek nuclear weapons"

POLITICAL TEHRAN - With an indirect reference to dropping of atomic weapons on the Japanese cities of Nagasaki and Hiroshima by the U.S. in August 1945 in which more than 200,000 people were killed, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Tuesday that those kill "millions of people" are seeking to

build nuclear weapons and not Iran. Zarif made the remarks during a conference arranged to honor those martyred or wounded in the chemical attack on the Kurdish Iranian city of Sardasht by the Saddam Hussein's regime on June 28, 1987.

Western companies provided materials to Iraq at the time for building chemical weapons. Saddam's army also gassed the Kurdish people in northern Iraq.

Zarif said the Iranian people do not believe statements that the West is opposed to weapons of mass destruction.

"How can our people believe your opposition to weapons of mass destruction? While the Islamic Republic of Iran presented credible documents, not only you did not counter about the use of chemical arms by Saddam but also covered it up for years."

Zarif also referred to remarks by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Khamenei



who told Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during a meeting in Tehran on June 13 that Iran does not build nuclear weapons not because of the U.S. opposition but because the Islamic Republic considers production and use of atomic weapons as haram (religiously forbidden).

"As Leader of the Islamic Revolution has stated, your opposition would have no value for us if we sought to build nuclear weapons. We do not want that and we believe that those weapons are good for those who kill millions of people, and not 150 ones, in nuclear bombardments.

By "150 people" Zarif was referring to claims by Donald Trump who said the U.S. air force was "cocked and loaded" to attack three Iranian targets on Friday morning, but he called off the strike with 10 minutes to spare after being told that the airstrike might kill as many as 150 people.

You talk about 150 people? Are you worried about 150 people while killing people with chemical weapons and annihilating generations with nuclear weapons?" Zarif

Zarif went on to say that Iran will never seek to produce nuclear weapons based on its strategic and religious views, noting such weapons are "against security and humanity".

He added, "We make efforts to bring those who use chemical weapons to justice."

He noted that weapons of mass destruction are "symbol of brutality" that should be eradicated.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) shot down an unmanned U.S. surveillance drone on Thursday morning after it breached Iran's airspace. The IRGC brought the drone down by firing a surface-to-air

highest-ranking political, religious, social and

spiritual official of Iran who is also leader of

the world's Shiite Muslims reveals that the

American government "lacks any wisdom".

possess billions of dollars in foreign bank

accounts, the Leader of the Islamic Revo-

Unlike the other world leaders who

#### White House has become mentally crippled: Rouhani

President says Iranian nation become livelier, stronger after each U.S. move

POLITICAL TEHRAN – The U.S. ruling authorities are baffled and wondering why none of the measures they adopt against Iran bears fruit, President Hassan Rouhani said on Tuesday after Washington announced a new round of sanctions on the Islamic Republic's officials.

The fact is that after each such U.S. move. the Iranian nation becomes livelier, stronger, and gains further morale to push on in various arenas, the president said, addressing a meeting in Tehran.

Rouhani said the recent sanctions originate from the U.S. administration's "confusion", adding, "They have become mentally impotent. The White House has become mentally crippled and does not know what to do.

Rouhani said Washington is angry with Iran's ability to detect the U.S. spy drone immediately after it violated the Iranian airspace, and more exasperated with the shooting down of its aircraft by an Iranian air defense system, not by S-300 or other

The aerospace force of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) shot down the drone, a Global Hawk spy aircraft, on early hours of Thursday, June 20, after it violated Iranian airspace

The IRGC said the drone had taken off from a U.S. military base in south of the Persian Gulf, switched off all of its communication systems, and flew towards the port

city of Chabahar via the Strait of Hormuz in maximum stealth.

When flying back to the western part of the region, the unmanned plane violated the Iranian airspace near the Strait of Hormuz and began to spy on Iran and collect information, the statement added.

"We kiss the hand of the Guards and the Defense Ministry for downing the drone, Rouhani stated.

As regards the restrictions that the U.S. administration has announced against the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, the president said imposing sanctions against the

lution has no assets that could be subject to sanctions, Rouhani added. Rouhani said the Leader's only assets are a "simple house" and a Hussainiya, a

religious congregation hall. His comments came after U.S. President

Donald Trump announced new sanctions against top Iranian officials, including the office of Avatollah Khamenei, Iran's foreign minister, and senior commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC). The U.S. had already blacklisted the

#### U.S. sanctions on Iran kill off faint hopes of diplomatic solution

"We kiss the hand of the Guards and the

**Defense Ministry for downing the (U.S.)** 

drone," Rouhani states.

By Farhad Daneshvar

The latest U.S. sanctions on Iranian Supreme Leader Avatollah Ali Khamenei and the announcement on plans to sanction Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif have apparently been interpreted as President Donald Trump's bad will by many in Iran.

"Imposing useless sanctions on Iran's Supreme Leader and the commander of Iran's diplomacy is the permanent closure of the path of diplomacy," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi stated in a tweet on Tuesday.

Although the American president claims that the actions follow a series of "aggressions" by the Islamic Republic, the decision appears to substitute the last week's called off air strikes.

In fact, Trump's decision to pull back strikes on Iran not only spared the lives of 150 Iranians but also saved thousands of American troops deployed to the region.

The president said that he had called off strikes after being told 150 people would die, a claim found by many in Iran as "insincere and silly". The U.S. has already played its Trump card as Iranians consider economic sanctions the same as an all-out war.

According to Reuters, Iranian crude exports, the country's main source of income, have dropped to 300,000 barrels per day (bpd) or less. On the other hand, the U.S. has already tightened the screw on Iran's economy, blocking almost all ways to the international banking and financial system.

So obviously no effort has been spared by the U.S. to trigger a collapse in Iran's economy. Apparently, The U.S. policy of maximum pressure against Iran has produced no positive result but bringing the two countries to the brink of war.

Since Trump walked out of the nuclear deal last year, the downing of the drone was the first direct incident involving the U.S. and Iranian forces, a warning indication of the escalation in the Persian Gulf.

Iranians have been preparing to fight in an asymmetric warfare for long. Everyone in Iran and elsewhere knows well that the U.S. Army is larger and probably better armed than the Iranian side is. However, the recent regional wars prove that arms and equipment do not necessarily determine the outcome of today's wars.

Another valid point to consider is that the U.S. Army is incapable of involving all its military capability in a possible confrontation with Iran because not all its army capability is designed to engage in a single war in a single region. However, Iran and most of its allies are fully concentrated in the region.

A simple device such as improvised explosive devices (IED) inflicted heavy casualties on the U.S. led coalition in Afghanistan and Iraq. While making an IED costed about \$5, those devices caused enormous damages to armored vehicles that were estimated to value hundreds of millions of dollars.

Back in the 1980s during the Soviet in vasion of Afghanistan, the Mujahideen with the help of Stinger anti-aircraft missiles challenged the supremacy of the Soviet army and shot down a number of helicopter gunships. In the early days of the war the oviet troops employed huge tanks to hit Afghan fighters but those heavy armored vehicles became easy targets for the Mujahideen in Afghanistan's mountainous roads. Noteworthy that the Mujahideen were mostly armed with light weapons but they got the upper hand due to the local knowledge and the intelligence they easily gathered. Nowadays it is crystal clear that the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was a costly fiasco, U.S. military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, too.

Now just imagine what would happen if Iran's allies and proxies would be armed with short-range and long-range missiles and other effective weaponry produced in Iran.

In the case of an all-out war on Iran, the S. allies, in particular Saudi Arabia and the UAE, appear highly vulnerable to missile attacks, probably their oil fields will be sitting targets for Iranian missiles. In the meantime, the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz look extremely insecure, leading national markets.

Yes, the outcome is crystal clear. Although this does not mean the complete defeat of the U.S. army in military terminology, it would become a costly fiasco for the U.S., and widespread devastation for Iran and the entire region.

"If a conflict breaks out in the region, no country would be able to manage its scope and timing," Major General Gholamali Rashid, a senior military commander, said on Sunday. adding, "the American government must act responsibly to protect the lives of American troops by avoiding misconduct in the region."

Farhad Daneshvar is an expert on political and economic affairs of Iran

#### B-Team thirsts for war with Iran, Zarif says

POLITICAL TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said in a tweet late on Monday that the "B-Team" scorns diplomacy but thirsts for war with Iran.

The B-Team includes White House national

security advisor John Bolton, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman, and UAE Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed.

The remarks by Zarif came after President Donald Trump questioned the United States' military presence in the Persian Gulf. "It's now clear that the B-Team is not

concerned with U.S. interests—they despise diplomacy, and thirst for war," Zarif tweeted.

Zarif had previously warned that the B-Team could goad Trump into a war with Tehran.

Zarif also said Trump is quite right that "the U.S. military has no business in the Persian Gulf". The foreign minister said it is quite in the interests of the United States and the larger world that Washington withdraw its forces from the Persian Gulf region.

#### Russia says downed U.S. drone was in Iranian airspace

Amir Ali Hajizadeh, commander of the aerospace unit of the IRGC, said on Friday that the drone had received warnings for four times before being shot down.

The IRGC released GPS coordinates that showed the drone eight miles off Iran's coast, inside the 12 nautical miles from the shore that is Iran's territorial waters.

Brigadier General Majid Fakhri, the head of the Geographical Organization of the Armed Forces of Iran, said on Tuesday that the U.S. drone had trespassed into the Iranian territory by 7 kilometers before it was shot.

"The drone was certainly in Iranian territory by 4 miles or 7 kilometers," he told reporters.

Patrushev also said that a black-and-white footage as evidence presented by the U.S. alleging Iran was behind attacks on ships in the Gulf of Oman was an unprofessional move.

in the Gulf of Oman, prompting the evacuation and rescue of dozens of crew members. The U.S. has blamed Iran for the attacks without

presenting a shred of factual evidence.

On June 13, two commercial oil tankers were hit



# U.S. sanctions show disrespect for international law, envoy says

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Majid de s k Takht Ravanchi, Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations, says the new U.S. sanctions on the Islamic Republic's top authorities reflect Washington's disrespect for international law.

"The U.S. decision today to impose more sanctions against Iran is another indication that America does not attach any respect to international law and the prevailing international opinion," Press TV quoted Takht Ravanchi as saying on Monday.

Earlier, U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order imposing sanctions against Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and other senior figures. Sanctions against Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif are expected later this week.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Takht Ravanchi said the United States must stop "its economic warfare and terrorism against the Iranian people."

He also ruled out talks with Washington, saying conditions were not ripe for a dialogue, and that Iran would not accept such dialogue while



it is under the threat of sanctions.

The envoy also protested the UN Security Council for preventing Iran

from attending a closed-door meeting called by the U.S. to address the downing of an intruding American drone by

Iranian military on Thursday.

"As a country, whose airspace has been violated..., Iran had a right to be present at the meeting," he said, pointing to the right as Iran's entitlement under the UN Charter.

The IRGC shot down the American spy drone over the southern Iranian province of Hormozgan on Thursday. The aircraft had ignored repeated warnings by the IRGC.

"Today, the Security Council was briefed unilaterally by the United States [on the incident]," the Iranian envoy said, blaming the U.S. for shutting Iran out of the session by misusing its position as a permanent Council member to "mislead Council members in order to further its age-old anti-Iranian policy."

He added that the Council had been provided with "undeniable information" regarding the incident, which showed the aircraft's exact course and point of entry.

Iran's move to bring down the drone fitted perfectly within the international legal norms and was consistent with the UN Charter's Article 51, he explained.

## Raisi: Iran's calmness due to resistance, not negotiations

**TEHRAN** – Judiciary Chief Ebrahim Raisi de e s k says the atmosphere of peace and tranquility prevailing in Iran is due to resistance and not negotiations.

"Iran's perseverance and resistance on the world stage is working," Raisi said on Tuesday, according to ISNA.

Pointing to the Thursday downing of an American spy drone by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, he said the IRGC's power in the region is noteworthy.



He added that if the government trusts human resources, Iran will overcome the problems created by the enemy.

Tensions between Iran and the U.S. rose after the IRGC shot down a U.S. Navy RQ-4A Global Hawk drone that had entered Iranian airspace in the Persian Gulf region to gather intelligence, using the indigenous Khordad 3 surface-to-air missile system.

## Rouhani advisor: War and sanctions are two sides of the same coin

TEHRAN — Hesamoddin Ashena, an adviser to President Hassan Rouhani, said on Monday that Iran does not differentiate between sanctions and war, calling them "two sides of the same coin".

The Trump administration has slapped the harshest ever sanctions on Iran since it unilaterally withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal (JCPOA) in May 2018.

"We are neither warmongers nor do we deserve sanctions," Ashena tweeted

Ashena tweeted.

"But we consider war and sanctions as two sides of the

same coin," Ashena added.

The remarks by the advisor came immediately after the U.S. renewed his call for negotiations with Iran but slapped new sanctions against Tehran

tions against Tehran.

"America's claim to negotiate without preconditions is unacceptable while threats and sanctions continue. They must give us more than JCPOA if they demand for something more than this

Top Iranian officials, including President Rouhani and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, have said the sanctions are an instance of "economic terrorism".

Rouhani has also said since sanctions target the ordinary people they are "crimes against humanity".

## 'Enemy won't survive in case of any wrongdoing in

**POLITICAL TEHRAN** – The enemy knows that it will

d e s k not survive in case of any "wrongdoing" in the Persian Gulf, Chief of the Iranian Navy Rear Admiral Hos-

**Persian Gulf'** 

sein Khanzadi said on Tuesday. Khanzadi was reacting to renewed threats and sanctions by the United States against the Islamic Republic, IRNA reported.

On Monday, U.S. President Donald Trump targeted Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and other top Iranian officials with sanctions, taking a dramatic, unprecedented step to increase pressure on Iran after Tehran's downing of an unmanned American drone.



#### Majlis mulling ten motions to counter U.S. anti-Iran measures

**POLITICAL TEHRAN** – The Majlis presiding board announced on Tuesday that it had received ten motions with the aim of countering the United States' anti-Iran measures.

According to the Mehr news agency, the ten motions are as follows:

1. Motion to protect the security of Iran's territorial waters.

2. Motion to require the government to take appropriate actions against the neighboring countries hosting U.S. military bases.3. Motion to require the government to take legal actions

against companies which have joined the anti-Iran sanctions of the United States of America.

4. Motion to require the government to pursue compensation for U.S. violation of human rights targeting Iranian citizens.

for U.S. violation of human rights targeting Iranian citizens.

5. Motion to require the government to legally pursue the

criminal act of the U.S. in downing of an Iranian passenger plane.
6. Motion to require the government to establish a museum on U.S. atrocities.

7. Motion to require the government to include U.S. atrocities in textbooks for schools and universities.

8. Motion to require the government to fully support the individuals and institutes which suffered losses in using U.S. services.
9. Motion to form a club of countries sanctioned by the U.S.
10. Motion to counter U.S. sanctions by replacing its goods

General Hajizadeh also stressed on Saturday that Iran was not after war but was fully ready to defend itself, adding that the fate of the downed U.S. spy drone was waiting for any intruding flying object.

"Our response to anything trespassing Iranian territory is like this, and if such acts of aggression are repeated, our response will also be the same," Hajizadeh said.

"We don't embrace war but we are ready to fully defend the country," he said.

"We possess a collection of American drones which is a proof that America has violated Iran's airspace and shows that they don't want to respect international law "the commander said

law," the commander said.

"America's measure was in violation of international law and we acted according to our legitimate responsibility," Hajizadeh said, adding, "It is possible that an American general or some operators were behind this American aggression, we don't know that. But that measure (intruding into Iranian airspace) is a violation of international aviation rules by a spy drone which then received our

#### Military: U.S. spy drone was inside Iranian territory by 7 km

POLITICAL TEHRAN – The head of description of the Armed Forces of Iran has said that a U.S. spy drone which was shot down by Iran on Thursday had trespassed into the Iranian territory by 7 kilometers before it was downed.

"The drone was certainly in Iranian territory by 4 miles or 7 kilometers," Brigadier General Majid Fakhri told reporters on Tuesday.

He explained that the mentioned depth

He explained that the mentioned depth was specific to the moment the aircraft was hit, adding that the drone had been deeper inside Iranian territory before it reached the hitting spot.

On Monday, local fishermen from the

On Monday, local fishermen from the Iranian Island of Qeshm in the Strait of Hormuz found more parts of the American spy drone.

A day after the shooting down, Iranian forces had found and collected some parts of the drone and showcased them to media during a press event.

The United States had confirmed that one of its reconnaissance planes was shot down by Iranian air defenses, but denied that it intruded into Iran's airspace at the time. Later, anonymous officials told

interests: Hatami

TEHRAN – Defense d e s k Minister Amir Hatami

said on Tuesday that the Islamic Republic

will not tolerate any threat to its national

interests as he praised the downing of

a U.S. spy drone by the IRGC in south

the drone brought glory to the Iranian

the defense power of the Islamic Repub-

lic, are incapable of taking any military

frustration and impotence of enemies

result from Iran's great defense capa-

bilities that have been founded upon

the IRGC said the U.S.-made Global Hawk

surveillance drone was brought down by

its Air Force near the Kouh-e Mobarak

region — which sits in the central dis-

trict of Jask County — after the aircraft

on display parts of the destroyed drone,

refuting earlier claims by the U.S. that

the drone was flying over international

The IRGC Aerospace Force later put

In a statement issued early Thursday,

The minster also stressed that the

nation, Tasnim reported.

action," the general said.

violated Iranian airspace.

"resistance".

Hatami said the shooting down of

"The enemies, being fully aware of

Iran won't tolerate threats to national

news outlets that the drone might have

actually trespassed the Iranian border. Commander of the IRGC Aerospace Force Amir Ali Hajizadeh said that his forces could have shot down a U.S. P8 aircraft with 35 on board which was violating Iran's airspace at the same

time as the drone, but decided to shoot

down the drone to only send a message to Washington.

"Along with the American drone was an American P8 aircraft with 35 on board, and it was also violating our airspace and we could have downed it too," he said. "But we did not do it, because our aim was to warn the terrorist forces of

#### Trump's sanctions failed to harm Islamic Republic: Atlantic Council

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Barbara de s k Slavin, the director of the Future of Iran Initiative at the Atlantic Council, has argued that the Trump administration's sanctions against Iran have failed to cause the Islamic Republic to suffer.

"The president thinks he's getting tough on the mullahs when he's really just causing ordinary people to suffer," Slavin said in a piece published on The American Conservative on Tuesday.

servative on Tuesday.

She referred to U.S. sanctions on different countries, including Iran, North Korea, Venezuela and Cuba, saying, "What has occurred, however, is the steady impoverishment of people in countries that have been sanctioned."

"The impact of U.S. sanctions on Iran and Cuba has been particularly cruel, since during the Obama administration people in both countries had their expectations raised for a better life," she added.

Slavin said while the Trump administration officials assert that the sanctions are aimed to bring Iran back to the negotiating table, in reality, "Iranian officials refuse to talk without a credible offer of sanctions relief."

Many observers believe the goal of



American sanctions is not a new deal but simply to weaken and destabilize the Islamic Republic, she noted.

"With Donald Trump's first term more than halfway over, the cruelty and futility of his sanctions predilections are evident," she explained.

"Even now, the Trump administration has refused to provide practical guidelines to European companies seeking to sell non-sanctioned goods to Iran. U.S. officials are also threatening to sanction the Iranian counterpart to INSTEX, a barter vehicle set up by the European Union for trade with Iran that has yet to become operational."

## waters, and had not violated the Iranian airspace. Tensions initially built up between the U.S. and Iran often President Dan

Tensions initially built up between the U.S. and Iran after President Donald Trump withdrew Washington from the 2015 nuclear agreement, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and imposed severe sanctions against Tehran.

The Trump administration insists that they are ready for talks with Iran but Tehran says it will resist against all U.S. pressures and that there will be no talks with a party which has already violated many international agreements.

## General warns of high costs of war for U.S.

POLITICAL
des sk
ol-Anbia Central Headquarters has
warned that the United States would pay a high price
if a war erupts in the region.

"America's interventionist measures as well as the provocative acts by some of its regional allies, including the Zionist regime and Saudi Arabia, are threatening regional peace and stability," Major General Gholam Ali Rashid said on Tuesday, Mehr reported.

"The U.S. will end up paying dearly if a war erupts in the region," said Rashid during a visit to one of the IRGC's air defense bases in Isfahan Province.

Iran is not in favor of war but is ready to defend



the nation's interests in the face of any threat and aggression, he added.

According to Rashid, the shooting down of a U.S. Global Hawk spy drone in the Iranian airspace was a clear example of Iran's courageous defense.

Tensions between Iran and the United States reached a record high after a U.S. spy drone violated Iran's airspace on Thursday and ignored Iran's warnings before being targeted by the IRGC's air defense system. The IRGC said the drone was brought down over

Iran's southern coastal province of Hormozgan. The Guards, however, spared a second spy plane carrying 35 people, for which U.S. President Donald Trump thanked Iran.

#### STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	245098.9
IFX	3133.68

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

<b>CURRENCIES</b>
-------------------

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	47,892 rials
GBP	53,535 rials
AED	11,437 rials

Source: cbi.ir

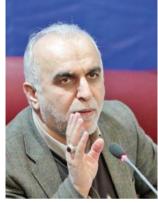
#### COMMODITIES

Brent	\$63.71/b
WTI	\$57.61/b
OPEC Basket	\$65.29/b
Gold	\$1,429.50/oz
Silver	\$15.45/oz
Platinium	\$817.45/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

## Iran to offer incentives for foreign investments of over \$250,000

1 → He said the government managed to collect 1.09 quadrillion rials (about \$25.952 billion) of tax revenues during the past Iranian calendar year of 1397 (ended on March 20, 2019), which means the country's annual tax income plan has come true by 97 percent.



The official also informed that his ministry has called on the customs administration to take all necessary measures in order to facilitate non-oil trade and to make it easier for traders to export their commodities.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the finance minister stated that despite the U.S. sanctions, the country's non-oil revenues did not decrease significantly.

"So far, in the first three months of the current year (March 21-June 21) non-oil exports have also had an acceptable amount," he added.

Dejpasand finally noted that the government has prepared a 12-fold strategic program for bartering oil revenues in order to keep the country's foreign trade afloat.

He didn't provide more details regarding this program. Earlier in May, President Hassan Rouhani ordered executive bodies to take immediate steps to remove obstacles to domestic and foreign investment in the country.

The decisions came as the U.S. has introduced the harshest ever sanctions against Iran in line with the Trump administration's "maximum pressure" on Iran, a policy that analysts and politicians say is intended to strangulate Iran.

Ebrahim Raeisi, the judiciary chief, also said in late May that all officials are duty bound to support businessmen and entrepreneurs.

During a meeting with a number of businessmen, Raeisi said that under the current situation in which the United States has waged an economic war on Iran, all officials and state bodies are duty bound to fully support businessmen and entrepreneurs.

## CBI hosts a gathering of economists to discuss monetary issues

**ECONOMY**d e s k **TEHRAN** – In a meeting with the country's economists in Tehran on Monday, the governor of Central Bank of Iran (CBI) explored issues like Integrated Forex Market, open market operations (OMO), liquidity and inflation, IRIB reported.

According to CBI office of public relations, in the meeting Abdolnaser Hemmati underlined the functions and characteristics of the currency market and open market operations (OMO), emphasizing that the OMO is the most important tool by which many central banks control short term interest rates.

"CBI intends to benefit from other countries' experiences in open

market operations by holding workshops in this regard," Hemmati said. The governor further noted that CBI is taking calculated and precise steps toward launching the integrated forex market and will take all necessary measures to make sure that the required infrastructure for this market is provided.

The economists at the meeting also appreciated the central bank's efforts for maintaining the balance in the foreign exchange market through setting up the integrated forex market as well as open market operations, saying that these are two of the most important outcomes of CBI's monetary and currency policy making.

Reforming the structure of the country's banking system, controlling liquidity, curbing inflation, removing barriers in the way of production, improving the people's livelihood and preventing income imbalances through monetary and fiscal policies, and the impact of U.S. sanctions and enforcement of bank operations were among the issues raised in the meeting.

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

Regarding this market, a CBI official said on May 5 that the new mechanism aims to organize the transactions in the foreign currency exchange market between the exchange shops, Mehr news agency reported.

reported.
In late May, the chairman of the Economic Committee of Majlis announced that an integrated forex market would be launched by the end of Iranian calendar month of Khordad (June 21), however the market hasn't been inaugurated up to date.

# CGT for more productivity, less reliance on oil income

#### By Mahnaz Abdi

**TEHRAN** — In order to reduce intention for investment making in non-productive sectors, many countries impose capital gains tax (CGT) which is a tax on capital gains with different rates of taxation for individuals and corporations.

As defined by the Investopedia, capital gains tax is a levy assessed on the positive difference between the sale price of the asset and its original purchase price. Long-term capital gains tax is a levy on the profits from the sale of assets held for more than a year. Short-term capital gains tax applies to assets held for a year or less, and is taxed as ordinary income.

While CGT prevents from the wealth to be owned just by a few people, it leads the liquidity toward production, and help re-distribution of wealth and income in the society.

CGT has come under the spotlight in Iran during the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 21), as the country is investigating different ways for a budget plan with no reliance on the oil income, and collecting taxes is one of the major ones.

The proposed 17.03 quadrillion rials (\$405 billion) budget bill for this Iranian year has envisaged 1.53 quadrillion rials (about \$36.5 billion) of tax income.

Earlier this month, Iranian Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Farhad Dej-



pasand said that reducing the current year's budget dependency on oil exports is the most important economic objective in the country.

Last week, the minister also stressed that an efficient tax system should be a priority in the government's policy making, and put emphasis on the necessity of imposing capital gains tax.

New tax strategies required

Mohammadreza Pour-Ebrahimi, the c

Mohammadreza Pour-Ebrahimi, the chairman of the economic committee of Iranian

parliament (Majlis), said on June 8 that new tax strategies should be taken and new taxes should be imposed in order to reduce the gap that is becoming larger and larger between the poor and the rich due to the effects of the fluctuations in the foreign currency ex-

In this due Majlis has put approving the capital gains tax plan on agenda, he added and said that this plan is in the final stage to be approved for housing market and the

government is preparing it for some other markets as well.

A non-oil budget requires other stable income sources, and the government is considering tax on non-productive assets as one of the major sources in this regard, Pour-Ebrahimi said.

Not only is capital gains tax an effective instrument for establishment of fairness and economic quality, it can also help the government reduce reliance on oil revenues.

#### CGT should avoid liquidity outflow from one market to other ones

While imposition of CGT is considered necessary, it also should be taken into account that such tax may lead the liquidity flow from a specific market (such as housing market) to the other ones (like foreign currency or gold coin markets).

Such condition can cause damage to the market entitled to the CGT in a way that, for example in housing market, it can reduce investment making in construction of new houses.

At the same time, outflow of the liquidity to the parallel markets can increase fluctuations in those markets.

And as incomplete implementation of a law, once all aspects of it are not considered, can bring results worse that those when there is no such law at all; to impose CGT it should be done simultaneously in the parallel financial and asset markets.

## IME to carry out 10 macro plans to improve performance

d e s k ing director of Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) said that IME has prepared ten macro plans to improve performance during the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 19, 2020).

Hamed Soltani-Nejad made the remarks in the meeting of IME shareholders on Monday, IME Public Relations Department reported.

The IME managing director mentioned development of underlying assets through existing instruments, development of financial instruments for commodity-backed securities, expansion of market size and depth, increasing cooperation with other organizations, and strengthening IME brand as some of the mentioned macro plans.

Soltani-Nejad has previously announced that IME accounted for 39 percent of the value of the total trades in the Iranian capital market during the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20, 2019).

He put the value of IME trades at 1.78 quadrillion rials (about \$42.3 billion) in the past year, IRNA reported.

The value of trades at IME rose 52 percent in the past calendar year from its previous year.

Over 24.84 million tons of commodities valued at 884.3 trillion rials (about \$21.05 billion) were traded at the physical market of IME, showing seven percent fall in the amount and 77 percent rise in the worth of trades year on year.

Applying new financial instruments

in Iranian capital market was one of the achievements of the country's' exchange markets during the past year.

In this due, IME laurehed "ention" in

In this due, IME launched "option" in early March 2019 in an approach to diversify financing methods for agricultural products.

Option is a contract which gives the

Option is a contract which gives the buyer (the owner or holder of the option) the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell an underlying asset or instrument at a specified strike price prior to or on a specified date, depending on the form of the option.

Iran Mercantile Exchange was established on September 20, 2007 in accordance with



IME Managing Director Hamed Soltani-Nejad (C) speaking in the meeting of the company's shareholders

article 95 of the new law of the securities market of the Islamic Republic of Iran and following the merger of the agricultural and metal exchanges of Tehran.

Various sectors of economy and national industry benefit from the exchange operation.

Performing as the first market providing access to the initial offering of the listed commodities, IME offers price discovery and price making for the OTC, secondary markets and the end users.

It provides venue for government sales and procurement purchases, offers clearing and settlement services, in addition to risk management, while it also trains the market participants.

As this exchange is a proper platform for price discovery, and given that supplying basic goods is one of the major issues on the Iranian government's agenda in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21) and it is one of the focal pillars in the national budget bill for this year, many capital market experts believe that offering basic goods at Iran Mercantile Exchange can help the government regulate and control the market in a better way.

In an interview recently conducted by

In an interview recently conducted by IRNA, Hossein Khezli Kharazi, a capital market expert, said, "Mercantile exchange was set up in our economy with the aim of fair price discovery. The best way for discovery of the fair prices of basic goods is relying on a supply-demand mechanism and IME is the only transparent market for this purpose."

## Iran's monthly crude steel production up 3.8% yr/yr despite U.S. sanctions

TEHRAN — Production of crude steel in Iran rose 3.8 percent in May 2019 from May 2018, according to the World Steel Association (WSA)'s report.

The WSA put the country's crude steel output at 2.235 million tons in May of this year, rising from 2.153 million tons in May of last year, despite the U.S. sanctions on the country's metals, Tasnim news agency reported.

In an attempt to [as the U.S. president Trump put it] "choke off the country's largest non-petroleum related sources of export revenue", Washington imposed new sanctions on Iran's metals and minerals sectors in early May.

While at the first glance [considering Trump's comments], this might seem to be a heavy hit to Iran's economy in the near future but a close look into the country's exports data could reveal Trump's great miscalculations. In fact, this could even be considered a "blessing in disguise" for the country's minerals and metal industry.

In a press conference on June 8, Iranian deputy industry, mining and trade minister said the ministry has taken necessary measures to maintain the country's metal exports despite U.S. sanctions.

"We have established a special working group in the ministry which is closely assessing the situation and making necessary arrangements to mitigate the impact of U.S. sanctions," Jafar Sarqini told the Tehran Times in the press conference.

for the exports from the country's mining sector to, at least, reach the last year's \$8.5 billion by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 2020).

Also, during a meeting with the

Also, during a meeting with the members of Iran Steel Association on Sunday, Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Rahmani said the country has achieved a proper self-reliance in steel industry.

Steel industry is one of the indus-

tries in which some good investment has been made and today it has become



a production advantage, the minister further underscored.

Meanwhile, Jafar Sargini said on Saturday that Iran's annual steel production is planned to reach 45 million tons by the Iranian calendar year 1400 (March 2021-March 2022).

Referring to the sanctions, the official said, "All those who have imposed sanctions against Iran aim to destroy he country's production capabilities; therefore, the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade prefer that the steel producers focus first on production and in this due development projects with the physical progress of over 70 percent will also help achieve this target."

On June 15, the official had announced

that the country's annual crude steel production is planned to reach 30 million tons in the current Iranian calendar year.

He put Iran's crude steel production at 25 million tons in the past year.

Sarqini had also announced that Iran will inaugurate steel projects with the capacity of at least 10 million tons during the current Iranian calendar year.

According to World Steel Association, Iran became the world's tenth largest steel producer in 2018.

Iran which stood at the 13th place in 2017 could lag behind three major steel producers in the world, namely Italy, Taiwan, and Ukraine to stand at the 10th place in 2018, despite the re-imposition of sanctions by the U.S.

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

#### 'Foreign vessels passage through Iranian waters ongoing'

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Head of description of laran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) said all major foreign shipping companies are passing through Iran's waters on their normal basis and Iranian ports are also operating as before.

As reported by IRNA, Mohammad Rastad made the remarks on the sidelines of a ceremony on the occasion of World Hydrography Day in Tehran on Tuesday.

Emphasizing the fact that all the country's

ports in the Persian Gulf region are operating at their full potential, the official noted that the country's non-oil imports have witnessed an over 15 percent growth this year.

"In terms of weight, non-oil exports are about two times more that imports, and since the beginning of the year, we have exported 13 million tons of non-oil commodities to foreign destinations," he added.

In early June, two tankers were attacked in the Gulf of Oman, a key waterway used to



transport energy supplies from the Middle East.
The United States blamed Iran for the attacks.

On June 15, the Iranian Foreign Ministry summoned British Ambassador Robert Macaire over the accusations.

Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe Mahmoud Barimani conveyed Tehran's strong protest to the British government's "unfounded allegations" and "unacceptable" anti-Iran stances.

#### China to further contribute to regional, world economy with open platform: expert

China's economy has contributed and will continue to contribute to regional and world economy with its open platform such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a South Korean expert said.

According to xinhuanet.com, the "China-initiated BRI, a community with shared future for mankind, and a regional community with shared future are an open platform where everybody joins and enjoys common interest," Lee Hee-ok, a professor of political science at

Sungkyunkwan University in the South Korean capital of Seoul, told Xinhua ahead of the Group of 20 (G20) summit in Osaka, Japan.

The Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Initiative, proposed in 2013, is aimed at building a trade and infrastructure network connecting Asia with Europe, Africa and beyond along the ancient trade routes of the Silk Road.

Lee said the open platform allowed every party to join

in prosperity rather than excluding a certain party as the BRI and the community with shared future for mankind are a more open and multilateral idea that goes against unilateralism and isolationism.

With the launch of the G20 meeting in 1999, China began to actively participate in globalization, triggering one of the biggest changes in the world economy as one of the world's biggest markets joined the global economic order, said the professor.

Oil supertanker repaired inside Iran for 1st time

IRNA reported on Tuesday.

TEHRAN – Iranian technicians managed d e s k to repair a giant oil tanker inside the country for the first time in the history of Iran's shipping industry,

According to the National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC)

office of public relations, the 320,000-ton supertanker (called

Dore) was successfully dry-docked in Bandar Abbas at Iran

Shipbuilding and Offshore Industries Complex (ISOICO) on

a "giant oil tanker" with a length of 333 meters.

Dore belongs to the national Iranian oil tanker fleet and is

This is the first time that repair and maintenance services

According to NITC Technical Advisor Ali Mansourzadeh,

before this Iranian technicians had successfully completed the

overhauling and maintenance operations of a variety of smaller

vessels in a 6-month period, including MARIA 3 tanker with a capacity of 13,600 cubic meters, POLARIS with a capacity

of 45,000 tons, and ARK and ARGO each with a capacity of

operations of supertankers like Dore was carried out in foreign

Northeast Asia's LNG import

Economic headwinds are limiting the appetite for liquefied nat-

ural gas (LNG) in Northeast Asia, home to the world's biggest

importers of the fuel, even as global supply is expected to rise

Asia during the first half of 2019 will decline for the first time

since 2015, according to Reuters calculations based on Refinitiv

shiptracking data. The region includes Japan, China, South Korea,

which are the world's three largest LNG importers, and Taiwan.

The growth in monthly import volumes of LNG into Northeast

demand growth declines on

economic headwinds

By Jessica Jaganathan

by 14% this year.

However, due to some technological limitations, the repair

of a super oil vessel is assigned to a domestic repair yard.

# Iran's refining capacity to rise 250,000 bpd by March 2020

ENERGY
Delta Residue TEHRAN — Daily processing capacity of Iranian refineries is expected to increase by 250,000 barrels by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 19, 2020) to reach 2.4 million bpd, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

According to the Iranian Deputy Oil Minister Alireza Sadeqabadi, the country's total refining capacity which was 1.55 million barrels per day (bpd) at the beginning of the Iranian calendar year of 1396 (March 21, 2017), currently stands at 2.15 million bpd.

"The upward trend will continue in the current year and we expect the [refining] capacity to reach 2.4 million bps by the end of the year," he said.

Sadeqabadi noted that 850,000 barrels of crude oil and gas condensate, which were prevented from entering the global market by the unjust U.S. sanctions, are currently being refined inside the country into products with higher value added.

"Following the oil ministry's new policies, by the end of the current fiscal year,



the refining of gas condensates will increase from 450,000 bpd to 500,000 bpd and crude oil from about 1.7 million bpd to about 1.9 million bpd," he said.

According to the official, most of the in-

crease in the capacity is expected to come from the fourth phase of Iran's Persian Gulf Star Refinery (PGSR) which is located in the southern province of Hormozgan.

The official noted that the mentioned phase

is more focused on capacity optimization and fault elimination of existing phases.

In early May, PGSR Managing Director Mohammad-Ali Dadvar announced that the refinery's processing capacity is going to reach 540,000 barrels per day (bpd) by the end of the current Iranian calendar year.

Last week, Iranian Parliament passed a bill for increasing the capacity of the country's oil and gas condensate refineries.

The approval of the bill came after earlier this month the Research Center of Iran's parliament announced 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.

Since the U.S.'s withdrew from Iran's nuclear pact in May 2018, vowing to drive Iran's oil exports down to zero, the Islamic Republic has been taking various measures to counter the U.S. actions and alleviate the impacts of the unjust sanctions on its economy.

#### Iran's cryptocurrency energy crisis: the issue and solutions

On one hand, the gap between the value of rial and the U.S. dollar is increasing day by the day and the global demand for trading with cryptocurrencies, especially Bitcoin is increasing drastically and this has made the area ever more attractive for companies and people to join in. On the other hand, no regulation or law has been defined for such electricity subscribers.

So Iran, which has a much cheaper electricity than most of the advanced countries in the world, is becoming the heaven of cryptocurrency miners.

#### Consumption

As I mentioned before, mining cryptocurrencies is, in nature, a very energy-consuming process. Some scholars even believe that due to its exponential growth it might consume the world's entire electrical energy by 2020.

If we consider the seven-percent growth of Iran's electricity consumption to be merely due to bitcoin mining processes, we can easily estimate the huge impact that such activities could have on the country's electricity consumption patterns in the near future.

The seven percent in Iran's electricity consumption which we mentioned, might seem a small number but considering the peak consumption of 3300 megawatts for the past Iranian month of Khordad, the figure nearly equals the total consumption of East Azarbaijan, West Azarbaijan and Ardebil provinces together.

#### Government approach

In addressing this problem, recently the ministry of energy has proposed that the costs of electricity for cryptocurrency miners should be determined based on electricity export tariffs.



This means that companies and people that are mining cryptocurrencies should pay a price as if they are importers of electricity. This proposal will only be valid and implemented if approved by the cabinet.

Tavanir has also announced that using electricity for mining cryptocurrencies is illegal and those household or commercial subscribers that use electricity for such activities will be cut off from the national grid.

Although the proposed solutions can somehow be considered ways of tackling the problem but they are not best solutions for the long run.

Since Iran is even planning to launch its own cryptocurrency for countering U.S. sanctions, imposing inhibiting rules and regulations won't help in this regard and will even discourage the future usage of such currencies, if realized.

The Iranian government said in April that it had developed an experimental domestic cryptocurrency.

According to Press TV, "This currency would facilitate the transfer of money (to and from) anywhere in the world. Besides, it can help us at the time of sanctions."

So if Iran is serious about moving forward with this plan, the government should consider a more considerate approach in this regard to both manage the electricity consumption and encourage people to engage with the new digital currencies.

#### Solutions

Although an ultimate solution for quenching this electricity-thirsty giant may not yet be out there, but there are at least some practical options that can be explored and implemented to manage the issue for the time being.

First, as many major companies in the technology world like Google, Facebook and Microsoft has done, the cryptocurrency mining community can also purchase clean energy from renewable plants to mitigate the impact on the national grid.

However, since all miners are not working under one single executive entity, the government should make necessary arrangements to bring them together or at least provide this option to big companies which are active in this field. Another option would be providing capable private power

Another option would be providing capable private power supplying companies, which have their own renewable power plants, with network and infrastructure to act as ESP or electricity Service Providers for such subscribers.

Miners can also use eco-friendlier power source like Vienna-based HydroMiner, who uses renewable hydroelectric power to mine Bitcoin. But the perquisite for this solution is also developing more renewable power plants across the country.

## Oil prices drop amid demand worries, but U.S.-Iran tensions support

Oil fell on Tuesday amid concerns over the outlook for crude demand, but prices were supported after Washington announced new sanctions on Iran amid mounting tensions in the Middle East.

As stated by cnbc.com, benchmark Brent crude futures were down 57 cents, or 0.9%, at \$64.29 a barrel by 0342 GMT. They dropped 0.5% on Monday.

U.S. crude futures were down 58 cents, or 1%, at \$57.32 a barrel. The U.S. benchmark rose 0.8% in the previous session.

Brent climbed 5% last week and U.S. crude surged 10% after Iran shot down a U.S. drone on Thursday in the Persian Gulf, adding to tensions stoked by attacks on oil tankers in the area in May and June. Washington has blamed the tanker attacks on Iran, which denies having any role.

Trump also said on Twitter that other countries should protect their own oil shipping in the Middle East rather than have the United States protect them.

Some said the threat of immediate military conflict had eased slightly.

"Traders have lessened their odds for an immediate U.S.-Iran escalation in this forever smoldering hot spot," said Stephen Innes, managing partner at Vanguard Markets in Bangkok.

Meanwhile, hopes are waning for progress in Sino-U.S. trade talks at this week's G20 meeting as investors await a meeting between Trump



further hurt global growth prospects, hitting demand for oil and other commodities.

Weak manufacturing data released on Monday by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas added to worries about slipping demand for crude oil.

However, supply is expected to remain relatively tight, as the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies including Russia, an alliance known as OPEC+, appear likely to extend a deal on curbing output when they meet on July 1-2 in Vienna, analysts said.

Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said on Monday that international cooperation on crude production had helped stabilize oil markets and was more important than ever. He also voiced concerns about demand.

Sanctions on Iran and Venezuela imposed by Washington have cut oil exports from the two OPEC members but U.S. production has been rising, leading some Russian officials to accuse Washington of carving out market share for its energy exports.

## Wind to dominate renewables growth over the coming decade, Fitch says

Non-hydro renewables sector, led by wind and solar, will reach 2.4 terawatt of installed capacity worldwide by 2028, according to Fitch Solutions.

As per thenational.ae, wind will account for 44 percent while solar will make up for 49 percent of power generation in the renewables sector fuelled by rapid growth in markets such as China that are increasingly looking to make the green switch.

While solar will continue to dominate, the wind segment will emerge as the most dominant source of electricity over the next decade led by the "higher capacity factor of wind power technology, particularly offshore wind", according to the report.

Renewable capacity addition grew 14.5 percent last year, nearing the record-breaking increase seen in 2017, but still accounted for only a third of the increase in power generation, BP said in its annual statistical review, a noted bellwether for the global energy industry. BP chief Bob Dudley said deployment of renewables is key to "decarbonizing the power sector" - the biggest challenge facing the global energy system over the next two decades.

China, keen to move away from polluting coal for power generation will see the fastest expansion in the non-hydro



renewables space, noted Fitch. The country is expected to add more than 580GW of power capacity from the end of 2018 to 2028, twice the addition in the U.S. and India put together.

Much like BP, the consultancy noted that the proportion of renewables in the energy mix will remain muted, accounting for 15 percent overall by the end of 2028. Coal will remain the dominant fuel, with renewables having to play catch-up with natural gas, which is favored by economies such as China as a reliable, clean transitional fuel.

"Total coal power generation will still be me more than twice that of renewable energy by the end of our forecast," in 2028, according to the report.

"This view is anchored in our expectation that coal-fired power generation will remain a key component of the power mix in many emerging markets over our 10-year forecast period - notably in South Asia and South East Asia," it added.

Further underscoring the weaker demand, LNG imports into the region in June are set to fall from May, for the first time ever, according to Refinitiv data going back to 2013. Imports typically rise in June as gas demand increases to generate power for air conditioners during the Northern Hemisphere summer.

This slowdown is occurring as additional volumes from Russia, the United States and Australia are expected to swell overall LNG supplies to 365 million tons by the end of the year, from about 320 million tons currently, according to consultancy Wood Mackenzie.

#### The main driver

The main driver of the slowdown is China, whose LNG imports for June look set to drop by 9% from May as the country's coal-to-gas switching has moderated amid weaker economic growth.

"Asian LNG demand this year so far has been dampened due to a range of factors including mild weather, high storage levels, and a lower policy emphasis on coal-to-gas switching in China," said James Taverner of consultancy IHS Markit.

"New export volumes look likely to come online faster than they can be absorbed in the Asian market."

While China's long-term LNG demand is still set to grow, the rate will be slower compared with 2017 and 2018, said Wood Mackenzie analyst Nicholas Browne.

This is due to factors including "uncertain industrial growth, regasification capacity constraints and the reduced pace of coal-to-gas switching," he added.

In South Korea, the startup of three new nuclear power plants

#### are expected further curb LNG imports. The Japanese LNG demand

Japanese LNG demand is expected to be relatively flat in 2019, though there may be some upside in the third quarter when some nuclear plants undergo maintenance, said Giles Farrer, research director, global LNG, at Wood Mackenzie. Overall, they forecast LNG demand in Japan, South Korea and Taiwan next year to be 9 million tons below 2018.

 $LNG\ demand\ has\ also\ been\ pressured\ by\ the\ rise\ of\ renewables\ in\ power\ generation,\ especially\ in\ Europe.$ 

LNG industry participants are meeting in Singapore this week for a conference where Asia's demand growth will likely be a key tonic of discussion

The global gas glut is expected to persist until at least next year, Bank of America Merrill Lynch's global research team said

The "trade wars are taking their toll on global growth projections, which poses downside risk to global gas demand and prices," they said.

(Source: reuters.com)

#### China launches world's first smart oil tanker

China unveiled the world's first intelligent Very Large Crude Carrier, which will have a capacity of more than 2.257 million barrels, China News Service reports, adding that the vessel, named New Journey, was delivered to China Merchant Energy Shipping Co. in Dalian.

According to oilprice.com, "at present, countries around the world are actively promoting intelligent navigation and developing intelligent technologies for ships, which plays an important role in improving maritime traffic safety, energy conservation, emission reduction and economic efficiency," the news service quoted the vice chief engineer of the company that built the VLCC, Dalian Shipbuilding Industry Co., as saying.

Among the "intelligent" features of the vessel, according to Guan Yinghua, are assisted autopilot navigation, intelligent liquefied cargo management, comprehensive energy efficiency

management, equipment operation and maintenance, and finally integrated ship-to-shore communication, China News Service reports.

China is the world's largest oil importer, last year taking in more than 20 percent of the global total in monetary terms. Its top suppliers are Russia, Saudi Arabia, Angola, Iraq, and Oman.

Chinese crude oil imports are likely to continue growing as more refining capacity comes on stream over the next couple of years.

Currently, Chinese refiners are already processing crude at record-high rates, with the average for April at almost 12.7 million bpd. This year, total refining capacity in the country will add some 890,000 bpd, of which almost half has already come on stream at an independent refiner's 400,000-bpd

refinery.

In 2020, another 1.08 million bpd in refining capacity will start operating, which will push imports higher as well as domestic production continues declining due to natural causes such as depletion and geologically challenging formations that are holding back new production.

Yet refining capacity will not stop growing next year: refiners are building another 1.12 million bpd in new capacity that will come on stream in 2021.

While this could — and likely would — worsen an already serious fuel glut in Asia, it will continue driving the world's top importer's shipments from abroad.

The smart VLCC could be the first of many as cost management continues to be a top priority in an upward trend for imports and volatile international prices.

#### America's poor human rights record

**TEHRAN** (FNA) — Iran's parliament had issued a report on human rights in the United States that demands

The report constitutes part of the 15 plans that the Parliament has devised to counter the US hostile measures. The report comprises two main sections, including violations of human rights inside the US and at the international level.

It includes various cases of US violations of human rights such as facts on US gun ownership which threatens the lives of people, US police violence, harsh and unjust judicial rulings, violation of rights of Muslims, racial discrimination, violation of rights of women and refugees, invasion of privacy of people, dire conditions in US prisons, sponsoring terrorism, interference in the internal affairs of other countries, and turning a blind eye to the violations of human rights by the Israeli regime and Saudi Arabia.

It is interesting to note that this is not the only report that highlights human rights violations by the US. According to the US-based Commission on Civil Rights, immigrant detention centers of the United States are also plagued with human rights abuses. These violations include denial of food and medical care, lack of due process, and sexual assault.



These violations are so widespread that all families should be released, detentions reduced, and alternatives to incarceration fostered," the Commission warns.

The Commission has based its findings on hearings as well as visits to immigrant detention centers nationwide, particularly those along the US-Mexican border. One of these facilities in Karnes City, Texas, is operated by the notorious private prison company GEO Group. Karnes is the site of long-term organizing and numerous hunger strikes led by desperate mothers locked up with their malnourished children, or separated from their children, to protest their inhumane conditions of confinement.

These desperate families as well as illegal migrants and asylum seekers supposedly come to the United States to escape harsh living conditions or persecution, but once they cross the US border, the government apprehends and detains them in conditions that are worse than what they faced in their home countries.

Nor is that all. The Commission's latest report describes many other brutal conditions, in which migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers are treated like criminals and stripped of their basic rights. The Commission summarizes

1- Detention centers are not complying with international standards intended to promote humane treatment

2- By continuing to detain unaccompanied children and families, Department of Homeland Security is not respecting the civil rights and due process rights of detainees.

3- Department of Homeland Security does The and needs to come into latest report

the right to pray and fast basic rights. in the month of Ramadan.

not protect detainees from sexual assault and abuse Commission's full compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination describes many Act.
4- Some detention facilities don't provide good medical care, deny immigrants refugees and immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers the chance refugees, and to try to get lawyers, look asylum seekers the other way when rape or sexual abuse occurs, and don't allow Muslims ade- criminals and quate leeway to practice their religion, including stripped of their

If this particular report is not uncontestable, we don't know what is. This moral disaster and deliberate legal failure has nothing to do with the State Department's latest Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.

The US government officials, including Mike Pompeo, can portray the Commission's report as "rehashed innuendo and discredited accusations," or even call immigrants 'illegal aliens' and 'invading hordes'. Still, their denials do not change the fact that the Commission's findings echo what the UN Human Rights Council has also argued in its annual reports: "US policies of detention are especially unjust, given the role of the US in driving the economic and political conditions displacing people from Latin America

It is said where there is smoke, there is fire. The selfstyled "human rights defenders" of the US State Department only fool themselves when they lecture other nations, including Iran, on human rights. They know full well that their own country has a "flawed and lackluster" human rights record which is uncontestable. What's more, these systematic violations are still ongoing and there has been little change on the ground by President Trump and his White Supremacist administration officials.

It is time these systematic breaches gained greater traction at the United Nations Human Rights Council. They breaches will not go away unless the world body introduces a resolution that obliges the US to ban government-run and private immigrant prisons, end family detentions in torture-like conditions, stop separating children from mothers, release families/refugees/asylum seekers and offer them humanitarian protections, and eliminate an immigrant detention system that is so rife with injustices, discriminations, and double standards.

# The Labor Party and the referendum again in England

#### What will be the fate of Brexit?

TEHRAN — years has passed since the referendum was hold over the Brexit, which ended up in the victory of the proponents of the UK exit from the EU. But the details of this departure remains ambiguous among the British authorities, and this ambiguity seems to be intensified in 2019.

British citizens are aware that a "soft Brexit" agreement with Europe, in the style of PM May, will only lead to the loss of many privileges for London. At the same time, holding a referendum again in Britain will also lead to a new crisis in the country, and will outrage the supporters of Brexit deal. Each one of the options will certainly have consequences for London and neither one will offer a stable and improved situation for the British. In other words, Brexit is the UK frustration point with Europe and the international system. Over time, the UK public frustration will grow over the Brexit crisis. It matters little whether the Labor Party or Conservative Party holds the top political and executive positions in the UK. What matters is the complex situation that London will face for at least a decade.

Labour MPs asked by party if they will stand at next general election

as Guardian reported, Labour MPs have been given a fortnight to decide whether they want to stand again for parliament as the party gears up for an early general election by kicking off what some fear could turn into a wave of deselections.

Those MPs who want to continue to represent their constituency in future must first navigate the trigger-ballot process. After a contentious rule-change at last year's Labour conference, that means commanding the support of two-thirds of local party branches and two-thirds of affiliated trade union branches. If an MP fails to do so, an open selection process would be triggered in which they could be challenged by other candidates. Labour's general secretary, Jennie Formby, wrote to all Labour MPs on Monday, saying they should let the party's legal department know by 6pm on 8 July "if you wish to remain a candidate at the next general election"

The letter concluded: "May I also take this opportunity to thank you for the work you have done so far on behalf of the party in parliament.'

A Labour spokesman said: "Ahead of a possible general election, Labour will begin a reselection process of MPs. We are preparing for a general election, whenever it comes,.

The process isn't new."

Some MPs who have been critical of Jeremy Corbyn fear it could open the way to their removal, though the row over the  $party \hbox{'s Brexit stance cuts across many of the} \\$ usual dividing-lines in the party. News that the process was being started came before what had been intended to be a significant shadow cabinet meeting, but which senior Labour sources now say is unlikely to shift the party's policy any closer to a full-throated remain stance.In parliament on Monday, Corbyn made clear that Labour would try to force the next prime minister to put their Brexit plans "back to the people"

In response to a statement from Theresa May about last week's European council meeting, he asked the prime minister: "In her view, what would be worse: crashing out with no deal in October, or putting this issue back to the people for a final say?

"Whoever the next prime minister is, they will barely hold the support of this house, so they certainly have no mandate to force a disastrous hard-right Brexit on this country. Whatever Brexit plan the new Tory leader comes up with, after three long years of failure they should have the confidence to go back to the people on a deal agreed by parliament.

Corbyn told colleagues last week he had been reading the autobiography of the party's former leader Harold Wilson, who advocated remaining a member of the common market in the 1975 referendum while largely taking a backseat during the campaign and allowing cabinet ministers to support either side. Severa shadow cabinet members emerged from last week's meeting with the clear impression that a decision would be made about Labour's Brexit stance on Tuesday, after Corbyn had consulted trades union general secretaries.

Corbyn's deputy, Tom Watson, said: "We had a long discussion last week and we all decided we were going to take a decision at the shadow cabinet. It will be quite a historic day and I hope we can formalise our support for remaining in the EU and supporting the people having the final say on the deal.

However, several members of the shadow cabinet remain concerned about any policy that could be portrayed as seeking to overturn the result of the 2016 referendum and Corbyn is now not expected to make a speech on the issue in the coming days.

Tensions at the top of the party exploded into the open after Labour's disastrous showing in last month's European elections, with Watson and the shadow foreign secretary, Emily Thornberry, pushing openly for a shift

in the party's stance. Even some of Corbyn's most loyal lieutenants, including the shadow chancellor, John McDonnell, have become increasingly convinced that pledging to back a referendum – and campaign for remain – was essential for party morale. Corbyn said Labour would work across the House of Commons to avert a no-deal Brexit.

Trade unions split over whether Labour should back Remain in second EU referendum

Howard Beckett, Unite's assistant general secretary, made the union's position clear during talks with the Labour leader on Monday.It is understood the union's executive committee agreed on its Brexit position which also includes opposition to a second referendum - at a meeting on Sunday.

Mr Corbyn, who has called for a referendum on any Brexit deal passed by Parliament, met with the leaders of every trade union affiliated to Labour to canvas their views ahead of a crunch Shadow Cabinet meeting on Tuesday.CWU general secretary Dave Ward also made clear his union's opposition to Labour campaigning for Remain.

But every other union, including Unison, the GMB and TSSA, urged Mr Corbyn to back staying in the EU.A trade union source told PoliticsHome: "The CWU are resisting, but not to the same extent as Unite.

"The Bakers' Union and Aslef have come round to the view that a Remain position is where Labour needs to be."The result of the European election has focused a lot of minds. People realise that we need to become a Remain party to win votes back from the Lib Dems.

Senior Labour figures believe the party must make clear its position on Brexit before Parliament breaks up for the summer recess on 25 July."This can't be allowed to drag on over the summer - people need to know where we stand," said one source.Mr Corbyn is thought to be edging closer to supporting Remain, but some of his closest aides - including chief of staff Karie Murphy and communications chief Seumas Milne - are against the move. Significantly, John McDonnell and Barry Gardiner have now joined their Shadow Cabinet colleagues Tom Watson, Emily Thornberry and Keir Starmer in backing Remain, although party chairman Ian Lavery is still opposed.

Meanwhile, Mr Corbyn gave his strongest anti-Brexit comments yet in the Commons

Responding to a statement by Theresa May on last week's European Council, he said: "Will the Prime Minister tell us, whether she believes 'no deal' should be on the table as a viable option?" And, in her view, what would be worse: crashing out with no deal in October, or putting this issue back to the people for a final say?'

'Brexit game has changed!' Tony Blair issues fiery threat on anniversary of EU vote

THREE years on from the Brexit vote which dictated Britain would leave the European Union, former prime minister Tony Blair has issued a fiery prediction on the future of Brexit negotiations.

Tony Blair has said the drama of the Tory leadership contest has meant: "It is possible to miss the fact that the game on Brexit is changing." He predicts that a Tory government under Boris Johnson, the current frontrunner in the leadership race, increases the likelihood of a no deal scenario. But he savs such an outcome would raise the probability of a second referendum - something he is an ardent campaigner for. The Tony Blair Institute has shared a video, titled 'Brexit: The Endgame', in which the ex-prime minister issues his latest views on Brexit. In the video he insists that the "game has changed", and calls for Remainers to back a second public vote.

He warns against a hard Brexit saying it "will mean a painful adjustment process".The former prime minister said: "A soft Brexit is now effectively going to be off the table and a referendum therefore becomes more likely.'

He went on the explain that Brexit policy under Mr Johnson would steer Britain towards a hard Brexit, or even a no deal.

But if the Tory leadership hopeful takes either plan to Parliament, Mr Blair said: "I do not believe any British Prime Minister will be so irresponsible as to do no deal without going back to the people, but if they tried to do it, I'm pretty sure Parliament would insist that such a step could not be taken without the endorsement of the British people.

The video, published by the Tony Blair Institute, is a clear message to Remainers.He advised those in favour of Britain staying in the EU that they should "focus on and point out the dangers of hard Brexit". Mr Blair uses examples such as how the service sector will be hard hit and the impact a hard exit would have on the goods sector, even if tariff-free access is negotiated. He also pushed for people to fight for a People's Vote in warning "the game on Brexit has changed".

He concluded by saying that "maximum  $unity\ behind\ the\ cause"\ is\ required. The\ video$ has been viewed over 55,000 times and has received over 1,000 engagements on Twitter.



#### Kamel Mansari: Algerians demanding new regime, refusing to bow

**TEHRAN (FNA)** — Kamel Mansari, Journalist and Political Commentator, says Algerians continue their demonstrations until their demand to establish democracy in their country which is marked by corruption and nepotism is met.

"[The demonstrators] stressed the fact the elite that rules the country and ruined the economy under Bouteflika's

regime must leave", he added.

Speaking with FNA in an exclusive interview, the Algerian journalist also said "for two decades, the Algerians were warned against any attempt to destabilize the country, or they will get to the same faith as Syria, Yemen or Libya...", which paved the way for Bouteflika's rule over the country for two decades.

Kamel Mansari is the chief editor of the Le Jeune Independant newspaper which is published in Algeria. He is a regular contributor to Iranian, Russian, Qatari, Chinese and American media.

Below is the full text of the interview:

Algerians, especially the youth, protested all over the country. What did they demand?

A: The reason was to reject the fifth term of the 82 years-old incumbent president Abdelaziz Bouteflika who was in power for two decades. He did not speak to the population since 2013 after he suffered a severe stroke. He became unable to rule and the Algerians perceived it as a humiliating move to reign for five additional years. Some of the young who were born in the late nineties did not know any other president but Bouteflika. They grew up with him as well as the elite that ruled the country on his behalf. This generation is very open and sees the old ruling leaders as obstacles to the self-development. The announcement vowed by the coalition of parties that composes Bouteflika's regime pushed the Algerians to

break the wall of fears. For two decades, the Algerians were warned against any attempt to destabilize the country otherwise they will get to the same faith as Syria, Yemen or Libya. For years, the authorities and the official media were constantly hammering the Algerians with the etheric of fears. The decade of terror due to the civil war, endured by the Algerians from 1991-2000 which claimed some 200,000 lives and cost the country 40 billion dollars of damages to the infrastructures, had frozen the determination of many in the past years to try to claim democracy in a country marked by corruption and nepotism. The youth however did not hear it that way.

Presence of Algeria's flag was significant in protests.

How do you interpret it?
A: During the demonstrations, waving the national

flag was a message that says the country is above political party or ideology. There are around 60 parties in Algeria since multi-party system was adopted in 1989. When calls were made to initiate the mass protest on social media, everyone was asked to join in the name of the country and not under political chapel. Groups, pages and live broadcasts were dedicated to how to promote peaceful  $demonstrations. \, All \, the \, demonstrators, \, throughout \, the \, 48$ provinces, were acting during protests as they were using a unique "manual". The rules were no confrontation with security forces, monitoring and canalizing any trouble or misbehavior, making the demonstrations safe for families and children. Besides, the demonstrators agreed on some precise demands like stressing the fact the elite that rules the country and ruined the economy under Bouteflika's regime must leave. Imagine almost 20 million in the streets all over the country and no one dies. The peaceful attitude of demonstrators forced the ant-riots units to adjust and



keep away from any provocation.

Why did not Bouteflika make reforms before he was forced to resign?

A: Bouteflika proposed a transitional period to prepare what he called a new republic with a new Constitution and a presidential election. The plan was supposed to be submitted to an all-inclusive national conference that would end up the work by the end of 2019. But Algerians considered Bouteflika's proposal as a maneuver to remain in power. So they kept pressure on him until he resigned. Algerians did not trust Bouteflika because they believe he has violated the Constitution several times before by changing it to extend his stay over the two-term presidency. Algerians demand radical change, a new regime that represents them. Algerians refuse to bow. Continuing the peaceful demonstrations is like a matter of life or death.

## Time to ditch U.S. Dollar

**TEHRAN (FNA)** — The United States government has been using the dollar as a convenient weapon of choice to preserve its global economic and geopolitical position for many decades.

This has been evident through sanctions for Iran, Russia and Venezuela, and recently for other members of the United Nations and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.

During this process of reflection, Washington has weaponized the dollar, and this has prompted many countries to consider abandoning it as a medium of world trade. Russia, Iran and China have been trading in national currencies for years to weaken Washington's ability to enforce illegal sanctions on nation states.

The idea to ditch the dollar has also gained momentum in Europe since President Donald Trump came to office. Trump has waged trade and tariff wars against Canada, Mexico, the European Union, and China. His assault on the global trading system has resonated well with these nations. They have decided to move and diversify their trade away from the dollar in order to minimize the negative impacts of US tariffs.

Russia, which is subject to US sanctions, is selling oil in euros and China's yuan, and the proportion of its sales in those currencies has become significant in recent years. Venezuela and Iran, which are also under US sanctions, sell most of their oil in other



currencies, and have switched to non-dollar trading systems, even barter.

Likewise, several commodity-producing countries want to follow through and join the club of non-dollar traders - from lending to exchange clearing, and through yuan, euro and ruble pricing. This could include trading in derivatives such as oil futures and options, which is still dollar denominated.

hen this happens, and it will happen, as many nations are opposed to the US dollar as the world's reserve currency, the rest of the world market will follow suit to operate in a non-dollar environment.

The moment, therefore, is ripe for the world market to move trade out of the US currency and into other currencies in settlements. In today's multilateral world, it has become increasingly irritable for nations to purchase securities, goods and services in the US dollar. They want to opt for national currencies and ditch the greenback as a currency in their trade. This has become the new policy for countries like Iran which has

no access to dollar-dominated SWIFT transactions because of the US sanctions.

Removing the US dollar as an export and import payment currency has made life easier for Iran, for those who want to buy the Iranian oil, and for those who are under Western sanctions. They have largely quitted the dollar as a transaction currency and replaced it with national currencies.

Other commodity-producing countries could and should stop using the US dollar in global trade, as well. They could use national currencies and cryptos to reduce dependence on the greenback. This way, they can curb their exposure to dollar movement risks and the effects of US sanctions and trade wars, which typically feature cutting off their access to international trade and dollar-dominated transactions.

Thanks largely to the need for Russia and Iran to nullify the impact of sanctions, the ill-fated trade and tariff wars by the Trump administration on Eurozone economies, the increasing demand for oil by China and others, and the growing concern on the legislation targeting OPEC producers, many countries are now more than ever happy and determined to change trade policy and expel the greenback from its dominant position in the international monetary system.

Looking back, this long-overdue and vital transformation of the global monetary system won't happen overnight. But it is happening regularly and will most likely continue to happen.

#### German MP urges Europe to do efforts for preserving JCPOA

Clarifying if Europe is trying to buy time for having INSTEX implemented, the German MP said that "INSTEX can be a very strong mechanism, I hope that in the remaining days by June 27, Europeans will be able to become more active and show that they are ready to invest on JCPOA rescue."

He noted that in his recent visit to Iran, the German Foreign Minister Heiko Mass found out that the time is flying and Europe must be more active.

He predicted that the visit of the three European ministers to Iran can bring more success about JCPOA.

"Europeans need to know that all the packages that they have proposed up to the present time to Iran have not been sufficient and they should be active more than before," he said.

"In addition to economic issues, the Iranian security issue should be addressed. JCPOA preservation is directly linked to Saudi Arabia's lack of nuclear weapons, and if both sides reach this important point, we will see better results," he added.

Being asked about the stance of the German Chancellor Angela Merkel about the two oil tankers attacked in the Oman Sea, the German MP described that "I have not listened to Merkel's speech and I do not really know the reason behind it, but in general, Europeans try to keep the one same tone in international affairs. Most probably, Merkel did not want to stand near the American views and positions, neither she liked to take a tough position as did the British foreign secretary."

"The important point is that Germany will act as a member of the European Union, but at the same time it should be noted that any military action in the region will be terrible for everyone. As a result, we are opposed to American militarism in the region," he added.

Addressing Europe's reaction to US selling of weapons to Saudi Arabia and the idea of Trump's impeachment by Democrats, he said that "for a while, the amount of German military exports to Saudi Arabia has dropped and we believe that even the current level should be reduced due to Saudi military's presence in Yemen. It is quite clear that sales of military weapons to Saudi Arabia must be stopped not only by Europe but also by all the sides."

He lamented about Europe's silence against Saudi Arabia's nuclear activities saying that "Europe's silence was a big mistake; it is and it will be. The technical reason for this is the problem of the many Europeans with the US government."

## Pompeo's role as troublemaker runs counter to diplomacy

**GLOBALTIMES** —U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo continues to be a politically troublesome figure in the global arena. Washington stands at a critical juncture as it redesigns the national strategy blueprint within a Cold War framework. The highest-ranking US diplomat has single-handedly activated an outdated mindset, smashing it to the point of climax.

Known as an extreme hardliner at the White House, Pompeo has redefined the traditional understanding of the chief diplomat's role among the world's major powers with his signature reckless behavior.

Pompeo also has turned the US State Department into a strategic headquarters used to antagonize the international community. By provoking conflict between countries who have unique differences, Pompeo has done nothing but threaten for world peace.

During his visits to other nations, Pompeo has bad-mouthed and tried to suppress China, Russia, and Iran. His offensive remarks on China have destroyed the past China-US diplomatic language that was enjoyed for decades, preferring to use negligent words from his personal arsenal.

Additionally, Pompeo is arguably the most active lobbyist and by all standards, a bully who coerces US allies to block Huawei. He has also spared no effort in criticizing China's policies in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

His outspoken opinions on the recent events in Hong Kong was more of a Rubicon River crossing than someone was just merely speaking their mind. Rather than adhere to a big power game like his predecessors, Pompeo has transformed himself into anti-China flag on two legs.

The US relationship between China, Russia, and Iran will determine the future course of international relations. The condition of each relationship serves as a wind vane

indicating stability or turbulence worldwide.

Pompeo is not only disrupting China, Russia, and Iran, but also damaging the interests of other countries. His words and actions have jinxed the very notion of 21st-century peace.

It is understandable how the US could feel threatened, due to the pattern shift among world powers. However, Pompeo's goal has nothing to do with enhancing trust or easing concerns expressed by other countries. Instead, he wants to turn US insecurity into a form of visible hatred and increase hostility worldwide. He has consistently influenced stable international conditions to the point of deterioration.

"Make America Great Again" is not a one-man show. The notion, which is nothing more than an illiterate slogan, will never materialize and connect with the harmony enjoyed elsewhere throughout the world.

In the past decades, the US has engaged in too many wars and conflicts, while also issuing sanctions against foreign countries which were later drained of their national strength.

Pompeo has continued to push the US toward the flames of confrontation when dealing with major foreign powers. He has not helped Trump achieve earlier campaign promises, and on the contrary, he is making it difficult for the US president to keep them.

Pompeo's background reveals military and intelligence capabilities. While serving in the US House of Representatives, he initiated multiple foreign conflicts. Confrontation seems to be his preferred weapon of choice and the only option when engaging with anyone. Only when confronted with China, Russia, and Iran, can he see his true self. He feels such aggressive behavior is necessary to prove his personal value.

Judging from the US and its Cold War reboot strategy, Pompeo has roamed too far outside of the perimeter and has officially lost his way. The US government has labeled



China as its "strategic competitor." Meanwhile, Pompeo has ignited hostility from China.

Pompeo's words are by no means an accurate consensus of the US public who also want to enjoy a harmonious existence. By making volatile claims against China look reasonable, Pompeo has turned himself into a cheerleader of hatred, who uses slander and vitriol for pompoms.

Having a secretary of state of this caliber is a tragedy of US politics and the sorrow of international politics. The world needs to be exposed to the damage Pompeo has brought to humankind's peaceful existence. His destructive power should not be tolerated because of his title. He has repeatedly crushed diplomacy's constructive role while ignoring opportunities to ease international conflicts. He is a stain upon the professional honor of diplomacy. The global diplomatic community should detest his actions and join together in a crusade against him.

#### For Israel, annexation of the West Bank is a long-established goal

#### By Jonathan Cook

When Israeli prime ministers are in trouble, facing difficult elections or a corruption scandal, the temptation has typically been for them to unleash a military operation to bolster their standing. In recent years, Gaza has served as a favorite punching bag.

Benjamin Netanyahu is confronting both difficulties at once: a second round of elections in September that he may struggle to win; and an attorney general who is widely expected to indict him on corruption charges shortly afterwards.

Netanyahu is in an unusually tight spot, even by the standards of an often chaotic and fractious Israeli political system. After a decade in power, his electoral magic may be deserting him. There are already rumblings of discontent among his allies on the foreight

of discontent among his allies on the far right.
Given his desperate straits, some observers
fear that he may need to pull a new kind of
rabbit out of the hat.

In the past two elections, Netanyahu rode to success after issuing dramatic last-minute statements. In 2015, he agitated against the fifth of Israel's citizens who are Palestinian asserting their democratic rights, warning that they were "coming out in droves to vote".

Back in April, he declared his intention to annex large chunks of the occupied West Bank, in violation of international law, during the next parliament.

Amos Harel, a veteran military analyst with Haaretz newspaper, observed last week that Mr. Netanyahu may decide words are no longer enough to win. Action is needed, possibly in the form of an announcement on the eve of September's ballot that as much as two-thirds of the West Bank is to be annexed.

Washington does not look like it will stand in his way.

Shortly before April's election, the Trump administration offered Netanyahu a campaign fillip by recognizing Israel's illegal annexation of the Golan Heights, territory Israel seized from Syria in 1967.

This month David Friedman, US ambassador to Israel and one of the chief architects of Donald Trump's long-delayed "deal of the century" peace plan, appeared to offer a similar, early election boost.

In interviews, he claimed Israel was "on the side of God" – unlike, or so it was implied, the Palestinians. He further argued that Israel had the "right to retain" much of the West Bank.

Both statements suggest that the Trump administration will not object to any Israeli moves towards annexation, especially if it ensures their favored candidate returns to power.

Whatever Mr. Friedman suggests, it is not God who has intervened on Israel's behalf. The hands that have carefully cleared a path over many decades to the West Bank's annexation are all too human.

Israeli officials have been preparing for this moment for more than half a century, since the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza were seized back in 1967.

That point is underscored by an innovative interactive map of the occupied territories. This valuable new resource is a joint project of the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem and Forensic Architecture, a London-based team that uses new technology to visualize and map political violence and environmental destruction.

Titled Conquer and Divide, it reveals in detail how Israel has "torn apart Palestinian space, divided the Palestinian population into dozens of disconnected enclaves and unraveled its social, cultural and economic fabric".

The map proves beyond doubt that Israel's colonization of the West Bank was never accidental, defensive or reluctant. It was coldly calculated and intricately planned, with one goal in mind — and the moment to realize that goal is fast approaching.

Annexation is not a right-wing project that has hijacked the benign intentions of Israel's founding generation. Annexation was on the cards from the occupation's very beginnings in 1967, when the so-called center-left—now presented as a peace-loving alternative to Netanyahu—ran the government.

The map shows how Israeli military planners created a complex web of pretexts to seize Palestinian land: closed military zones today cover a third of the West Bank; firing ranges impact 38 Palestinian communities; nature reserves are located on 6 per cent of the territory; nearly a quarter has been declared Israeli "state" land; some 250 settlements have been established; dozens of permanent checkpoints severely limit movement; and hundreds of kilometers of walls and fences have been completed.

These interlocking land seizures seamlessly carved up the territory, establishing the walls of dozens of tightly contained prisons for Palestinians in their own homeland.

Two NASA satellite images of the region separated by 30 years – from 1987 and 2017 – reveal how Israel's settlements and transport infrastructure have gradually scarred the West Bank's landscape, clearing away natural vegetation and replacing it with concrete.

The land grabs were not simply about acquisition of territory. They were a weapon, along with increasingly draconian movement restrictions, to force the native Palestinian population to submit, to recognize its defeat,

In the immediate wake of the West

Bank's occupation, defense minister Moshe Dayan, Israel's hero of the hour and one of the architects of the settlement project, observed that Palestinians should be made "to live like dogs, and whoever wants to can leave — and we shall see where this process leads".

Although Israel has concentrated Palestinians in 165 disconnected areas across the West Bank, its actions effectively won the international community's seal of approval in 1995. The Oslo accords cemented Israel's absolute control over 62 per cent of the West Bank, containing the Palestinians' key agricultural land and water sources, which was classified as Area C.

Occupations are intended to be temporary – and the Oslo accords promised the same. Gradually, the Palestinians would be allowed to take back more of their territory to build a state. But Israel made sure both the occupation and the land thefts sanctioned by Oslo continued.

The new map reveals more than just the methods Israel used to commandeer the West Bank. Decades of land seizures highlight a trajectory, plotting a course that indicates the project is still not complete.

the project is still not complete.

If Netanyahu partially annexes the West Bank – Area C – it will be simply another stage in Israel's tireless efforts to immiserate the Palestinian population and bully them into leaving. This is a war of attrition – what Israelis have long understood as "creeping annexation", carried out by stealth to avoid a backlash from the international community.

Ultimately, Israel wants the Palestinians gone entirely, squeezed out into neighboring Arab states, such as Egypt and Jordan. That next chapter is likely to begin in earnest if Mr. Trump ever gets the chance to unveil his "deal of the century".

## Hong Kong an internal not international issue

By Xu Hailin

**GLOBALTIMES** —Violence broke out during the demonstration on June 12 in Hong Kong and some continuation took place. How to handle the issue is China's internal affair, which has nothing to do with the US or any other Western country. They have no idea how to settle the frequent protests in their own countries, but they are fond of acting as teachers for China. Their thinking ability may still stay at the level of the beginning of the 20th century.



Some even want to discuss China's home affairs at an international occasion. Recently, some Western people have called for a discussion about the incident during the G20 summit to be held on Friday and Saturday. These people believe they are global moral judges. But on the world stage, they are more like emperors with new clothes.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told Fox News on June 16 that US President Donald Trump will discuss the demonstration in Hong Kong with President Xi Jinping at the G20 summit. In addition, a member of the German Parliament has called on German Chancellor Angela Merkel to raise the incident with Xi during the summit.

We can see that the West always wants to bring China's home affairs to international arenas. Upholding the banner of so-called democracy and human rights, they want to use the incident to contain China. Engaged in the US-launched trade war against China, which is the focus of the world, China won't allow anyone to use the incident to extort it.

Hong Kong is a special administrative region (SAR) of China, and its affairs are internal to China. Any other country or individual has no right to interfere in China's domestic affairs on any occasion by any means.

Despite the fact that the G20 summit is a forum for international economic cooperation, which focuses on coordination of policies to deal with common challenges, it is already the most contemptuous violation and insult to China just by maliciously raising China's internal affairs to the international arena.

The Hong Kong SAR government's amendment of extradition legislation aims at safeguarding stability and development of the city, plugging a loophole in the fight against crime and better defending Hongkongers' rights. The Chinese central government backs such efforts.

But some Western countries cannot help adopting double standards when dealing with issues involving China. They oppose almost everything China supports. Hence they didn't think that the amendment itself is meant to protect the human rights they talk about every day.

In fact, the West not only throws its weight around on the Hong Kong issue, but also smears China on other internal affairs such as China's governance in Xinjiang and the Taiwan question. The West often exaggerates or fabricates stories to deliberately make China's internal affairs international. By doing so, it wants nothing but to make trouble for China and benefit from that at the same time.

Given this rouge logic of some Western countries, is it all right for China to raise domestic concerns of the US and other Western countries? If the dreadful gun control and prevailing racism in the US will be discussed at the G20 summit, I wonder how the American people would feel.

## Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

#### **Apartment**

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

Apt in Fereshteh 15<sup>th</sup> floor, 250 sq.m 3 Bdrs., fully furn, spj, gym lobby, elevator, parking \$2500

Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Penthouse in Elahieh
7th floor, 600 sq.m, 9 master
bedrooms, fully furn
terrace, spj, gym, 360° view
elevator, parking
Price: negotiable
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Niavaran brand new, 4<sup>th</sup> floor , 150 sq.m 2 Bdrs., unfurn, spj, parking \$3000

Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Qeytarieh 2th floor, 164 sq.m, 3 Bdrs. furn, equipped kitchen renovated, 2 parking spots \$1500

Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in
Valiasr-Bagh Ferdows

1 th floor, 190 sq.m, 3 Bdrs., furn,
balcony, equipped kitchen, fire
place, elevator
storage, parking, \$1900
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

#### Villa

Triplex Villa in Jordan
1380 sq.m land, 2000 sq.m built
up, furn, outdoor swimming pool,
yard, 4-side entrances
parking

Price: Negotiable Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Villa in Elahieh duplex, 3000 sq.m land furn/unfurn, 500 sq.m built up Beautiful garden, parking Price negotiable

Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Villa in Darband
duplex, 2000 sq.m land
400 sq.m built up, 4 Bdrs. unfurn,
outdoor swimming
3 balconies, green garden
completely renovated
4 parking spots
Price: negotiable
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

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

Villa in Ajudaniye 2 floors, 315 sq.m & 300 sq.m furn, equipped kitchen swimming

Ms.Sara: 09128103207

pool, sauna parking, gym, \$4000 Mr.Shayan: 09128440156 PARS C DIPLOMATIC Real Estate

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 Farmanieh 3 floors, 760 sq.m land, each floor one apt, each apt 320 sq.m with 3 Bdrs., unfurn, 6 parking spots \$8500

Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Mahmoodieh
3 floors, one apt 90 sq.m with
1 Bdr, 3 apts 170 sq.m with 3
Bdrs., unfurn, equipped kitchen
elevator, lobby parking
Price: negotiable
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

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

Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Nice Office in Mirdamad 3<sup>th</sup> floor, 90 sq.m, 1 Bdr., storage parking, \$700 Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Whole Building in Zafaranieh brand new, 5 floors, each floor 310 sq.m, 3 Bdrs. indoor sauna, indoor Jacuzzi 2 parking spots for each apt Price negotiable

Ms.Sara: 09128103207

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

#### **Ideal Offers**

Apt in Fereshteh 75 sq.m, 1 Bdrs., furn spj, tennis court, elevator parking, \$1400 Short term

Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Jordan

2<sup>th</sup> floor, 148 sq.m, 3 Bdrs. fully furn, spj, parking \$900

Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Shariati - Sadr 5<sup>th</sup> floor, 110 sq.m, 3 Bdrs. furn, balcony, elevator storage, parking, \$1000 Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Zafaranieh 2th floor, 90 sq.m, 2 Bdrs. furn, beautiful design, parking

Ms.Sara: 09128103207

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

Apt in Andarzgoo blvd 3<sup>th</sup> floor, 140 sq.m, 3 Bdrs. fully furn, parking, \$600 <u>Ms.Sara: 09128103207</u>

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

مالكين محترم

ملک های فروش و اجاره ای خود را (آپارتمان، ویلا، مستغلات، اداری و تجاری) به ما بسیارید. بهترین مشاوره، بر ترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت

مالکین محترم املاک مبله و غیرمبله، 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.



Don't Waste Your Time

Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties

WWW. Delta HOME. ir

The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners

HOME

Real Estate

Member of DELTA Real Estate Group



#### TEHRAN TIMES

Iran's Leading
International Daily

**Advertising Dept** 



021 -430 51 450



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

## SpaceX Falcon Heavy launch to carry weather satellites, other payloads

SpaceX>s third-ever Falcon Heavy rocket went upright Monday in Florida, prepared to launch 24 military and government research satellites from Kennedy Space Center.

It>s the first time the military is using the world>s most powerful rocket, and the first nighttime launch for the Falcon Heavy. It>s also the first time such a government mission will fly using two SpaceX side boosters that have been flown before.

The rocket originally was scheduled to lift off from historic launch pad 39A at 11:30 p.m., but launch directors set that back to 2:30 a.m. Tuesday to conduct «additional ground system checkouts.» That launch pad also saw the launch of Apollo 11, the first manned moon mission, 50 years ago next month.

And it is the most challenging launch ever for SpaceX, according to founder Elon Musk. The rocket is to release the satellites in three different orbits over a period of hours.

Besides being such a big rocket at liftoff, the launch will feature another unique sight -- two boosters flying back to pads at Cape Canaveral. That has never happened at

A primary mission, called COSMIC-2, includes six spacecraft that could help



improve hurricane forecasting. They are designed to measure atmospheric distortion of satellite signals to improve severe weather

**JUNE 26, 2019** 

forecasting.

The satellites will orbit Earth near the equator, taking measurements of the tropics and subtropics, and monitoring the ionosphere for the effects of solar storms.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Organization, the new satellites could Improve accuracy of weather forecasts up to four days in advance. They will «collect water vapor data that will help meteorologists observe, study and forecast hurricanes and

As of late Monday, the Air Force>s 45th Weather Squadron said weather is 80 percent favorable for the night launch. If postponed, another attempt is scheduled at the same

In addition to NOAA, the satellites are to be operated by the Defense Department and NASA. Some are intended conduct space environmental monitoring, communications and advanced space technologies.

«It>s an exciting partnership with NASA, NOAA and SpaceX to provide space access for important military and civil experiments while demonstrating the Falcon Heavy launch vehicle capabilities,» Lt. Gen. John F. Thompson, Air Force program executive officer for space, said in a statement.

Another Air Force satellite on board will research technologies to improve spacecraft operation in the harsh radiation environment of medium-Earth orbit.

Monday night>s mission, known as STP-2, for Space Test Program-2, also includes four unique NASA experiments, five small satellites, 11 CubeSats -- miniature satellites for space research -- as well as other experiments.

(Source: UPI)

#### Curiosity rover measures elevated methane levels on Mars

NASA's Martian rover Curiosity has discovered elevated methane levels on the Red Planet.

The rover's Sample Analysis at Mars tunable laser spectrometer, or SAM instrument, measured approximately 21 parts per billion units by volume of methane in the Martian atmosphere -- the largest single reading since Curiosity's scientific mission began.

As of now, Curiosity and NASA scientists working on the Curiosity mission can't determine the methane's source. Researchers are also unable discern whether the methane source is local or distant. Curiosity is currently exploring Gale Crater.

"With our current measurements, we have no way of telling if the methane source is biology or geology, or even ancient or modern," Paul Mahaffy, scientist at NASA's Goddard Spaceflight Center and principle investigator for the rover's SAM instrument, said in a news release.

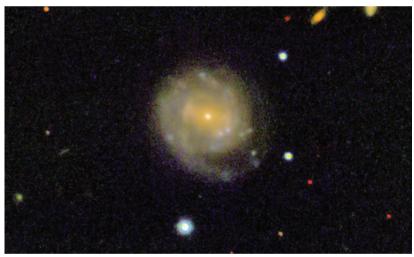
Both Curiosity and ESA's Mars Express probe have previously measured methane spikes on Mars. Earlier this year, scientists analyzing methane measurements made by the two spacecraft determined the seasonal methane spikes are most likely explained by small, transient geological events.

Scientists concluded a frozen slab of ice or permafrost containing methane, located beneath tectonic faults outside of Gale Crater, is the most logical explanation for the Red Planet's seasonal methane spikes. The research team estimated periodic melting causes the ice to release the compound in gas form.

NASA scientists have developed a test for the rover to conduct over the coming weekend to determine whether the most recent record-breaking methane measurement was caused by a transient methane plume.

(Source: UPI)

#### The cosmic 'Cow' may be a strange supernova



The cosmic oddity known as the Cow may have been a dying star that shed its skin like a snake before it exploded.

Newly released observations support the idea that the burst occurred in a dense environment with strong magnetic fields, astronomer Kuiyun Huang and colleagues report in The Astrophysical Journal Letters

These new measurements "for the mysterious transient ... provide one of the strong hints of its nature," says Huang, of the Chung Yuan Christian University in Taoyuan City, Taiwan.

Since the Cow appeared in June 2018 as a brief burst of light in a galaxy about 200 million light-years away, astronomers haven't been sure what to think of it. The initial glow flared more quickly and seemed 10 times brighter than an ordinary supernova, the violent explosion that marks the death of a massive star.

Follow-up observations of the Cow which got its nickname from the randomly assigned name "AT2018cow" - left two main theories for what it could be: a strange sort of supernova, or an exotic star being shredded by a black hole. But neither theory alone could explain all the Cow's weird features.

Astronomer Anna Ho of Caltech and colleagues published work in April at arXiv.org that analyzed light from the Cow in a range of wavelengths, from short gamma rays to long radio waves. That work suggested that the light was getting distorted on its journey. So if the Cow is a supernova, it must have exploded in a very dense environment that squashed some of the light emerging from the dying star. But to come to that conclusion, the team had to simplify assumptions about how the explosion's energy was released.

Now, Huang and colleagues have released new radio wave observations that back up the findings by Ho's team, without relying on those assumptions. In June and July 2018, Huang's group used the Atacama Large Millimeter-submillimeter Array in Chile to look at the way the Cow's

light was polarized, a measurement of the light's preferred direction. Imagine holding a jump rope: If you swing your arm up and down, the jump rope will take on an up-down wave pattern. Swinging left to right gives the rope a side-to-side wave.

The radio waves emitted in the wreckage of a supernova should do the same thing, Ho explains. But if the waves travel through an environment filled with gas, charged particles and magnetic fields, the waves' preferred direction can get rotated or smeared out. "By the time it all gets out at the end, it can look like a blurred mess," Ho says.

That's what Huang and colleagues saw from the Cow: The radio waves essentially had no polarization by the time they reached Earth, suggesting the waves had been tossed about in a dense and turbulent environment.

That environment probably came from the Cow itself, Ho says. Toward the end of the star's life, it started shedding outer layers of gas, similar to a snake shedding its skin. Those discarded layers were still nearby when the star finally ran out of fuel and exploded, so the light and material from the explosion plowed through the debris from the star's death throes.

"That might actually be a common thing that stars do," Ho says. She and her colleagues observed another stellar explosion in September, SN2018gep, that first appeared to be a Cow-like event. It ended up looking more like a straightforward supernova, with ordinary speed and brightness — but one that was also surrounded by the dense layers the star tossed off before it died.

The new polarization observations by Huang's team aren't the final word on the Cow's identity, though, says astronomer Daniel Perley of Liverpool John Moores University in England. "It supports one argument," he says, "but doesn't overall change the balance of the somewhat contradictory evidence pointing in different directions for this event." More work on the shredded star theory could help break the tie, he says.

(Source: sciencenews.org)

#### Capuchin monkeys' stone-tool use has evolved over 3,000 years



Excavations in Brazil have pounded out new insights into the handiness of ancient

South American capuchin monkeys have not only hammered and dug with carefully chosen stones for the last 3,000 years, but also have selected pounding tools of varying sizes and weights along the way.

Capuchin stone implements recovered at a site in northeastern Brazil display signs of shifts during the last three millennia between a focus on dealing with either relatively small, soft foods or larger, hardshelled edibles, researchers report. These discoveries, described online June 24 in Nature Ecology & Evolution, are the first evidence of changing patterns of stone-tool use in a nonhuman primate.

"It's likely that local vegetation changes after 3,000 years ago led to changes in capuchin stone tools," says archaeologist Tomos Proffitt of University College London. The new findings raise the possibility that chimpanzees and macaque monkeys, which also use stones to pound and dig, have shifted their tool-use styles over the long haul, perhaps in response to climate and habitat changes, Proffitt says.

Archaeological sites linked to apes and monkeys are rare, though. Previous excavations in West Africa unearthed nutcracking stones wielded by chimps around 4.300 years ago. Present-day chimps inhabiting the same part of Africa crack nuts with similar-looking rocks.

Evidence of long-term changes in tools used by wild capuchins (Sapajus libidinosus) comes from a site in Brazil's Serra da Capivara National Park. Excavations there have also yielded ancient human stone tools. But the newly unearthed artifacts more closely resemble stone tools used by modern capuchins at the same site, rather than Stone Age human implements, the

Primatologist Tiago Falótico of the University of São Paulo, Proffitt and their colleagues recovered 122 capuchin stone artifacts from four sediment layers. Radiocarbon dating of charred wood bits

in each layer provided age estimates for the finds. Excavated tools consisted of partial and complete pounding stones, rocks used as platforms on which to pound objects, and pieces of rock that detached from pounding stones and platforms during use.

Relatively small, heavily damaged pounding implements from between around 3,000 and 2,500 years ago were likely used to smash open tiny foods such as seeds or fruits with soft rinds, the researchers say. Similar tools uncovered at the site date to around 600 years ago. Larger pounding stones from overlying sediment appeared about 300 years ago. The appearance of bigger capuchin tools by around that time denoted a shift to eating hard-shelled fruits and nuts that required high-impact pounding to open, the team says.

Then starting roughly 100 years ago, capuchins downsized pounding stones slightly to crack cashews efficiently, the researchers suspect. Capuchins living near the site today like to eat cashews that the animals crack with similar pounding stones.

Either of two scenarios accounted for the variety of stone artifacts found at the Brazilian monkey site, Proffitt says. Different capuchin populations may have visited the location at various times, each using particular types of stones to crack or open preferred seeds, nuts or fruits. Or, a single capuchin population may have regularly returned to the site and changed its tool use over time in order to exploit different types of foods.

Stone tool modifications that occurred over the last 3,000 years among Brazilian capuchins are comparable to those observed among West African chimp communities today, says University of Oxford primatologist and archaeologist Susana Carvalho. These chimps use large, heavy stones to crack hard Panda nuts as well as small stones to break open softer palm oil nuts. "What's novel is that a stone tool pattern we had already seen in chimps today is now recognizable from the archaeological evidence for capuchins."

(Source: sciencenews.org)

#### Sun's history found buried in Moon's crust

When the Sun was just a baby four billion years ago, it went through violent outbursts of intense radiation, spewing scorching, high-energy clouds and particles across the solar system. These growing pains helped seed life on early Earth by igniting chemical  $reactions\ that\ kept\ Earth\ warm\ and\ wet.\ Yet,\ these\ solar\ tantrums$ also may have prevented life from emerging on other worlds by stripping them of atmospheres and zapping nourishing chemicals.

Just how destructive these primordial outbursts were to other worlds would have depended on how quickly the baby Sun rotated on its axis. The faster the Sun turned, the quicker it would have destroyed conditions for habitability.

This critical piece of the Sun's history, though, has bedeviled scientists, said Prabal Saxena, an astrophysicist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. Saxena studies how space weather, the variations in solar activity and other radiation conditions in space, interacts with the surfaces of planets and moons.

Now, he and other scientists are realizing that the Moon, where NASA will be sending astronauts by 2024, contains clues to the ancient mysteries of the Sun, which are crucial to understanding

"We didn't know what the Sun looked like in its first billion years, and it's super important because it likely changed how Venus' atmosphere evolved and how quickly it lost water. It also probably changed how quickly Mars lost its atmosphere, and it changed the atmospheric chemistry of Earth," Saxena said.

Saxena stumbled into investigating the early Sun's rotation mystery while contemplating a seemingly unrelated one: Why, when the Moon and Earth are made of largely the same stuff, is there significantly less sodium and potassium in lunar regolith, or Moon soil, than in Earth soil?

This question, too, revealed through analyses of Apollo-era Moon samples and lunar meteorites found on Earth, has puzzled scientists for decades -- and it has challenged the leading theory of how the Moon formed.

Our natural satellite took shape, the theory goes, when a Marssized object smashed into Earth about 4.5 billion years ago. The force of this crash sent materials spewing into orbit, where they coalesced into the Moon.

"The Earth and Moon would have formed with similar materials, so the question is, why was the Moon depleted in these elements?" said Rosemary Killen, an planetary scientist at NASA Goddard who researches the effect of space weather on planetary atmospheres and exospheres.

The two scientists suspected that one big question informed the other -- that the history of the Sun is buried in the Moon's crust.

Killen's earlier work laid the foundation for the team's investigation. In 2012, she helped simulate the effect solar activity has on the amount of sodium and potassium that is either delivered to the Moon's surface or knocked off by a stream of charged particles from the Sun, known as the solar wind, or by powerful

eruptions known as coronal mass ejections. Saxena incorporated the mathematical relationship between a star's rotation rate and its flare activity. This insight was derived by scientists who studied the activity of thousands of stars discovered by NASA's Kepler space telescope: The faster a star spins, they found, the more violent its ejections. "As you learn about other stars and planets, especially stars like our Sun, you start to get a bigger picture of how the Sun evolved over time," Saxena said.

Using sophisticated computer models, Saxena, Killen and colleagues think they may have finally solved both mysteries. Their computer simulations, which they described on May 3 in the The Astrophysical Journal Letters, show that the early Sun rotated slower than 50% of baby stars. According to their estimates, within its first billion years, the Sun took at least 9 to 10 days to complete one rotation.

They determined this by simulating the evolution of our solar system under a slow, medium, and then a fast-rotating star. And they found that just one version -- the slow-rotating star -- was able to blast the right amount of charged particles into the Moon's surface to knock enough sodium and potassium into space over time to leave the amounts we see in Moon rocks today.

'Space weather was probably one of the major influences for how all the planets of the solar system evolved," Saxena said, "so any study of habitability of planets needs to consider it.'

The rotation rate of the early Sun is partly responsible for life on Earth. But for Venus and Mars -- both rocky planets similar to Earth -- it may have precluded it. (Mercury, the closest rocky planet to the Sun, never had a chance.)

Earth's atmosphere was once very different from the oxygen-dominated one we find today. When Earth formed 4.6 billion years ago, a thin envelope of hydrogen and helium clung to our molten planet. But outbursts from the young Sun stripped away that primordial haze within 200 million years.

As Earth's crust solidified, volcanoes gradually coughed up a new atmosphere, filling the air with carbon dioxide, water, and nitrogen. Over the next billion years, the earliest bacterial life consumed that carbon dioxide and, in exchange, released methane and oxygen into the atmosphere. Earth also developed a magnetic field, which helped protect it from the Sun, allowing our atmosphere to transform into the oxygen- and nitrogen-rich air we breathe today.

"We were lucky that Earth's atmosphere survived the terrible times," said Vladimir Airapetian, a senior Goddard heliophysicist and astrobiologist who studies how space weather affects the habitability of terrestrial planets. Airapetian worked with Saxena and Killen on the early Sun study.

Had our Sun been a fast rotator, it would have erupted with super flares 10 times stronger than any in recorded history, at least 10 times a day. Even Earth's magnetic field wouldn't have been enough to protect it. The Sun's blasts would have decimated the atmosphere, reducing air pressure so much that Earth wouldn't retain liquid water. "It could have been a much harsher environment," Saxena noted.

But the Sun rotated at an ideal pace for Earth, which thrived under the early star. Venus and Mars weren't so lucky. Venus was once covered in water oceans and may have been habitable. But due to many factors, including solar activity and the lack of an internally generated magnetic field, Venus lost its hydrogen -- a critical component of water. As a result, its oceans evaporated within its first 600 million years, according to estimates. The planet's atmosphere became thick with carbon dioxide, a heavy molecule that's harder to blow away. These forces led to a runaway greenhouse effect that keeps Venus a sizzling 864 degrees Fahrenheit (462 degrees Celsius), far too hot for life.

Mars, farther from the Sun than Earth is, would seem to be safer from stellar outbursts. Yet, it had less protection than did Earth. Due partly to the Red Planet's weak magnetic field and low gravity, the early Sun gradually was able to blow away its air and water. By about 3.7 billion years ago, the Martian atmosphere had become so thin that liquid water immediately evaporated into space. (Water still exists on the planet, frozen in the polar caps and in the soil.)

(Source: Science Daily)

#### **New restoration project starts** on Jameh Mosque of Qazvin

HERITAGE TEHRAN — Jameh Mosque of Qazvin, which is one of the oldest Islamic structures in Iran, has went under a new round of restoration, a local tourism



This stage of rehabilitation deals with brickwork and building insulation in the mosque's northern shabestans (underground spaces that can be usually found in traditional architecture of mosques, houses, and schools in ancient Iran) and strengthening its western iwan (portico), Amir Arjmand said, IRNA reported.

The oldest section of the congregational mosque is said to be constructed by the orders of Harun al-Rashid, the fifth Abbasid Caliph, in 807 CE. Later additions were made, the last was during the late Safavid era (1501–1736). The double layered main dome of the mosque was added in Seljuk era (1037–1194). The mosque also features some precious examples of relief calligraphy from

In spite of the devastating Mongol conquest of Persia in the early 13th century, the mosque still stands today in its full glory. It is still in use. Parts of the mosque have been turned into a public library.

In Islamic countries, Jameh mosque (in Persian Masjed-e Jameh) is referred to as a large center of community worship and a site for Friday prayer services.

#### Ancient mosque might be buried underground in the outskirts of Madrid

An ancient mosque, the oldest in Europe, is believed to be buried underground in Reccopolis, on the outskirts of Madrid in Spain. Using a geomagnetic instrument, archaeologists have detected walls and other structures of the monument.

Michael McCormick, a medieval historian and archaeologist at Harvard University told Live Science that they were able to survey every space. They found buildings, passages and streets. The ancient city, also known as 'Muslim Atlantis' and about 1,400-years-old, has hidden secrets. According to GROMA, the city of Reccopolis was projected as an ex-novo foundation and an explicit political power statement. It says that for two and a half centuries, from the Visigothic period until the early Islamic period in the mid-9th century, the city was the center of production and consumption.

Historians say the Visigoth era was overshadowed by Roman rule. Medieval history describes early Visigoths as a Germanic group that alternated between opposing and serving the Roman Empire. In 410 CE, the Visigothic King Alaric sacked Rome, settled in southern France and spread into Iberian Penninsula. The Visigoths were later defeated by the Catholic Franks. In the year 711, an Arab invasion further weakened the Visigoth kingdom.

Years of archaeological works spanning from the 1940s to date, have revealed a hierarchical urban plan. However, excavations have only uncovered 8% of the area.

(Source: Internationals Business Times)

#### **ROUND THE GLOBE**

#### The Greater Blue Mountains Area

A World Heritage, the Greater Blue Mountains Area (GBMA) is a deeply incised sandstone tableland that encompasses 1.03 million hectares of eucalypt-dominated landscape just inland from Sydney, Australia's largest city, in south-eastern Australia.

Spread across eight adjacent conservation reserves, it constitutes one of the largest and most intact tracts of protected bushland in Australia.



It also supports an exceptional representation of the taxonomic, physiognomic and ecological diversity that eucalypts have developed: an outstanding illustration of the evolution of plant life.

A number of rare and endemic taxa, including relict flora such as the Wollemi pine, also occur here. Ongoing research continues to reveal the rich scientific value of the area as more species are discovered.

The geology and geomorphology of the property, which includes 300 meter cliffs, slot canyons and waterfalls, provides the physical conditions and visual backdrop to support these outstanding biological values.

The property includes large areas of accessible wilderness in close proximity to 4.5 million people. Its exceptional biodiversity values are complemented by numerous others, including indigenous and post-European-settlement cultural values, geodiversity, water production, wilderness, recreation and natural beauty. (Source: UNESCO)

## Refuge with troglodytic architecture found in northern Iran

HERITAGE TEHRAN—Locals of a northern Iranian village have discovered a cave-like entrance to a larger area, which recent investigation by cultural heritage experts proved it was probably used as a refuge in the far past.

Situated in a historical district of the Siakhal county, Gilan province, the refuge is a matter of importance for experts because it bears troglodytic architectural elements, provincial tourism chief Shahroud Amirentekhabi said on Tuesday, CHTN

"This shelter, located in the heart of a natural hill and in the personal property of one of the villagers, is approximately 390 square meters in area 98 meters in length, yet its height varies in different parts ranging from about one meter in the range of entrance to about 4 meters in the middle. Its architectural space is completely hand carved without usage of any material to create space for its construction, and it seems to have been used as a refuge for emergency and dan-



ger," the official explained.

tecture being discovered in Siahkal's This is the second troglodytic archi- countryside areas over the past year,

In a primary research some evidence came to light; which dates from the Ilkhanid era (1256-1335) and the Timurid epoch (1370-1507), he said.

Considering the architectural significance and cultural value of the place, it was first decided to prepare an emergency dossier for a [possible] inscription on the National Heritage list, and in parallel, to pursue licenses for archaeological excavations, significance concluded.

Iran is a haven for ancient troglodytic architecture which are somewhat forgotten though they are filled with life and creativity. The northwest Kandovan village is one the most famous examples of troglodytic architecture in the country; its ice-cream cone-shaped homes are resembling that of Turkey's Cappadocia.

Last October, the country hosted the 3rd International Troglodytic Architecture Conference in which tens of experts, researches and academia discussed troglodyte-associated architecture, culture

#### Conference to address tourism development in western Iran

TOURISM TEHRAN — Western Iranian provinces are scheduled to discuss ways to expand tourism in a two-day conference which will be hosted by Lorestan province in the near future.

In a Tuesday meeting with several hoteliers, travel agents and tour operators, Lorestan's tourism chief Seyyed Amin Qasemi announced that representatives from ten western provinces will attend the conference with the aim of finding a balance in the sum of tourism arrivals in western Iran [compared to those of other parts of the country], CHTN reported.

Qasemi said that the conference aims to establish and [in some cases] to expand interactions with "active" private investors in the field of tourism and hospitality industry.

The event will bring together tourism officials, chief hoteliers, travel agents and tour operators form provinces of Lorestan, Ilam, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, Kermanshah, Kordestan, Hamedan, Zanjan and East Azarbaijan, the official said.



Earlier in May, Iran's deputy chief of tourism Vali Teymouri suggested that lesser-known travel destinations should be properly introduced to people in order to have a balanced

'We can advise people about the right manners of traveling. The public are accustomed to [go on] spontaneous solo trips that bear high costs, while they can be ushered to quality travels, [which can be] arranged by the private

Traditionally, millions of Iranians hit the roads heading for the provinces of Mazandaran and Gilan, Khorasan Razavi, Isfahan, Fars, Bushehr, Hormozgan, and Khuzestan in summertime, Noruz, or other break holidays, which results in heavy traffics and extra rise of costs.

Some 18 million people made domestic travels during the two-week New Year (Noruz) holidays, starting March 21, which shows a six percent year-on-year increase, based on data compiled by the CHHTO.

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

#### How much does it cost for a plane not to land?

On June 22, a Brussels Airlines flight from Brussels to Washington, DC, turned around mid-air and went back to its starting point, meaning that passengers spent a total of nine hours in the air to essentially go nowhere.

According to Belgian website Aviation 24, flight SN515 was beset with challenges from the beginning.

Originally, the flight was supposed to depart at 10:15 a.m. local time from Brussels. But due to a last-minute change of aircraft, it left two hours late.

That wasn't all. The change in aircraft meant that the plane didn't have the proper authorization paperwork for landing in the United States. Rather than risk a fine upon arrival at Washington-Dulles, someone made the decision to reverse course, and the plane made a U-turn somewhere around Ireland.

The plane landed back in Brussels at 9:15 p.m., clocking about nine hours in the sky. The airline cited "operational reasons" for the flight's mid-air turnaround.

While turning a plane around mid-air is frustrating for passengers who were en route to their vacation or elsewhere, it's also a



the call, especially for one based in Europe. The European Union's strict laws on passenger rights around flight delays mean that

Brussels Airlines will have to pay up for its The airline, which is part of the Star Al-

liance network, must pay each passenger €600 (\$683) for the inconvenience, as well as put them up in hotels for the night and give meal vouchers. But that's not all. As the One Mile At A

massive headache for the airline who makes Time blog notes, Brussels Airlines will have

to add in the cost of rebooking everyone and juggling around the crew so they don't go over their maximum time allowances, meaning they could be looking at somewhere in the ballpark of €500,000 (\$569,000).

'This is a costly move on Brussels Airlines' part," Scott Keyes, founder of the Scott's Cheap Flights website and newsletter, tells CNN Travel. He also notes that Brussels Airlines has one of the worst on-time rankings in Europe

they can to know their rights. In the United States, passengers on de-

layed or canceled flights do not have laws as strict as the one in the EU to protect them.

"The first thing that you should know, and that I always do when there's a big delay or cancellation, I Google the travel protections on the credit card I used to buy the flight," Keyes says.

He also advises keeping "a paper trail," namely receipts for anything you purchase -- whether it's a meal in the airport or essentials you need to function until your delayed baggage arrives -- as a record when you seek compensation from the airline and/or your credit card company.

While the Brussels Airlines "flight to nowhere" experience was undoubtedly frustrating, it is sadly not uncommon.

In 2017, model Chrissy Teigen spent eight hours on a similar flight -- she was traveling from Los Angeles to Tokyo when the plane turned back around.

In that case, the reason for the reversal was "an unauthorized passenger" on the plane. CNN has reached out to Brussels Airlines

(Source: CNN)

#### 'Ryanair has nothing further to add' - airline refunds hard to come by

We don't often have cause to revisit stories that we feature on this page but, for reasons that will no doubt become apparent, we feel compelled to do just that this week. It has to do with Ryanair and it is disturbing on a couple of levels.

On Friday, April 26th, a reader by the name of Adrian Gordon and his wife took a flight from Malaga airport to Shannon Airport. Due to weather conditions, passengers were advised by the pilot as their plane began to land that they were landing at Dublin Airport instead of Shannon.

All passengers were told to go to the Ryanair desk at the airport so transport to Shannon could be arranged.

The plane duly landed at Dublin Airport shortly after midnight and, as instructed, Adrian went to the Ryanair desk where he was told that because a lot of flights had to be diverted from both Shannon and Cork Airports there were no more buses available.

He was told to hire a car or get a taxi to Shannon and that Ryanair would refund him the cost within seven days. As it happened, Adrian did not have his driving license with him so he and his wife had no option but to hire a taxi

from Dublin to Shannon Airport at a cost of €440.80. When he got home he sent a claim to the airline. However, despite the promise made by crew on the ground in Dublin, the airline refused to refund the cost of the taxi and instead it insisted "that surface transportation

was arranged by them for all passengers' So Adrian contacted us on May 3rd and we immediately contacted Ryanair after which we received a distinctly terse statement which said simply: "We've resolved this directly with the customer.'

Now we could have left it there but we decided to check with "the customer" and we got in touch with Adrian again. He told us that he had indeed received a call from a representative of the airline and had been told that a refund would be with him in a matter of days. Happy days, we thought.

Same flight, other complaints In the meantime other complaints about the same flight started coming in to the Pricewatch desk

First there was Barth Hooper. He told much the same story as Adrian. Having made their way to the Ryanair rep on duty in Dublin Airport as instructed by the pilot, he and his wife were told "no bus [was] organized and we should make our own arrangements".

Barth's wife "queried as to whether that meant we should organize our own taxi or car rental and the Ryanair representative said yes. To ensure that there was no misunderstanding, my wife again queried as to whether it was definitely acceptable to organize alternative transport to our original destination and queried as to how we would be refunded for same. The Ryanair representative clarified that this was acceptable and that an application for a refund for same could be made through the Ryanair website.

So the couple hired a car. They even gave another group a lift to Shannon – an act which would have saved the airline the expense. But then when Barth went to claim the money from the airline, he received a mail which said: "Operations Department has confirmed that surface transportation was organized for all customers to their original destination and as such we are not liable for any alternative transportation costs you may have incurred.

Then there was Colm McEnery. He had no choice but to hire a car at a cost of €301.60. Like Barth, he gave a group of other passengers on the plane a lift to Shannon – saving Ryanair money. But his claim was also refused by Ryanair

Peter McCarthy was on the same flight as was Claire Sloan and Diana Fahey. Like all the others they were told by Ryanair that "Our Operations Department has confirmed that surface transportation was organized for all customers to their original destination and as such we are not liable for any alternative transportation costs you may have incurred."

Untrue statement This claim, which had been made repeatedly by Ryanair when affected passengers tried to claim back expenses in-

curred, was clearly untrue.

Now, back to Adrian Gordon, the first person to contact us. As you will recall, when we contacted Ryanair in early May we were told that it had "resolved this directly with the customer".

But that was not actually true either. Over the weeks that followed, in spite of the claim by the airline, the refund Adrian was told was on the way never materialized – he contacted us several times with updates.

So at the end of the month we got back on to Ryanair and asked why it had not honored the commitment it had made to Adrian.

While we were at it we also sent details of the other passengers' complaints to the airline. And once again the airline said, "We've resolved this directly with the customers."

This was a line we were growing used to hearing. So we kept at it and then on June 11th - almost six weeks after the airline had claimed to have resolved the issue with Adrian and after we had interceded twice on his behalf - he got in

touch to say he had finally got his refund. We have also followed up with the other passengers and they too have been refunded.

But all of this raises an important point. Every one of these passengers were told at the airport they could hire a car or get a taxi from Dublin to Shannon because there was no buses available. Yet all of them were told subsequently by the airline that its "Operations Department has confirmed that surface transportation was organized for all customers to their original destination and as such we are not liable for

any alternative transportation costs you may have incurred." That claim made by Ryanair in its rejection letter was clearly not true.

So last week we got back on to the airline and asked why its email correspondence with these passengers made a claim that was clearly untrue. We also asked if there were other cases of it responding to its passengers looking for expenses incurred or money back with similarly untrue claims.

(Source: The Irish Times)

## Electronic health record program launched nationwide

H E A L T H TEHRAN – The electronic health record (EHR) program- a systematized collection of patient and population electronically-stored health information in a digital format, was launched across the country on Tuesday.

Kianoush Jahanpour, the health ministry's public relations director, said the ministry aims to develop the EHR in different fields including referral systems in health care and family medicine, ISNA reported.

The EHR project is jointly implemented by the ministries of health and ICT, the National Organization for Civil Registration, the Statistical Center of Iran, the Iran Health In $surance\ Organization\ and\ the\ Social\ Security$ Organization, he added.

Several organizations dealing with health issue can develop the EHR in different related fields, he explained.

Today about 84 percent of Iranians have EHR and others can set up a record by going to health centers in their neighborhood, he said.

"We plan to provide all health services even in medical treatment based on the information in electronic health record," he explained.



Jahanpour announced that the health ministry plans to provide infrastructures for referral systems in health care and family medicine in the near future.

All guidelines and clinical instructions will be mentioned in EHR as an intellectual reference, he said.

E-prescribing and pharmacy electronic services will be offered in next stage, he added.

"The electronic records have a great effect in managing health resources and lead to efficiency in the field of healthcare, he said,

adding, all healthcare services and packages will be registered on personal EHR which is recognized by the national ID number of

He said that foreigners who live in Iran are also provided with EHR in the next phase.

EHR worldwide According to the Allied Market Research, the global electronic health records market was valued at \$23,592 million in 2016, and is expected to reach \$33,294 million by 2023.

EHR contains all the data related to a patient's medical history including medications, diagnoses, immunization dates, treatment plans, radiology images, allergies, and test results from laboratories. These also allow access to evidence-based tools that are used by healthcare providers to make decisions about a patient's treatment. EHRs have also helped to streamline and automate the workflow in a healthcare setting.

Rise in adoption of EHR, increased use of EHR software, rapid surge in aging population, and subsequent rise in the number of chronic diseases drive the electronic health records market growth.

#### Health screening for schools underway

HEALTH TEHRAN – A health screening scheme e s k for schools is underway nationwide, health ministry official Hamed Barakati announced, ISNA reported on Monday.

The tests include vaccination, dental checks, personal health record, growth monitoring, vision assessment as well as physicals including skin and hair, cardiac, lung and thyroid problems, which are done by the beginning of the new school year.

As of the beginning of [the Iranian month of] Tir, June 22, physical health and readiness of students will be monitored by doctors, he said.

The screening tests are offered to students with 5, 6, 9, 12, and 15 years of age. Schools introduce students to health centers in order

to go under screening.

Students, who have some problems with their health, will be referred to specialists for further treatments, he said. According to World Health Organization (WHO), the

aim of early disease detection (sometimes called secondary prevention) is simple. Primary prevention seeks to abolish disease by protecting the individual and the population



from attack before the challenge has been made.

Early detection (case-finding) aims at discovering and curing conditions which have already produced pathological change but which have not so far reached a stage at which medical aid is sought spontaneously.

20,000 health promoting schools

About 20,000 health promoting schools exist nationwide, however, during the past three years, the health

ministry has been trying to develop the quality of the health promoting schools with the help of the education

A health promoting school is one that constantly strengthens its capacity as a healthy setting for living, learning and working.

Eight fields are described for the health promoting schools in Iran which includes physical health of students, teachers and school personnel as well as environmental hygiene, physical activities and food safety

According to WHO, health promoting school aims to foster health and learning with all the measures at its disposal, engage health and education officials, teachers, teachers' unions, students, parents, health providers and community leaders in efforts to make the school a healthy place, strive to provide a healthy environment, school health education, and school health services along with school/community projects and outreach, health promotion programs for staff, nutrition and food safety programs, opportunities for physical education and recreation, and programs for counselling, social support and mental health promotion.

#### 'Blood pressure information of over 16 million Iranians registered'

of their disease.

and hospitals.

H E A L T H TEHRAN – Blood pressure information of over 16 million Iranians have been so far registered during the national campaign for controlling hypertension, deputy health minister Mohammad Shariati announced, ISNA reported

The campaign, which began on May 17, World Hypertension Day, focuses on the issue as one of the most important causes of cardiovascular disease, which is the main reason for 40 percent of deaths in Iran.

During the campaign, which continues until July 6, people are notified about the campaign, its subject and targets and from June 6 to July 6 the field works are carried out such as taking the blood pressure of target groups. registering their information and referring the patients to physicians.

Over 40 million of Iran's population is older than 30 years old and is the target population in addition to pregnant women and those with kidney diseases.

The campaign is underway in 18,000 local

health centers, 6,700 health service departments, 240 clinics and 1002 hospitals nationwide and it is predicted that at least 2461 stations in different parts of cities observe blood pressure of citizens during the campaign.

"We have registered the blood pressure with three methods; people can submit their information on their blood pressure at the health ministry's comprehensive network, entitled SIB, Persian acronym for 'Integrated Health System'. They can also go to blood pressure measuring stations in hospitals, clinics and health centers," he said.

Up to now, about 350,000 Iranians have submitted their blood pressure information to the health ministry's SIB, he said.

Over 13.000 blood pressure mea stations have been established nationwide,  $where \, information \, of \, about \, four \, million \, people \,$ are registered.

The information of 12 million Iranians have been registered in hospitals and health centers.

"Unfortunately about 9.5 percent of those who were examined in blood pressure meas-

In mid-May, the Health Ministry's director

for non-communicable diseases Afshin Ostovar announced that About 100,000 Iranians die of high blood pressure annually. One third of Iranian population above 30

uring stations and hospitals had systolic blood

pressure greater than 14 and diastolic blood

from hypertension while they are not aware

are aware of their hypertension have high

blood pressure while checking in stations

ment and lifestyle are not effective," he said.

registered on their Electronic Health Record

for further treatments, he said.

It means that 10 percent of people suffer

Besides, 40 percent of those people who

"This indicates that their medical treat-

The high blood pressure of citizens are

■ 100,000 Iranians die of high blood

pressure greater than 9," he lamented.

suffer from hypertension and during past 25 years, the number of Iranians suffering from



hypertension has increased by three-fold in

Some 97,000 Iranians died of diseases used by hypertension in 2017, according to Dr. Ramin Heshmat, who is an associate professor of epidemiology at Tehran University of Medical Sciences.

World Health Organization (WHO) has set a target for a 25% relative reduction in the prevalence of raised blood pressure

#### Why spending just two hours a week in nature is good for you

Recent research has found clear evidence that going for a hike can help your health.

Anyone who's watched a child run free in a forest or play in a stream doesn't need a research study to tell them that spending time in nature is good for kids' health.

"It's something that most parents know intuitively. When kids have the chance to play free in nature, they're happier, better behaved, and more connected socially," said Carolyn Schuyler, founder and executive director of Wildrock, a nature play and discovery center in Virginia.

Most adults know that nature is good for them too — that's why we often leave behind the stress of work to vacation in

beautiful, natural places. A group led by researchers in the United Kingdom tried to answer that question, in what they describe as a first step toward coming up with a nature version of national physical

#### activity guidelines. How much time in nature do you need?

In the study published today, researchers surveyed more than 19,000 people in the United Kingdom about the recreational time they spent in nature during the past week, along with their self-reported health and well-being.

They found that people who spent at least 120 minutes a week in nature saw a boost in their mental and physical health, compared to people who didn't spend any time in nature. The researchers say the size of the health benefits was

similar to what people would get by meeting the guidelines

for physical activity.

The benefits, though, were fairly small, accounting for only 1 percent of the differences between the different nature-time levels.



However, it didn't matter how or where people racked up the 120 minutes — many short walks near home were just as effective as a longer hike on the weekend at a park.

The researchers point out that this is just a first step toward being able to recommend that people spend a certain amount of time each week in nature.

Other research, though, has shown that even small bouts in nature can provide health benefits. In one study, people who exercised for just five minutes

in nature saw boosts to their self-esteem and mood. Schuyler sees this kind of quick transformation at Wil-

drock, even among adults with very stressful jobs. "After an hour of being in nature, they're laughing, foraging, and collecting things like they were 5 years old," she said.

Health benefits beyond physical activity Some of the health benefits of nature are due to peo-

ple getting more physical activity when they are outside. But research shows that even sitting still in nature –

as with Japanese "forest bathing" — can improve health. Hasbach said nature also provides a break from hours of mentally tiring "directed attention" — time spent focused on our work, our computer screen, driving.

"When people interrupt directed attention with even just brief times outdoors, they tend to allow for more involuntary attention," she said. "This becomes quite restorative for when people have to go back to directed

These benefits, though, only show up if you put down your smartphone and give nature your full attention, whether it's a breathtaking view of the Grand Canyon or a tree near your apartment.

Moutenot-Small said, "If you step into a relationship with a tree on a sidewalk in a mindful, conscious way taking some deep breaths and being present under the canopy of the tree — you are going to get a much greater benefit from that interaction.'

There may be an even more ancient reason for why nature is healing.

Being indoors most of the time or looking at a computer or smartphone are relatively new activities for humans and our ancestors, especially compared to the millions of years we spent outside.

'We evolved in nature," said Schuyler. "It just makes sense that given this is how human beings evolved — and that we are part of nature — that we would do better when we aren't away from it."

(Source: healthline.com)

#### **Knowledge-based companies** should find mechanisms to reduce healthcare costs: minister

HEALTH TEHRAN – In addition to manufacturing d e s k medical equipment and producing raw material, knowledge-based companies should find new mechanisms in order to reduce costs of the healthcare system, Health Minister Saeed Namaki said, Fars reported on Sunday.

The sanctions has paved the way for many knowledge-based companies to be active in the field of healthcare during recent

"Knowledge-based companies should be authorized by the Food and Drug Administration," he said, adding that the health ministry prohibits the importation of products which are also domestically manufactured by knowledge-based companies. Knowledge-based companies should expand their mar-

kets beyond the borders in order to increase their benefits. Knowledge-based companies in different fields can be beneficial for healthcare system of the country.

In the field of non-communicable disease like hypertension and diabetes, knowledge-based companies can facilitate medical treatments through distance education, he said.



In late May, Hossein Vatanpour, an official with the health ministry, announced that Iranian knowledge-based companies operating in the field of health have supplied over 2,500 products to the domestic market.

The companies offer products like medical equipment, medicine and biological products, herbal medicine, diagnostic testing kits and gene therapy products and out of this number, 52 companies export their products with value more than 70 million dollar, he explained.

About 450 knowledge enterprises are now active in the field of healthcare products in the country, offering products like medical equipment, medicine and biological products, herbal medicine, diagnostic testing kits and gene therapy

#### First-of-its-kind robotic arm works without brain implant

The first experiments by scientists, using a noninvasive, high-fidelity interface to control a robotic arm, have been successful. In the future, the researchers aim to perfect the technology to make it more widely available.

Researchers are getting closer to making robotic arm prosthetics available to more people who may need them.

Robotic arms and other robotic instruments may sound like a futuristic development, but they have been around for years, helping out surgeons and engineers alike.

Less common, though, are prosthetic, robotic arms that allow people who have lost a limb to regain freedom of movement.

One man from Florida made the headlines in 2018 after receiving a modular prosthetic limb — a robotic arm to replace the arm he lost in 2007 because of cancer.

The man can control his robotic arm thanks to a "rerouting" of certain nerve endings, yet so far this prosthetic — developed by scientists from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD— is not available to other people who may also need it.

Another project — from the University of Chicago in Illinois — has been testing prototype prosthetic arms on rhesus macaque monkeys. The animals are all rescues with limb amputations due to severe injuries, and they are able to control their prosthetic limbs thanks to special brain implants.

Now, researchers from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA, and the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis have managed, for the first time, to use a noninvasive brain-computer interface to control a robotic arm. The scientists report their success in a study paper that appears in the journal Science Robotics. Highly improved technology

Prof. Bin He, from Carnegie Mellon, leads the research team

that used an interface that does not require a brain implant which is an invasive procedure — to coordinate the movements Prof. He and colleagues want to develop a high-fidelity, non-

invasive method of connecting the brain and flexible prosthetics because inserting brain implants needs not just high surgical skill and precision, but also a lot of money, as implants are costly. Moreover, brain implants come with a number of health risks, including infection. All of these aspects have contributed to the low number of

people receiving robotic prosthetics, so the scientists at Carnegie Mellon and the University of Minnesota have been seeking to turn the tables by developing a noninvasive technology.

Yet there are many challenges in doing this, particularly the

fact that previous brain-computer interfaces are unable to decode neural signals from the brain reliably, and so cannot control robotic limbs smoothly, in real time.

'There have been major advances in mind controlled robotic devices using brain implants. It's excellent science," notes Prof. He, commenting on previous steps towards finding a "dependable," technology. "But noninvasive is the ultimate goal. Advances in neural

decoding and the practical utility of noninvasive robotic arm control will have major implications on the eventual development of noninvasive neurorobotics," he adds. In their current project, Prof. He and team used specialized

sensing and machine learning techniques to "build up" a reliable "connection" between the brain and a robotic arm.

The team's noninvasive brain-computer interface successfully decoded neural signals, allowing a person, for the first time, to control a robotic arm in real time, instructing it to continuously and smoothly follow the movements of a cursor on a screen.

Prof. He and colleagues showed that their approach which included a higher amount of user training, as well as an improved neural signal "translation" method — improved brain-computer interface learning by approximately 60%. It also improved the robotic arm's continuous tracking of the cursor by over 500%.

(Source: medicalnewstoday.com)

#### Marine species population increased in protected areas

**ENVIRONMENT TEHRAN** — According to the annual census, the population of marine species in habitats under the Department of Environment (DOE) supervision has increased, Ahmad Lahijanzadeh, head of marine environment affairs at the DOE has said.



The annual Census is the authoritative source of data determining the population and distribution of animal or marine species through counting them yearly.

Protecting marine habitats and listing them as protected areas are among the most important priorities of the DOE, he said, adding, all of the areas have been identified through environmental assessment and field surveys.

The reproduction time is important, and the DOE forces stand guard and constantly supervise the area during this period, he noted. He went on to say that annual census shows that the number of species in protected areas is increasing, probably due to

favorable condition and full-time control. Although protected areas are far to reach and only accessible to locals, some poachers find a way to illegally haunt the valuable species, so we need to be vigilant to protect the wildlife, he highlighted.

He also noted that in the past years, illegal haunting of marine species involved several related organizations, while the Ministry of Energy and the Forests, Range, and Watershed Management Organization are legally responsible in this regard.

#### Ireland to ban fur farms, sparing thousands of animals from 'misery'

Ireland is preparing to ban fur farming, it has been reported, after many years of pressure from opponents of the practice.

The decision will be a U-turn for the ruling Fine Gael party, which has long resisted calls for a ban.

Ireland's three fur farms, in Donegal, Kerry and Laois, house an estimated 200,000 minks, crammed into tiny wire-mesh cages. They are gassed to death and skinned when they are six months old.

In February, Michael Creed, the agriculture minister, insisted the government had no plans for a ban, saying he could not close down a "legitimate, highly regulated and inspected industry" that employs about 100 people.

But Mr Creed has faced pressure from Ruth Coppinger, a member of the Irish Dail - or parliament - who has the support of Fianna Fail, Sinn Fein, Labour, Independents 4 Change, the Green Party, and the Social Democrats, for a bill to end fur farming, which is due to be debated next month.

However, the Irish Examiner says Mr Creed is preparing his own legislation to phase it out.

Animal lovers, who say it causes "lives of misery", welcomed the move, with the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals saying it was "fantastic news". Others said an end to the

"cruel" trade was long overdue. Andrew Kelly, head of the ISPCA, said injuries and stereotypic behavior were common in fur-farmed animals, denied the opportunity to express their normal behavior.

(Source: The Independent)

#### WORDS IN THE NEWS

#### Flood education in Vietnam

BBC Correspondent Owen Bennett-Jones reported on how the Vietnamese Red Cross launched a campaign to teach children about the dangers of floods. Nearly 300 children died in flooding of the Mekong river.

The Vietnamese Red Cross says that earlier this month twenty children a day drowned in the floods. In many cases parents had gone looking for food or work, leaving their children **unattended**. Many of those who have drowned have been under four years old. The Red Cross campaign though will **target** older children because parents often leave them **in charge of** younger brothers and sisters. Aid workers have already **distributed** thousands of life iackets or flotation devices and have urged children who are playing in the flood water to wear them.

Children are now being advised to stay away from electricity wires and flooded river banks which could collapse. Red Cross officials say that even children who can swim are at risk as they often move too far away from their families and then encounter difficulties getting back to dry land. The Red Cross campaign follows an appeal from the United Nations Children's Fund, which has warned that when the flood waters do fully **recede** later this year, children and infants will be at particular risk of **contracting diseases** such as diarrhea, cholera and malaria. Words

unattended: if a child has been left unattended, he or she has

been left by him or herself

target: if something is targeted at children then it is focused

and designed especially for them in charge of: with responsibility for, looking after

distributed: gave to many people flotation devices: something you wear that helps you not to

go under water is a flotation device urged: encouraged strongly

river banks: the sides of a river are called the banks

collapse: fall down at risk: in danger

encounter difficulties: find something much more difficult

than expected

recede: get less contracting diseases: becoming sick and ill

(Source: BBC)

# Majlis finally approves law on carrying firearms for rangers

SOCIETY TEHRAN — A long-awaited bill to uphold the rights of rangers including rules on carrying and use of firearms, was finally approved by Majlis [Iranian parliament], Mehr news agency reported on Monday.

Under the law, it is stipulated that the Department of Environment forces defending the environment and natural resources, are subjected to the law of the use of weapons during the armed conflicts and when needed.

The related executive agencies shall be subject to the law in respect of their assignments to rangers, including fines and compensation payment in essential cases.

Prosecutors and courts are required to review the cases of related issues out of turn, the report added.

The country's previous gun rules and regulations for rangers sound inefficient due to lack of clarity in the law and ineffective legislative strategies which allows the rangers to use weapons only in case of self-defense, otherwise they are not allowed to shoot.

This is in conflict with the job description  $of the \, rangers \, who \, are \, supposed \, to \, protect \,$ the environment and the precious biodiversity. Once spotting a poacher ranges should shoot bullets in the air to warn them and then they can shoot them in the leg,



The country's previous gun rules and regulations for rangers sound inefficient due to lack of clarity in the law and ineffective legislative strategies which allows the rangers to use weapons only in case of self-defense, otherwise they are not allowed to shoot.

which is not normally possible as things don't usually happen in such order and they have to make a decision in a very short time-span that's why rangers get killed in such armed conflicts.

So, a bill was drafted in July 2016 by the DOE following the death of two rangers, Mohammad Dehqani and Parviz Hormozi, who were killed in June 2016 during an armed conflict with poachers in Hormozgan province. It has been approved by the judiciary committee of Majlis in September 2018.

As per the bill the rangers would not face charges in case of involuntarily man-slaughter while on duty and would be compensated for the losses they suffer while trying to protect the environment and the biodiversity, the government is required to allocate budget to help those rangers who might be obliged to pay out blood money or other sort of money-penalty compensation for murder or any injuries trespassers may suffer in armed conflicts with them, and the rangers will be provided with regular insurance coverage and are entitled to compensation for the losses they suffer while doing their job.

Some 123 rangers have been killed while protecting the environment sine

#### Wildfire burns 400 ha of protected areas within 3 months

**ENVIRONMENT** d e s k the protected areas turned into ashes due to raging wildfire, since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21), head of the Department of Environment's (DOE) protection unit has stated.

In Iran, areas protected by the DOE cover 17 million hectares which fall into four categories: national parks (22 sites), wildlife refuges (34 sites), protected areas (93 sites), and national nature monuments (20 sites).

He went on to say that so far wildfires broke out in 14 provinces, mostly in areas located near the Zagros foothills, such as of Kohgiluyeh and Boyerahmad, Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, Lorestan, Fars, northern provinces and Tehran.

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

Provinces of Kalgiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad, Tehran set record highs for the wildfires, IRNA news agency quoted Jamshid Mohabbat Khani as saying on Sunday.

Heavy rainfalls increase wildfire risk

Torrential rains over the past few months, had positive consequences like saturating the wetlands and reservoirs, however, led to some natural incidents like flooding or wildfires, as the plants and vegetation has grown in vast areas of forests and rangelands which soon turned dry due to temperature rise which enhances the possibility of massive fires.

Based on the latest data published by National Drought Warning and Monitoring Center affiliated to Iran's Meteorological Organization, since the current crop year (September 23, 2018), precipitation in the country increased to 310.2 from 159.9 millimeters in the previous water year, demonstrating a 94.9 percent rise. The amount also raised in comparison to the longterm average of 222.2 mm, amounting to 39.6 percent.



Human errors leading cause of massive fires Mohabbat Khani also highlighted that 62 cases of wildfires caused 400 hectares of the protected areas to turn into ashes since past three months, out of which 8 cases sparked by lightening.

While most of the fires were human-caused or ignited due to litter and waste left in the nature by the humans, somehow direct or indirect role of human is the leading cause of such incidents, he added.

Two human errors are the most important causes of wildfires, one is throwing glass bottles on the side of the roads or inside the forests which magnifies a ray of sunlight, igniting grass around it, and the other one is leaving a fire unextinguished; some of the people camping in the nature do not ensure that the fire is completely put out, he further explained.

In such situation, extinguishing the massive fire is difficult because the dry plants flare easily and quickly, he noted, adding, this year, 18 rangers burned during fire extinguishing operations; rangers are not firefighters having heat-resistance clothes, so they are in danger

Although, we have provided them with some facilities to put out the fire, people must well cooperate to reduce the

Public co-op, awareness, major way to prevent

Mohabbat Khani further called on the people to be cautious while camping in the environment and take safety precautions as well as not leaving the waste in the environment.

Wildfire in impassable areas makes any fire-fighting operation almost impossible and only helicopters could reach the area, which have a long process to use aerial firefighting, in addition, the helicopters are not allowed at nights, he also lamented.

This year, with expanded vegetation cover wildfire risk has highly increased which is unprecedented in past 30 years, he also stated.

The DOE has employed its whole capacity as a "rapid response team" to combat wildfires, but still the main way to overcome such occurrences is raising public awareness and cooperation, he concluded.

In early-May, Hamid Zohrabi, DOE deputy chief for natural environment and biodiversity directorate, said that in the current year (started on March 21), above-normal precipitation and increased vegetation covers can dramatically heighten the risks of wildfires, however, due to slower-than-usual temperature rise in many regions in the country it is projected that wildfire season might be delayed.

Qasem Sabz'ali, commander of the forest protection unit of the Forests, Range, and Watershed Management Organization, said in April 2018 that some 15,000 hectares of forests burn in wildfires annually in Iran that 95 percent of them are caused by humans, ISNA reported.

Forest wildfire brings heavy economic burden amounting to 560 million rials (about \$13,000) per hectare for the country, he added.

#### 'Climate apartheid': UN expert says human rights may not survive

mate apartheid", where the rich pay to escape heat and hunger caused by the escalating climate crisis while the rest of the world suffers, a report from a UN human rights expert has said.

Philip Alston, UN special rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, said the impacts of global heating are likely to undermine not only basic rights to life, water, food, and housing for hundreds of

and the rule of law

Alston is critical of the "patently inadequate" steps taken by the UN itself, countries, NGOs and businesses, saying they are "entirely disproportionate to the urgency and magnitude of the threat". His report to the UN human rights council (HRC) concludes: "Human rights might not survive the coming upheaval."

In May, Alston's report on poverty in the

policies to the creation of 19th-century workhouses. Ministers said his report gave a completely inaccurate picture, but Alston accused them of "total denial of a set of uncontested facts".

Alston's report on climate change and poverty will be formally presented to the HRC in Geneva on Friday. It said the greatest impact of the climate crisis would be on those living in poverty, with

The world is increasingly at risk of "climillions of people, but also democracy UK compared Conservative party welfare many losing access to adequate food and water.

"Climate change threatens to undo the last 50 years of progress in development, global health, and poverty reduction," Alston said. Developing countries will bear an estimated 75% of the costs of the climate crisis, the report said, despite the poorest half of the world's population causing just 10% of carbon dioxide emissions.

(Source: The Guardian)

#### **ENGLISH IN USE**

#### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

#### \$7b to be allocated to retrofit, rebuild flood-devastated houses

A budget of 290 trillion rials (nearly \$7 billion) will be allotted to reconstruct and repair housing units destructed by flood in 18 provinces across the country, Mehdi Jamalinejad, deputy interior minister for urban and rural development has announced.

Flood has devastated some 169,377 housing units, 68,333 of which are beyond repair and must be reconstructed, he stated.

اختصاص بیش از ۲۹ هزار میلیارد تومان برای بازسازی خانه های سیل زده

معاون عمران و توسعه امور شهری و روستایی وزیـر کشـورگفت: براسـاس مصوبـه اخیر هیات وزیران مبلغ ۲۹ هزارو ۱۳۰ میلیارد ریال برای بازسازی و جبران خسارات ناشی از سیل در بخشهای مختلف ۱۸ استان پرداخت می شود. بر اساس ارزیابی های انجام شده در ۲۱ استان کشور، بیش از ۱۶۹ هزار و ۳۷۷ واحد مسکونی شهری و روستایی در سیلهای اخیر در کشور آسیب دیدهاند که باید دوباره احداث شوند.

#### PREFIX/SUFFIX

"co-, col-, com-, con-, cor-"

- **Meaning:** with or together
- For example: What will it take for us to *coexist* in peace?

#### PHRASAL VERB

#### **Nose out**

- **Meaning:** to find out or discover information, se-
- For example: He nosed out their plans.

#### **IDIOM**

#### **Crocodile tears**

- **Explanation:** To shed crocodile tears means to shed
- false tears or show insincere grief
- For example: Caroline pretended to be sad but we
- all knew her tears were crocodile tears.

## "Shabab al- Moqawama" Conf. kicks off in Qom prov.

Palestinian officials from all factions have unanimously spurned the scheme, citing strong suspicion about the U.S.'s intentions. The Palestinian Authority began refusing any intermediary role by Washington in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in late 2017 after Trump recognized the holy occupied city of Jerusalem al-Quds as Israel's "capital."

Ayatollah Qassim said the U.S. plan amounted to selling everything the Palestinians have, including Islam's holy sites.

Rejecting the deal means rejecting slavery and accepting freedom, he added, and noted that there was no choice for the Islamic world but to resist America's plans for Palestinians.

He said Washington's deal was a trial for Arab rulers to show their true colors.

Many Arab states have reportedly nodded their approval of the plan. Bahrain has even chosen to host a U.S.-led conference, which will kick off on Tuesday to divulge the eco-



nomic aspects of the plan. The White House, itself, broadly re-

ferred to the economic component of the plan, which Trump has hailed as "the deal

of the century," on Saturday, saying it envisages \$25 billion in new investment to aid Palestinians within the next 10 years. Palestinian officials reacted by saying that Palestinians' would not be giving up their rights and demands to such economic incentives.

The Bahraini cleric noted that the Bahraini people were against both the deal and the Manama conference.

Ayatollah Qassim enjoys huge popularity among Bahrain's Shia-majority population as a pro-independence figure. He has proven a prominent source of inspiration for the nation's 2011-present popular protests against the U.S.-backed Bahraini authorities' campaign of suppression targeting the Shias.

Over the past years, the authorities have been leading tremendous effort to constrain Qassim's freedoms and rights, including stripping him of his citizenship and raiding his house on numerous occasions, forcing him to live in exile since July 2018.

#### Protest held in Lebanon against Bahrain conference on Palestine

**TEHRAN** — People have taken to the streets in the Lebanese capital of Beirut to protest against a United States-sponsored conference in Bahrain where Washington aims to unveil parts of what it calls a "deal" on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The protesters rallied on Tuesday, condemning U.S. President Donald Trump's so-called deal and calling it a plot against the Palestinians.

Meanwhile, Lebanon's official National News Agency reported that schools run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in the southern Lebanese city of Tyre as well as businesses there also closed as the Palestinian refugees staged a strike and sit-ins in condemnation of the conference in Bahrain and the wider plan on Tuesday.

Rallies are also set to be held in the Palestinian refugee camps of the city in protest against the plan, which Trump himself calls "the deal of the century." The U.S. will lead the two-day conference in Manama, starting Tuesday, to purportedly encourage investment in the occupied West Bank and the blockaded Gaza Strip.

According to Press TV, all Palestinian factions have boycotted the event, slamming Washington for what they view as an attempt to offer financial rewards for Palestinians to accept the Israeli occupation.

The details of the so-called deal have been kept under wraps, with only scraps of information having been leaked to the media. That little information, however, has been enough for the Palestinian to reject the "deal" altogether.

Despite the Palestinian rebuttal, several Arab regimes have endorsed the plan and are scheduled to participate in the conference in Bahrain.

Still, in an interview broadcast on Tuesday, Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and adviser, who is widely believed to be the architect of the "deal," said it is "not going to be



along the lines of" a 2002 Arab initiative offered to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

#### Russian air force plane lands in Venezuela

**TEHRAN** — A Russian air force plane has landed in Venezuela's main airport, according to a Reuters News Agency witness and a website that tracks plane movements.

An Ilyushin 62 jet with tail number RA-86496 was parked at Simon Bolivar International Airport of the capital Caracas on Monday, three months after a similar arrival prompted a war of words between the United States and Russia.

The tail number is registered to a Russian air force jet, according to website Flightradar24, and matches the tail number of the plane that arrived in March.

Two Russian air force planes landed in Venezuela in March carrying Russian defense officials and 100 troops, leading Washington to accuse Moscow of "reckless escalation" of the situation in the struggling South American nation.

According to Press TV, U.S. President Donald Trump in March ordered Russia to remove all troops from Venezuela, while Russia's foreign ministry said the planes were only carrying specialists who were servicing arms sales contracts.

Russia backs Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro, while the US and dozens of other nations support opposition leader Juan Guaido, who declared himself interim president in

January, asserting that Maduro's reelection last year was illegitimate.

Moscow has said US sanctions against Venezuela have hurt ordinary people and warns Washington against using force.

According to the UN refugee agency (UNHCR), about four million Venezuelans - nearly 15 percent of the population - have left the country to escape its economic and political crisis.

#### Seven migrant deaths reported in 'extreme heat' at U.S. border

**TEHRAN** — Authorities in Texas reported seven migrant deaths on Monday, including those of a woman, two babies and a toddler, showing the danger of extreme summer heat as Central American families surge across the U.S.-Mexico border.

The woman and three children may have been dead for days before they were found by U.S. Border Patrol near the Rio Grande in South Texas on Sunday, according to a local law enforcement official, who asked not to be named.

They are thought to have died from heat exposure and dehydration in an area about 18 miles (29 km) east of McAllen.

To the west, U.S. Border Patrol agents in the Del Rio area recovered the bodies of two men on ranchland near Carrizo Springs after anonymous calls on June 19 and June 20 alerted them to lost migrants, the agency said in a statement.



Another decomposed body was found June 20 on the riverbank of the Rio Grande near Normandy.

"The extreme temperatures during this time of year can

be fatal," said Del Rio Sector Chief Patrol Agent Raul Ortiz.

Arrests of undocumented migrants reached their highest monthly level since 2006 in May, with more than 60 % of those apprehended either children or families, many seeking asylum.

The Trump administration has set limits on how many people can claim asylum each day at ports of entry. With months-long waits for interviews, migrant families are instead attempting sometimes risky border crossings to make their claims.

Smugglers put migrants' lives at risk by dropping them off in desolate areas or sending them across the Rio Grande in makeshift rafts.

Increased fencing and security in many areas means migrants who have been deported, and are seeking to evade capture, often take dangerous routes to re-enter the United States, Reuters reported.

#### NATO calls on Russia to destroy new missile, warns of response

**TEHRAN** — NATO urged Russia on Tuesday to destroy a new missile before an August deadline and save a treaty that keeps landbased nuclear warheads out of Europe or face a more determined alliance response in the region.

NATO defense ministers will discuss on Wednesday their next steps if Moscow keeps the missile system that the United States says would allow short-notice nuclear attacks on Europe and break the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF).

"We call on Russia to take the responsible path, but we have seen no indication that Russia intends to do so," Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg told a news conference. "We will need to respond," Stoltenberg said.

He declined to go into more details. But diplomats said defense ministers will consider

more flights over Europe by U.S. warplanes capable of carrying nuclear warheads, more military training and the repositioning U.S. sea-based missiles.

The United States and its NATO allies want Russia to destroy its 9M729/SSC-8 nuclear-capable cruise missile system, which Moscow has so far refused to do. It denies any violations of the INF treaty, accusing Washington

of seeking an arms race.
Without a deal, the United

Without a deal, the United States has said it will withdraw from the INF treaty on Aug. 2, removing constraints on its own ability to develop nuclear-capable, medium-range missiles.

The dispute has deepened a fissure in East-West ties that severely deteriorated after Russia's seizure of Crimea and its involvement in Syria.

#### Pompeo faces thorny issues on India visit from trade to Russia arms deals

**TEHRAN** — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo tackled a host of delicate issues when he gets into New Delhi on Tuesday for talks with Indian leaders, from trade to India's long standing defense and energy ties to Russia and Iran.

Relations between the United States and India have dramatically improved since the days of the Cold War but they have still fallen short of their promise and now have run into serious problems over tariffs, flow of data and tighter Indian rules on online commerce in one of the world's fastest growing large markets.

Pompeo will kick off his visit calling on Prime Minister Narendra Modi who was re-elected for a second term last month with a powerful mandate that analysts say gives him the chance to take bold reforms to

propel Asia's third largest economy to faster growth.

Just ahead of his visit, India imposed tariffs on some U.S. goods after President Donald Trump's administration threw India out of a group of countries that were allowed duty free access for some of their products into the large U.S. market.

While trade issues are led by the U.S. Trade Representative's office and the commerce departments, Pompeo is expected to raise some of the concerns U.S. companies have about new rules on local storage of data as well as restrictions on foreign companies' online operations in India.

"We expect trade and ecommerce to figure in the meetings with the PM and the foreign minister, we are ready to engage them on data issues," said an

Indian government official, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with service rules.

Pompeo's visit is expected to lay the ground for talks between Trump and Modi later in the week on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Osaka.

India is hoping that this week's high level meetings would help re-start talks over a trade package the two had been negotiating for months, the official said.

In recent weeks, the United States has also stepped up pressure on India not to proceed with its purchase of S-400 surface-to-air missile systems from Russia.

India says the missiles are necessary to bolster defenses against China, but Washington has said it rather India looked at other options including U.S. defense firms for alternate weapons system.

## Pompeo knows the real meaning of "disinformation"

Every single direct and proxy war started out or encouraged by U.S. all over the world, including Iran-Iraq imposed war, exhibit the cruelty and gravity of U.S. endless crimes against humanity.

U.S., once again tries to call the truth "disinformation" and in doing so evade assuming any responsibility for the intentional crimes it has committed all over the world. However, now, people from every part of the world, have their eyes wide open, and they scrutinize every move of Washington leaders with their sharp look.

It was far better for Pompeo to stay silent after the clear and credible statements of Iranian foreign minister because the questionable reputation of Pompeo, and the shameful history of White House, leaves no room for believing any of claims made by U.S. officials.

#### Palestinian protesters reject U.S.-sponsored Bahrain meeting

The demonstrators also burned posters of both Trump and Bahrain's monarch King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifah.

Mahmoud Barhoush, 25, said he didn't know whether to laugh or cry at what he called Arab states' "treasonous" participation in the U.S.-led confab.

"Enough of your running into the arms of Trump and [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu," he said at the Ramallah protest.

According to Press TV, in the Gaza Strip, crowds burned large paintings of Trump marked with the words: "Deal of the Devil."

"Down with Bahrain, down with Trump, down with the Manama conference," chanted the demonstrators. "The Manama conference is a comedy show, a wed-

"The Manama conference is a comedy show, a wedding without the bride (the Palestinians) ... it will not succeed," said a protester who gave her name as Siham in Gaza City.

## **'U.S. most recent wars have been unjustified'**

**TEHRAN**— Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said he doesn't think most recent wars have been justified.

"We're supposed to be a 'Christian' nation, are we not? But we are known throughout the world as the most warlike country on Earth. And I would say almost all the wars in which we've been involved have been unnecessary," he said.

Carter offered support for President Trump's decision not to attack Iran after it shot down a U.S. drone.

Carter, 94, offered the rare praise for Trump while addressing an audience of about 500 at his home church, Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, Georgia. Carter's one term as president was marked by the Iran hostage crisis.

"I agree with President Trump on his decision not to take military action against Iran," he said. "I had a lot of problems with Iran when I was in office."

The comments came days after Trump called off retaliatory airstrikes against Iran for shooting down a U.S. drone.

#### N. Korea not ready to denuclearize: U.S. military spy chief

**TEHRAN** — The head of the United States military spy agency says the country's intelligence community does not believe North Korea is ready for denuclearization, just days after an exchange of letters between the leaders of the two countries.

"We still continue to assess within the IC (intelligence community) that [North Korean Leader] Kim Jong-un is not ready to denuclearize," Director of US Defense Intelligence Agency Lieutenant General Robert Ashley said during an interview with Fox News on Monday.

The remarks came just hours after US Secretary of State Mike

Pompeo expressed optimism that a letter sent to Kim by President Donald Trump could facilitate the revival of talks between the two. Their second and last meeting collapsed in Vietnam last Febru-

ary when they failed to agree on mutual steps, Press TV reported. North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported Sunday that Trump had written to Kim, who praised the letter as "excellent" and said he would "seriously contemplate the interesting content."

The front page of North's official daily Rodong Sinmun also carried a photo of Kim reading Trump's letter in his office.

The KCNA report about Trump's letter came just two days after Kim hosted China's President Xi Jinping.

North Korean state media reported that Kim and Xi discussed

the political situation surrounding the Korean Peninsula and came to unspecified agreements on important issues.

#### Armenian court orders arrest of ex-president Kocharyan

**TEHRAN** — An Armenian court on Tuesday ordered the arrest of former president Robert Kocharyan, who was freed on bail from pre-trial detention last month, the RIA news agency reported.

Kocharyan, who was president from 1998 to 2008, has been charged with acting unlawfully by introducing a state of emergency in March 2008, following a disputed election. At least ten people were killed in clashes between police and protesters.

He has already been arrested and released twice since last July after peaceful protests drove his former ally and successor, Serzh Sarksyan, from power and propelled opposition leader Nikol Pashinyan into the prime minister's job

Kocharyan's lawyer said that the defense would appeal the decision to have the 64-year-old returned to jail.

Kocharyan told Reuters in May that powerful opposition forces were coming together to challenge the country's new leadership soon, and that he hoped to be among them.

#### Wladimir Klitschko rescued from burning yacht

Former heavyweight champion Wladimir Klitschko was rescued by Spanish coastguard after the luxury yacht he was onboard caught fire.

The 43-year-old, who retired from boxing in August 2017,

was on holiday off the coast of Mallorca.

"Our trip Sunday night ended up in our boat igniting and family and friends being evacuated by coastguard and fire rescue team, the Ukrainian, who won 64 of his 69 fights, wrote on Twitter.

Since his final fight - a knockout defeat by Britain's Anthony Joshua in April 2017 - Klitschko has given lectures in a management degree at a university in Switzerland and written a book of business advice.

It not the first time the former world champion has endured problems on water.

In October 2014, American Shannon Briggs chased Klitschko in a boat while he was paddleboarding, creating a wave that caused his rival to fall into the water.

It was part of an unsuccessful campaign by Briggs, who lost to Klitschko's older brother Vitali in 2010, to be granted a world title fight.

(Source: CNN)

#### **Former Wimbledon** champion's trophies put up for auction

Memorabilia valued at an estimated £200,000 belonging to former Wimbledon champion Boris Becker is up for auction to help pay off his debts.

Replica Wimbledon, US Open and Davis Cup trophies, medals and clothing are all being sold off.

Bankruptcy trustees appointed to make payments to the 51-year-old German's creditors have organised the sale.

"We consider this a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said auction house Wyles Hardy & Co. "Examples of these have rarely been evallable on the open paylet." been available on the open market."

Six-time Grand Slam champion Becker was declared bankrupt in June 2017 over money owed to bank Arbuthnot Latham. An auction of goods was arranged but then postponed after

Becker claimed diplomatic immunity from legal action.
He said he had been appointed a sport and culture attaché for the Central African Republic.

However, Becker dropped his immunity claim in December, paving the way for a new auction to take place.

As well as the replica trophies, the online auction that runs until 11 July features watches, racquets, commemorative goblets, sweatbands - and even socks.

"We are pleased that the auction can now be resumed as these assets are one of the few remaining assets of the bankruptcy, and we anticipate declaring a dividend to creditors later this year," said Mark Ford, joint trustee to the estate of Boris Becker.

#### **Italy to host 2026 Winter Olympics & Paralympics**

Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo have been announced as the hosts

of the 2026 Winter Olympics and Paralympics. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) voted for Italy's

joint bid ahead of Stockholm, Sweden. Skating sports and ice hockey will be held in Milan, while most alpine skiing events will take place in the resort of Cortina.

Other snow sports will be held in other venues in the Italian Alps, including Bormio and Livigno. The 2026 Winter Olympics will take place from 6 to 22 February

and the 2026 Winter Paralympics will be held from 6 to 15 March. Cortina previously hosted the Winter Olympics in 1956, while Turin staged the 2006 edition of the Games.

There were only two candidates left after four other bidders the Swiss city of Sion, Japan's Sapporo, Graz in Austria and the Canadian city Calgary, which hosted in 1988 - had earlier dropped out of the race with concerns over the event's size and cost. l ne results showed Milan-Cortina had received 47 out of the

82 votes cast. Sweden has never hosted a Winter Games before

and the wait goes on after its Stockholm-Are bid - based around the capital and its largest ski resort, but also including Latvian city Sigulda - received 34 votes. There was one abstention/blank vote. IOC president Thomas Bach said: "Congratulations to Mi-

lan-Cortina. We can look forward to an outstanding and sustainable Olympic Winter Games in a traditional winter sports country.

"The passion and knowledge of Italian fans, together with experienced venue operators, will create the perfect atmosphere for the best athletes in the world.'

(Source: DW)

#### **Derby free Lampard to** conclude Chelsea return

Frank Lampard's return to Chelsea as the club's new manager edged closer on Tuesday as Derby said they had granted permission for the Premier League club to conclude negotiations.

"Derby County Football Club can confirm that they have granted permission for Chelsea Football Club to speak to Frank Lampard about the vacant managerial position at Stamford Bridge," Derby said in a statement.

"With pre-season fast approaching for both clubs it is hoped this will allow Chelsea to swiftly conclude their discussions."

Lampard is Chelsea's record goalscorer after netting 211 goals from midfield between 2001 and 2014 at Stamford Bridge, where he won three Premier League titles, the Champions League and Europa League in a 13-trophy haul.

However, he has just one season's experience in management as he led Derby to the brink of a return to the Premier League, only to fall short in the Championship playoff final against Aston Villa. Chelsea have been seeking a manager since Maurizio Sarri

In response to Sarri's sour relationship with the Chelsea supporters, owner Roman Abramovich has turned to a fan favourite to ease the

departed to take charge of Juventus last week.

Londoners through what could be a difficult season of transition. Chelsea are unlikely to be able to make any signings this sum-

mer as they are serving a two-window transfer ban from FIFA.

# Hillsborough tragedy: Police chief will face retrial, judge rules

The former South Yorkshire police chief superintendent who was in command of the 1989 FA Cup semi-final at Hillsborough, where 96 people were killed, will face a retrial on a charge of gross negligence manslaughter, a judge has ruled.

Sir Peter Openshaw, who presided over the 10-week trial of Duckenfield earlier this year in which the jury failed to reach a verdict, handed down his ruling on Tuesday after the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) applied for a retrial. The new trial will be at Preston crown court on 7 October.

Handing down his decision, Openshaw said: "I authorise a retrial of the defendant David Duckenfield, and refuse the defendant's application to stay the trial."

Relatives of some of the 96 people killed at Hillsborough 30 years ago were in the court's public seats to hear Openshaw order the retrial.

 $Benjamin\,Myers\,QC, who\,conducted$ Duckenfield's defence at the trial, had opposed the application. The jury that heard evidence in the prosecution at Preston crown court between 14 January and 25 March returned on their eighth day of deliberations on 3 April to say they had been unable to reach a verdict by the required majority of 10-2.

Duckenfield, 74, was charged with gross negligence manslaughter in relation to 95 of the 96 people who died at the match between Liverpool and Notting-ham Forest at Sheffield Wednesday's



Hillsborough stadium on 15 April 1989. Richard Matthews QC, the lead barrister for the CPS, told Openshaw on the same day the jury failed to reach its verdict that the service intended to

The jury did return a 10-2 majority guilty verdict against the other defendant, Graham Mackrell, the Sheffield Wednesday secretary and safety officer for the Hillsborough ground at the time of the disaster, on a charge of breaching his legal duty to keep people safe at his place of work. Mackrell negligently allocated too few turnstiles – only seven – for the 10,100 people with tickets to stand and support Liverpool on the Leppings Lane terrace, and only 23 turnstiles altogether for the 24,000 people with tickets allocated to Liverpool supporters.

The 96 victims, aged between 10 and 67, were killed at the match in a crush in the central "pens", 3 and 4, of the Leppings Lane terrace. No charge was brought against Duckenfield in relation to the 96th person to die, Tony Bland, who was critically injured in the crush and was maintained on life support in hospital until 1993, when support was lawfully withdrawn.

According to the law in 1989, a criminal charge relating to a death could not be brought if the victim died more than a year and a day after the acts that allegedly caused it.

(Source: Guardian)

#### Nadal says Wimbledon seeding system disrespects world rankings



Rafael Nadal has complained about Wimbledon's seeding system after the Spaniard was placed at number three, behind Roger Federer, for next week's grand slam in London.

The other three major tournaments all match their seeding to the official world rankings but Wimbledon uses its own formula to dictate the order, combining ranking points with form in grass-court

It means Nadal will be seeded three and Federer two at the All England Club this year, despite their positions being the reverse in the rankings list

"Wimbledon is the only tournament of the year that does it like this," Nadal told Spanish television channel Movistar on Monday night. "Obviously it would be better to be two

than three but if they think I have to be three I will accept three and fight to win the matches I have to win. "Having said that, the only thing that

doesn't seem right about this issue is that it is only Wimbledon that does it. If they all did it, it would seem more correct.

"It's not only about my particular case. There have been many occasions when

players have played well all year on all surfaces but Wimbledon does not respect the ranking they have earned.

"And for this reason they get more complicated draws." Nadal is yet to play an official match

on grass this year while Federer warmed up for Wimbledon last week by winning his 10th title at the grass-court tournament in Halle.

Federer and top seed Novak Djokovic will be at opposite ends of the Wimbledon draw, separated until the final, but Nadal is guaranteed to have either Federer or ovic in his half, and could meet them in the semis.

"For me personally, it means if I am three, to get to the final, Djokovic or Federer will be in my half," Nadal added.

"But that can only happen in the semi-finals and to get there I have to win five matches. Today I'm far away.'

Nadal claimed his 18th major title earlier this month by winning the French Open for a record-extending 12th time. He now sits behind only Federer's 20 grand slam triumphs in the all-time list of male champions.

(Source: AFP)

#### Neymar has accepted FC Barcelona's contract offer



FC Barcelona have a verbal agreement in place with Neymar for him to spend the next five years at the club. The Brazilian is so desperate for a Camp Nou return that he's willing to accept a much lower wage in order to make it a reality. He didn't even negotiate because he knew the offer on the table was the maximum Barça could afford to offer.

According to SPORT sources, we can exclusively reveal that Neymar has agreed personal terms with Barça. If an agreement is reached between the two clubs, Neymar would earn almost 50% less than he currently does with PSG. His contract with the French club is €3,069,520 per month, around €100,000 a day. He's the second best paid footballer in the world after Lionel Messi.

Neymar will earn around €24m per season which is similar to what he was on previously at Barça. For the Brazilian and his representatives, the priority is to restore his name amongst the best in the sport - not earn more than an-

Neymar has had other proposals on the table but the only one that matters

is the offer from Barça. He wants to go back to LaLiga and if Barça can't reach an agreement with PSG, only then would he consider Real Madrid. Upon hearing that Madrid essen-

tially withdrew from the bidding and will instead focus on bringing in Kylian Mbappe next summer. Neymar wants to be happy out on

the pitch again. He's suffered in his two seasons at PSG and, at the age of 27, sees this as the perfect time to get his career back on track.

Another one of the conditions on draws his legal complaint about commissions his representatives feel they are owed for his contract renewal just before he joined PSG. The case is over €26m and the club has contested the charge. Neymar is happy to cancel all legal proceedings if it helps smooth over a return.

The player's father earned around €50m when his son moved to PSG.

Neymar has been offered a five-year contract and would see the Brazilian stay at the Camp Nou until he was 32.

(Source: Sport)

### Federer looks to turn number nine Wimbledon dream into reality

Historically, emotionally and statistically, Roger Federer remains the man to beat at Wimbledon even at the 21st

Forget the creaking knees and advancing years — the Swiss will be 38 in August — not many in SW19 will bet against their adopted favourite achieving Wimbledon history with a ninth men's title to equal Martina Navratilova's record singles mark.

Victory would consolidate his position as oldest male champion, a record he set in 2017 when he won his eighth title without dropping a set at the age of 35 years and

Federer's cheerleaders will point to the confidence gleaned from 2019 tournament wins on the hard courts of Dubai — his 100th ATP title — and Miami.

This year's Wimbledon lead-up has been wrinkle-free after a positive showing at the French Open, where he lost in the semi-finals to Rafa Nadal, and his traditional grass tune-up at last week's Halle Open, where he triumphed for the 10th time.

But look through the glass differently and 2019 may tell a whole new story.

Perhaps Federer's decision to compete at Roland Garros for the first time in four years was actually an acknowledgement that his great powers are waning.



Federer knows that every opportunity to boost his Grand Slam tally of 20 trophies must be grasped or risk being eclipsed by the rejuvenated Nadal.

'Hard to beat'

The Spaniard's victory in Paris took his Grand Slam total to 18 while Novak Djokovic has won three of the last four blue-riband events to bring his career tally to 15.

It is possible to make a strong case for all three, with Nick Kyrgios last week making special mention for Federer, whom he predicted will "be hard to beat" on his favourite surface.

Former French Open finalist Alex Corretja is another who has flagged up Federer.

"Federer played a great claycourt season, which gives him the belief he can win Wimbledon again,' said the Spaniard.

Grass has always suited Federer's aggressive style, which is based on footwork, pace and ability to find sharp angles.

Perhaps the only remaining question is whether the Swiss has the stamina to slug it out against the game's young guns.

As always the aim remains to win but now it is to do so without expending too much energy.

Last year there were signs that the balance is more difficult to achieve and the eight-times champion squandered match points against Kevin Anderson before exiting

in the quarter-finals. Despite Anderson's raw power, few at Wimbledon expected Federer to lose that day because for so many years Wimbledon victories came so naturally.

All that can be said with certainty is that should anyone beat the man who has already pocketed \$124 million in prize money, he should consider himself champion in

(Source: Reuters)

# Zero tolerance for fan misbehavior: Masoud Soltanifar

S P O R T S TEHRAN — Irans Minister of d e s k Sport and Youth Affairs, Masoud Soltanifar, says that football hooligans will face sever action if they try to make trouble at the stadiums.

Last season, the Football Federation of Iran Disciplinary Committee made penalties for some clubs and their violent fans but that behavior was repeated again and again at pitches everywhere in Iran.

So many supports were left covered in blood after the matches but the Iranian sports officials are determined to stop violence in the stadiums in the new season

"Sport is a factor of making tens of millions of people happy and we will not allow some opportunists to cause disruption to the fans' happiness. We are going to hold the football competition with the lowest possible amount of tension and improve the security and comfort of the fans," Soltanifar said.

"The matches Should not be marred by misbehavior of some fans who violate the rules. Fortunately, the clubs have helpful cultural plans for the new season," he added.

"Police will not allow the invaders to enter the stadiums and the football federation has new disciplinary rules for the new season. All of us are responsible to keep sportsmanship in our sport," Soltanifar went on to say.

"The league competition should be equipped with electronic ticketing and seat numbering systems in the new season. We have zero tolerance policy in relation to any threats against the competition," Soltanifar concluded.



#### Former technical head Lowe leaves Williams F1 team



LONDON (Reuters) — Former technical director Paddy Lowe is leaving Williams with immediate effect and has stepped down from the board of directors, the Formula One team said on Tuesday.

Lowe had been on an extended "leave of absence" since March 5, before the start of the season.

"After a period of careful reflection I have reached the decision that I will not return to work at Williams," he said in a team statement.

Lowe's position at the former world champions appeared shaky last year and worsened after they failed to finish their new car in time for the start of testing in Barcelona and turned up two days late. The team are last in the championship and have yet to score a point with a car that has been the slowest on track all season.

Williams finished last overall in 2018 and have not won a race since 2012.

Lowe joined Williams in 2017 from dominant champions Mercedes but last year's car - the first under his supervision - proved ill-handling and uncompetitive.

The family-owned British team have British rookie George Russell and Poland's Robert Kubica as their drivers.

"We understand and respect the decision Paddy has reached and wish him well for the future," said deputy principal Claire Williams.

#### Bydgoszcz to host 2020 European Championships



Bydgoszcz in Poland has today been announced as the host city for the 2020 World Para Athletics European Championships.

The competition will take place from 3 to 7 June at the city's Zdzislaw Krzyszkowiak stadium, three months before the start of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

The venue, which has previously hosted a number of major international athletics events including the 2017 European Athletics U23 Championships and the 2016 IAAF World Junior Championships, joined the World Para Athletics Grand Prix circuit this year as the location for the penultimate

Grand Prix of the season in July. Lukasz Szeliga, President of the Polish Paralympic Committee, said:

"This is fantastic news for both athletics and the Polish Para sport movement. I'm delighted and thrilled that Poland will host the World Para Athletics European Championships for the first time in history.

"We are honored to be trusted with such a prestigious event within the world of Para sport and are looking forward to welcoming Europe to Bydgoszcz - also known as Polish Venice.

"Whilst there is a lot to do between now and June 2020, I have no doubt that everybody involved will work tirelessly to put on a great show for athletes and fans alike

(Source: Paralympic)

#### Rafa Benitez: Newcastle could appoint Pep Guardiola and Jurgen Klopp

Rafael Benitez will be a tough act to follow at Newcastle United, no matter who is appointed as his successor at St James' Park.

That's according to lifelong Magpies fan and former England cricketer Steve Harmison, who told talkSPORT even Pep Guardiola and Jurgen Klopp would struggle to step into the popular Spaniard's shoes.

The club have confirmed Benitez will depart his role as manager at St James' Park when his contract expires on Sunday, having failed to agree a new deal with Mike Ashley.

The news was met with outrage by the Toon Army, who vented their anger at their loathed owner and his running of the club. Many have vowed not to renew their season tickets for the forthcoming season and not to buy any club merchandise

in protest of Ashley's regime.

A host of big names have been linked with replacing Benitez in Tyneside, with Jose Mourinho a surprise can-

didate with the role.

But Harmison highly doubts that will happen, and put

forward another man for the job.

"It'll be very, very difficult to follow Rafa, no matter who comes in," the St James' Park regular said on Tuesday's

Sports Breakfast.
"You could have Pep Guardiola with Jurgen Klopp as his



fans are going to be singing 'Rafael Benitez', and rightly so.

"They did not want him to leave. He was their savior. He was the only positive thing they've had about this whole Newcastle mike Ashley Regime, that if Mike goes and when Mike goes, we've still got a world class manager.

"Now that's gone."
"I fear for the next man, unfortunately. Out of no fault

of his own, it's going to be a rocky road.

"Who do we want? Mourinho is favorite, but there's no chance of that. If we can't keep Rafa Benitez we've got no chance with Jose Mourinho.

"I'm not having a go at Jose, but the remit of Rafa was you could only sign young players, but Mourinho wouldn't buy young players, never mind play them, so there's no chance he will come in.

"Then you've got Garry Monk, David Moyes, I don't even know who Anthony Hudson is, and Avram Grant? It gets worse!

"There's no way Sean Dyche or Eddie Howe or would leave their clubs to come."

Harmison believes the job is made for a younger, less experienced manager, and believes former Magpie Lee Bowyer would be a perfect choice.

He added: "Further down the list you've got Mikel Arteta and Patrick Viera. For me it would be between them, a young manager coming through.

"I'll chuck another one in, someone who used to play for Newcastle. He took Charlton from second bottom of League One to the Championship, galvanized the club and played decent football — Lee Bowyer. He knows the club.

played decent football — Lee Bowyer. He knows the club. "Someone like Steven Gerrard, Frank Lampard — players who have just come out of the game, they are the kind of appointments fans would put up with."

(Source: Talk Sport)

#### African soccer wants action against Cameroon

The head of women's soccer in Africa wants Cameroon to face punishment for the conduct of players in their Women's World Cup loss to England.

The Cameroon team rebelled against three officiating decisions in a 3-0 loss to England in the round of 16 on Sunday. After the game, Cameroon manager Alain Djeumfa accused officials of a "miscarriage of justice."

Isha Johansen, who sits on the Confederation of African Football executive committee and is president of the women's soccer body, says she is "proud of our African female teams" in the tournament.

But Johansen believes the game "reflected badly not only on African women's football

but African football on the whole" and wants punishments imposed.

"It is an issue which will be addressed and dealt with at the appropriate levels of

governance," she added on Monday.

According to the official from Sierra
Leone, the CAF should take action even
if FIFA doesn't pursue a case against the

Cameroon team.
As Cameroon players seethed and wept at times on the field, there was at least one high-profile advocate of their behavior: the head of the FIFA administration.

head of the FIFA administration.
FIFA secretary general Fatma Samoura
tweeted that the Cameroon players "inspired
many young girls," with "passionate and

talented play on the field that made your fans proud and your country is proud of you."

The view from the Confederation of African

The view from the Confederation of African Football was very different. But Samoura endorsed the conduct of players who openly undermined the authority of referee Quin Liang by forcing delays to restarts as they huddled to protest against England goals.

The loss was marked by three decisions that Cameroon felt were unjust, with two involving the video assistant referee (VAR). The first incident was a call by Liang to award England an indirect free kick for a back pass in the 13th minute that led to Steph Houghton's opening goal.

Ellen White gave England a 2-0 lead in

the fourth minute of first-half stoppage time with a goal awarded after an offside call was correctly overruled by the VAR. Cameroon vehemently protested the call, having seen it replayed on the video screen.

Rather than immediately restarting play after the goal, the Cameroon players all gathered together in a huddle and spoke to each other for a few minutes before finally taking the kickoff.

Cameroon players were angered again at the start of the second half when Ajara Nchout's goal was denied because of another VAR review for offside. Cameroon's players came to the touchline and were visibly upset at the call, and play was temporarily halted again.

(Source: ESPN)

#### Iranian Paralympic medalist Shirmohammadi passes away

S P O R T S TEHRAN — Iranian Paralympic bronze medal d e s k winner Razieh Shirmohammadi passed away on Tuesday.

She died at the age of 42 due to heart attack.

Shirmohammadi claimed a bronze medal at the women's team recurve open in London 2012 Paralympic Games.



The Para archer, who represented Iran at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, also clinched a silver medal at compound open mixed team W2/ST in the 2018 Asian Para Games.

Shirmohammadi had recently won a quota spot for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games in the 's-Hertogenbosch 2019 held in the Netherlands.

The Tehran Times staff offer heartfelt condolences to her bereaved family.  $\,$ 

## Alireza Beiranvand on Olympiakos's radar: report

**TASNIM** — Iran and Persepolis goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand is reportedly linked with a move to Greek side Olympiakos.

Turkish top-flight football teams Fenerbahçe, Besiktas and Çaykur Rizespor had also shown interest in signing Beiranvand. The 27-year-old custodian saved a penalty from Cristiano Ronaldo in the match against Portugal in the 2018 World Cup and thrusted his name into the international spotlight.

Beiranvand also helped Persepolis reach the 2018 AFC Champions League final, where the Reds lost to Kashima Antlers of Japan 2-0 on aggregate.

## Thailand duo step down following World Cup exit

Thailand women's national team coach Nuengrutai Srathongvian has stepped down from her role following the side's group elimination from the FIFA Women's World Cup France 2019.

Long-time team manager Nualphan Lamsam has also stepped away from her involvement from the team, ending a 12-year tenure at the helm of the women's national team programme.

The duo has overseen a period of unprecedented success for the Chaba Kaew, who defied expectations to qualify for two successive editions of the FIFA Women's World Cup — the only trips to global Finals in Thai senior football history.

Across two tenures as head coach, Nuengrutai also won two AFF Women's Champions and led Thailand to the semi-finals of the 2018 AFC Women's Asian Cup in Jordan; their best finish at the tournament in 32 years.

Lamsam confirmed the duo would both be moving on immediately following the FIFA Women's World Cup.

"Being the manager of the women's football team for 12 years has been the highlight of my career," she said.

"The coach and I have already agreed that we will leave our roles. Thank you to all the players for the hard work and for their support." Thailand were eliminated from France 2019 following Group F defeats to the United States, Sweden and Chile.

The team will be looking for a new head coach ahead of their forthcoming bid to qualify for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

(Source: the-afc)

#### Belgian teams eye Iran's Milad Mohammadi

Belgian top-flight football teams Anderlecht and Gent are interested in Iranian international Milad Mohammadi.

Celtic are also targeting Mohammadi as a potential replace-

ment for Kieran Tierney, who has caught the eye of Arsenal. Mohammadi, who has been capped 30 times for Iran, represented Team Melli in the 2018 World Cup.

The Iranian winger can also play anywhere down the left flank.
The 25-year-old is a player in demand as he is available on a
free transfer after ending his spell at Russian club Akhmat Grozy,
where his deal expires at the end of this month.

(Source: Scottish Sun)

## Two Russian biathletes get four-year bans for doping: IBU

**MOSCOW (Reuters)** — Two Russian biathletes have been suspended for four years for doping violations detected in data from Russia's former anti-doping agency laboratory, the International Biathlon Union (IBU) said on Tuesday.

Alexander Pechenkin and Alexander Chernyshov were among the four Russian biathletes who were charged with doping violations by the IBU and provisionally suspended last November.

In addition to a four-year ban, the sporting results for Pechenkin, who was still active until his provisional suspension, obtained between January 2012 and January 2016 are voided, the IBU said.

Chernyshov, who was retired when charges were brought against him, will see his sporting results as of July 2014 canceled in addition to his ban.

In December, the IPL said Austrian outborities were investigating.

In December, the IBU said Austrian authorities were investigating five officials and five athletes from Russia's biathlon team over possible doping-related offences during the 2017 World Championship.

Russia, which is currently only a provisional IBU member, was formally banned from the 2018 Winter Olympics as punishment for alleged state-sponsored doping at the Sochi Games in 2014.

INTERNATIONAL DAILY

www.tehrantimes.com ■ Managing Director: Ali Asgari ■ Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Ghaderi

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895 **Switchboard Operator: Tel**: (+98 21) 43051000 Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051450

Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603 www.eshterak.ir Distributor: Padideh Novin Co.

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran P.o. Box: 14155-4843

Tehrantimesdaily

Imam Ali (AS)

Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807

Webmaster: webmaster@tehrantimes.com

Tehrantimes79

by night's sleep.

## Video game "Dark Summer" on MKO's reign of terror released

**TEHRAN** — A computer game titled "Twilight: Dark Summer" on the assassinations and bombings by the Mojahedine-Khalq Organization (MKO) in Iran during summer 1981 was released in Tehran on Tuesday.

One of the adventures of the game, which has been developed at the Rasana Shokouh-e Kavir (RSK) Entertainment Company, is an attempted assassination targeting Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei in June 1981

Produced under the auspices of the Basij Virtual Environment Organization, the game was introduced at Tehran's Vali-e Asr Garrison on Tuesday during a ceremony attended by the director of the organization, Moslem Moein, and a number of cultural officials.

"Twenty teams have spent two years working on the game," Moein said during the ceremony.

They all did their best to remake all the events based on reality and to make a compelling game,"

Hojjatolesalm Mehdi Motallebi, the imam of congregational prayer at Abuzar Mosque where Ayatollah Khamenei escaped the assassination attempt,

narrated the story of the event as an eye witness. "Making this game is a big step to maintain the values of the revolution and to transfer them to the younger generation," Motallebi stated.

'Twilight: Dark Summer" is a sequel to "Devil in the Capital", "Murder in Tehran's Alleys 1" and "Murder in Tehran's Alleys 2" the RSK has developed about the MKO's terrorist actions during the 1980s.



Posters for "Twilight: Dark Summer" are on display during the unveiling of the computer game at Tehran's Vali-e Asr Garrison on June 24, 2019. (Mehr/Asghar Khamseh)

#### **COI congratulates** "Castle of Dreams" crew on Shanghai festival win

R TEHRAN — Cinema Organization of Iran s k director Hossein Entezami has congratulated the crew of director Reza Mirkarimi's drama "Castle of Dreams" on its win at the 22nd Shanghai International Film Festival.

Many a decision taken in daytime is annulled



A scene from director Reza Mirkarimi's drama "Castle of

In a message published by the COI on Monday, Entezami said, "Iranian cinema represents the country's rich culture and art in international arenas. This achievement in an eastern land, which shares common history and culture with us, has special significance.

"I hereby congratulate all the cast and crew and wish them ever-growing success," he added.

"Castle of Dreams" received the festival's main awards in three categories, including best film and best director, in the Chinese city on Sunday.

The film's star, Hamed Behdad, shared the award for best actor with Chang Feng, the Chinese actor of "The Return" by Qin Hailu.

"Castle of Dreams" is about two young children, whose mother has just died, and their father, Jalal, after long years of absence, returns to sort things out, but he does not want to take the children with him.

#### Teer Art Fair kicks off at Tehran's Charsu Cineplex

**TEHRAN** — The 2nd edition of the Teer Art d e s k Fair, an art exhibit co-founded by the Dastan  $Basement\,Gallery\,and\,Asar\,Gallery, opened\,at\,Tehran's\,Charsu$ Cineplex on Tuesday.

Twenty galleries from Tehran, Isfahan and Shiraz are displaying works by over 100 artists at the fair.

Etemad Gallery is displaying paintings by Mohsen Vaziri-Moqaddam, Mohsen Ahmadvand, Mehrdad Moheb-Ali and several other artists, while Hedayat Gallery has dedicated its entire space to sculptures by Hadi Nikan.



Gallery employees make final preparations for the Teer Art Fair at Tehran's Charsu Cineplex on June 24, 2019 just one day before its official opening. (Honaronline/Mahdieh Babai)

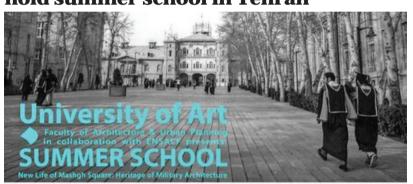
According to Teer Art Fair director Maryam Majd, the galleries have been chosen by a selection committee composed of Negar Azimi, the senior editor of the New York-based art magazine Bidoun, Art Dubai director Myrna Ayad and Italian gallery director Daniele Balice.

The director of Tehran's Tarrahan Azad Gallery, Rozita Sharafjahan, and graphic designer Behzad Hatam are other members of the committee.

The art fair aims to encourage more dialogue among gallery owners, art experts and artists, and to develop a good relationship between art and everyday life.

Several panel discussions on various topics will also be organized on the sidelines of the fair, which will be running until June 28.

#### Iranian, French academic centers to hold summer school in Tehran



دانشکدهٔ معماری و شهرسازی دانشگاه هنر با ممكارى مدوسة معمارى كلومون قوان فوانسه برگزار مىكند

#### مدرسـة تابسـتاني

 $A \, poster \, for \, "New \, Life \, of \, Mashq \, Square, \, Heritage \, of \, Military \, Architecture".$ 

TEHRAN — The e s k Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning of Tehran's University of Art and the École Nationale Supérieure d'architecture de Clermont-Ferrand (ENSACF), a major French architectural school, will be holding a joint summer school in Tehran.

The summer school has been organized based on a memorandum of understanding

signed between the two universities. 'New Life of Mashq Square, Heritage of Military Architecture" is the main topic

of the summer course. Mashq Square in downtown Tehran was the place where armed forces used to do exercises.

The course will be run under the supervision of a number of professors from the universities. Several drawing workshops, meetings and urban visits will also be organized on the sidelines.

The interested students of architecture, urban planning and related courses are asked to submit their resumes to the

The summer course will be running from August 31 to September 5.

#### Tehran private theater reopens after restoration



Actor Hadi Hejazifar attends a reopening ceremony at Hamoon Theater in Tehran on June 25, 2019. (Tasnim/M.Hassan Aslani)

**TEHRAN** — Baran d e s k Theater, a private hall in Tehran that has been renamed Hamoon Theater after a one-year restoration, officially reopened on

The theater was renovated under the auspices of Hadi Hejazifar, the star of the acclaimed Iranian movies "Standing

Tuesday.

in the Dust" and "The Midday Event". I had this dream for over 20 years," Hejazifar said in a press conference at

"Working in the cinema and making money out of it gave me the opportunity to fulfill the dream," he added. Hejazifar who is mostly known as a

stage actor said, "Although it is frightening to get back to the theater again, its magic makes

me feel good." "The Algerian Butterfly" by Saeid Hassanlu and "Time Lapse" by Saleh Alavizadeh have been performed at Hamoon Theater since May after the

Hamoon Theater on Tuesday. reconstruction of the hall was completed. Photo exhibit by Foreign Ministry personnel opens in Tehran to raise funds for flood victims



Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif (L) and his assistant, Seyed Abbas Araqchi, visit the charity exhibit "Photo Diplomat, World View, Iranian Art" at the Malek National Library and Museum on June 24, 2019. (ILNA/Alireza Řamezani)

on Monday to raise funds for the flood victims in Iran.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif paid a visit to the exhibit named "Photo Diplomat, World View, Iranian Art" on the opening day, the Persian service of ILNA reported on Tuesday.

"The ministry organized the charity exhibit to raise awareness," he told the Persian service of ILNA on Tuesday. "This exhibit not only helps add more to the knowledge

TEHRAN — An exhibition of photos taken of the visitors, but also helps the people of flood-stricken d e s k by the personnel of the Foreign Ministry opened at the Malek National Library and Museum in Tehran organized such event, and I am also happy to be part of this charity move," he added.

Zarif also noted that Iranian embassies in other countries are also ready to provide the facilities and host those interested to set up exhibits in the embassies on the theme of Iran's floods.

The March heavy rainfall in several provinces in western, southwestern and northeastern Iran led to severe flooding, which struck and damaged many cities and villages.

#### U.S. judge rejects Greece bid to dismiss Sotheby's lawsuit over bronze horse

**NEW YORK (Reuters)** — A U.S. judge on Friday rejected Greece's effort to dismiss an unusual lawsuit in which Sotheby's and the owners of an ancient Greek bronze horse sued the country, seeking court permission to put the statue on the auction block.

U.S. District Judge Katherine Polk Failla rejected Greece's claim that she lacked jurisdiction under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, saying the case triggered an exception for "commercial activity" that allowed Greece to be sued.

Greece had argued that the case should be dismissed, warning that a broad interpretation of the commercial activity exception "would have a chilling effect on the ability of foreign sovereigns to protect their cultural heritage.

Leila Amineddoleh, a lawyer for Greece, said "we're obviously disappointed" with the decision, adding that the country may appeal.

The June 2018 lawsuit was thought to be Sotheby's first against a government, according to the Financial Times.

Filed by Sotheby's and descendants of art collectors Howard and Saretta Barnet, the lawsuit sought a declaration that the

family owned the 14-centimeter (5.5-inch) high horse, which dates from the 8th century BC - and that Sotheby's could sell it.

According to the complaint, the horse was purchased by the Barnets for about 15,000 British pounds in 1973, and might have fetched \$150,000 to \$250,000 at an auction that had been scheduled for May 14, 2018.

But the plaintiffs said the auction was scuttled when Sotheby's received a "demand letter" from Greece's Ministry of Culture on May 11, 2018, which said the horse had been stolen and must be returned to the country. In her 18-page decision, Failla said Greece engaged in commercial activity by sending the letter, triggering the exception to sovereign immunity.

She also said some U.S. courts have said acts taken to advance a sovereign country's cultural mission could be deemed commercial in nature.

Greece's demand letter "is analogous to a private citizen attempting to enforce his property rights," Failla wrote.

Gary Stein, a lawyer for Sotheby's and the Barnet family, said his clients are pleased with the decision "and look forward to bringing this case to a successful conclusion.'

#### WarnerMedia names Ann Sarnoff as CEO of Warner Bros

**NEW YORK (Reuters)** — WarnerMedia on Monday said it appointed Ann Sarnoff as the chief executive officer of Warner Bros, the first woman to run one of Hollywood's most powerful studios in its 96-year history.

Sarnoff, currently president of BBC Studios Americas, will take over the studio behind "Wonder Woman", "Friends" and the Harry Potter franchise, following a scandal involving its previous studio chief.

"I want to work closely with colleagues across WarnerMedia and make the whole more than the part," Sarnoff said in a phone interview. "I want to take what is a very successful legacy and history and make it even

stronger going forward. AT&T Inc, the second largest U.S. wireless carrier,



Ann Sarnoff, Chief Operating Officer of BBC Worldwide America, speaks during the 2011 Bloomberg Media Summit in New York March 9, 2011. (Reuters/Lucas Jackson)

acquired Warner Bros as part of its \$85 billion purchase of Time Warner last year. Some Warner Bros content will be distributed on a new WarnerMedia streaming service set to launch in early 2020.

The former chairman and CEO of Warner Bros, Kevin Tsujihara, resigned from the studio in March, following a scandal report.

Sarnoff will report to Warner Media CEO John Stankey. "Ann has shown the ability to innovate and grow revenues and has embraced the evolution taking place in our industry," Stankey said in a statement.

Sarnoff has also held leading executive roles at the National Basketball Association, Viacom and